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Outside looking in

 by [JOHNSON CUMMINS](#)

March 10, 2011



It is with a heavy heart that I must report that rep cinema Blue Sunshine has been getting clobbered by hefty bills and, within the next couple of months, will close their doors for good if their financial fortunes don't take a turn for the better. Their eclectic programming, with a healthy emphasis on b-movies, exploitation cinema, arty oddities and music-related films, has been a definite, worthy addition to the culture of our city. Thankfully, a benefit concert has been set up at l'Escogriffe tonight, March 10. For a measly \$7, you can check out the gleaming power pop of **Sonic Avenues**, **Naughty Girls**, **Shortpants Romance**, **Genital Hospital** and Ottawa's **Currents**.

Also tonight, next door at Quai des Brumes, you can check out the blues/country/garage of **Skip Jensen**, who launches his new record, *The Spirit of the Ghost*. In more local launch news, **les Breastfeeders** unveil their third record, *Dans la gueule des jours*, at la Tulipe tonight. Find out why they're cited as one of Montreal's most exciting live bands. Helping add ballast to this action-packed Thursday night is **Siskiyou** at Casa del Popolo with **Will Driving West**.

On Friday, Goner Records' **Ty Segall** plays Club Lambi with **Heavy Cream** and **Uncle Bad Touch**. At la Brique on Friday night is the psych-punk of **Black Feelings** with the pure punk rock of **Dead Wife**, **Total Crush** and much more.

The Under the Snow festival continues this week and a definite feather in the fest's cap is on Friday night, when the atmospheric shoegaze of **SIANspheric** blows yer little mind to bits at Divan Orange with **Esses** and **Parallel Lines**. On Saturday night, the place to be is definitely Il Motore, where the group of rock

critics known as **the Two Koreas** play with **Silk Screaming**.

Before I sign off this week, I really want to hip you to the documentary *Derailroaded: Inside the Mind of Larry "Wild Man" Fischer* (MVD visual), which gets a DVD release this week. Director Josh Rubin gained access to reclusive "outsider" musician Fischer and crafted a disturbing look at a man who continues to struggle with manic depression, paranoid schizophrenia and destitution. Perhaps paving a way for outside artists like Daniel Johnston and Wesley Willis, Wild Man Fischer used his mental problems as a creative tool with brutally honest songs that would eventually have him discovered by Frank Zappa in the late '60s, and later earn him the title "the Godfather of Punk" from none other than the Germs' Darby Crash. As deeply unsettling as the film can get, it also exposes the purity of Fischer's odd little ditties and his stubborn refusal to toe the corporate rock line. Easily the best rock doc you will see this year, it should resonate with any fan of music that dares to colour outside the lines. ■

CURRENT OBSESSION: NEIL DIAMOND, *THE BANG YEARS: 1966-1968*... JONATHAN.CUMMINS@GMAIL.COM

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