

cyclic
defrost



nothing but films and music (and frigid)

15

ryogenesis

2000.2

sunday

19.03.2000

11am to 8pm

& the Nu Dub Players (Germany)

tickets available now

from frigid on sunday nights, or email subbass@snarl.org

\$30 • advance sales only • 450 maximum • private event

Ubin
Purdy
Sir Robbo
Kazumichi Grime
Sub Bass Snarl
and special guest
Burnt Friedman

edi...orial

Issue #15 has been a long time coming. It was really supposed to be out in mid-January to remind you all to come to the special Frigid at the Opera House. As it happened you didn't need reminding, with 700 people showing up to chill with coke-snortin' North Shore bimbos and several minor celebrities. In the space between #14 and #15 a lot has changed. Lucius, Sydney's infamous poster terrorist, has hung up the sticky-tape and retired; Degrassi is now assistant editor of 3D World; Luke is now thirty; Monkeyboy is about to fly out of the country for several years pillaging the Americas; Dale has developed an unhealthy fetish for crappy vinyl; I've become addicted to Pokemon as a result of Luke's evil spouse Grit; and the rest of us are about to move Frigid to the Hopetoun temporarily whilst the Globe is refurbished. More on all that somewhere in this issue.

There have also been several festivals: Big Day Out and Vibes, in particular. I'm not sure but I have the feeling that we're smack bang in the middle of a cultural malaise. You see, the economies of the States, Britain and even here are apparently booming. That is supposed to make us all happy. At least that's what that 'trickle down' effect thing is about. I reckon it makes us lazy and bored. For all the millennium bullshit there hasn't been much worthwhile to rival, say, punk in 77, rave in 91, or even jungle in the UK in 94/95. There's nothing sweeping people up except jobs, and jobs mean 'sensible clubbing'. Justin Kerrigan's recent clubbing film Human Traffic even had to make handbag clubbing in the UK a little more edgy by incorporating footage of riot police at Reclaim The Streets into the title credits. That's not so say Human Traffic is a bad film (it isn't). It's quite funny and fills a lot of people with a terrible sense of déjà vu, it's just that even this film had to give its blind hedonism an air of 'resistance'. Its defence of Ecstasy is also weakened by the need to portray the families of the main characters as dysfunctional. Still, if you haven't seen it yet, fuck the R rating off and take your little brother or sister.

There is definitely some exciting music around - see my swag of reviews this month - but there isn't a great deal of it outside of a few select record shops supplying an almost entirely home listening or specific niche market. Anyway, it can't last forever... even the dirge of the 80s were broken in 1988 by acid house in the UK and the mainstreaming of hip hop in the States.

IMPORTANT

CYCLIC DEFROST will be losing its access to cheap (ahem...free) copying as of this issue. We need to find an alternate way of printing the zine or we may not be able to continue in the same way we have over the past 18 months and 15 issues.

if you can help print 250 issues of 5 double pages or know anyone that can, please contact seb@snarl.org.



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**copying, folding,
stapling and stuffing**
the cryo crew with the
long suffering monkey-
boy at the helm

thanks to
ruth for proofing
monkeyboy for the
copying prowess -
good luck
ozi batla for finally
making it back

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WEBSITE
Snarl Heavy Industries
<www.snarl.org>

go there and prosper

lookout for cryo tickets and
t-shirts (hmmm...maybe
some day)

ICY POLES

little blocks of sweetness

VINYL by dale

is a boy's best friend

a tale of adventure through the perils of dusty record boxes

I'm not going to tell you how the advent of the cd was just a ploy to increase major label record company profits through decreased costs and expensive reissues, neither am I going to get all anachronistic on yo ass and claim that no matter how hi the fidelity nothing can compete with the visceral warmth of a needle travelling along a groove. The reason I like vinyl is that it's cheap.

Because of this it provides three main advantages; firstly, the ability to be experimental in my purchases; secondly, the sheer volume of releases means that there is a great deal to choose from; and thirdly, because of sheer volume of (crap) releases record buying turns into a kind of game of 'fossicking for buried treasure'.

So when I read in the paper that Screensound, the film and audio archives branch of the federal government, were selling off their old vinyl, I was as excited than Big Kev with a handful of goo remover. To this end I made the trek/pilgrimage to the asshole of our nation, Canberra, to rescue some dusty cardboard covered vinyl from the brink of oblivion. I wasn't the only one...

The sale lasted from 9 – 5pm on the two days of the weekend. Like vultures round a carcass it was up to those stupid/brave enough to battle through the first day through endless lines and squabbles over the tastiest morsels. Saturday belonged to the dealers and the diehards, with many counting their scars along with the many gems.

By the time I got there at 1.30 on Sunday afternoon the desperation had ceased, replaced by old fogies checking the state of Scottish folk records and families purchasing a few classical records for the education of the kids...the black music section was devoid of anything except Lionel Ritchie records and, bizarrely enough, an Al Jolson record, and the popular music section had a fair smattering of Whitesnake and bad eighties compilations (1980 in the Sun et al...). But everything had been reduced to half price!!!

I started my adventure in the sound effects/mood music section and almost never returned. A whole bunch of early radio jingles were the first thing to catch my eye, along with a bunch of records called Sidelines which turned out to be bizarre one liners delivered in even more bizarre accents. I then moved along to the religious and spoken word sections and picked up some gems including some poetry readings of afro american poets

The highlight though was the "Foreign" music section where all manner of strangely packaged music from the past forty years resided, everything from Balinese gamelan music to traditional Persian and Indian music, from Lebanese pop to the Russian equivalent of Rene Geyer, from Malo (a band from the early 70s containing Carlos Santana's brother and sounding like Ozomatli) to obscure latin compilations printed entirely in spanish...

A full report will follow in the next Cyclic.

3D World Dance Music Awards

Sick of taking second place to rock music 3D World Magazine is happy to announce the 3D World Dance Music Awards to be held on Wednesday April 5th at the Metro in Sydney.

For over 10 years 3D World has been at the forefront of Australia's burgeoning dance and electronic music scene. In a country where axe wielding scotch drinking rock jocks have stolen the limelight, 3D believes it is time that the true talent have their day in the sun. People who provide hundreds of thousands of punters, every weekend, with the music that puts smiles on their faces and lifts them from the drudgery of everyday life. Finally the people spinning the wax and producing the tracks will get the recognition they deserve—on a national scale.

The night itself will see a bundle of awards covering all facets of the dance and electronic scene and will include performances by local & international artists. There will also be an after party at the Metro so the dance community can do what it does best—party.

For enquiries contact
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on 0411 1983 313

mpfree

A pirate music haven in a sea of corporate sharks

by First Mate Doof Jacobs of the Good Ship Liberty

What's this I spy through my trusty technoscope? On the not too distant horizon there's a fabulously decadent galleon and she's taking water fast. Flying the flag of Babylon the scurvy hulk is sinking under the weight of its ill gotten gains. Word's gotten round that mp3 buccaneers pulled the plug. So what be this mp3 I hear ye ask? Aye tis a tool of trade for pirates to be sure, but the story behind the story is all about the free flow of information, in this case music.

Mp3 is a way of saving music as digital files that can be transferred via the internet. Downloading this loot takes about 30 minutes per track via a dial up modem. A digital copy at near CD quality is then stashed on your hard drive. To hear it, you'll need to net yer self one of the many free mp3 players charted at the end of this report. Now technically you don't own it, but it's digital form makes it rip-roaringly easy to copy and redistribute.

Mutinous minstrels tired of music industry shenanigans have taken to building mp3 web sites as great places to stash tunes. Some are ripping the mainstream Robin Hood style, whilst others hawk their own tracks for an

honest income. Our crew is one of the many who are combining the best of both of these ideas using mp3 to give their own goods away for free. This kind of unregulated trading sends dread shivers up robber barons spines and is rocking the foundations of corporate music empires. While for all you liberty loving listeners (with internet access) its a glimpse of a wide open ocean with free passage to all ports of call from the well traveled old worlds of rock and pop to the most exotic and previously uncharted sonic paradises.

The x on Organarchy's music treasure map is www.mpfree.cat.org.au. This is the site of our ever growing archive. As we make our tracks we upload them there for all you techno lubbers to freely plunder.

Aye mates, one simple file transfer does away with all oppressive copyright and publishing restrictions. It takes the wind out of the sails of the DJ white label triads. Non-productive middle meddlers are made to walk the plank. Hierarchical power imbalances between music makers, distributors and consumers are sent straight to Davey Jones's locker.

map references

'napster' a program that lets users share mp3 files in a global grass roots roundtable.
www.napster.com

"copyrant" more scribbings from the pirate's pen at
www.cat.org.au/catalog/Copy1.htm

mp3 resources
www.netby.net/Vest/Lykken/Fnast/Mp3players.htm

www.jiveturkey.org

www.mp3.dk



What will all this skullduggery lead to? An end to the ownership and commodification of music itself no less! I tell ye true, it gladdens an old salt's heart to see it thus.

For up till now the only truly swash-buckling way to distribute Organarchy's pieces of eight o' eight has been by the very act of performing live, at free parties. Another tactic was handing it over at gigs on small runs of recycled cassettes. But this bogged the crew down in a lot of fiddly rub-a-dub-dubbing and photocopycutnpaste.

By contrast, a few short weeks after the mpfree site was launched word got back that push bike ghetto blasters were pumping out our merrie tunes at Critical Mass rides in San Francisco. Arrrgh, this sort of "prairie fire" distribution was not possible in ye olde days of the cassette networking scene.

So good friends, set sail for www.mpfree.cat.org.au and dig up some of Organarchy's buried treasure. Or view the source code and see how easy it is to start your own mp3 mutiny.

(not so) SILENT ISOLATION

An update to the hermit's guide to music and the Internet

article by neural: neural@one.net.au



Moving to The Bellingen Valley has been a dream for a long time. Now I'm finally there I figured my ability to buy new and interesting music would slow, if not stop all together. I've never been a great advocate of the Internet—you can spend too much time searching for information (unless you know a few tricks). Now that the closest record shop is 600km away, I've had to embrace it if I want to continue immersing myself in the music I love.

I've always believed in supporting your local music store if they look after you. Respect goes out to Tom and JD at Good Groove, and the folks at Waterfront for being the most helpful shops in Sydney. I still try and order stuff from these guys, or visit them when I'm In Sydney. Supporting good local music outlets is essential if they're going to survive the competition with Internet stores.

The house music mentality of some stores in Sydney made it difficult to obtain those essential releases not of that musical genre, but with the Internet it never has to be this way.

Most Internet music sites send out new release lists via e-mail, cutting down the need to surf considerably. If you subscribe to these lists, obtaining that quirky seven inch single limited to 200 copies becomes a reality. Since using the Internet for buying music, I've never been disappointed - if one site does not have what I'm after, another usually does.

There are hundreds of Internet music stores, but what I've attempted to do is narrow the field to those stores that stock dance music, leftfield, electronic, re-issues and anything that's hard to categorise. Obviously it helps if you have a credit card to purchase the music, and currency converters come in very handy, so you don't spend next week's rent!

www.juno.co.uk

Probably the best UK store on the web. They stock all genres of dance music, including more downbeat leftfield music. They list all tracks on the release, as well as MP3 sound clips for some releases. Hundreds of new releases come in each week, yet they stay competitively priced, deducting VAT (like our GST). I've found Juno to be extremely reliable (whatever is on their web site, they have in stock), and very quick, the parcel usually arriving in just 7 days.

www.roughtrade.com

Rough Trade is quite similar to Juno in titles it stocks, but they also cater for indie, punk and country. Their web site is not as well set up as Juno, sometimes you'll order something from their site, and it may not be in stock. This can be annoying, but they do seem to get some music titles that slip through the cracks at Juno, so they are worth a regular look. They deduct VAT too.

pelicanneck@btinternet.com

These guys don't have a web site, but they send out weekly new release lists, with great little reviews of each title. They get some great stuff in, mainly from the techno and electronic field. They reckon they'll be deducting VAT soon, and their postal charges are very reasonable.

www.globalnet.co.uk/~chunky-mo/

I've found Chunky Mail Order to be great for quirky 7" releases (they have CDs and Albums too). Quite a small site, but well set up. They generally stock similar titles to Pelicanneck, also exploring more rock territory. Look out for their fantastic sales, reducing just about everything to ridiculous prices!

www.forcedexposure.com

If you're after music right on the edge, this is the site for you! An amazing collection of electronic, experimental and re-issued music, both new and old. It doesn't matter how weird it is, or how old, chances are Forced Exposure will stock it. They specialise in re-issued music of the past that was ignored in its time, or did not receive the acclaim it deserved. I thought I knew a lot about music until I visited this site! This store is as reliable and as quick as Juno, also having very detailed reviews on each release, which makes discovering new music easy.

www.dustygroove.com

The leaders in jazz, funk and soul re-issues. This site has an amazing catalogue including second hand vinyl. Some of the vinyl is very expensive, but if you're after that mint copy of an MPS George Duke record, then you probably won't mind paying through the nose for it. They get loads of new releases each week, and by the time they get the e-mail lists out, some of their stock is sold out. If you're a jazz funk nut, this web site should be visited regularly.

These web stores are great for new releases and re-issues, but what if you're after that twelve inch single that has a mix by your favourite band, and was released a few years back?? You need to look at the web stores that have a huge back catalogue...

www.frontstage.com

Blaze put me onto this site. It has an incredible back catalogue of CDs, vinyl and videos, and a well designed site. Just type in the artist you're after and be amazed at the list of releases you can get from this store!

www.insound.com

Like Front Stage this site is huge in the titles it stocks. A really well designed web page makes browsing a breeze. They even have a copy of the only movie Miles Davis ever acted in, Dingo!! Insound must have the best Zine stand (check out Sound Collector) on the net, making this site a joy to browse. Insound also has a good selection of MP3s.

If you still can't find that elusive CD, try closer to the source. Most record labels, even the smaller ones, have a web page these days. You may be able to order direct from them, or they'll be able to put you in contact with a store that stocks their titles.

So there you have it. A rough guide to spending lots of money on the Internet, but at least you're getting the music you want. So log on, and try out e-commerce magic

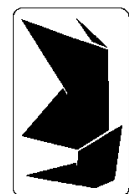


**Elephant Traks presents:
Piffernators CD Launch**
grass clippings cd launch

**27th of February at
The Hopetoun Hotel
Surry Hills**

Line up:
Mark N
[hip-hop set]
Syndicate
[rare Sydney appearance]
Piffernators
Sulo

**elephant
traks**



frigid

line-ups

summer series

NEW VENUE

HOPETOUN HOTEL Corner Fitzroy & Bourke St Surry Hills 4:30pm to 10pm \$3 Three floors to explore, upstairs is non-smoking. Top class dinners & tapped beer (including Coopers Pale!!! for all you lovers of vegan beer/sowf oztraylyans/gourmet beer drinkers) & pokies to waste your money on.

(re)OPENING NIGHT

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 13

[live]
Tooth
Sandro

[DJs]
Sub Bass Snarl
Sir Robbo

Tonight we kick off the new summer Frigid in a rather low key vibe experimenting with the space a bit before the open slather of the next few weeks. Although spread over the three floors of the Hopetoun, the fishtank dungeon, the upstairs airy terrace house and the sunny middle floor, the action takes place all in the main area. We have a live set from **Tooth** plus Melbourne post-rock outfit **Sandro** who may shock more than a few people with vocals and an indie feel. Nevertheless, the 13th is the day to scope out the venue and find all the cool places to sit and chill. Try the excellent food—especially the Tandoori pizza or the fish & chips—and the on tap bar goodness. For a lot of you it will be easier to get to being situated just up Foveaux St from Central Station and just down from Taylor Square on Bourke St.

'BEAT & SQUELCH' CD launch

AMNESTY BENEFIT

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 20

[Downstairs/Live]
Funkenbubble
Sonik Professa
Alphatown
H'biki
Deep Child

[Upstairs/DJs]
Sub Bass Snarl
Sir Robbo

With so many acts **SBS** and **Robbo** will be taking over the upstairs space whilst the live action takes place on the middle floor. It's the launch of **Tom 'Funkenbubble' Phillipson's** Amnesty benefit CD *Beat & Squelch*, so a large swag of the acts who have contributed tracks to the excellent compilation will be doing live sets. Ranging from **Deep Child's** dubby guitar-fused acid breaks to former **Atomic HiFi** collaborator **Sonik Professa**, the Detroit influenced **Alphatown** and the crazed anime breaks of **H'biki** who opens the most recent *Freaky Loops* CD, the sounds should be pretty innovative and otherwise unheard... half the door goes to Amnesty International too.

PILFERNATORS GRASS CLIPPINGS CD launch

elefant traks



SUNDAY FEBRUARY 27

[Downstairs/Live]
Mark N (HipHop set)
The Pilfernators
Syndicate
Sulo

[Upstairs/DJs]
Sub Bass Snarl
Sir Robbo

Just when Frigid was looking like a chilled Sunday afternoon the nasty boys from Epping and Newcastle roll up with their beat machines and create havoc. Yep, **Elefant Traks** has finally revealed **The Pilfernators** first 'proper' album to an unwary public. Titled *Grass Clippings* and ranging from destructo-breakbeats to proto-gabber, **The Pilfernators** will be laying down some nasty sounds to pogo around to late in the afternoon preceded by **Mark N's** hip hop tornado, fellow Novocastrian Bloody Fisters **Syndicate** and westsaaiide chap **Sulo**. Upstairs, we'll be offering solace from the distortion and relentless noise. (heh heh) Oh, and this is your last chance to catch Ross 'Monkeyboy' Cavanagh before he leaves Sydney for possibly two years in the States breakdancing and acting like someone from a Pepsi Max commercial.

SUNDAY MARCH 19

Shark Island 11am-8pm

INVITATION ONLY / limited capacity

[Live]
Burnt Friedman & The Nu Dub Players (Germany)
Ubin

[DJs]
Sub Bass Snarl
Sir Robbo
plus more TBA

The time has come once again. This Cryogenesis sees us waving farewell to summer with **Burnt Friedman & The Nu Dub Players** dropping in to play a long live set. Maybe better known to you as part of **Flanger** (Ninja Tune), **Drome** (KiffSM, Incoming, Ash) or **Nonplace Urban Field**, **Bernd** has a new album out on Pole's label **Scape** which does for 70s dub what **Flanger** has done for 70s jazz - reworking the sounds with all sorts of subtle digital deconstruction. **Ubin** will showcase a range of new material as they prepare to write a new album, whilst **Kazumichi Grime** is preparing a special set to complement the exotic location. To ensure the day is not too overwhelmingly electronic, **Purdy** will also be doing a rare live set hot on the heels of the fantastic album *Kevolution*. You know the drill. Invitations are on a first come first served basis so get emailing to cryo@snarl.org and/or come and speak to us in person at Frigid and/or ring us.

february's musical mucus

with your host Yellow Peril



Kit Clayton
Nek Sanalet
(Scape)

Source: Juno

The Scape label is run by Pole's Stefan Betke so it is little wonder to find American Kit Clayton dropping an album of deep, fractured dub sounds on his second album (first for Scape). More rhythm oriented than Pole but equally obsessed with hiss, static and bottom end, Kit Clayton tracks are full of edgy clicks that teeter on that edge between twitching and tapping. Highly listenable despite the nonsensical track titles.

DJ Cheb I Sabbah
Shri Durga
(Six Degrees)

Source: Fish Bondi Junction

Cheb I Sabbah is a DJ from San Francisco who has done stuff with people like Spooky and Timothy Leary (on the sub rosa compilation Ancient Lights and the Blackcore) this is his reworking of traditional Indian ragas. Done with samples and loops, Shri Durga is less electronic than one might imagine with a lot of emphasis being placed on retaining the meaning and structure of the originals. Whilst Six Degrees sounds like it might be a pretty New Age label, this release treads a careful path keeping the structural integrity of the source material.

Papa M
Live From A Shark Cage
(Spunk/Drag City)

Source: Fish Bondi Junction

Papa M is ex-Tortoise collaborator David Pajo. A recent visitor to Sydney (he played at the Hopetoun), Pajo has done several solo releases first as M, then Aerial M and now Papa M. Live From A Shark Cage is perhaps his most minimal with wisps of guitar looping over subtle electronic beats that remain low in the mix, almost as a texture under the guitar. These guitar loops build and expand, slowly

changing shape creating simple patterns creating a tranquil sparseness not unlike the more busy Do Make Say Think or Tortoise on Temazepam. An excellent contemplative record and meditative fodder.

Position Normal
Stop Your Nonsense
(Mind Horizon)

Source: Juno

Stop Your Nonsense is one of a series of comedy-electronica records released in the last nine months. Whilst Spymania has monopolised this market most recently releasing the Welcome To Celebrity Fog Donkey compilation just before Christmas, others are following suit. Serious label Skam has just done the Wevie Stander EP, Fat Cat has the Ludlow & Smith 12" which are apparently Andy Wetherall under another name, Rephlex did the singles chat line CD called 100% Genuine and now to add to this motley bunch Position Normal's Stop Your Nonsense. The nonsense lyrics including the poignant "I miss her like I miss rabies" are very reminiscent of the fertile vein of early 1970s British comedy - Monty Python in particular - whilst the music is a blend of weird guitar loops and sound cut ups, often incredibly catchy ones.

Various Artists
Clicks & Cuts
(Mille Plateaux)

Source: Synaesthesia Melbourne

The world of reduced techno can be a daunting pool to dip your toes into. Every release from Pole to Basic Channel, Thomas Brinkmann and the rest of the Berlin and Cologne centred scene tends to speak directly to an audience that understands the techniques and/or intention behind the sounds. Luckily Mille Plateaux has brought together this rather nifty compilation that stretches across the field bringing together a broad spectrum of artists from Pole and Brinkmann to Noto, Václav Delav,

Curd Duca, Dettinger from Kompakt, right thru to Pansonic. Deep dubby landscapes are interspersed with voice reconstructions and ultra minimalist sound. With few maps to this territory Clicks & Cuts at least lays down a few signposts.

REISSUES

Various
Electric Psychedelic Sitar
Headswirlers Volume 2
(Purple Lantern)

Source: Sir Robbo via Time Warp

Shane picked this up at Time Warp in what is apparently a very excellent psychedelic section. Here are twenty tracks from various people you might know (Popul Vuh, Leary, Chocolate Watch Band) and plenty you probably don't - notable is the Turkish psychedelia of Erkin Koray direct from the sixties. Despite what the heavy liner notes say, I think the sitar is perhaps most audibly similar in effect to our detuned Western ears to the acid sound of the 303. There is something captivating about the sitar sound and it's not just because it's from the 'exotic East'. The twenty tracks on Headswirlers range from the almost folk-y to classic Sixties psych-pop and a few weird tabla tracks that wouldn't be out of place at Kooky. Since Robbo lent me this it has been firmly in the Discman and we are all searching for the rest of the volumes in the series! Robbo accurately describes the listening experience as "being stuck in a weird Sixties movie".

Alice Coltrane
Astral Meditations
(Impulse)

Source: Birdland

Patrick Forge, one of London's rare groove DJs and writer for Straight No Chaser convinced Impulse to let him raid their vaults and put together a compilation of Alice Coltrane material, a lot of which was previously vinyl only. For Impulse this must have been a

leap of faith given that Alice Coltrane never gets the props that John Coltrane does, and must have trusted that Forge knew that there were a whole legion of people keen to hear the source of the sounds that underpin a lot of newer music, from people like Mixmaster Morris/Irrestistable Force, Jazzanova and Fridge. And, at \$22 it is a great introduction for those more than a little hesitant to step inside the polished floors of a 'jazz' shop. Astral Meditations has rippling harp tracks like Journey In Satchidananda and Universal Consciousness alongside the sweeping orchestral sounds of Galaxy In Turiya, and is an exceptionally lush and spacious sounding record not to be missed.

Funkstorung
Post Art
(Chocolate Industries)

Source: Juno

Sensibly, Chocolate Industries has reissued this excellent first EP from duo Funkstorung. When it came out it was being heralded as a new Autechre, but on re-listening it is clear that Funkstorung are working towards a different theory. As Autechre have progressed towards minutely dissected beats and static textures, Funkstorung go for an angular, sharp semi-electro sound still allowing listeners the luxury of dancing.

Roy Budd
Diamonds OST
The Stone Killer OST
The Marseille Contract OST
(Castle Records)

Source: Red Eye Records

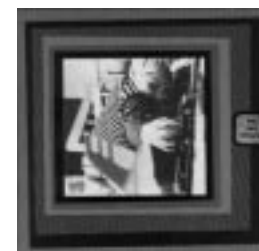
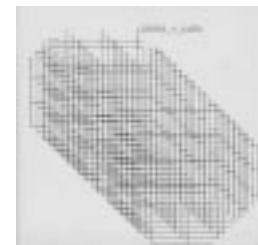
These three soundtracks all produced by Roy Budd in the early 1970s are freshly available in remastered form courtesy of Castle Records. Budd, best known for the excellent Get Carter soundtrack, does some of his most eclectic production here. Diamonds (aka Diamond Shaft), a dodgy film about a complex bank heist in Tel Aviv, has Budd blending MOR soul (the cheesy title tune) and funk with tablas, Middle Eastern percussion and some exceptionally menacing bass notes. The Marseille Contract, a film with Michael Caine playing a killer hired by an US Embassy official to put away a big smack dealer in France, continues with the subtle Eastern influence, sinister bass progressions and tablas alternating at critical moments in the film with some fine breakbeats. In fact it is on The Marseille Contract soundtrack that the source material for Rob D's Clubbed To Death is revealed, a track on the soundtrack called Jazz It Up being almost a remix of it. Finally, The Stone Killer - a film with Charles Bronson playing a renegade cop full of crazy car chases - heads in to

Blaxploitation territory (one of the tracks not in the film is a version of Black Is Beautiful) full of car chase funk and a stunning theme tune that is reprised throughout. The remastering on all three of these reissues is superb with the detail and richness of the originals being drawn out. The stereo separation is incredible especially considering the highly oxidised state of the original tapes when they were found and these three soundtracks are some of the most intricate genre-crossing works of the period. The videos of The Stone Killer and The Marseille Contract are available for hire at Dr What in Bondi Junction

Divine Styler
Word Sound 2
(MoWax)

Source: MoWax Promo

MoWax have a tendency for reissuing quite interesting releases that have, perhaps, not gotten the attention they deserved the first time around. There's been the inimitable Dr Octagon album and more recently the Major Force West compilation, and now, Divine Styler's Word Sound 2 originally out in 1998. Given that MoWax have lost all their 'big name' signings to other labels, who can blame them for scratching around with reissues? Divine Styler is one of the weirder hip hop artists, a bit like Rammellzee, who dropped an important album early on and then vanished for ten years or so only to reappear. A devout Muslim who has made the pilgrimage to Mecca, and also former member of the 5 Percent Nation (but more media-savvy than fellow 5%ers Brand Nubian), Divine Styler drops cryptic quasi-religious rhymes over beats and sounds straight from Blade Runner, which incidentally, is one of the sample sources. Thus much of Word Sound 2 is stuck in a sound-world of 1980s futurism full of apocalyptic technology and electro-influences to match. MoWax's reissue will do much to elevate Divine Styler's status but that says more about MoWax than anything else.





2000 De-millennium SPECIAL

Dear Degrassi,

I'm a lazy Arts student at university. Even though I'm now 48, I've somehow managed to study at the one institution since the early 70s. I successfully completed 3rd year last year and am going to do honors this year. I've decided to base my thesis on pop culture in the late 20th century, but I really can't be bothered doing any work. I figured that if I sent you carefully crafted letters every month I could vicariously do all the research I need and make you think that you're helping out some chump in the process. Um...so can you help me out?

Lucky Phil

Well, well, well! Here's the new millennium - no planes dropped from the sky; no financial computer crashed, no riots occurred - no need to fuss really! I'd pretty much sussed the change over from 1999 to 2000 as being like losing one's virginity: You hype it up, you want to make it 'special' or 'perfect' and you make sure you're wearing clean underwear! It's over in no time and you don't really feel any different afterwards. Don't get me wrong though, I had a fantastic time on both occasions! It's just that the transition into the 21st Century really didn't live up to its hype, much the same way deflowering didn't instantly transform me into a woman of the world!

I would like to say king fist to the psychotic bitch that successfully had our New Years party closed down at a mere 3am! The second fist award of the millennium goes to the loser undercover cop who crashed our private party. Fortunately I was medicated to such a degree that he couldn't get any sense out of me!

Another thing that really disappointed me was the distinct lack of quality television programming leading up to the end of the 20th Century! I know it's that joyous time of year when television programmers assume that we're all out enjoying the sunshine and warmth of summer so they bombard us 5 nights a week with little gems like 'Blossom'. How often do we get to celebrate the end of a day, month, year, decade, century and a millennium? Where were all the retrospectives of all aspects of pop culture? It hardly costs an arm and a leg to have someone narrate over the top of stock footage. The amount of effort required to produce shows like this is inversely proportional to the entertainment derived by viewers. The print media was also pretty mediocre in its attempts to chronicle the years, but at least it made more of an effort than television.

Boy! That was a nice little lead into the next reader's letter:

You're not THE Lucky Phil, are you? Star of the first RBT commercials to air in NSW in the early 80s? Well, I'd be only too happy to help a celebrity of your stature!

Well, you really haven't given me a lot to work with in terms of what you want me to say, in fact it almost resembles the kind of essay questions I used to get in Philosophy when I too was an arts student. I will now attempt to kill 2 birds with the one column: provide you with information and provide Cyclic readers with a pop culture wrap of late last century!

Degrassi's Top 6

Why 6? Top 10s are predictable and require nearly twice as much work as a Top 6.

Degrassi's Top 6 Films

1 Vertigo

If you haven't seen this film, chances are you have seen countless films, tele-movies, video clips and television shows that have stolen from it! Faith No More made a video clip which was almost a direct mini narrative of the film using Jennifer Jason Leigh to play the role of Madeleine. The mini series of Maupin's 'Tales of the City' appropriates entire sequences from the film (in a very high camp way of course). Mel Brooks, 'High Anxiety', although a full Hitchcock spoof, is mainly based on this film and Brian De Palma's film 'Dressed to Kill' shamelessly copies it. As the film is set in San Francisco and surrounding areas, it is almost impossible for any film shot in that city not to owe something to Hitchcock's classic.

Starring the undeniably suave James Stewart and timelessly

beautiful Kim Novak, Vertigo was a film way ahead of its time in terms of cinematography when it was released in 1958. It includes one of the very first colour psychedelic sequences in film. Vertigo is the story of a woman's obsession with history and mortality and a man's obsession with a myth and the recreation of it. The print was restored in 1997 and it enjoyed an all too short cinema re-release! This film gives me goose bumps every time I even think about it.

2 The Sound of Music

No, I'm not joking! Since I saw this film when I was a sweet innocent young thing I have wanted to be Fraulien Maria although the prospect of looking after 7 children isn't exactly appealing. You should all know the story of the rebel nun who warms the hearts of a patriotic, retired naval captain and his mischievous children with music in pre World War II Austria. Let's all not forget that this is based on a true story too!

The Sound of Music was the winner of 5 Academy Awards in 1965, including best picture. Julie Andrews was given the part of Maria after having been promised the role of Eliza Doolittle in 'My Fair Lady' which was then taken from her and given to Audrey Hepburn who had to rely on dubbing for her vocals. Whether you will openly admit it or not, I'm sure you can at least hum along to just about every song, and you probably know the words to more than you care to admit to even yourselves!

The hills are alive!

3 Videodrome

Now this is one fucked up movie! Made in 1983 by David Cronenberg starring James Woods and Deborah Harry (who looks quite dishy despite very unflattering outfits), Videodrome explores the fine line between fantasy, reality and the media. It also poses questions about violence and sex in the media and the responsibility of programmers to the public.



Cronenberg's recent film, eXistenZ, is similar in many ways to Videodrome and demonstrates his ongoing concern with new technologies and their integration into society. He exploits the new (well, it was in 1983!) technology of video further by releasing a subtly different version of Videodrome on video from the film released at the cinema. Although essentially the same, some almost identical scenes involve completely different characters and dialogues!

Long live the new flesh! (I forgot to mention this film is up there with The Warriors in terms of being one of the most sampled films of all time!)

4 **Dirty Harry**

Another classic film shot with San Francisco as its backdrop. Harry Callaghan played by Clint Eastwood at his spunkiest, is the ultimate in cool! These days, filmmakers have us go for the bad guys, but he epitomised the cop that was just so groovy, so funky that you had no choice but to hope he'd get the bad guy! Dirty Harry spawned a further 4 sequels, the last of which, Dead Pool, was made in 1988 and featured the acting debut (and swan song come to think of it) for the band Guns 'n' Roses!

After his wife is killed by a drunk driver, Harry has little else in his life but his work. Harry is assigned to investigate a serial killer and kidnapper called Scorpio. He takes a pretty similar approach to law enforcement as Charles Bronson does as a vigilante in Death Wish. Although not as gory as many more recent films, back in 1971 this was a pretty full on film and still holds up as one of the most psychologically

violent films because of its brutal realism.

Do you feel lucky? Well, do ya, punk?

5 **Ferris Bueller's Day Off**

Can anyone out there quote this film more than I can? Anyone? Anyone? I quote a lot of films, but none so much as this one. I used to watch this just about every single day I stayed home from school. If you haven't seen Ferris Bueller, you don't deserve to live. It's as simple as that. It will forever be imprinted in the minds of just about everyone currently aged between about 22 and 35. If you're a guy, you wanted to be Ferris and if you're a girl you wanted to date him.

This isn't just a funny movie though, it really does express sentiments I agree with wholeheartedly: Live for the moment, don't worry about what other people think of you and do what YOU want to do! Of course that's all very easy for Ferris because he's, well, Ferris! This is a film about self-esteem, an issue pertinent to impressionable teenagers. For once it is presented in a format other than a woefully scripted after school special, so people other than teachers and well meaning, yet misguided parents actually saw it. Let,s face it though, Ferris is out there trying to give his best friend Cameron just the tiniest shred of self esteem through showing him the joys of spontaneity and just a little bit of rebelliousness. (Having said that, I do think the film hits a low point when the Ferrari reverses out the window and Cameron gives that weird and almost totally indigestible soliloquy!)

We in Australia were never blessed, or perhaps I should say cursed, with

the FBDO series that featured Charlie Slater as Ferris (yeah, right!) and Jennifer Aniston as Jeanie. Rumour has it that a FBDO sequel is in the pipes, but old Matty is looking, um, old and if they think that they're going to replace him as Ferris, well, I'm sure the box office will tell them that they made a big mistake!

6 **St Elmo's Fire**

I had you worried there for a minute, didn't I? You thought I wasn't going to get around to mentioning a Brat Pack movie! This is the ultimate Brat Pack film as far as I'm concerned, with the obvious exclusion of Anthony Michael Hall and Molly Ringwald, of course. But let's face it: Who really liked Molly anyway? The whiney, huffy, gorgeous red head! You either loved her or hated her and I HATED her!

In a lot of ways St Elmo's Fire is just like a Reality Bites of the Eighties but therein lies its strength over Winona and Ethan! It follows the lives of a group of college friends: Kirby (Emilio Estevez), Kevin (Andrew McCarthy), Billy (Rob Lowe), Jules (Demi Moore), Alex (Judd Nelson), Leslie (Ally Sheedy) and Wendy (Mare-what-a-cruel-name-for-a-plain-looking-girl-Winningham). Unlike the Gen X-ers of the nineties though, these friends are going through the decade best known for its flamboyance, greed and ruthless ambition which is so much more entertaining than the laments of snivelling (albeit good looking) no-hopers. All 7 of these kids personified the quintessential 80s stereotypes!

Degrassi's Top 6 Singles

This was always going to be a hard one with only 6 slots to fill. I know that I'm going to leave out a sizable chunk of good music here and be kicking myself in weeks to come for forgetting something really special, but we'll all just have to live with that. I really wanted to include Angel Dust by New Order and Namaste by the Beastie Boys but unfortunately they were never released as singles, so cannot be included.

1 **Q Mental Cube**

You might not have heard of Mental Cube, but I'm sure you've all heard of Future Sound of London who was once Mental Cube as well as Humanoid. I'm also pretty sure that if you've gone to a club or dance party in the past 10 years, you will have heard it at least once, even if you haven't known its name. I love this song so much that after reaching the head of a 15 minute queue for a toilet at the Bondi Diggers about 7 years ago, I heard this track and had to run back to the dance floor with a near bursting bladder for a boogie! It's THAT good!

2 **Like A Virgin Madonna**

When I first saw a girl with permed hair, crucifix earrings and necklaces, fluoro socks with equally fluoro stilettoes and that beauty mark, I knew what I wanted to be when I grew up: Madonna! Even though she first broke through with Burning Up, Like A Virgin is the ultimate Maddy track! I didn't really realise the juxtaposition of her singing the song at the time. In fact, back then I don't think I knew what a virgin was, let alone juxtaposition! 'I'd been had/I was sad and blue'? I just thought she meant a gangster had doublecrossed her and she was a little upset about it.

3 **Please, Please, Please Let Me Get What I Want The Smiths**

Who would have thought that such a light hearted and vivacious lass as myself would ever have listened to The Smiths? Well, growing up is all about pain and angst and if you grew up in the 80s, then The Smiths were the soundtrack to your miserable, pimple-ridden, poetry writing existence. Unlike most Smiths tracks, the title of the song not only relates to the song, but it is also a line in it. All you anti-Smiths punters out there probably don't realise that the song playing while Ferris, Sloan and Cameron walk around the Chicago art gallery is actually an instrumental version of this track performed by The Dream Academy.

4 **Infinity Guru Josh**

1990s Time for Guru
1990s Time for Guru (Ah Ah Ooh Ah)

I don't know about you, but that pretty much sums it up for me! Now I hate the saxophone because people like Kenny G have tainted as far as I'm concerned, but I'm more than willing to make an exception for the guru's saxophone playing side kick, Mad Mick, on this all time, killer ANTHEM! I'm not so sure about my sources on this little gem of trivia, but I heard Josh was actually a dentist who started writing music to make his patients feel more at ease. Personally I would have just given them more happy gas! Still, then the world would never have seen one of the first video clips featuring bad, baaaaad Acid Teds!

5 **Stutter Rap Morris Minor and the Majors**

Readers, please!! If ANYONE out there has a copy of this, I will be your personal slave for as long as you want just to tape it from you! Email me: degrassi@snarl.org and I promise I'll do anything so long as it doesn't involve animals, children or heavy farm machinery! Once I have

a copy of this track I will be a complete and whole person. Morris Minor and the Majors really were a one hit wonder concept band, but gee that one track was funny. Their follow up single, a piss take of Stock, Aitken and Waterman processed pop, called 'This Is the Chorus', although funny, just couldn't reach the same watermark the boys had set with 'Stutter Rap'. I know I've never looked at the Beasties or Chaka Khan in the same way since hearing this track!

6 (it's a tie) **Bela Lugosi's Dead Bauhaus**


Impact Itch-ee and Scratch-ee

At first glance one wouldn't actually be able to tell what these two tracks have in common. That's because about the only thing they do have in common is that I made a loop tape of each of these songs when I was a youth I liked them THAT much! But please allow me to elaborate...

First a Smiths track and now Bauhaus I might as well let you all rummage through my underwear draw, I'm baring that much of myself here! I've pretty much tried every youth sub-culture with varying degrees of integrity. I'll admit that when I went through my Goth phase, I was more of a teeny-gotter! Featured in the David Bowie vampire film 'The Hunger', this little early 80s goth punk ditty impressed itself indelibly on my mind (or maybe that was because of the loop tape I played in my sleep..)

I first heard Impact when I used to tape dance music off the radio back in my raver days. I remember thinking 'How can something produced in Australia sound THIS good?' I eat those words now, but back then about the most polished Australian electronic music I heard other than Itch-ee and Scratch-ee came out on Vicious Vinyl and everything else sounded like it had been produced on a Commodore 64 and recorded in a toilet.

Stay tuned for next month's installment: Top 6 Fashion Items and Top 6 Spunks of the Millennium!



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