Vid Flicks

eric hill

In a desperate attempt at stability in the amorphous discipline of informational communication - here is the second of a series (hopefully). Presenting you, the celluloid masses, with alternative video choices.

The Devils is a late 1970's film by Ken Russell concerning the many aspects underlying the witchcraft hysteria in France during the period of Cardinal Richelieu's power, The story centers around a Catholic priest in the town of London who has unusual views concerning the vows of celibacy - he feels it is possible to witness God's grandeur through the advent of sexual relationship between man and woman. He searches for a married relationship with a woman he feels most likely to help him reach this goal. The other main character is a hunchbacked mother superior of a local nunnery whose unrequited lust for the priest and jealousy of the women in his life, prompts her to accuse the priest of demonic practices - supported by claims coerced from the nuns in her charge of possession and witchcraft. The film presents the many oppositions (religion/sex, Catholic/Protestant, church/state) in imagistic depictions which Russell is renowned for. The film stars Oliver Reed and Vanessa Redgrave and is said to be based on the true events.

Insignificance is a kind of modern day allegorical fairy tale bringing together four characters known simply as the Movie Star, the Scientist, the Ballplayer, and the Senator. They are non-veiled representations of Marilyn Monroe, Albert Einstein, Joe DiMaggio, and Joseph McCarthy all placed in the setting of a hotel room occupied by the Scientist. The Scientist is brought to America by the Senator to speak at an anti-communist rally - and because of fear concerning his theories of universal structure and relativity and their impact if they fell in the wrong hands. The Movie Star is tired of her typecasting as a "dumb blonde" and seeks out the Scientist for a stimulating intellectual conversation. The Ballplayer is a kind of everyman/down-to-earth individual who is attempting to salvage his failing relationship with the Movie Star. The standout scene in the movie is the Marilyn-figure explaining her view of the theory of relativity to the Einstein-figure. The personal interrelations are supported by the subtextual relationships of science, politics, and the individual. It also searches for the real basis of power in the modern world. The film is directed by Nicolas Roeg (whose first job in the industry in his late teens as photographer for Jacques Cousteau) and stars his wife, Theresa Russell, as the Movie Star.

UNB Film Society

This weekend (Friday 26 Jan., Saturday 27 Jan.) the UNB Film Society will be screening Jacques Tati's 1958 colour feature, *Mon Oncle*.

Tati is an extraordinary film-maker. His works appear at long intervals and are the result of meticulous craftsmanship and intense involvement as director, actor, and scriptwriter. Like Max Linder, Charlie Chaplin, and Buster Keaton, Tati began his career as a music hall entertainer and made the transition to silent films with great success. His painstaking method of production has limited his output: In his entire career he has made only half a dozen features, together with a number of shorts and contributions to a few works by other directors. "I can't manufacture films like manufacture films like bread rolls," he explains. "I'm not a baker. I consider how people live....I observe mannerisms, details, the ways of behaving that reveal the personality of each individual." Tati celebrates everything that is idiosyncratic--even eccentric--in humanity, and he is, quietly and with humour, the enemy of all socializing forces which seek to regulate personality according to a preconceived ideal. His films propose "a return to gentleness through a defense of individuality."

In *Les vacances de M. Hulot* (1953)he introduced his well-meaning but slightly cracked hero, a middle-aged, middle-class man hopelessly out of step with the increasing pace of post-war society. *Mon Oncle* finds M. Hulot the victim of the benevolent intentions of his brother-in-law and sister (the Arpels) who wish him to have the good things of life: a wife, a job, and a suburban bungalow filled with the latest noisy and useless gadgets. The Arpels' own son prefers his uncle's archaic and anarchic lifestyle to that of his parents, and this makes the effort to reconcile Hulot to modernism part of the struggle to win the allegiance of the boy. Hulot, perfectly comfortable in his rambling old building in a decayed quarter of Paris, is bewildered by the Arpels' austere geometric house and garden, the labyrinthine plastics factory where M. Arpel works, and the chromium towers of the new city. Invulnerable as always, Hulot overcomes all obstacles through a curious combination of good faith and ingenuousness.



FRANCINE KAY
pianist

Prize-winning pianist Francine Kay brings an enchanting program to the UNB/STU Creative Arts Memorial Hall Series on Sunday, February 4th, at 3:00 p.m. Ms. Kay performs three Scarlatti sonatas, Three Preludes by Debussy, Three Sonnets by Canadian composer Harry Somers, as well as works by Schumann, Chopin and Liszt. A limited number of single tickets will be available at the door for $8/adult, $6/senior and $2/student.

PLAYLIST

For week ending January 19, 1990

This Wk	Last Wk	Wks. On	ARTIST	TITLE	LABEL
☆1	9	3	Voivod	Nothing Face	MCA
2	2	6	Ministry	Mind a Terrible Thing...	Sire/WEA
☆3	1	5	64 Funnycars	Rabies	Bruiser Boy
☆4	3	6	Skinny Puppy	Happy Go Lucky	Capitol/Nettwerk
5	6	6	My Life w/ Thrill Kill Kult	Kooler than Jesus	Wax Trax
☆6	11	4	The Nevermen	Monitor	Amok
☆7	4	6	No Means No	Wrong	Wrong/Cargo
8	18	2	Laurie Anderson	Strange Angels	Warner Bros.
☆9	5	5	Absolute Whores	Absolute Whores	WhoreSongs
10	8	7	Primitives	Pure	RCA
☆11	7	4	Creef	Good Karma	Stomach
12	23	2	Psychedelic Furs	Book of Love	Columbia/CBS
13	10	7	Michelle Shocked	Captain Swing	Mercury
14	26	2	Tracey Chapman	Crossroads	Elektra
☆15	13	5	Boys Next Door	Vault	Amok
☆16	14	6	Richard Stuart	Journey to Amerique	Subject
17	29	2	Sex Clark	Battle of the Sex Clerk	Skyclad/Bloodmoney
☆18	12	8	Women Artists	The Bridge	Caroline/A&M
19	—	1	Bangles	Lily on the Beach	Private Music
☆20	—	1	Deep Blue	Sick	Epidemic
21	16	8	Rheme	The Burning World	Uni
22	—	1	Debbie Harry	Def, Dumb and Blonde	Sire
23	—	1	The Creatures	Boomerang	Geffen
24	17	12	Kate Bush	Sensual World	Capitol/EMI
25	—	1	National People's Gang	Orange	Dr. Dream
26	—	1	Peter Murphy	Live Stun Devil's Teeth	Beggar's Banquet
27	20	2	Various Artists	Best Radio Tokyo Tapes	Chameleon
☆28	19	8	Look People	More Songs About...	Quantum
☆29	15	8	Ripcordz	The Ripcordz are Go!	Og
30	21	3	KLF	Pure Trance (12")	TVT

☆ canadian content
Compiled based on frequency of airplay, announcer preference and listener requests. Music Director: Marc MacKenzie

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murderous or does it mean only to hold an opposing view?

COR rolls on the declaration that the party is not anti-French. I've asked Pafford and I've asked Webb, privately and publicly, what they mean by anti-French. They can't answer. The moronic political opportunism of the meaningless buzzword.

Instead of advising Prof. Yaqzan to read Ross' books, which the good professor can probably recite from memory anyway, I suggest that Mr. Debly re-read them himself with a view this time to self-education rather than as an inspiration for contrived copycat outrage. He might also read, or re-read, Arthur Koestler's book, "The Thirteenth Tribe", which casts considerable doubt on the validity of anti-Semite/tic for serious use.

Incidentally, unless there has been a recent change, you won't find Ross's books in the University Bookstore. I am told that Pres. Downey has banned them from the shelves. It appears that this dedicated educator feels that UNB students are neither sufficiently mature nor stable to indulge in such heady reading. I believe you can, however, find Playboy and Penthouse from the genre of literature which some educators consider to be essential to the well-rounded conditioning of a docile, apathetic C-to-A student body.

UNB is an extremely expensive utility charged with suitably developing the minds of the students, who are our future leaders. Looks to me as though UNB is in need of some fundamental changes if it is to fulfill that charge. The buzzword is not a symbol of education, but its substitute.

Yours truly,
Simon Puxley