

# Foreign film review

BY DAVID MACDONALD

As I write this particular review, please bear with me and my poor memory, as I viewed this film before Christmas, and between then and now it is only a clouded memory helped only by my incoherent notes.

The film shrouded in lost memory is a French film called *36 Fillette*, and it is a quite depressing story of a young teenage girl, one of those wild, partying sorts that a self-righteous individual would probably describe as a "slut" or "trailer-trash."

The actual plot of the story takes place in the space of a few days, starting off one night when the girl and her older brother are able to go to a bar with the help of a middle-aged playboy of sorts. As the drive to the bar occurs, the middle-aged man says to his friend something to the effect that women are like cars and that if one gets tired of them, get rid of them at any price. That's about the extent of the warm, fuzzy feeling we get from watching these people; in other words, we don't find them to be very nice at all.

During the night, the young girl flirts greatly with the middle-aged man. The man seems to be baffled by the energy of the girl, while at the same time the girl is willfully walking into dangerous territory. The girl is able to convince the man to take her back to his hotel room, and what occurs after this is rather unsettling. The girl obviously is knowingly flirting with danger, and is clearly frightened of this man

and of what he is capable of. There is a long verbal argument along these lines, and eventually what happens is most clearly a rape.

Yet the very next day, the girl is back to her old tricks, taunting and flirting this man even after for a time at least he doesn't want to have anything more to do with her. Just as the man has no respect for women, she has no respect for herself.

The film is a bit more psychologically complex than I could ever make it out to be. It may turn off people because of the subject as well as the grim treatment of it, which isn't helped by the poor technical quality of the film; obviously made on a very low budget, with faulty sound and cinematography, and unflashy direction.

The ending is rather discouraging. It looks to me as if she has learned something about the world that is not very pleasing, and which is most likely the biggest point of the story. Sex is viewed as shameful, so of course she becomes interested in the most undesirable, and threatening of partners. One is either traumatized at the experience or goes after it with heartless, hurtful intentions, both of which apply to her as the film develops. The ending doesn't suggest that she will break out of this trap anytime soon.

Rating: \*\*\*

## DEFINATLY NOT CLASSIC CINEMA

BY MARKO PERIC

*Mystery Science Theatre 3000: The Movie*  
(1996) *Colour and B&W, B&W and Colour*

Let me begin with an apology. I haven't written my Cinema column in some time, and my return is marked with a film that must go under the "Definitely Not" column, if only because it is too recent to be called a classic. However, this week's movie is most certainly one that almost everyone will enjoy.

If you've never heard of *Mystery Science Theatre*, you're in for a treat. The series ran in syndication in the US for several years in the early 90s, and culminates in this movie (and hopefully more to follow). The premise of *Mystery Science Theatre* is that a mad scientist has marooned a man, Mark Nelson, on a satellite, and is forcing him to watch old, and usually bad, movies, to torture him. The poor fellow only has a few robots for company.

Okay, I know the premise sounds really tacky, and the opening scenes are somewhat cheesy. But the real fun comes from the actual movie that Mark and his metal companions watch. The film is an early sci-fi from the mid 50s, called *This Island Earth*. But its plot doesn't matter. You see Mark and the robots in a theatre watching the movie, and for the duration of the film they make smart comments. The result is hilarious. They poke fun at bad visuals, weak dialogue, poor plotting, and even the names in the credits. A personal favourite of mine is at the very end of the credits, when "Printing and Developing by Eastman Kodak" appears. One of the robots announces in a big voice "East Man. He came out of the East to do battle with the great Rando" (but that refers back to an earlier joke).

Have I convinced you yet? No? This is one of the funniest movies I have ever seen. It's one to watch with a few friends, when you're ready to laugh. If *Mystery Science Theatre* won't amuse you, probably nothing will.

Availability. You shouldn't have much trouble finding *MST 3K*. Plaza, Blockbuster, Jumbo, and That's Entertainment all have copies, and so should most of the smaller stores.

Next: Cary Grant as a Frenchman. Yes, I know that's a stretch. Did I mention that he also wears a dress in *I Was a Male War Bride*?

## CIMN TOP 20

For the week ending January 16th, 1998

This Week	Artist	Album
1	Various	Trainspotting #2 (Soundtrack)
2	Leonard Cohen	More Best of Leonard Cohen
3	Headstones	Smile and Wave
4	Led Zeppelin	BBC Sessions
5	Various	Popcan
6	The Mumble Ducks	North of the Ridges
7	Lovecanal	Where is Canada?
8	Econoline Crush	The Devil You Know
9	Whatever	Whatever
10	The Smugglers	Buddy Holly Convention
11	Ozzy Osbourne	Back on Earth (Single)
12	Catherine Wheel	Adam and Eve
13	Various	Scream 2 (Soundtrack)
14	Portishead	Portishead
15	Various	Playing God (Soundtrack)
16	Various	Grosse Pointe Blank 2 (Soundtrack)
17	Golden Lake Diner	Letters Home
18	David Bowie	The Best of David Bowie
19	David Johansson	Hard Times
20	Soul Coughing	Made Especially for You by Soul Coughing