



THE BANZAI BULLETIN

TEAM BANZAI

THE BANZAI BULLETIN

Greetings and salutations;

Welcome to issue 4 and the last for this year. This means that you all have to dig deep into those pockets and find a cheque payable for \$5 (or same amount if I see ya in person) for year two membership to the best Banzai-related newsletter in Australia! (Well, so what if the only competition in this area is myself! I'm tough competition

From this page you may have noticed something has changed. I've changed my face (type, that is) and it's because I have a new typewriter. After many years of faithful service, my Olympia portable shed its 't'.-- and the cost to fix it was about the worth of the machine itself! So, I traded it in for "Gigantor". I decided to go electric golfball and have this big (and heavy) Remington number that the salesman assured me the price would make it a bargain. The thing is so big it swallows my desk; it could cause an eclipse of the sun if I'm not careful! So, farewell my lovely portable and say hello to Gigantor.

This issue's contents are pretty much anything goes. We'll definitely be having the Spotlight on the music of Billy Vera; the return of the news articles, and part two of the "Why I like Buckaroo Banzai" competition entries. Oh yeah, we shall delve into Banzai merchandise and where to get it (steady now, finish reading off this bit first!). Finally, due to some requests, maniacs that they are, I put myself in the 'Portrait of a Banzai fan' section of the Enditorial. That and much, much more!

On the fan side of news, honorary member Elizabeth Mundell has recently come back to our fair shores after a year in England and not only is it good to have her back with us but I save myself a bit on postage! (teasing) Liz, still mad about Clancy Brown as ever, picked up a copy of Buckaroo Banzai-the video whilst she was over there and I hope to present to you a photocopy of the video jacket that is different to our one. Well, actually, I haven't asked her yet, but..

Welcome to new members Danny, Andrew, and Bill's friend. The latter two haven't actually joined but they're keen to and it gives me a chance to do a hello to them. Bill comes from England and asks about overseas membership rates. Well, I find it easy just to trade fanzines but a five pound note would cover airmail charges. And speaking of fanzine trades, hello to the V Club of Victoria (mice lovers all), c/- 30 Third St, Mentone, 3194 and Dragon and Abacus, my American Banzai friends most of you know about already.

Well, enough rambling for me this page, merry christmas and a happy new decade to all of you out there; take care of yourselves and I'll catch up with you in the Enditorial. See ya!



BILLY VERA & THE BEATERS

The first time I knew that Billy Vera (alia Pinky Carruthers) was more a singing star than actor was when Billy, and his band The Beaters, made Top 40 in Victoria and a very extatic Liz rang us up to tell us the news. At the time, this was amazing stuff! It seemed that AM rock station 3XY (not known for setting the ratings on fire) was playing a ballad called, "At This Moment" and it was sending people out into their record shops and buying it! The success of the record was so unexpected that most stores (and especially the retail giant Brashs) were caught with many requests and no records to sell. Those I spoke to at the time were annoyed at the loss of potential sales because RCA had to press copies of the single and that mean 1-2 weeks wait. However, the interest was picked up by other radio stations and could be heard occasionally on others such as 3DB, 3AW, and FOX-FM. Each week a top 40 record listing was publised in The Sun newspaper and "At This Moment" reached the top position. However, in EON-FM's (now Triple M) rival chart, the song was no-where to be seen. Hmmm.

With the success of the song came the airplay of the song on various rock video shows. To my knowledge, Billy has no record company sponsored clips so stations used Billy's performance on the syndicated Solid Gold programme instead. Record company RCA also quickly rushed out the album which contained the single, released in the States by Rhino Records and called "By Request". RCA dropped the name and cashed in by retitling the album, "At This Moment" (naturally!). They also dropped two of the songs including a silly number (but fun) called, and all about, Peanut Butter. In the same vein, is "Millie, Make Some Chilli" all about the best place in the world to get a plate of that hot stuff. The record execs probably thought these songs to be too naff, and replaced them with 'Once In A Lifetime (will do) and 'I Don't Want Her' (see B.Brenda's review for these songs. It is interesting to note that the Top 10 country album listing of the time (see down below) listed the album under its U.S title. Hmmm. 'At This Moment' was a number 1 hit for Billy in the States for 1987 and he followed it up with 'I Can Take Care Of Myself' which did very well (and described on the heart shaped sticker on the album jacket as "the smash hit".

Due to his recent success, Rhino Records have reissued several of Billy's records , including a gem of a compilation of songs he did in the late 60's with Atlantic Records. This record is reviewed later but it is staggering to think that it has been 20 years between hit recordings not to mention the fact that he's been in the business for this long!! Billy is currently signed with Capitol Records; his last record being 'Retro Neuvo' in 1988. None of his albums have been pressed locally in Australia so the only source of them is import shops.

The listings on the next page are to my knowledge a complete listing of Billy's albums curenently available and undeleted. It is due the efforts of Rhino Records that most of these are available and thus owe them a great debt of gratitude for their support of Billy Vera.

LISTINGS

ALBUMS

Top 10 contemporary country albums (supplied by 3UZ):

- 1 Famous Blue Raincoat, Jennifer Warnes
- 2 Hillbilly De Luxe, Dwight Yoakam
- 3 By Request, Billy Vera & The Beaters

Compilation Coordination:
BILLY VERA/GARY STEWART

Art Direction: DON BROWN

Design: LOU ANN THESING

Front Photo: JULES BATES

Color Tinting: JOAN VERNON

Back Photo: MARK HANAUER

Audio Remastering: BILL INGLOT



FEATURING THE #1 SINGLE
"AT THIS MOMENT"
AND THE SMASH HIT
"I CAN TAKE CARE
OF MYSELF"

By Request

4

AT THIS MOMENT (REVIEW BY BUCKSKIN BRENDA).

Billy Vera is musically aligned to Boz Scaggs, Robert Palmer, and others I love to listen to. Here is a track-by-track review of this album.

Side 1: Corner Of The Night. Nice tinkling jazz piano opening, good strong driving beat a la Hong Kong Cavaliers. A strong love ballad, such as BB might have crooned to Peggy in the early hours.

I Can Take Care Of Myself. Spoken introduction, another strong driving beat leads into a bouncy sardonic lyric. This was taped at a live performance, like the other tracks, and there's a lot of Artie's style audience reaction. Good stuff.

At This Moment. Gentle piano opening leads into a song heard regularly on FM. Gorgeous romantic lyric, sung with soul and emotion by Billy. One of my favorite tracks.

Someone Will School You, Someone Will Cool You. That has a distinctly BB ring to it. Billy explains that he is just a provincial New Yorker, so shocked by the behaviour of the L.A folk, that he had to write this satiric lyric. Good bouncy beat. I shuffle around the lounge to this one, chuckling over the cute lyrics.

Hopeless Romantic. Swoon time. I adore this song. Lovely tender guitar backing; Billy's deep strong voice combines to make this a genuine theme song for hopeless romantics like me. "So call me a hopeless romantic coz I can still believe in true love; and hopeless romantics still can find a way to make true love last these days.." Pinky Carruther may yet get my vote for the sexiest Cavalier!

Side 2: We Got It All. Back to the beat. Great song. "We ain't got much money, just each other honey, but we got it all." Hear, hear! A real feel good track.

Once In A Lifetime (Will Do). Nice easy love ballad. "Once in a lifetime, someone like you comes along, once in a lifetime will do."

I Don't Want Her. A cute reverse love song. She's so perfect she's ruining his life! Good rocking beat.

Here Comes The Dawn Again. Moody piano opening. It's early in the morning at Artie's; most of the crowd have gone home, and Pinky's sitting at the piano trying out a new song. Rawhide and Buckaroo are slumped in their chairs; Rawhide's hat pushed down over his eyes. He looks half asleep, but he's listening with deep appreciation. Reno is propping up the bar, thinking of his fourth wife - or was it his second?

Actually, Billy starts explaining the theme of this song to a very appreciative audience. "This one's all about losing; something we don't like to talk about, or think about, but sooner or later, that losing boogeyman will sneak up on you." He also mentions that the guy playing the piano is Jim Enger; one of the Beaters. (But it sure sounded like a Cavalier). "This is all about risk, happiness - see I believe with all my heart that you can reach that highest level of happiness unless you risk total annihilation. The downside of that is that, occasionally, you will be annihilated - but I'm a witness that it was worth it. I swear to God it was worth it...we're trained to be 'macho' men...I'm not that strong, I'm not that brave; sometimes I think that I won't make it another day.. since you've been gone, all I ever do is seem to cry."

Pass the hankies, and the kumiss bottle. This is going to be a looong night. (Thanks BB for that, although I will admit to always smirking when Billy waffles on about that stuff. I mean, really, Billy!!)

BIL

T H E ATLANTIC Y E A R S



BILLY VERA WITH
JUDY CLAY

1 9 6 7 - 1 9 7 0

THE ATLANTIC YEARS: BILLY VERA & JUDY CLAY 1967-1970. (RNLP 70185)

This is a collection of songs compiled by Billy of his first recordings. He supplies an entertaining back-cover note that pins him down to performing in 1962; but who can guess when he first started! He had already established himself as a songwriter with partner Chip Taylor (whom he met in an elevator!) having teamed up to write the 1966 hit single "Make Me Belong To You" for Barbara Lewis. They had a new song every one knew was going to be a "SMASH". Billy was allowed to record it as a duet and chose Judy Clay; who is for trivia buffs Dionne Warwick's cousin. It was also the first interracial duet in history but it was a gamble that paid off with a hit with the song, "Storybook Children". Side one leads off with this song and it is a strong ballad that demonstrates how well Billy and Judy worked together. Side one is theirs of seven tracks and are mostly slow tracks that highlight their strong vocal capabilities. Often they refer to each other by christian names in the songs. Side two is Billy solo and is a mixture of strong ballads and more up-tempo songs. My favorite is one called, 'The Bible Salesman' poking fun at travelling bible salesman.

The team of Vera and Clay was broken because Atlantic, and her label, 'Stax' parted company. They had two singles to follow the first and both did very well. This record features songs recorded over five music sessions from September '67 to July '69. For anyone that likes the sound of strong R&B vocals, this is one record to get.



TEAM BANZAI

BANZAI BULLETIN

SIMPLY MEANT TO BE

CO-WRITTEN BY GARY MORRIS AND JENNIFER WERNES
Written by Henry Mancini, George Merrill and Shannon Rubicam
Published by TSP Music, Inc. (ASCAP), Triple Star Music, Inc.,
Irving Music, Inc. and Boy Meets Girl Music (BMI)
Produced by Peter Bunetta and Rick Chudacoff for Ripe Productions
Engineered and mixed by Daren Klein
Gary Morris Courtesy of Warner Bros. Records
Jennifer Wernes Courtesy of Cypress Records

LET YOU GET AWAY

PERFORMED BY BILLY VERA AND THE BEATERS
Written by Billy Vera
Published by TSP Music, Inc. and Vera-Cruz Music Co. (ASCAP)
Produced by Peter Bunetta and Rick Chudacoff for Ripe Productions
Engineered and mixed by Daren Klein

OH, WHAT A NITE

PERFORMED BY BILLY VERA AND THE BEATERS
Written by Billy Vera
Published by TSP Music, Inc. and Vera-Cruz Music Co. (ASCAP)
Produced by Peter Bunetta and Rick Chudacoff for Ripe Productions
Engineered and mixed by Daren Klein

ANYBODY SEEN HER?

PERFORMED BY BILLY VERA AND THE BEATERS
Written by L. Russell Brown and Billy Vera
Published by TSP Music, Inc. (ASCAP) and Triple Star Music, Inc. (BMI)
Produced by Peter Bunetta and Rick Chudacoff for Ripe Productions
Engineered and mixed by Daren Klein



Special thanks to Blake
Edwards, Tony Adams, Trish
Caroselli, Elton MacPherson,
Tim Sexton, Jill Meyers,
Leslie Morris, Jody
Silverman, Derek Alpert,
Steve Small, Garry George,
Jim Gosnell, Christine
Martin, Gary Peterson,
Maria Berry, Buddy Brundo
and the gang at Conway
Recording Studios.

ART DIRECTION BY
DON BROWN
MUSIC SUPERVISION
BY AL BUNETTA
AND TOM BOCCI
MASTERED BY KEN
PERRY AT K-DISC

BLIND DATE: ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK (RNIN 70705)

As you can see left, Billy Vera and The Beaters perform 3 songs, or a third of the songs that make up this album. 'Let You Get Away' was lifted off the album as the single and was a hit. This song was also performed with a second on Solid Gold. It is a very commercial song and even more so is the uptempo, 'Anybody Seen Her' (with some lovely high notes being reached by Billy!). 'Oh What A Nite' is more Billy's usual lay-back sound making 3 out of 3 top songs.

JAMES BROWN AND FRIENDS: SOUL SESSION-LIVE
Polygram 834085-1

Billy performs one song on this album, the classic 'Out Of Sight' with a running time of 2.33 on a very short running time for an album. This came out in 1987 and Billy was signed to Capitol Records then. Not worth getting just for him, but I like James Brown and the record was half price!

RETRO NUEVO Capitol (C1-49648)

The only known song on this is 'Let You Get Away' (from Blind Date). This is a slick production from the sound to the cover layout. Each song sounds like a good album track, but that's the problem, there aren't 3 or 4 real standout tracks. The inner sleeve contains the lyrics; some songs co-written his long time friend, Chip Taylor.

Most of the songs concern love and emotion, more so than previous albums and he shows he can still have a bit of fun in the lyrics of one song; 'I Got My Eyes On You' in the verse which reads..

"So baby let me carry your groceries
to the car;

This little spot is not very far;
I got a hunch you got nothing better to
And the smile on your mug says you might
be; in the mood too. (Gosh, that's deep...)

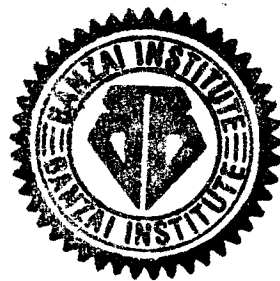
Stay tuned for any news of Billy & The Beaters' next album. 'Til then, from the cover notes of 'By Request' comes these words of wisdom by Willie Truelove, "In certain lines of work, the boredom factor seems to rise in direct ratio to the salary. Ask any studio musician or touring sideman. The Beaters came to be in the Spring of 1979 as a remedy for that boredom. That- and to meet girls, to play music one actually liked and to make some gas money."

"Every horn player in L.A should get down on his knees to Billy Vera or, at least, give him ten percent. He put them all back to work." And, y'know, he just may be right.

continued on page 11...



TEAM BANZAI



WHY I LIKE BUCKAROO BANZAI
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WHY I LIKE BUCKAROO BANZAI

BY CATRIONA SPARKS: No matter where you go, there you are... Sitting in my windowless world embedded in regulation black-brown government furniture, splashes of the ergonomic, grey walls and the clock leading the way to teatime, the spirit of Banzai takes me and, as I dove unnoticed in this seas of mediocracy I find myself unexpectedly propelled through the typewriter and across the Eighth Dimension, wretched from this sunless Sydney morn, torn free of flexitime regime, blasted into the great unknown and the arms of those Hong Kong Cavaliers.

A hero, theirs and mine, stands before me, spot lit and smiling. Our fingers touch and I awake, charged with the electricity of the living.

The office has melted. I could be and am anywhere, outlandish adventure beckons and I am alive. They stand beside me. I am not one of them; not yet but I am with them and nothing can hold me back.

BY ALAN STEWART:

Buckaroo Banzai, Buckaroo Banzai, Buckaroo Banzai,
Buckaroo Banzai, 'Buckaroo Banzai', Buckaroo Banzai,
Buck... (sorry, a bit too much of Vyvian (cornflakes)
win a Ford Torex, on 'The Young Ones' lately).

There's that sense of wonder in it, even a bit gosh! wow! at times - I mean tyre tracks leading right up to (as in right against, not stopping 1/3 of a car's front end away) mountains! Superb.

And tying the leptooid conspiracy in with the 'War of the Worlds' broadcast, very nice touch.

I didn't notice the team leader much, the other cameos were more interesting, besides it starred Jeff Goldblum, what more needs to be said.

Though I caught it on the big screen when first released (good egoboo, mentioning that), really loved the travel through mountains, plus organically weird ships.

Took a while to work out they weren't yelling 'bonsai' and the trees were safe.

Buckaroo Banzai, Buckaroo...



GEOFF TILLEY,
2 Susan Court,
Cheltenham, Vic., 3192.
Australia. (03) 555 5167.

Letters to the editor



GEOFF TILLEY,
2 Susan Court,
Cheltenham, Vic., 3192.
Australia. (03) 555 5167.

Yes, I've actually got some!.....We hear from:

WOOKIE of W.A: "I much enjoyed the collection of snippets from the book were helpful, particularly since I recently decided to write a story for S.E (Samurai Errant-ed)...I'll look out for The Heavenly Kid-it'd be nice to see Lewis Smith play a fairly likeable character for a change. Admittedly, Perfect Tommy is growing on me (mostly through the fanfic actually), but the only other film I've seen him in is Southern Comfort and he played a real jerk in that one."

BUCKSKIN BRENDA of QLD: Just recieved BB3 --great issue, lots of interesting stuff. I particularly liked your background to the BB novel and AA's review of Silverado -agreed with every word.

Also recieved favorable words from Dragon and Abacus via lettertape; and our honourable Stew (always good for encouragement).

NOW;

It's time for that..

CADDYSHACK II

A MOVIE REVIEW BY:

Buckskin Brenda

(OUR BANZAI BILL COLLINS
BUT BETTER!)

* It never ceases to amaze me that an actor can make an unforgettable impression in one film, and yet never be offered anything more than bit parts in other films.

Such an actor is Pepe Serna, the delicious, moody Reno. Finding Pepe in other movies is like looking for the meat in a frozen pie. When you do find it, you can't get enough of it!

You can find him in 'Silverado', lurking under a huge black beard anda cowboy hat. But you are unlikely to recognise him, so listen for the distinctive voice. He's the one that says 'But he saw us!' when McKendrick's bad guys are menacing Jake and Emmet's little nephew.

In 'Caddyshack II' he is instantly recognisable. He makes his first appearance playing cards with his boss, on a construction sight. Most of his lines are in Spanish (or are supposed to be), but he has one line in English as he exits - and we regretfully watch his trim rear end disappearing out of shot.

He does make another appearance later in the film, in one of the major comedy sequences. But it's hardly a role that stretches his talents. What he does to a pair of workmen's Levis - ah, that's something else. Watch it yourself.

As a comedy, 'Caddyshack II' has some good moments. It takes a few swipes at American snobbery, has some really funny bits (such as Dan Aykroyd's utterly incompetent Rambo clone) and even has a bit of 60s nostalgia in the form of Chynna Phillips, the daughter of Michelle Phillips of 'The Mamas and the Papas' pop group. But the best thing in the movie (apart from Pepe Serna in jeans) is the cute little gopher intent on destroying the playing surface of the golf course.

Films

American tripe at its worst

Fast, flashy and totally unbelievable — that's the formula for Blue Jean Cop.

One of those action adventures where cars ignite, men fall out of windows and the good guys always get their man — this is American tripe indeed.

But what is even more annoying about this silly saga is that Blue Jean Cop tries to have a message.

It's all about corrupt cops in New York and the deals they are doing with the major drug syndicates.

Out to expose the dirt are legal aid lawyer Roland Dalton (Peter Weller — Robocop) and plain clothes policeman Richie Marks (Sam Elliot — Mask).

Dalton discovers the web of deceit when defending a black crack dealer charged with the murder of an undercover police officer. But as Marks makes Dalton aware, the dead officer was about to kill the dealer for his drug booty.

Soon the pair is being hunted by all — the baddies and the bad 'goodies.'

And in the process there are all sorts of unlikely car chases and getaways, which usually end up threatening the lives or killing more innocent people than crims.

Thrown in amongst all this is a somewhat superficial love triangle between Dalton, whose fiancée — whose father is having Dalton set up on Wall St — and Dalton's ex-girlfriend, now the assistant DA in town.

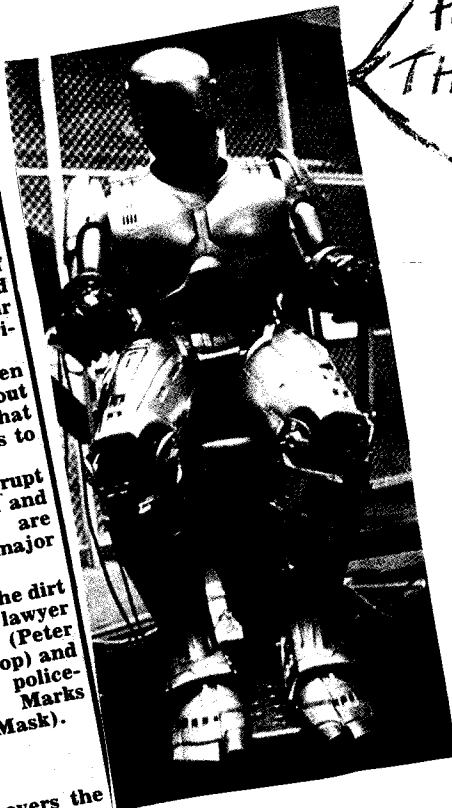
"Buckaroo Banzai is a Jacques Cousteau type. Actually, he's more like a cross between Albert Einstein, Leonardo Da Vinci and Adam Ant!"

—Peter Weller

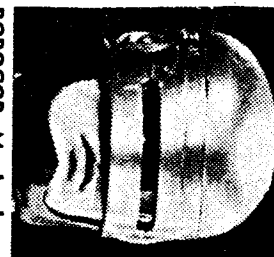


Peter Weller as Roland Dalton in Blue Jean Cop.

MY SPECIAL THANKS GOES TO CO-PILOT FOR THE GREAT PETER WELLER MUGGING SCANDAL STORY (FINALLY GOT AROUND TO USING): AND LEIGH UP IN TOOWOOMBA FOR EVERYTHING ELSE: THANKS AGAIN.



ROBOCOP: Macho hero



By IVAN WATERMAN

GANGBUSTING Robocop hero Peter Weller turned chicken when he was faced with a real-life hoodlum.

Peter—star of the smash-hit movie about a half-man, half-machine crime fighter—meekly handed over his cash to a teenage mugger who jumped out of an alleyway waving a gun.

"I was trembling like a leaf," he said. "But I was smart enough to palm a five-dollar note in my pocket."

"I gave the guy the two dollars I had left."

"What shocked me was that crowds of people were walking by but he didn't give a damn."

Then a cat burglar broke into his Manhattan apartment and stole valuable jewellery.

And after moving to Hollywood he watched

frozen in horror one night as a man was murdered by a gunman in a neighbouring block.

"I think I'm in the middle of my own personal crime wave," said Peter, poised to top the video charts with Robocop and about to launch his new film Blue Jean Cop.

PETER: 'I trembled'



Soon afterwards, Peter, 32, was the victim of ANOTHER thug who gatecrashed a New York rehearsal of a play, pulled out a machine gun and robbed the whole cast.

BY MUGGER

ROBOCOP HERO RATTLED

HEY, BUDDY;
THIS IS ALL NEWS
TO ME!!

HOW DO YOU GET

BUCKAROO BANZAI merchandise is not exactly in the same league of Star Wars, Rambo, or even ALF. Most of the official merchandise was either available at the time, or through the club 'World Watch one' which means as of time of writing we are 4-5 years too late on both counts! The novel of the movie by Earl MacRauch is extremely difficult to obtain and has been reported as having a price tag of U.S\$35.00 at dealers tables. I understand its cover price was a mere \$3.50 at the time! Courtesy of Arcane Annie's research, the desperate of us can obtain facsimiles of out of print books such as Banzai by writing to UNIVERISTY MICROFILMS INTL: 300 N. ZEEB RD, ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN 48106. Out of print books may be sought through the pages of the AB BOOKMAN'S WEEKLY; BOX AB, CLIFTON, NEW JERSEY 07015. Both these places are U.S.A. The paperback's library ISBN is 0-671-54058-0.

INTERGALACTIC TRADING CO. INC. are the company I've been able to get most of my bits and pieces from. That includes the poster of Buckaroo pictured on the right. The Big Easy opposite (both which decorate my bedroom ceiling) I got from my local video store (always a good source).



This SF media merchandise mail order company's address is: P.O Box 1516, Longwood FL, 32752-1516, USA. You can order on Visa, Mastercard, and American Express, or by bank draft. I understand they send catalogues free though you might want to send some Int. Reply Coupons as a good will gesture.. All prices quoted here are in American Dollars and do not include postage. Over the page you will see the selection of patches available, and their prices. Each patch roughly equates to about 7 x 12cm with 'BBP-1 measuring to be almost a foot wide.

Buckaroo Banzai

Team Banzai™

BBP-1 \$8.00



BBP-2 \$6.00



BBP-3 \$6.00



BBP-4 \$4.00



BBP-5 \$4.00



BBP-6 \$4.00



BBP-7 \$4.00

Buckaroo Banzai Hat
(silk screen) \$9.95

PATCHES FOR BBI'S.

Also available is the poster of Buckaroo performing at Artie's. It is apparently one of a set of posters all once available through WW1. Price is \$3.50. Produced by CIC Posters

There are also three different T-shirts available with designs on both sides of the shirt. Price is \$10.00 each and are all black. One features the logo same as patch BBP-4 done in silver with the "Buckaroo Banzai and the Hong Honk Cavaliers" on the back and in the style on the side of the bus. The second has "Team Banzai" in the BBP-1 patch style, and "No Matter Where You Go...There You Are." simply written on the back. The third's front has a similar (but not same) design to the BBP-2 patch but more elaborate, with a side view of a speeding Jetcar below the logo for example. And, I told a lie before. This shirt does not have anything on the back (unless I got a reject one or something!).

Last, but not least is the beautiful Banzai silk screened, lined jacket. It is black with yellow trim and has the logo of the third T-shirt on the back, and the Banzai Institute logo on the front left side of the zip. This wonderful item lists at \$60 (so you're looking at over \$100 Australian). p.s Don't wear it near BBI Jane if you value your peace, AND your jacket!

Also available, but not from this company are Banzai comics (that come in a Marvel 2 part adaption or as one special); head bands; a set of ten postcards; daybill (Aust) poster, one sheet (US) poster; set of 8 lobbycards (US); and a mythical soundtrack. There's probably more (some WW1 giveaways I've not mentioned) but I've either forgotten or don't know about them. Any further info (I didn't mention the video) would be most grateful and I'll do an update next time if need be!

BILLY VERA: PRIVATE CLOWN. Polydor Super 2383 482 c.1977.

This album is unlike Billy's other recordings in that most of the songs are upbeat and the songs are whimsical in their lyrics. Examples of this include, "Nouveau Rich" about those of sudden wealth and how they flaunt it; "Big-Legged Mamma" (from Cincinnati, Ohio and self explanatory); and "Big Chief" (which comes very close to ripping off the song 'Iko Iko' in tone and lyrics, and even says it in the song!! The cover is pretty boring with Billy's face supered over a watery sea background. This time Billy has gone to sounding like country rock and with the mandatory use of brass, it's a quirky and fun combo for those who don't think they would go for Billy's usual R&B and strong ballads

I do hope that what we've written here might encourage you to go to your local import shop and see if they stock any of the records listed here. I became a fan of his music not because of the Banzai connection, but I genuinely love his singing. Being in Banzai just brought him to my attention quicker. Even if you listen to just 'At This Moment' (either single or album) you'll know if you want to hear more. And, if you do, I hope I've been able to guide you in the right direction..

Downtown 19.11.89

Melbourne Sub-Division,
Australia,
03192,
03-555-5167.

Outerooffice Communication,
Classified Notation.

EDITORIAL...



Well, here you have it, the end of another issue, and pictures of two grown men playing with dolls! Will the real John Lithgow please stand up! To find out, see volume 5 of Amazing Stories out on video.

Latest news is that Ellen Barkin is continuing to play the sexxx bomb roles in two up 'n' coming movies. In Sea Of Love with Al Pachino she plays a lonely lusty woman that may or may not be a serial killer. In Johnny Handsome opposite Micky Rourke she is either sleeping, smoking, drinking, holding up stores, or snarling. I really can't WAIT for this one! Especially for the leather mini skirt that would make Tina Turner look prudish!



Jeff Goldblum is curenly wrapping up filming on a new movie^{as} a crook (and a nasty one at that) who is chased 'round Europe. A report on Jeff was screened on Entertainment This Week on November 5th. Name of the movie escapes me, but it and his other U.K made movie, The Tall Man will not see in U.S theatrical release 'til after the new year.

John Lithgow can be currently seen in Out Cold, described by one reviewer as, "an attempt at a black comedy that remains grim grey." Apparently, the cast is good, the script falls short, and the director is capable of better!

Coming out on video soon is Blue Jean Cop, which co-stars Peter Weller. Banzai stars can be seen in Star Trek: The Next Generation videos. Robert Ito (Prof Hikita) plays a Star Fleet Academy examiner in 'Coming Of Age' & a fave of mine, Vincent Schiavelli (John O'Connor) stars in 'Arsenal of Freedom'. Any chance of episode reviews, Jan or Marion?

The recent screening of THE MOVIE at the Valhalla proved to be the success of the night. The cheer it got at the beginning AND end was mega! The audience stamped and clapped to the end theme as 6-7 guys got up on the stage and started marching up and down alá our on screen heroes. Now bad for a movie second last on a 24 hour bill finishing as the sun was rising! I'll tell ya what, a couple hundred people can't be wrong!! When do we want this movie back on the big screen? REAL SOON!! Oh yeah, Channel 10 lied when they said they'd put the movie on this year..well, they haven't got much time left! Still no news on Banzai in Adelaide; venue seems their biggest problem as the owners stuff them about. They have the prints, though.

Final last words, looks like I didn't get everything I wanted into this issue either! Good in a way, it means I've so much more to offer in future issues. Once again, seasons greetings and may I hope to have you with us for 1990; MEGA!

Always Remain True Blue,

Downturn