

VIDEO VIEWS ... more than meets the eye
by Bob Morello

AFLOAT

(DVD) IndiePix Films
Seeking to reunite with her estranged family, Western educated Zeynep (Nihan Aker) and her American husband Stephen (Oscar Pearce) travel from New York City to a small coastal town in Turkey. Together, along with her divorced parents and younger sister, free-spirited Yasemin (Elit Iscan), they embark on a week-long sailing trip meant to be a last chance for Zeynep's father, Yusuf (Serhat Unaldi), a dissident journalist being prosecuted by the government, to reconnect with his daughters before prison. Once on open water, with blue skies and wind in their sails, hope springs eternal — yet things may not be as they seem. As they await the result of Yusuf's appeal, tensions begin to rise, and when a young local man further disrupts the delicate family dynamics the trip takes a very unexpected turn.

CRUSH

(Blu-ray) Anchor Bay Entertainment
Crust tells the story of a lonely Laundromat owner, Vegas Winters (Sean Whalen), who keeps the leftover socks from customers and uses them to clean himself. When he gets abused and weeps into the pile of socks, it turns into a creature that seeks revenge on Vegas' enemies.

EVERYTHING WILL BE ALRIGHT
(DVD) IndiePix Films

The non-fiction debut from award-winning Latvian writer/director Stanislavs Tokalovs, *Everything Will Be Alright* welcomes viewers into the everyday life of the filmmaker's immediate family who are members of the Russian-speaking community of Purvciems, a suburb outside Riga. Ninety-nine-year-old Nina is the clan's matriarch, a World War II veteran who came to Latvia in 1955. Her offspring, Irina, is a university lecturer torn between her husband's tirades, her mother's needs, and her 18-year-old daughter's desires as an aspiring artist. Together, with cinematographer and co-writer Valdis Celmins, Tokalovs presents an intimate look at the various internal and external conflicts affecting these individuals. Without promising "everything will be alright," the film unravels vital questions about integration, collective memory, propaganda, and the war of identities that affects many — both in Latvia and around the world.

CURSED IN BAJA
(Blu-ray)

Anchor Bay Entertainment
Pirelli, an ex-lawman, travels to Mexico searching for the heir to a Los Angeles fortune, while confronting his own complicated past. But what he finds in Baja challenges him to the core.

MEN OF WAR
(COLLECTOR'S EDITION) (DVD)

MVD Rewind Collection
Action hero Dolph Lundgren thrilled you in Rocky IV and Universal Soldier ... Now he's back in the heart stopping *Men of War*. Nick Gunar (Lundgren) is part of a topflight team of ex-Special Forces agents hired

by ruthless con men. Their mission: to carry out a secret operation and overtake an exotic island that's loaded with precious jade. But once there, the agents — led by Lundgren — defect to defend the islanders against the savage attackers! It's nonstop action as Lundgren and his elite group wage war to defeat the deadly opposition at any cost.

ABRUPTIO (Blu-ray)

Anchor Bay Entertainment
Abruptio is a jaw-dropping, macabre nightmare. Les Hackel hates his life. He works a dead-end job, was just dumped by his high-maintenance girlfriend, and still lives with his nagging mom. One night, he discovers a fresh incision behind his neck. His friend Danny tells him it's a bomb, that someone has implanted one in his neck, too. And then the messages start coming in, forcing Les to carry out missions with deadly results. Les is partnered up with a series of oddball characters to commit heinous tasks. The violence escalating around him, Les pieces together the clues that reveal the horrific plans to breed a monstrous race of beings.

DARIO ARGENTO — DEEP CUTS (4/Disc Blu-ray) Severin Films

At the peak of his cinematic triumphs, horror legend Dario Argento created projects for RAI TV that broadcast his singular vision of terror into millions of Italian homes: *Door Into Darkness* is the top-rated 1973 anthology series produced and hosted by Argento, including *Il tram* directed by Argento, *Il vicino di casa* directed by Luigi Cozzi, and *Testimone oculare* co-written by Argento & Cozzi, with three of the four episodes sourced for the first time from the original 16mm negatives. Argento's popular 1987 variety talk show *Giallo* is represented by the maestro's own *Dario Argento's Nightmares* scanned from recently discovered film elements, plus the murder mystery segments *Night Shift (Turno di notte)* directed by Cozzi and Lamberto Bava, behind-the-scenes tours from *Tenebre*, *Phenomena*, and *Opera*, and guests that include Anthony Perkins, David Gilmour & Nick Mason, and Fiore Argento newly digitized from broadcast masters.

DARIO ARGENTO — 2020 TEXAS GLADIATORS (3/Disc 4K Ultra HD) Severin Films

This most elusive, requested and unapologetically unhinged Penne Post-Apocalypse epic of all is finally available, uncut and uncensored on disc for the first time ever: From ItaloSleaze Maestro Joe D'Amato comes this very entertaining saga of graphic violence, rampant nudity, unholy mutants, big explosions, fascist rhetoric, motorcycle mayhem, saloon brawls, Indian attacks and plenty of lawless Lone Star depravity, written by George Eastman. Al Cliver, Peter Hooten, Sabrina Siani, Geretta and Donald O'Brien star in this movie, filled with a ton of guilty pleasure, in 4K, plus special features.

The time has come, the walrus said,

TO TALK OF MANY THINGS
of shoes and ships and sealing wax of cabbages and kings

by Sal Giarratani

MYSTERY NIGHT AT THE LIBRARY

A few weeks back, I attended a lively discussion which was billed as "Mystery Making," an interactive how-to talk on writing and plot settings. The authors present had all published their own murder mysteries. Present that evening were Gary Goshgarian, Frances McNamara, Liz Mugavero and Carolyn Wilkins, all four were members of Sisters in Crime New England organization. The audience was a good sized one and most in attendance were already writers and came to pick up tips on how to improve their skills.

Kudos to branch librarian Kirsten Palmertree for organizing this event. She did a great job putting it all together. To learn more about Sisters in Crime, go to sincne.org. This organization is open to male authors too.

LEGENDARY R&B VOICE CELEBRATES 85TH BIRTHDAY

Singer Jerry Butler, that great R & B Legend, just celebrated his 85th birthday. So many of his great tunes like "Only the Strong Survive" will live long and prosper like Mr. Spock always said on *Star Trek*. When I hear it starting to play, I sing out loud and clear which I often do when driving my car. Once I sang on stage, now I sing in the car or shower or anywhere.

SADO-DOMESTICS LOOKING LIKE THE HOUSE BAND FOR THE SQUARE ROOT

With the Giarratani family members in both Roslindale and West Roxbury, I often go over to both The Blue Diner and The Square Root Cafe in Roslindale Square on Corinth Street. I often get my Sunday morning oatmeal at the diner too and have known the owner and chef for some 20 years now. As for the Square Root, I've known owner Anthony for years too.

I just noticed a poster on the Square Root's window advertising a few upcoming attractions. Lots of bands end up on stage at this place. I love ordering my hot cup of cider on a cold winter morning in this place to heat myself up. Several months back, I was there when the Sado-Domestics played up on stage for the crowd. Well, the band is returning on every Second Sunday of the month from now through

April. The music will be starting at 6:00 p.m. and going until 8:00 p.m. You should check them out. Come hang out, get a great coffee or cider, order a sandwich and, remember, no cover charge!

MUSIC AND JUSTICE FOR ALL



Benny Rabi, a revolutionary spinner of vinyl

I love listening to WMEW Radio at 1510 AM. I love all the great tunes that Larry Justice plays on his morning radio show. He always opens up with a trio of songs by the Beatles. Another great DJ on this station is my friend Ben Rabi. He's much younger than he sounds or the music he plays but if Arnie "Woo Woo" Ginsburg were alive today, surely he would be a friend of Ben too.

WHO REMEMBERS GUMBY?

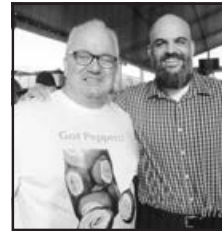
When I was a kid, I loved watching cartoons on Saturday mornings with my younger brother Dominic. One show we both liked was Gumby. It wasn't exactly a cartoon but, rather, claymation. Gumby and his horse Pokey were both animated characters that looked like they were created out of clay. Every week, they went on adventures together. Recently while visiting the building I worked in for the DMH police, I saw a Gumby portrait in a frame over someone's



Gumby getting framed over someone's office desk. He told the cops; he had no idea where Pokey was.

work desk. I don't know the last time I saw Gumby anywhere and I assumed whoever sat at this desk had to be old like me. Gumby was fun to watch and a bit silly too but no violence whatsoever. Those were the days as Archie and Edith always sang at the start of *All in the Family*.

HERE'S A PHOTO FROM BACK IN JULY WHEN IT WAS STILL PRETTY WARM OUT



Over at this summer's Taste of Eastie celebration, I caught up with Nick Moulaison from Carmella's over in Jeffries Point with Revere City Councilor Bob Hass Jr., at the Tall Ship where the event was held.

(Photos by Sal Giarratani)

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