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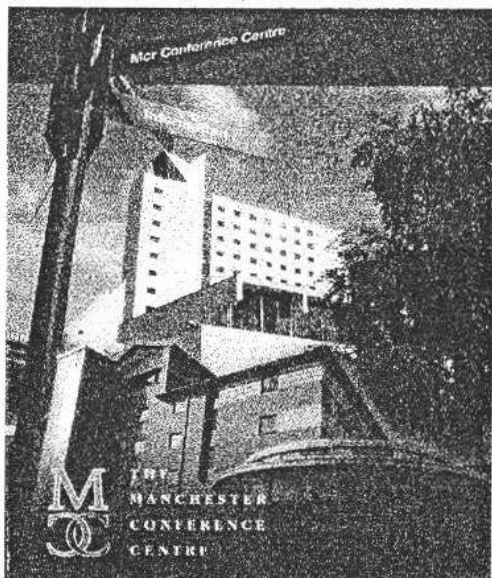
The Festival of FANTASTIC FILMS

Manchester Conference Centre. October 17th to 19th 2008

THE MANCHESTER CONFERENCE CENTRE

OCTOBER 17th, 18th and 19th 2008

The 19th Festival of Fantastic Films will take place over the week-end of the 17th, 18th and 19th of October 2008. The venue will be The Manchester Conference Centre, Sackville Street.



Attached to the conference centre is Days Hotel, which will be the Festival's main hotel.

Apart from the hotel the venue has major conference facilities including The Weston Theatre, a 300 seat cinema, The Cockcroft Theatre, a 130 seat

cinema and the Weston Room II an 80 seat room.

We have negotiated a bed and English breakfast rate of £49.30 per person per night,

Rooms are also available at The Ibis Hotel just down the road on Charles Street.

GUESTS OF HONOUR.

Guests invited so far include :-
John Saxon - (Actor)



John Saxon

John became famous in the late 50's as a handsome & vibrant young romantic hero but it was clear to see that he had more to offer than the standard lothario type. After making a number of Hollywood melodramatic romantic fiction stories often with lovely Sandra Dee such as "Rock Pretty Baby", "Summer Love", "The Reluctant Debutante" and "This Happy Feeling", John moved onto more dramatic fare such as "Cry Tough", John Huston's "The Unforgiven" – with Burt Lancaster, Audrey Hepburn & Audie Murphy & "The Plunderers". A period in Italy followed for this American of Italian extraction where he made "Ragazza che Sapeva Troppo" (Aka "The Evil Eye") & "Sette Conto La Mort" (Aka "The Cavern").



Returning to the USA his choice of movie hardened and appearances in "The Appaloosa", "Death of a Gunfighter", "Joe Kidd" preceded his appearance in the Bruce Lee cult classic "Enter The Dragon". A series of Horror / Sci Fi movies including "The

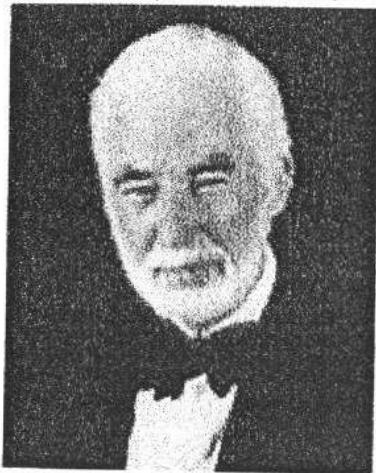
"Night Caller" in UK, & "Queen of Blood" brought him into our sights before he appeared in some excellent genre movies such as "Black Christmas", "A Nightmare on Elm Street" (parts 1 & 3) & in Italy "Tenebrae". He also made "Cannibal Apocalypse", in Italy alongside several other giallo & mysteries as well as in the USA "Blood Beach" & "From Dusk Till Dawn", as well as making various TV appearance in such as "Dynasty", "Melrose Place", "Starky & Hutch", "Vegas", "Hawaii Five O" & "CSI Crime Scene Investigation".

Robert Fuest - (Director)



Robert Fuest is the director of those two great early 1970's Vincent Price movies "The Abominable Dr Phibes" & "Dr Phibes Rises Again" both great fun & highly amusing horror tales. Caroline Munro makes a couple of uncredited appearances alongside in both movies a great cast. Bob also directed the undervalued Jon Finch movie called "The Final Programme" as well as Brian Clemens' "And Soon The Darkness" & "The Devil's Rain" Starring Ernest Borgnine, William Shatner & a very young John Travolta. Bob who was a guest several years ago was also a prominent director of "The Avengers" series on TV. He was great fun & we look forward to more of his tales.

John Scott - (Musician/Composer)



John is a friend of **Norman J. Warren's** also came up several years ago and entertained us with his stories, some of you may have met John at recent **Hammer** events in London organised by **Don Fearney**. John wrote the music for, & conducted the music on such genre movies as **'A Study in Terror'**, **'Rocket to the Moon'**, **'Doomwatch'** & **'Satan's Slave'** as well as **'Inseminoid'** which were of course directed by Norman.



Outside of the genre John was responsible for **'The Long Duel'**, **'Antony & Cleopatra'**, **'The Whistle Blower'** & **'England Made Me'**. Also in the 60's John spent some time as leader of two Jazz bands, one a quintet called **The Johnny Scott Quintet** & then **The Johnny Scott Trio**.

Another confirmed guest is the beautiful young actress & satellite TV personality **Miss Emily Booth**. She is currently the face of the satellite TV programme **Blue Review** as well as having acted in **'Perverella'**, **'Evil Aliens'**, **'Cradle of Fear'** and **'Witchcraft X Mistress of the Craft'**.



Emily Booth - (Actress)

Emily is one of the faces of 2000 horror movies & we really look forward to her visiting us.

Jess Conrad - (Actor/Singer)
a favourite since the late 50's Jess has had a career as a Pop Star, Film & TV Star and is considered a UK institution



Jess often sends himself up but has a long line of movies including some excellent films such as *'The Boys'* with Richard Todd & Robert Morley and *'The Great Rock & Roll Swindle'* with The Sex Pistols. He made several hit records in the early sixties including the infamous classic *'This Pullover'* & *'Cherry Pie'*. Appearances in *'Cockleshell Heroes'*, *'Rag Doll'* & *'Further up the Creek'* introduced Jess to movies where he has gone on to appear in several genre movies including *'The Flesh & Blood Show'*,

Kronos also stars **Caroline Munro** our special guest on a number of occasions



**Horst Janson with
Caroline Munro**



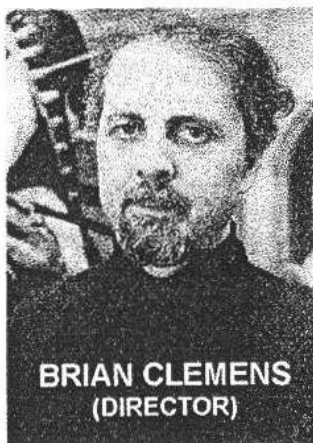
'Konga', 'The Assassination Bureau' & the lost Hammer Classic *'The Ugly Duckling'* which I and several others consider to be a better take on the Jekyll & Hyde story than both versions of *'The Nutty Professor'*. Apart from a continued career in movies Jess made several TV shows including *'The Human Jungle'*, *'Softly Softly'*, *'Space 1999'*, *'Miss Marple'*, *'Are You Being Served'* & *'The Last of the Summer Wine'* as well as appearing in Jim Davidson's rather blue versions of *'Sinderella Live'* & *'Sinderella Comes Again'*. Recently Jess was filming with **John Leyton** and several other well known names the movie about the music producer **Joe Meek** called *'Telstar'* (as **Larry Parnes**).

Horst Janson - (Actor)

Horst was the star in *'Captain Kronos - Vampire Hunter'*. The film was Scripted, Co - Produced and Directed by our good friend **Brian Clemens**.



**Horst Janson with a bevy
of Hammer beauties**



**BRIAN CLEMENS
(DIRECTOR)**

Other guests have been invited however as yet are not able to commit, but we will up date the website as soon as we possibly can.

2008 RETROSPECTIVE SHOW

The retrospective show will be held in **Weston 2** as last year. In charge will be the ever popular Tony Meadows.

Below are a few notes off the filmmeister himself.



First of all I want to thank all of you that turned up to the **Weston 2** at last years Festival. I hope that you all enjoyed yourselves, I would like to say a special thank you to **Jane King** for being a real sport for letting herself be attacked by a woman eating plant.

I will have a greater idea of what I will be showing in **Weston 2** at the coming bash, it will be a **MONSTER** of a show. There will be some classic titles, and some titles you may kill to see, such as **'YETI : GIANT OF THE 20th CENTURY'**, just wait till you cop a load of this one.

Of course their will be a few titles from **Japan** and **Mexico**, the land of **EL LOCO** movies, (oh yes there are some head bangings going on here).

Plus, there will be a TV spot again, along with trailers, cartoons etc.

So hopefully something for everyones tastes.

So until the next up-date take care and I look forward to your company in **THE ROOM**.

Tony (Doc) Meadows

AUCTION

Ramsey Campbell will be the auctioneer, as usual.

We need you to donate what you can to the auction, this is an important part of the fund raising to pay for the Festival, in previous years it has been the difference between making a loss and breaking even.

All donations should be through Gil Lane-Young.

You can contact Gil on 0161 929 1423 or email

gil@manchesterfantasticfilms.co.uk

So please give what you can..

DEALERS ROOM

Gil Lane-Young will be organising the Dealers Room/Film Fair on Sunday the 19th of October in the Weston Room 1 at the Festival.

You can contact Gil on 0161 929 1423

THE GREAT FANTASTIC MOVIE QUIZ

By popular demand we shall once again be having **The Great Fantastic Movie Quiz**. So sort out your teams and win some fantastic prizes.

The quiz will be after the closing ceremony on Sunday the 19th of October.

REGISTRATION INFO.

Included with this Progress Report is your Festival Registration Form.

Registration for the full Festival is £70, which entitles you to all Progress Reports, Programme Booklet, ID Badge and entrance to any of the events and films of your choice over all three days of the Festival.

Supporting Membership is available at £30 and entitles you to attend any of the events or films on any single day you wish to attend.

You can up-grade to full membership up to the 11th of October by paying the difference between the two rates.

AMATEUR FILM CONTEST

The Delta Awards by Steve Green Co-ordinator of the judges

The Amateur Film Contest will take place on the Saturday of The Festival (18/10/2008) Named in honour of the madcap bunch of amateur film-makers whose efforts enlivened many a 1960s sf convention (members included Tony Edwards and the much-missed Harry Nadler, both founders of this very festival), **The Delta Awards** recognize significant achievement by low-budget directors. This is a truly international competition: entries from Canada, India and Thailand, as well our own home patch. I've been a judge now for the best part of ten years, and I have to say that what was once an intermittently onerous duty (many of those early 1990s "films" were either tedious or criminally inept, or both, or worse) has evolved into a fascinating glimpse of cinematic potential. Obviously, the current state of the British Film Industry (particularly after recent attacks upon investors' tax concessions) means few winners have an instant shoe-in for future work, but we see in this short stream genuine imagination combined with inspired camerawork and skilled editing. In other words, exactly the kind of material you

attend the Festival of Fantastic Films for, and which you're able to crow about to your friends in the months after.

So why not join me and the other judges for one of the more cutting edge events at what remains Britain's best celebration of the filmic fantastic? And if you know someone who's working on a homegrown movie, pass the word. [Entries for the 2008 Delta Awards should be forwarded to: Steve Green, 33 Scott Road, Olton, Solihull, B92 7LQ. Full competition rules are available at the festival website. For an entry form visit our website www.fantastic-films.com or contact Steve Green.

THE SOCIETY OF FANTASTIC FILMS

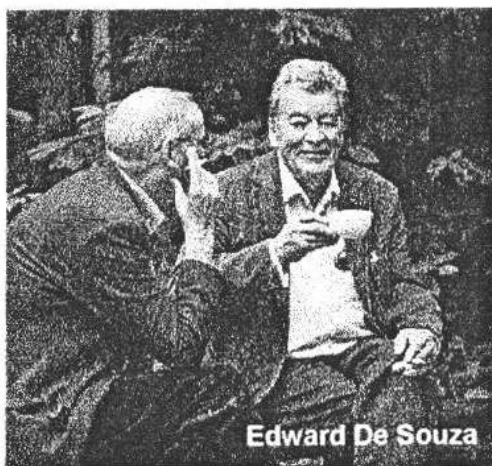
The Society meets in Manchester on the last Friday of each month for details of the programme contact Gil Lane-Young 0161 929 1423 or email gil@manchesterfantasticfilms.co.uk



"See that guy over there? That's Tony Edwards. Go over there and thump him for me."

2007 FESTIVAL OF FANTASTIC FILMS by Darrell Buxton.

Autumn 2007, another Manchester based, star-studded 'Festival of Fantastic Films' - and it was the best one in quite a while. Most of the guests turned up and were all in sensational form.



Edward De Souza

Edward De Souza was charming, despite being seemingly 'proverbial as a newt' for the entire weekend - those of you who have been to the Bray 'Hammer' events could have warned us !! - but he was at least extremely entertaining with it, a delightful character of the old school.

Caroline Munro looked gorgeous and had very nice eyes. Martine Beswicke



Wayne Kinsey talks
to Martine Beswicke

must be lying about her age but not in the way that ladies usually do, and Vera Day figured that she could carry off a series of low-cut tops and came over as the Fest's answer to Babs

Winsor. As for the Euro stars, Jean Rollin was a real gent and was happy to chat to fans all weekend - MJ Simpson's interview with him on Saturday night was a real highlight of the weekend, even the bit where MJ attempted to embarrass me by revealing my penchant for pornographic films in public ! - while Italian schlock legend Giovanni Lombardo Radice/John Morghen/'Johnny' ended the Festival by offering to give a massage to any interested party for £10 !!! (I gather he got a few takers too ...)

As for British horror films screened at the Festival ? Well the winner of 2006 shorts contest, Karl Holt's *Eddie Loves You*, was screened to popular acclaim at the opening ceremony, and *The Planet* apparently went down like a lead balloon (didn't see it myself) Missed Pat Higgins' *Hellbride* too, and Julian Richards' *Summer Scars*, due to hasty rescheduling, but had a nice chat with Julian on Saturday afternoon. I did watch *Schizo* for the first time in many years and liked it a lot more than I remembered.

John Leyton gave a very self-effacing intro to the film. Dunno if he stuck around to watch his performance. I wonder why Pete Walker didn't cast him in *The Comeback*, he'd have done O.K.

I helped out with the judging on the Delta Awards best short film competition; we collectively picked a French film called *CONTRETEMPS* as the winner with a very good Singapore movie, *FLYER*, coming in second, but my personal vote went to *IT CAME FROM BEYOND*, a very cheap and very funny home movie made by Ian Simpson and starring his family - cheesy fx spaceship lands in back garden, little *THIS IS ENGLAND* - like cheeky tyke spots it and spends the rest of the 4 minute epic attempting to convince his family that alien monsters have landed, *INVADERS FROM MARS* - style. The films gimmick, that all the dialogue was spoken in rhyme,

appealed to me enormously and gave this one a real feel of comic originality. I was outvoted by the expert opinion of fellow judges Steve Green, Ray Holloway and Norman J. Warren, however

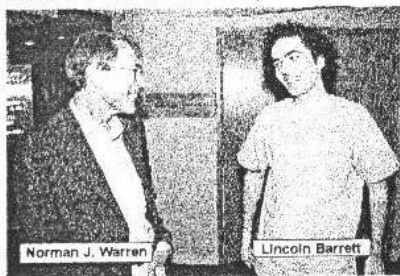
Some terrific bevvying sessions/chats were enjoyed in the bar area, despite the fact that Derby County lost 6 - 0 at Anfield on Saturday afternoon and I was in the company of a Liverpool fan for most of the games duration.



Jean Rollin

A few of us met Jean Rollin out in the lobby, had a very nice talk with him and getting him to sign absolutely enormous posters of **FASCINATION** and old copies of David Pirie's **'THE VAMPIRE CINEMA'**.

Best 'film' of the weekend wasn't a film as such, but was the two promo videos shown at the closing ceremony, fir new material by techno act **High Contrast** (aka Lincoln Barrett, who has been attending the Festival with his dad Paul since he was about ten)



Norman J. Warren

Lincoln Barrett

The first track was excellent, based on a bassline nicked from the soundtrack of Fulci's **THE BEYOND** - the second wasn't quite so impactful aurally but had an amazing video, with a masked killer looking not dissimilar to the main character in **V FOR VENDETTA** pursuing young girls around a house, in the style of vintage Argento. Splendid stuff Linc - keep it coming.

As for the 2007 **Great Fantastic Movie Quiz** - well, the Captain of last years 'winners' (ahem), Adrian James, joined forces with me this time out and our team nicked victory by a single point. Sample question - which film carried the tagline "Imagine your worst fear is a reality" ? Man, that one had me wracking my brain until I realised that the line appeared on a poster that had once hung in my kitchen for some ten years or more..



John Leyton

The fest wasn't quite back to its mid-90s peak but it is definitely lurching towards it, Karloff-like. A fab few days, it ended much too quickly and I wish I was still there. Many thanks to Gil, Tony, and all concerned - here's to 2008.....



Johnny

Photographs by Jim Gallagher

For the latest information on the Festival visit our website:-

www.fantastic-films.com