

## RUMOURS

### UK & USA

Malcolm McLaren has just completed two albums, one very similar to *Duck Rock* and the other quite different. No titles yet but one will be released soonish ... ex Fun Boy Terry Hall has surfaced with a new band, the Colour Field. He is joined by two fellow Coventry lads Toby Lyons (ex Swinging Cats, guitar, piano) and Karl Shale. The three have been working together since the FB3 split in July. Debut single is 'The Colour Field' ... Boy George has reportedly written a song for Barbra Streisand but there will not be a duet ... will Sting play Pontius Pilate in Martin Scorsese's *Last Temptation of Christ* film? ... Sly 'n' Robbie recently celebrated their 10th anniversary as a partnership with a five hour concert in Kingston, featuring Gregory Isaacs, Black Uhuru, Yellowman, Dennis Brown and a host of others. Ooooh ... former Blue Rondo a la Turk members Mark Reilly and Kito Poncioni have teamed up with a female vocalist, Basia, to form Matt Bianco. First single is 'Get Out of Your Lazy Bed' ... sax player Stephen Singleton has left ABC, leaving behind Martin Fry and Mark White, who have new material and are auditioning new musicians to rehearse it with ... J.J. Burnel and Dave Greenfield of the Stranglers have teamed up with Maggie ('Moonlight Shadow') Reilly to record 'Rain Dole and Tea'. In keeping with what they describe as the Phil Spector feel of the record the boys posed for promo photos in drag, with beehive hairdos. Maggie, of course, was having none of it ... the just-completed film starring Prince is entitled *Purple Rain* ... the Vibrators have reformed again, less than a year after their last reunion. This one will be more a long term, they claim, and they have an album, *Alaska 127* ... Spandau Tony Hadley and his wife Leonie have become parents with the arrival of a wee baby girl. Maybe he'll stop singing and settle down.

Albums: Madness *Keep Moving*, Linton Kwesi Johnson *Making History*, the Gun Club *The Birth, The Death, The Ghost*

(live), The Smiths *The Smiths*, Thomas Dolby *The Flat Earth*, OMD *Junk Culture*, David Gilmour *Blue Light*, Fad Gadget *Gag*, Einstürzende Neubaten *Strategies Against Architecture*.

Singles: Tina Turner 'Help' (yes, the Beatles' song), Scritti Politti 'Wood Benz', Style Council 'My Ever Changing Moods' and Captain Sensible 'Glad It's All Over'/'Damned on 45' (yes, really!).

## OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS

Auckland's new unlicensed club, the Venue, is to run a competition for new bands which will bear some very worthwhile prizes.

Every second Sunday at the Venue will see a heat of 'Liberty Stage' and the winner of each heat will receive \$50. The Grand Final is set down for June 30 and the winner will receive six free hours time at Mandrill Studios, 12M advertising and a cash prize.

If interested, contact Russ Le Roq, ph 396-766. RB

## VIDEO: Cartoons

Bugs Bunny Road Runner Movie Looney Tunes Numbers 1-4 (Warner Video)

Cartoons. Animated cartoons, I love 'em. With a passion bordering on stupidity. Good ones, mind. None of yer Hanna-Barbera-Limited animation - 25 minutes a week, production line TV rubbish. 'Scooby Doo' or 'Super Friends' are not the real thing. Cartoons produced for large-screen cinematic release between (approx) 1920 and 1960 by various American studios are. Walt Disney's the guv nor, it all comes back to Disney's studios, despite technical and artistic advances made elsewhere.

After the 30s, however, Walt and his bevy of gloriously skilled animators turned the bulk of their attention to feature-length cartoons and (God forbid!) live

action and (sufferin' succotash!!) amusement parks. A relatively new studio, under the auspices of the brothers Warner, seized the opportunity and unleashed an astounding array of successful characters onto the cinema screens of the USA and, as night follows day, the world. All of a sudden there wuz Bugs Bunny, Porky Pig, Elmer Fudd, Daffy Duck, Pepe Le Pew, Foghorn Leghorn, Wile E. Coyote, the Roadrunner, Speedy Gonzales, Tweety and Sylvester and even more! The justifiably legendary Tex Avery helped establish several of these characters. 'Friz' Freleng, Robert McKimson and (especially) Chuck Jones were to develop 'em and introduce many new ones.

These five tapes from Warner Video cover the last decade of worthwhile theatrical shorts from the studio (approx 1948-62) which unfortunately does not include any Avery material. Never mind, I'm sure his grossly distorted, manic directorial masterpieces will eventually be videoed. As to what we have here, if you're new to admitting you like the odd cartoon, best you start with the pretty good sampling of gems collected by their creator, Chuck Jones, in the *Bugs Bunny/Road Runner Movie*. The old cartoons are framed by new footage featuring yer urbane host, Bugs Bunny, which fits in fine. If, while watching, you wonder what's happened to the Mr Runner, rest easy, he and the indefatigable Coyote dominate the last quarter of the tape in some classic encounters of the cartoon kind.

If you enjoy this stuff, plunge your greedy little pleasure centres into *Looney Toons* 1-4 (actually eight volumes available, I believe) which include some crappy moments but lotsa good ones and the occasional inspired fit of genius. See especially 'Zipping Along' on No.1, 'The Hole Idea' on No.2, 'Eight Ball Bunny' on No.3 and 'Don't Give Up the Sheep' on No.4.

Meanwhile, don't forget *Mickey and Donald* at about 4pm on One, Tuesdays and Thursdays, and ferchrissake don't ever let yourself think that these miracles of impossible motion are for kids only.

Cartoons!! Love 'em to bits! Chris Knox

Lawrence Kasdan and friends.

## The Big Chill Factor



You could say that writer/director Lawrence Kasdan runs hot and cold. His directorial debut, the film noir-ish *Body Heat*, fairly scorched the screen, while his current effort *The Big Chill*, has a far cooler tone.

In terms of commercial success, Kasdan is simply the hottest screenwriter around, having been involved with *The Empire Strikes Back*, *Raiders of the Lost Ark* and *Return Of The Jedi*, three of the most popular films ever made.

*The Big Chill* is light years away from escapist adventures and space fantasies, but its commercial success in North America has helped prove there is still a market for adult films that eschew special effects in favour of well-crafted writing and acting. The title may suggest a thriller or disaster movie on the impending Ice Age, but *The Big Chill* is a highly personal movie that examines the lives of survivors from the 60s generation.

"It's so hard to come up with titles that I've given up trying," admits the affable Kasdan. "Now the title presents itself to me and I then protect it like a child. *The Big Chill* was a sensation I sometimes got talking to people. They'd

say something that was so far out of bounds to me, ethically or value wise, that I'd actually feel a chill pass over my body. I always envisaged that the movie would centre on the funeral, so that reinforced the title. In addition, I thought there was some kind of cooling off in the world from the idealistic fires people had when they were younger," he explained.

Those involved speak of the filming of *The Big Chill* as it resembled a spiritual experience; director and actors form a mutual admiration society that would be sickening if it wasn't so clearly heart-felt.

"Everything about the film was a gift from God! I had enormous respect for Larry; he's also just a wonderful human being. I'm real grateful to be a part of it." - Mary Kay Place.

"I'm proud to be in a film of this quality. I'm thrilled to be in that group of actors." - Jeff Goldblum.

"I love actors, I'm in awe of them. There are so many good ones around, it is frustrating not to be able to use more. The only problem is deciding who to use, it is never a shortage of great people." - Lawrence Kasdan.

The cast reads like a Who's Who of the most talented young actors in America: Kevin Kline (*Sophie's Choice*, *Pirates Of Penzance*), Glenn Close (*The World According To Garp*), Tom

Berenger (*Looking For Mr Goodbar*), Jeff Goldblum (*Invasion of the Bodysnatchers*, *The Right Stuff*), William Hurt (*Altered States*, *Body Heat*, *Gorky Park*), Mary Kay Place (*Mary Hartman*), Jobeth Williams (*Poltergeist*) and Meg Tilly (*Psycho II*).

Kasdan readily acknowledges that the movie is a reflection of his own life. "It is something I've wanted to make a movie about for a long time. It is about values, and the shock I felt when I came into the real world, which was a lot different than what college had prepared me for.

"It is about things that are happening in my life up to this minute, and they continue to be issues."

The voluble director insists *The Big Chill* is not a movie aimed solely at his peer group. "I intended it to be true to people's lives no matter how old they are, because I think the value choices those people are making have to be made by everyone.

"For me, the movie is about mortality. These people now realise that perhaps not everything is possible, that perhaps they don't have endless choices or time. Everybody feels that."

One of Kasdan's comments about his characters can apply equally to the actors and the shooting of *The Big Chill*. "The whole weekend is a pause in their lives. It is a safe place where maybe they can behave better than in their real lives. But in the end, they're going out alone again."

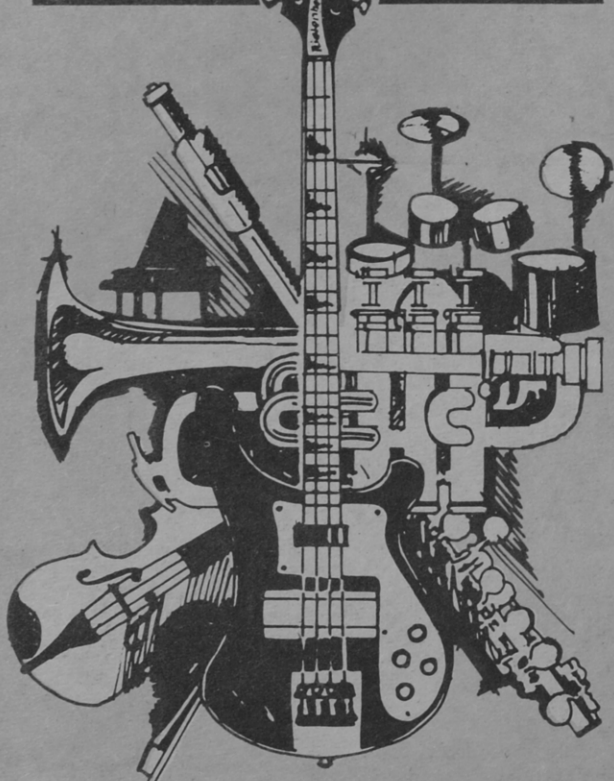
Lawrence Kasdan sees no contradiction in switching from blockbuster fantasies to smaller, more intimate films, so look for him to have a continuing impact on both fields.

To me, it is a meaningless distinction to divide genres and this kind of movie. There's rarely a kind of film that doesn't interest me. There are films I'm interested in seeing that other people aren't making, which is why I make them. There is no genre that is exhausted."

So next stop is a Western. After that? Well, the open-ended nature of *The Big Chill* means he is half-serious when he suggests that "in 10 years time, I'll make another movie about these people."

Kerry Doole

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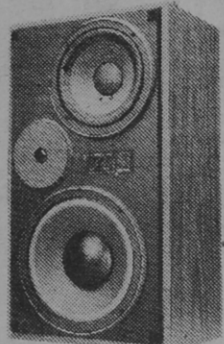
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