

KONFLIKT IN THE KINO

Issue 2

When pictures and sound collide there are fatalities

We Close Our Eyes: The Eaton Centre Cinemas

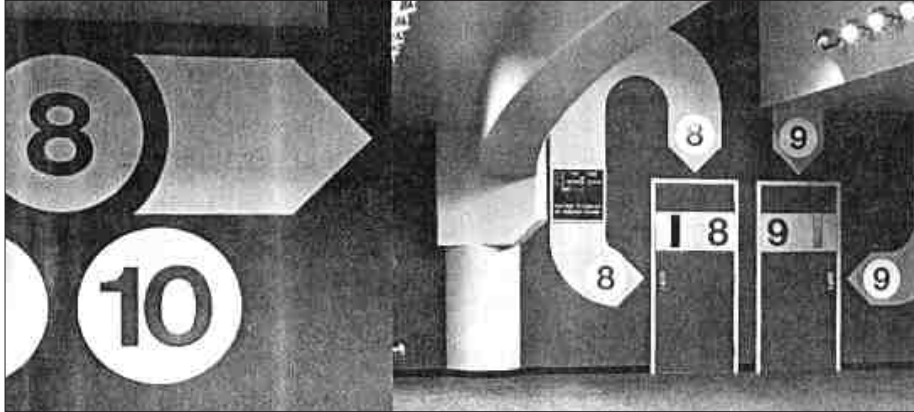


photo courtesy of Mike Rivest

Ask anyone in Toronto, at one point they have seen a flick at the Eaton Centre Cinemas.

In 1979, people must have thought that Garth Drabinsky's Cineplex Odeon company was nuts. It was in this year, Cineplex opened the Eaton Centre Cinemas. A new concept in cinema, it was one of the first big multiplex theatres. Housing 18 screens (and even making itself into Guinness), it seemed like an odd concept. But it changed how we viewed movies forever. This was the beginning of turning cinema into "product of convenience" compared to a debatable art form.

The cinemas themselves were odd. Did you ever see the Tom Hanks movie *BACHELOR PARTY* where they invade a 3-D cinemaplex, and go to one screen which looks like a Janitor's storage room? Well, the Eaton Centre housed cinemas THAT small. It was a maze of cinemas and tacky carpeting. Some screens ran on rear-projection and had fewer than 100 seats. The sound could be at times, "buzzy" but it didn't ever bother me! My first film ever there was "Night of the Demons" with Keith Coogan. And besides "A" list pictures, sometimes it would house unusual gems, just before being sent to their future resting home, Pay Television.

As the years treaded on, and the fad of "stadium theatres" began to unfold, the Eaton Centre Cinemas began to unfold under a new light. It began to play second run flicks at knockout prices (\$2 per film). Cineplex at this time claims it wasn't turning a profit, but every time I went, it was packed. Finally, people on fixed incomes, or people not wanting to shell

out full price for Hollywood pap, could now enjoy films in their price range.

But on March 12, 2001, the film stopped at the Eaton Centre. Cineplex closed the Eaton Centre Cinemas. Were there protests at the closing of this historical landmark? Mayor Mel Lastman getting upset that a piece of history everyone wanted to forget finally closed its doors? No.

Like it or not, the Eaton Centre Cinemas WERE important in the progression of cinema.



photo courtesy of Mike Rivest

And like many landmarks in downtown Toronto, locals will complain till the next "multi-screen" opens, they will ooh and aah that it has a Starbucks Coffee inside, and 2 years later complain "Rip the motherfucker down". It has also left cinema going in the Downtown Toronto Area, for those with high disposable incomes. Families on fixed incomes simply cannot afford the \$12+ ticket prices to bring their families to see Hollywood blockbusters. Forget about picking between a mad hodge-podge of films from *DIE HARD WHATEVER* to *TOMMY TRICKER AND THE STAMP TRAVELLER*, it's a dream of the past that slipped through our fingers without warning.

If one stands outside of the doors of where the cinemas used to be and looks around, they will see the "under construction" of downtown Toronto. It's empty voids of buildings and uninteresting architectural designs seen in other cities. A landscape that would have made for a tacky science fiction flick starring Chris Penn and Tori Spelling, which would have played of course, at the Eaton Centre Cinemas.

Other Theatres that have gone "Belly Up!"

The Eaton Centre Cinemas can now be added to the long line of screens that have closed in the Greater Toronto Area in the past ten years. Toronto used to boast many different venues in which to see various genres of film. Here's a list of those cinemas we've enjoyed within the last decade that have been closed down, turned into something stupid, or just left vacant. We miss them all!

- NOSTALGIC (Bloor and Royal York) (Showed classic and silent cinema).
- RIO (Yonge Street) "4 Great Movies, \$4.75!". It's now an ADULTS ONLY videostore. I always wanted to see "Maraschino Cherry" with Gloria Leonard there!
- BACKSTAGE (Balmuto), Famous Players Cinema.
- 400 DRIVE IN (Hwy 400), (now a Famous Players Coliseum) (Always showed cool Woody Woodpecker cartoons! - closed 1997).
- SCARBOROUGH TOWN CENTER CINEMAS (Mc Cowan Rd), Cineplex Odeon (now has a Famous Players Coliseum - closed with \$2.50 seats).
- WESTWOOD CINEMAS (close to Kipling) Vacant and for rent! (Famous Players).
- OAKVILLE PLAZA CINEMAS closed in 1989, opened again in 1999, closed again in 2001! 2 screens.
- PLAZA (Yonge & Bloor) (2 screens) (Famous Players) closed 2001.
- SHERWAY CINEMAS (Cineplex Odeon) Another early multiplex with nine screens. A Sears home furnishings center?
- SKYWAY 6 (Around Pearson International Airport), Opened in 1980, it was a discount theatre off and on in the 90's. Closed 1999.
- EGLINTON (Eglinton/Avenue Road) (Famous Players) Is it open????
- GOLDEN CLASSICS (Spadina) Ran by Colin Geddes! Closed September 1995.
- THE FAR EAST (Spadina, N of Dundas) The first place I ever had Pocky! (HK MOVIES) Closed 1998.

Skratchez from the Editor

Summer has finally come to Toronto, but the heat didn't come with it! For those of you outside the Greater Toronto Area, sometimes our climate resembles a tropical rainforest, and now is no exception. It rains, and rains. It sucks.

In the last issue of KITK, I said that this would only be given out at CONFLICT ARCHIVE film screenings, but I've had so much to review and write that I decided to publish this one before our big screening on June 20th. Also, when I was writing the article regarding the Eaton Centre Cinemas, I was just getting depressed regarding all the screens closing and what was coming to local cinemas in general; one gets to a point where one can't help but think "Hasn't anyone picked up on any of this?"

Also, KITK is now published and carried outside of the Greater Toronto Area. Thanks to Tero Lehto in Finland for printing this up and throwing it out there. Perhaps I can be the next David Hasselhoff of Finland! Kiitos Tero!

People gave me a lot of flack in the last issue (and through our e-mails) regarding the fact that I reviewed a Dolph Lundgren movie, or "How could you like anything by that guy!" and some that I won't publish here. That's why I've decided that every issue will now have at least one "Dolph Movie Review"! When you look at it, Dolph is one of the few working actors in "straight to video" product and he has an abundance of work to look at. A report came out a little while ago that he retired, but there's been reports that there are at least 3 projects for Dolph in development. Anyhow, I think he's the male Linnea Quigley of the new millennium, so there! :)

Be sure to see the Conflict Archives screening on the 20th of the Mexican-UK trash classic of TINTORERA with Susan George at the Royal Cinema on 606 College Street, which is close to Bathurst. There will be prizes, some classic trash trailers, and you get to see a beautiful print of TINTORERA! It's a JAWS rip-off that's part "shark movie" and part "threesome excuse for lots of nudity", but alllll good! Hope to see you there!

Happy Juhannus!

Dion Conflict

Theatre Hit List cont'd

- MANDARIN (Spadina, North of Dundas) also know as THE PEARL. Showed HK films. Closed 1994.
- METROPOLITAN (formerly the EUCLID) The Metropolitan was always showing "Tokyo Decadence" and the EUCLID showed the most nauseating super 8 film I've ever seen (Sodom). Closed in mid 90's.
- FINCH 3 (Finch and Dufferin) Closed 1999.
- GATEWAY 6 (Brampton) Cineplex Odeon, 6 screens, closed 2001.
- GRAND (Danforth) Closed 1999.
- HILLCREST (Yonge Street/Richmond Hill) 5 Screens, Cineplex Odeon, closed 1998.
- HOLLYWOOD (Yonge and St Clair) Famous Players, closed 1999).
- CAPITOL (Yonge Street) Showed "The Gods Must Be Crazy" for years before becoming a rep cinema. Closed 1998.
- CENTENNIAL 3 (Brampton) Showed Indian movies for a brief period of time, closed 2000.
- CENTERPOINT (Yonge & Steeles) Famous Players, 3 screens, closed 1999.
- CHAMPLAIN CENTRE 6 (Whitby) Cineplex Odeon, 6 Screens, (I saw BLACK ROBE there! With 7 other people!) Closed 2000.
- ERIN MILLS TOWN CENTRE (Mississauga) 5 Screens, Cineplex Odeon, closed 2001.
- MARKET SQUARE SIX (Front Street) 6 Screens, Cineplex Odeon, closed 2001.
- MARKS (Oshawa) Amazing one screen theatre that had the most insane "Rocky Horrors" on the planet. Lots of barf and icing sugar! Closed 1990.
- MARKVILLE 4 (Markham) "In the Markville Shopping Centre" 6 screens, closed 2000.
- ODEON (Oshawa) Cineplex Odeon in Downtown Oshawa, 1 screen, closed 1989.
- PARKWAY 6 (404/Richmond Hill) Cineplex Odeon, 6 screens, closed 2001.
- PREMIER 3 (Malton) 3 screens, closed 1999.
- RUNNYMEDE (Bloor and Runnymede) Opened in 1927, closed in 1999. Famous Players owned it, now it's a CHAPTERS.
- WARDEN WOODS (Scarborough) Cineplex Odeon, 8 Screens, closed 2001.
- SHOWCASE (Yonge Street) 1 Screen from Cineplex Odeon, closed mid 90's. Bad theatre hit there shortly afterwards!
- SHERIDAN HOTEL CINEMAS (Downtown Toronto). It had 3 or 4 screens, Famous Players, closed mid 90's, a "La Cage" show was there for awhile.
- YORK (Yonge & Eglinton), closed 2001.
- HYLAND COMPLEX (Yonge & St. Clair) Closed 2001.
- FAIRVIEW COMPLEX (Fairview Mall) closed 2001, but re-opening by Rainbow Cinemas as a 2nd run venue.
- SQUARE ONE (Mississauga) Closed 1997.
- SUSSEX CENTER (Closed 2000).



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"Konflikt in the Kino" is a publication to come out in conjunction with the CONFLICT ARCHIVES screenings.



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To be added to the CONFLICT ARCHIVES e-mail list, or to comment on KITK, the film screenings, Zellers Skillet REStaurant stories, mailing Kool Aid points, or to talk about XL5 cds, please contact us at:

eurocoleco@hotmail.com

The mailing address is: PO Box 81008, 45 Harbour Square; Toronto, ON; M5J 2V3, Canada

THANKOS AGAIN GO TO: Stephe Perry (the design masochist!), Simon Harvey, Jyri-Pekka Luoma (aka "Jupe"), Colin Geddes, Tero Lehto, Dave Faris, Chris at TRUCKER, CIUT 89.5 FM (Toronto), Hannele Kivilahti, Tim Smy (who needs to book "NECROMANCY" damn fast!), Mike Rivest, and for those who have supported me and trash film culture. Long live Cinema 2000!

This issue is dedicated to Johnny Lombardi.

REBEL RUN (1994)

Starring: Richard Grieco, Sean Young, Michael Ironside

Directed: Henri Colline.

Fine films are shot in Quebec, but this isn't one of them! Richard Grieco plays "Bolt", the aimless biker who helps a Native Indian family fight another biker gang (lead by Michael Ironside with blond hair) for their land. Sean Young plays one of the Indians whom falls for Bolt. Unbelievably amateurish, you'll swear they stole the script out of UCLA Film Studies dumpster. Grieco and Ironside give fine performances with the shit they are given to work with, but Sean Young as a slow-talking Native Indian named Patty Deerheart? Colline moves the whole mess along like a Honda Ninja without a clutch. Grieco is in Canada AGAIN right now shooting "Samhain" with Jenna Jameson and Chasey Lain!



RADIO SUOMIPOP (Finland 2001)

Low Frequency Records, Finland

If an outsider were to take a look at Finland's music charts, they'd no doubt notice that there's much more variety compared to North America within the type of music in rotation. My friend Stephe Perry coined the term "Cracker Jack tapes" for some of the mixed tapes I would make for friends, since they were all over the place musically and you never knew what was on them without listening.

This DVD follows the same "everything but the kitchen sink" credo when it comes to musical styles but, as the title promises, it's primarily pop. Highlights were EGOTRIPII, THEE ULTRA BIMBOOS (great all-girl garage band and a fun video to boot!), 22-PISKEPIRKKO, NUKKEKOTI (fun thrash track), POHJANNAULA, and even the Finn "Spice Girls" rip-off (NYLON BEAT) get kidnapped in a video. The not-so-good tracks are by CLICHÉ, THE RASMUS (lame!), VESA JOKINEN (a video filmed during winter for the price of buying wood for the Sauna) and a lousy rap video by LORD EST. Most videos are filmed around lakes! Because there's different types of music here, it's hard for there to be much consistency throughout the montage of videos— but if you have Cracker Jack taste like me, it's a great DVD.



MISSION KASHMIR (India, 2000)

Starring: Sanjay Dutt, Hrithik Roshan, Preity Zinta.

Director: Vidhu Vinod Chopra

It was weird to see a Bollywood film nominated for an Academy Award last year. All of a sudden, people were yammering on about "LAGAAN". To me, LAGAAN ran on like a dull Merchant-Ivory flick. After scoffing Bollywood for so many years, people suddenly professed an interest in Indian movies (which was particularly odd for me, since for years I could convince only one of my friends to come to see an Indian movie with me!) Anyhow, as far as I'm concerned LAGAAN isn't as good as MISSION KASHMIR.

MISSION KASHMIR is about a young boy named Altaaf who is taken in by a couple after his parents are brutally attacked during a clash in Kashmir. As Altaaf grows older, he begins to learn that the man raising him (Sanjay Dutt) was actually one of the soldiers that killed his family. The mature Altaaf (Hrithik Roshan) joins the guerilla fighters (led by Jackie Shroff) and seeks revenge. Preity Zinta (Kya Khanna?) is the love interest when Altaaf isn't thinking of ways to knock off his "Abba".

The cinematography, acting and script are excellent. Sanjay Dutt, who is usually in terrible films like "Jodi No 1", gives his best



performance, period. Hrithik Roshan is always a good terrorist in movies and Sonali Kulkarni as Neelima was a good choice.

Strange that Columbia/Tri-Star— who got their grubby hands on this film— aren't thinking it would be "politically incorrect" to release this right now on video/DVD with the conflict going on in Kashmir. Regardless, it's an excellent film and much better than the shit released by their studios last year anyhow.

DOLPHIN – "Mkahu"

CD LAND/KPEM

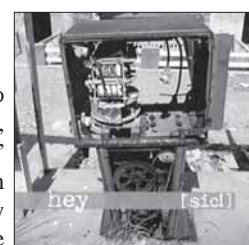
Dolphin produces the best rap/crossover music to come out of Moscow. He just keeps getting better and better and this album is no exception. My computer's fucking up, so I can't type its Cyrillic song titles, but Track 3 is so fucking good! Music wise, it's like playing a circular saw blade on a turntable with ruff vocals in Russian. Mix NURSE WITH WOUND with LIMP BISKIT, and you might get the idea... MIGHT!



HEY – "sic!"

WARNER MUSIC POLAND

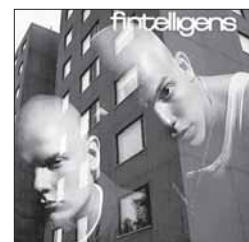
HEY are still one of my favourite bands to come out of Poland. However the last CD, "stop sign", just reached the "barely good" mark. However, with a new guitar player on board, HEY are back to making good, grungey rock. The first track, "Antiba", sets out the course the CD will travel along. Kasia Nosowska has done lots of interesting solo work, but she still can rock out with HEY. "sic!" also includes a rocking cover of BLONDIE's "Hanging on the Telephone". All in all, I'm not "sic" of HEY! And no, I'm not biased cuz I attended one of their weddings!



FINTELLIGENS "Tän tahtiin"

SONY MUSIC FINLAND

My pal Tero proclaimed after I questioned him about FINTELLIGENS, "Finally there's a band I ABSOLUTELY hate!" It's for sure not RAPTORI! FINTELLIGENS might be the ugliest Finn rappers ever, and attempt some nice grooves, but the whole production



THE DOLPH MOVIE REVIEW

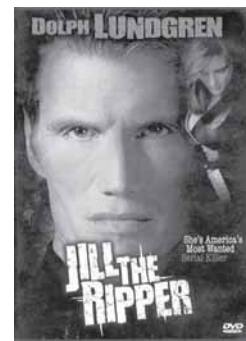
JILL THE RIPPER (2000)

Starring: Dolph Lundgren, Danielle Brett.

Director: Anthony Hickox

Ex-Cop Matt Sorensen (Dolph!) returns for his brother's funeral and uncovers his sibling's world of twisted sex, scheming politicians, and a serial killer on the prowl.

The whole mess was filmed in Canada. Director Hickox (Hellraiser III) slaps the film. Along on the DVD "director commentary" track and complains about Dolph. You could look at the film two ways. If you are looking for a psychological thriller about a female serial killer, this isn't it! However if you want see Dolph strung from the ceiling buck naked being spanked in a kinky S&M situation, pull down your underwear and enjoy! This flick is also known as "Jill Rips" and "The Bone Ripper".



is about as “urban” as IKEA furniture. It’s flat. And whistling should not be in any rap, PERIOD! Furthermore, the hidden track pissed me off. It’s doubtful it’s FINNTELLGENS singing, but I don’t care who the fuck it was, I don’t want to hear the words “nigger” or “faggot” in rap, period. My pals in Finland should plan some kind of huge boycott of SONY FINLAND product, or bring this issue out into the open, since I don’t think it’s been addressed at all. I’d like to hear these ugly muthafuckers say that shit in the Lansdowne/Bloor area of Toronto and see if they change their tune... Just as long as they friggin’ don’t whistle!

PRISON GIRLS (1972)

Starring: Uschi Digard

Director: Tom DeSimone

Originally released in 3-D, I wanted to see this film after “Mr. 3-D” (Dan Symmes) said it was an “abuse of the 3-D medium”. What a title! After decades, I got a washy VHS copy in my hands (not in 3-D) and it didn’t disappoint! Various girls are released from prison on “weekend furloughs”, and it begins from there. But it seems that most of the girls get more than they bargained for. One gets in a threesome with her lesbian lover, one goes back to a pimp, one gets over being frigid on some shag carpeting, and one gets gang-raped. This tacky 70’s softcore opus is in poor taste, but more in a trailer park kind of way. It all has that 70’s “have we learned anything?” moral tone from the girls. I forgot all about it till a co-worker at a company function brought it up during a discussion of 3-D movies! (It played at Cinema 2000 here in Toronto). By the director of REFORM SCHOOL GIRLS. Let me make the sequel!

HAREMSUARE (TURKEY/FRANCE/ITALY, 1999).

Starring: Marie Gillian, Alex Descas, Lucia Bosé.

Director: Ferzan Ozpetek.



A young Italian girl (Gillian) arrives in Istanbul to be part of a harem. The black eunuch Nadir (Descas) helps move the woman through the ranks of the harem, which is on the brink of the decline of the Ottoman Empire. Ozpetek makes a film that crosses languages (Turkish, French and Italian are spoken throughout the film), sexual identity, taboo, myth and perception. Marie Gillian gives a fine performance as Safiye, the woman inducted through the harem (I forgot Marie Gillian was in “Mon père ce héros”).

If fine cinema to you is a Russell Crowe film, you better skip this film like a glass of cold Turkish coffee. However, if you’re into complex “docu-drama” cinema that flows like an intricate dream, ingest a viewing. Note that the French version runs about 110 minutes while the Turkish version runs over 2 hours (My version was a VCD version with Chinese/English subtitles, so I don’t know how long it ran).

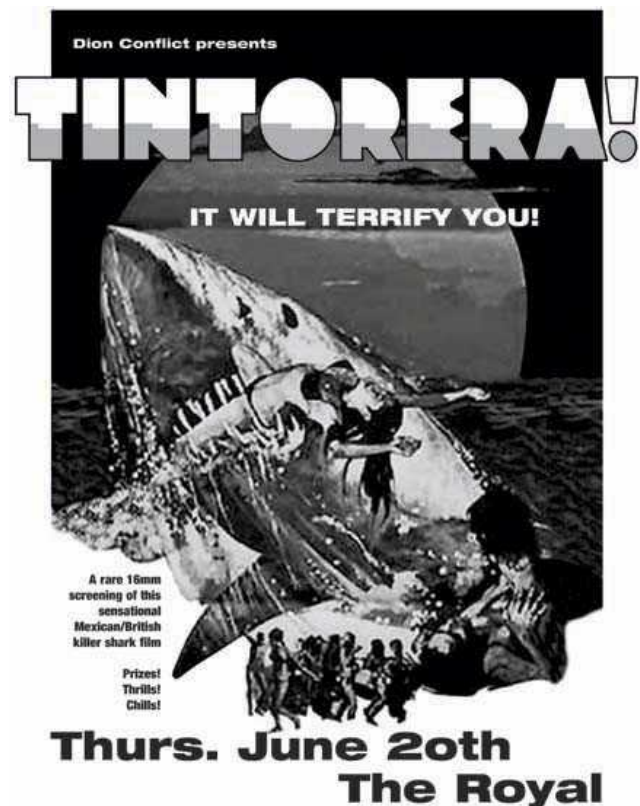
R.P.M. (UK/FRANCE 1997)

Starring: David Arquette, Emmanuelle Seigner.

Director: Ian Sharp



When placing an order from www.coolvcd.com, this was my “free VCD pick”. Perhaps you are scratching your head as to why anyone would be giving away a KNIGHT RIDER knockoff with David Arquette shot in France for free, but rest assured that even at this price, it was still a rip-off. Arquette plays “Luke”, a boy genius who is supposed to steal this “super prototype” of a car in France. Then come in the other elements of “bad guys” to stop him, or steal it from him. It’s not a Euro version of “Cannonball Run” either. Arquette looks like he’s on something for the whole movie, but being in this fromage, who could blame him if he was on drugs! R.P.M. is most definitely a P.O.S.!



One screening only! 9pm, 606 College St.



EQUALIZING DISTORT on CIUT 89.5 FM - Sunday nights from 10:00 pm - midnight (Hosts: Martin Farkas, Simon Harvey and Stephe Perry). The show dedicates itself to the underground hardcore punk scene. There is a particular emphasis on international releases in the developing thrash, power violence, straight edge, grind, burning spirits, and Killed By Death scenes, which means we play material like the The Futures, Oxbaker, Face Up To It, Crucial Attack, Totalitar or the Ugly. There is a weekly demo feature (paying homage to the cassette format), weekly event listings, and a monthly top 10 retrospective look at new releases. Request Line: (416) 946-7000. Webcast www.ciut.fm.