

since returning to his homeland. ZANDALEE is a hot and spicy tale set in the American South, starring Nicholas Cage ... director Steven Spielberg's films are so overhyped the US critics always poo-hoo his work when it finally arrives on the screen. HOOK is actually most enjoyable, if not 30 minutes too long. Robin Williams plays the mid-30s Peter Pan who has forgotten who he was, even when transported back to Never Never Land. Dustin Hoffmann is the

villainous Captain Hook and Julia Roberts is Tinkerbell. Flawed but fun ... having realised there's a limit to how high the polo-neck uniforms can go, the cast of STAR TREK 6: THE UNDISCOVERED COUNTRY have agreed to neatly wrap up the movie series. Leonard (Spock) Nimoy directs and William (Capt. Kirk) Shatner gets to go tongue-to-tongue with the beautiful Iman (Bowie's girlfriend) ... Star Trek 6 also features a cameo (ie walk in, say one line, walk out)

from one of the stars of MOBSTERS. We won't say which one but Christian Slater, Patrick Dempsey, Richard Grieco and Costas Mandylor play four young immigrant kids who become the legendary gangsters all those other films are about. As such it's good to see, although a tad amoral ... also good to see is the alleged steroid abuser Hulk Hogan back on the big screen in SUBURBAN COMMANDO, certainly better than his last cinematic outing (we

can't even remember its name) ... and last but not least is the film named after the song which inspired the butter commercials we hate so much. MY GIRL opens May 1st starring Jamie Lee Curtis, Dan Akroyd, and Macaulay Culkin as the boy-next-door. The girl in question is played by Anna Chlumsky who is obviously going to be the next big thing in child acting. Any film that can make Nick D'Angelo cry has got to be worth seeing.

BLURRED VISION

"Oh no, look at that, he's reading that thing, you know that thing, the one about, oh, you know, that thing."

The sound of a few literary critics discussing my choice of reading matter on the bus. It's *American Psycho* by Bret Easton Ellis. Critical opinion is against me on this one, but hey, I liked it.

It's as if a crack in the earth opened up and spewed forth this collection of rich stupid people from hell. Moving through one empty scenario to another, lacking only comprehension; the frequent stabs of violence jolting the boredom of their lives. Best bits are the chapter-long discussions on music, including the history of Genesis, Whitney Houston and Huey Lewis — fantastic. As is the U2 concert, where the book's protagonist gets real close to Bono.

The book continues the fascination we have with 'the killer inside' and especially that modern creation, the serial killer. Which, if you've been watching television lately, have been popping up as regularly as long-haired guys singing dumb love songs do on our sad video shows.

What with Hollywood bestowing *The Silence of the Lambs* with its many awards, the serial killer has become our new favourite folk devil.

Apart from frequent appearances in regular weekly shows, they now have their own showcases, what the industry calls 'the mini series'. Interesting recent TV spectacles have been *The Hillside Strangler* about Angelo Bouno and Kenneth Bianchi's reign of terror, this one had a nice sense of B-grade desperation with the actor who played Bianchi particularly good when he did the multiple personality bits.

The Night Stalker opus was pathetic, starring Cruise from the soap *Santa Barbara*, things just didn't look right here. Richard Ramirez was a Satanist from Texas, smoked animal tranquiliser, listened to AC/DC and then killed people. The mini-series just lacked any

sense of evil, even when we finally got to see what he looked like, disappointment reigned, looking more like Peter North the 'adult' film star than any drug crazed killer. The ultimate cop-out was missing out Ramirez's famous last words. After his 13 death sentences he sneered "See ya in Disneyland". That's what you call a bad attitude.

John Wayne Gacy was the latest to have the TV treatment and despite Brian Dennehy's professional touch, it tended to get bogged down in soap opera conventions. We got to see the infamous Pogo the Clown suit, but it steered away from the exploitive elements a more flamboyant director might have explored — such as Gacy cruising the Greyhound depot, or the excessive drug taking. Anyhow, all these shows just don't show the full extent of things, the true horror is never revealed. That's one of the unfortunate aspects of the medium, unlike cinema which can open up reality like a scalpel through skin, television tends to look at the skin and merely suggest the scalpel.

I'm no psychiatrist, so I can't tell you what makes a serial killer, but maybe, just maybe, one day you're watching *Give Us A Clue* (TV3) and Lionel Blair with the serious hair just sets something off. People like Lionel have a tendency to do that to other people. Another psycho trigger would have to be Bruce Forsyth and his unnerving *Generation Game*. Mr Forsyth represents that annoying motif of English popular culture, that of the leering wink and constant innuendo. The grand tradition can still be seen on *Sticky Moments* with gamemaster Julian Clary. Good to see how some things just remain the same.

Anyhow, 'see ya in Disneyland'.
KERRY BUCHANAN



Christian Slater stars as the young mob figure Charlie "Lucky" Luciano in *MOBSTERS*, the "Muppet Babies" of gangster films. Also starring Laura Flynn Boyle of "Twin Peaks."



"If anybody asks, we're just a normal all-American family." Dan Akroyd plays the tuba in *MY GIRL*. He also plays a mortician, with Jamie Lee Curtis as cosmetologist for his corpses.



In *STAR TREK 6: THE UNDISCOVERED COUNTRY* Captain James T. Kirk and Bones McCoy test the latest Klingon technological breakthrough: mono walkmans! Win one of 10 Prizepacks (tickets and posters) by sending a wittier caption than ours to: RIU / Star Trek 6, PO Box 5689, Auckland 1. Or fax us on 09-376-1558.



Recent visitor to our shores, Andrew Strong, lead vocalist in *THE COMMITMENTS* still packing them in at theatres nationwide.

Rip It Up

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