

Notes from page 4C

The revolving-door band lineup actually leaves Kramer at ease. "Constant confusion lends itself to stability," he said. OK. The band performs at Harpo's, 14238 Harper, Detroit, on Saturday, Nov. 6. Doors open at 9 p.m. Tickets are \$10 in advance.

The Music Menu: A CD Cafe in Greentown is now playing strictly local music every Wednesday night. At the cafe, servers offer patrons a "music menu" along with a regular menu from which they order the songs they would like to hear for 25 cents. Local bands can drop off their CDs at the cafe or mail it to: Gordon Novak, owner, 511 Monroe St., Detroit, MI 48202. Other specials at the cafe include Grateful Dead night every Sunday and jazz night every Tuesday. For more information, call 964-MENU.

Although Candlebox was one of the first bands signed to Madonna's Maverick records, they actually haven't had the pleasure of meeting the pop star. "I've talked to her on the phone. That's about it," said singer Kevin Martin.

She and the rest of her staff have been tremendously supportive, however. "I think it's the best marriage between a band and its label. We really thought it (the contract) out totally," he said.

Martin was going to try to catch her New York show, but logistically it didn't work out. Instead, the band jumped on the Living Colour tour which recently passed through Ann Arbor. They also recently played St. Andrew's Hall during its headlining tour in support of its debut self-titled album.

"Detroit was a blast. Michigan is definitely a very rockin' state. We were so psyched to be there."

Troubled by his own childhood in violent northern Ireland, All McMorde of the Belfast, Ireland, band Stiff Little Fingers joined with Robert Hamilton of the Dublin band The Fat Lady Sings to create "Peace Together." "The music industry can be used to address various issues," McMorde said. "This provided a voice to protest the situation making the point that children

are the ultimate victims. No one's ever addressed the psychological issues of children growing up in violent situations." The CD features songs by U2 and Lou Reed, Therapy? and My Bloody Valentine. The money from the CD goes toward organizations which try to help children grow up without bigotry and depression as a major issue. "This," McMorde said, "is only a drop in the ocean."

Doing a fashion layout in Rolling Stone magazine was the last thing Buffalo Tom thought they'd be doing when East West Records took over promotions duties for their latest album "Big Red Letter Day."

"That was pretty weird," drummer Tom Maginnis said about the layout. "There was a big article so that made it cool. I was a little scared of the fashion thing at first because we're far from that in our home lives." The band played St. Andrew's Hall in Detroit on Halloween with Bettie Serveert, Laughing Hyenas and The Verlaines.

When worldbeat percussionist Vinx visited Detroit's Majestic Theatre on Saturday, Oct. 23, the person to watch was co-percussionist and Detroit native Andrew Danile.

"He's the greatest young future percussionist in America," Vinx said from his New Mexico home while jumping on the next leg of his U.S. tour. He is touring to promote his new record "The Story-teller" which features a guest appearance by Stevie Wonder whom he used to train at a health club.

"That was a blast," he said about recording with Wonder. "He played acoustic piano which he never does. It was a great deal for me. He'll play on my album if I'd like for him."

His first two albums featured guest pianists Herbie Hancock and Patrice Rushen. So who will he get for his fourth album?

"I don't know who it'll be. I should probably start working on that."

BY JOHN MONAGHAN
SPECIAL WRITER

When I heard that Vincent Price had died at the age of 82 last week, I found consolation not in one of his many creepy roles but in an offbeat little comedy thriller called "His Kind of Woman."

The 1951 movie officially stars Robert Mitchum and Jane Russell, but Price steals the show as a hammy Fairbanks-type movie actor who becomes a real-life hero by film's end. I like the movie because it shows Price in one of the many character roles that preceded his title as "The King of Horror."

Although tall and handsome, with an over-present mustache, Price was never what you'd call a classic leading man type. Fortunately, the movies were able to capitalize on the sense of humor and refined edge that director Roger Corman once said "gave an air of distinction to whatever film he was in."

Price was always anxious to note that just 20 of the 110 movies that he made between 1938 and 1990 were horror titles. Early on he had important roles in film

noir mysteries such as "Laura" and "The Web" and a starring shot in the Samuel Fuller western "The Baron of Arizona," which remained one of his favorites.

In 1952, his career changed forever with "House of Wax," the 3-D masterpiece about a disfigured sculptor who sought revenge by encasing dead bodies in wax. From here on he lent his name to a long string of horror films, some classics, many rotten, and the popular chillers, "The Fly," he actually had the supporting role, leaving the goopy transformations to hapless Al Hedison. He was present for the famed "Help me! Help me!" scene where the tiny fly with a man's head begs for euthanasia.

He starred in two William Castle gimmick-fests, "The Tingler" and "House on Haunted Hill." In the first he found a secret centipede monster that attaches to your spine when you're scared to death. The latter found Price pushing his unfaithful wife into a pool of acid, only to have her return in skeleton form.

He collected his best reviews for the series of Edgar Allan Poe

MOVIES

films directed by Roger Corman, especially "The Masque of the Red Death," where he played Satan worshipping Prince Prospero. The most entertaining of the Poes was "The Raven," a horror spoof climaxed by Price's wizard battle against Boris Karloff.

His most underrated film remains "The Last Man on Earth," an Italian-made version of Richard Matheson's novel "I Am Legend." An incredibly low budget along with disorienting Italian locales only helped the story of the title character, who does nightly battles with the walking dead.

Price, now a full-fledged star, made most of his remaining movies in Europe. His last great one was 1973's "Theatre of Blood," where he played a Shakespearean actor who kills his less-than-adoring critics with methods devised by the Bard himself. Michael Weldon, author of "The Psychotronic Encyclopedia of Film," wrote "Vincent Price's whole career is a preparation for this wonderful gory revenge comedy."

Off-screen Price was also widely known as an art collector and gourmet food connoisseur. He wrote a handful of books on both subjects, served as art buyer for the Sears Roebuck & Co., and even had a disastrous stint on a television cooking show.

Although seen surprisingly little on screen in the last 20 years, Price has remained in the public consciousness. This is thanks in part to his spooky readings on Michael Jackson "Thriller" album and as the grandfatherly scientist in "Edward Scissorhands," the Tim Burton fantasy that served as a fitting swan song.

Not always the most careful when it came to choosing film roles (neither was Olivier), Price nevertheless remains one of unforgettable personalities of the movies. This year Halloween just wasn't the same without him.

If you have a comment for John Monaghan, call him at 953-2047, mailbox number 1866, on a touch-tone phone, or write him care of Street Scene, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150.

SCREEN SCENE

A sampling of what's playing at alternative movie theaters throughout metro Detroit as reviewed by John Monaghan.

DETROIT FILM THEATRE
Detroit Institute of Arts, 5200 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Call 833-2323 for information. (\$5; \$4 students)

"La Vie de Bohème" (Finland — 1974, 7 and 9:30 p.m. Nov. 6; 4 and 7 p.m. Nov. 7. The latest export from the deadpan Finnish director of "Leningrad Cowboys Go America" and "The Match Factory Girl." Here Irish and Albanian bohemiens populate the Yuletide Left Bank with real-life directors Louis Malle and Sam Fuller stopping by to pay a visit.

HENRY FORD CENTENNIAL LIBRARY
13671 Michigan Ave., Dearborn.

Call 943-2340 for information. (Free)

"The Senator Was Indiscreet" (USA — 1947, 7 p.m. Nov. 1. William Powell and Ella Raines star in this clever political satire about an ambitious senator whose "diary" keeps party members in line.

MAIN ART THEATRE
113 N. Main St., Detroit 11 Mile, Royal Oak. Call 542-0180 for show times. Titles listed run at least through next Thursday. (\$6.50; \$3 twilight)

"Short Cuts" (USA — 1993). Robert Altman has taken some eight short stories by Raymond Carver and woven them together into an ambitious three-hour film. Too bad these people, played by Tom Waits, Lily Tomlin and

Tim Robbins just to name a few, aren't all that interesting.

"Orlando" (Britain — 1992). Virginia Woolf's gender-bending novel follows a title character who lives for 400 years, first as a man and then as a woman. The often ponderous story is compensated by individual scenes of inspired beauty.

"Banquet" (USA — 1993). A global journey which swoops and soars across 24 countries, backed by an evocative musical score.

MAGIC BAG THEATRE CAFE
22918 Woodward at Nine Mile, Ferndale. Call 544-3030 for more information. (Tickets price varies)

"La Dolce Vita" (Italy — 1960), 8 p.m. Nov. 1. In this masterpiece from director Federico Fellini, Marcello Mastroianni plays a paparazzi reporter making his nightly rounds of Roman high society and its beguiling women. (\$3)

"Saturday Night Fever" (USA — 1977), 10 p.m. Nov. 6 (disco party, with trivia, begins at 9 p.m.). John Travolta returns as king of the disco. Amazingly enough, the movie has been attracting "twentysomething" audiences, just touts during the Me Decade, who missed out on the first wave of disco fever. (\$5)

AMC OLD ORCHARD
Orchard Lake Road, north of I-696, Farmington. Call 553-9965

for show times. (\$5.75; \$2.95 twilight)

"M. Butterfly" (USA — 1993). Jeremy Irons plays a French diplomat in China who falls in love with a beautiful, mysterious diva from the Beijing Opera who turns out to be a man. You'd think that this bizarre story would be perfect for "Naked Lunch" director David Cronenberg, but he fashions his dullest and most conventional film yet.

REDFORD THEATRE
17260 Lahser at Grand River, Detroit. Call 537-2560 for information. (\$2.50)

"Rio Bravo" (USA — 1959), 8 p.m. Nov. 5; 2 and 8 p.m. Nov. 6-7 (organ overture begins a half hour before show time). Sheriff John Wayne and boozy deputy Dean Martin wait for a band of killers to try to bust their buddy out of jail. Great atmosphere aids this overly long Howard Hawks' western.

STATE THEATRE
2115 Woodward, Detroit. Call 961-5450 for information. (\$1)

"Monty Python's Life of Brian" (Britain — 1979), 9 p.m. Nov. 1. The British comedy troupe takes on religious epics with this satire about a man whose life parallels that of Christ. Religious groups were in a furor when the film was first released, but in its own way, "Brian" is really quite reverent.

Cyporyn: I Must Be Dreaming—Krypton

Banjoist/composer Dennis Cyporyn and his outstanding quartet of mandolinist/cellist Peck Stevenson, guitarist Dan Blatter and guitarist John DeNomme, have one of the most challenging and exciting new acoustic music sets of the year in this self-produced cassette. That they are a local outfit makes it the more interesting a listen.

Augmented by bluegrass legend Roy Huskey Jr. on bass, former Tony Rice fiddler Fred Carpenter and guitar/ukelele player Dave Romeo, the disc shines throughout.

I'm not particularly fond of the numbers that add drummer Jim Dant, simply because the pieces turn into schmaltzy clichés with the conspicuous rhythm. The rest of the program, though, is as enjoyable as most anything I've heard yet this year.

Though Bela Fleck's adventuresome banjo playing is as close as an exact comparison comes, Cyporyn also has an element of French jazz violinist Jean-Luc Ponty about his sound.

The jazz-grass mix is a winner on tape, but the word is that this is a band to be seen live at any



opportunity. As it turns out, an opportunity arises on Nov. 5, when the quartet performs at Oakland Community College's Orchard Ridge campus. A 4:30-5:30 p.m. composing/theory, recording, marketing and performance workshop will be followed by a 5-string banjo band, acoustic, a cappella, and choral workshop 5:30-6 p.m. Finally, at 8 p.m., the band plays a concert at the Smith Theatre.

For more information, either on the show or regarding the purchase of the cassette, call 471-7595.

— Mark Gallo

and the band Stonehead. Murdock has also applied his talents to corporate IDs, signs, packaging, desktop publishing and computer graphics. They are buying a print shop in Livonia.

After just a few months of business, Psycho Propz is edging in on the competition. T-shirts have been seen at high-profile shows, such as X-Fest at the Phoenix Plaza Amphitheatre in Pontiac in early September and at the Alice in Chains and Rage Against the Machine shows at the State Theatre in Detroit.

Stores, such as Incognito and Cinderella's Attic, both in Royal Oak, along with Rock of Ages in Garden City, Changes in Birmingham and Surf's Up in Keego Harbor, have put enough faith into Psycho Propz clothing that they carry the items. The clothing, priced between \$15-\$35, can be ordered through their catalog.

Although the designs vary slightly, the Psycho Propz line of clothing centers mostly on Murdock's trademark skull.

"Kevin's always been into skulls," O'Carroll said.

It reflects Murdock's love of industrial music, but his talents aren't limited to it. Formerly, a

graphic artist for an advertising firm, Murdock's also has helped design print ads for cars. Using his wide range of experiences, Murdock is able to apply his skills to a wide range of clients.

"The skull is not the focus of every single design. We have 20 or more shirts," Murdock said.

"I didn't want it to be the only thing focused on."

The two men plan to update the line every few months so that their customers don't get bored with the items.

"We want to keep things fresh and new with different designs," Cabrera said.

That's one of the big differences between their shirts and the onslaught of rave T-shirts being marketed by other designers.

No matter what the variation, the clothing is always made of quality material.

"We could have definitely gone the cheap way out. But quality definitely reigns overall," he said.

For more information about Psycho Propz apparel, call or write Psycho EFX, 33523 Eight Mile, Building A-3, Suite 242, Livonia, MI 48152; 405-6035.

On the Town

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