



THE CRIMINAL LIFE OF ARCHIBALDO DE LA CRUZ
(Blu-ray) / VCI Ent.

The Criminal Life of Archibaldo de la Cruz is executed in traditional Bunuel fashion, where macabre meets comedy. The story begins when an overindulged young boy of "privilege" is shown a music box, which is a family heirloom, alleged to cause the death of an enemy when played. The boy decides to test it out, setting his sights on his nanny, who'd recently offended him, whistling for her death. When moments late, a stray bullet from a revolutionary's gun sails through the window killing her, the twisted boy is convinced this was no accident and finds that he likes his newfound "power." Taking on the mind of a serial killer, he carries the mindset into adulthood, plotting, planning, fantasizing, and "wishing," with women as his victims. The irony of it all is, his efforts to carry out these crimes are always thwarted by outside forces, be it "twist of fate" or "providence," making him a serial killer in mind only.

TAHARA
(DVD) / Film Movement

Kissing your best friend is one thing. Kissing your best friend at the funeral for your Hebrew School classmate is a bit more complicated. *Tahara*, a poignant dramedy from director Olivia Peace and writer Jess Zeidman is an utterly original, award-winning exploration of desire, grief and the unexpected events that make one grow. Carrie Lowstein (Madeline Grey DeFreece) and Hannah Rosen (Rachel Sennott) have been inseparable for as long as they can remember. When their former Hebrew school classmate, Samantha Goldstein, commits suicide, the two girls go to her funeral as well as the "Teen Talk-back" session designed to be an opportunity for them to understand grief through their faith. But, after an innocent kissing exercise turns Carrie's world inside out, the best friends find themselves distracted by the teenage complications of lust, social status, and wavering faith.

CHECKERED NINJA (DVD) / MVD Synergetic Distribution

When 13-year-old high schooler Alex (Cameron Simpson) gets a Ninja doll from his adventuring Uncle Stewart (Michael Glenn Murphy), dressed in checkered clothing after a trip to Thailand, he finds out that the doll is alive and can help him with problems at school. He finds that the doll gives him the courage to face his crush, along with other challenges at school, but not without returning the favor, Alex wants to return the favor, but soon Alex learns that the *Checkered Ninja* (Luke Griffin) is possessed and on a mission to avenge the murder of a child where he came to life in Thailand.

BAD ROADS - DONBASS - REFLECTION - THE EARTH IS BLUE AS AN ORANGE
(DVD) / Film Movement

As the devastating war in Ukraine drags on, each day

we're greeted with tragic and unsettling stories of life during wartime. Film Movement brings four captivating, award-winning films to the home entertainment marketplace that deliver audiences behind the lines and into the lives of those affected by the ongoing war of Russian aggression which first started in 2014: *Bad Roads*, a disturbing drama set against the backdrop of Donbass, is based on the internationally-acclaimed play of the same name. *Reflection*, is Valentyn Vasyanovych's powerful drama. *The Earth Is Blue As An Orange*, a Sundance Award-winning documentary from Iryna Tsilyk. **BAD ROADS** — A man alleging to be a schoolmaster is accosted by the military at a checkpoint. Two teenagers wait for their soldier boyfriends in a dilapidated town square. A journalist is held captive and gets brutally assaulted. A young woman apologizes to an elderly couple for running over their chickens. Featuring four stories set against the backdrop of the Donbass roads, loomed by disorientation, paranoia, and terror. **DONBASS** — In the Donbass, a region of Eastern Ukraine, a hybrid war takes place, involving an open armed conflict alongside killings and robberies on a mass scale perpetrated by separatist gangs. In the Donbass, war is called peace, propaganda is uttered as truth and hatred is declared to be love. Life suffused with fear and suspicion; what is real and what is fake news? Through thirteen tension-ridden "chapters," *Donbass* takes audiences on an adventurous journey within the depths of the conflict zone and through life-threatening events. **REFLECTION** — Ukrainian surgeon Serhiy joins the military to fight against the Russians in the Donbas region. After being captured by enemy soldiers, he witnesses the horrific torture and interrogation of his compatriots while being forced to monitor their vital signs. Following his release, Serhiy returns home to his family, still suffering from the trauma he experienced and hiding a devastating secret.

THE EARTH IS BLUE AS AN ORANGE — A documentary that follows a single mother, Anna and her four children as they document their lives under siege in the front-line war of Donbass, Ukraine. Eldest daughter Mira dreams of becoming a cinematographer, and as bombs descend on neighboring homes, the family construct, act in, and edit stylized scenes of dangerous predicaments they've lived to tell. Mira's re-creations ratchet up the drama, using local soldiers, tanks, and even her own grandmother to tell terrifying tales of survival. Every member of the family has a passion for cinema, motivating them to shoot a film inspired by their own life during a time of war, and the creative process raises the question of what kind of power the magical work of cinema could have during times of disaster/ How to picture war through fiction?

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

BURGER KING AT THE HEIGHTS vs. MIKE'S DONUTS IN MISSION HILL

Last week on my way to have my eyes checked out at Joslin Clinic, I stopped by Mike's Donuts across from Mission Church. This is the go-to-place in the mornings to start your mornings off with a great cup of coffee and some great donuts, etc. They don't call it Mike's Donuts for nothing.

I caught up with several of the guys who go there like we do over here up the Heights in the mornings at Burger King. We talk politics, sports or almost anything and we do it kind of loud too.

One of my longtime friends is Martin "Mossy" Martin. He is definitely a Mission Hill character. He and I actually worked together for a while over at the Shattuck Hospital. He's a neighborhood newspaper guy who's been writing a must-see column in the *Mission Hill Gazette* for years and years. He seems to know everybody and thinks about Mission Hill.

When I saw him this past Tuesday morning he told me, "Can you guys over at Burger King keep the noise down. We can't hear ourselves think." Over here, we can't even hear ourselves talking. We have a theme song. It's by the O'Jays from back in 1972 called "99 Arguments." That's all we seem to do sometimes.

WAKING UP TO HAROLD MELVIN & THE BLUE NOTES

When my alarm went off one day this week, I was awakened by a great tune by Harold Melvin & the Blue Notes. This is great, great R & B sound. Love it. Teddy Pendergrass was the lead singer and, boy, was he great with The Blue Notes. He replaced David Ebo. Anyone out there care to say which guy was better at the mic?

By the way, here is some trivia. What was this band's original name? Answer later in this column. Don't cheat and look below.

Oh yeah, one more thing speaking about Pendergrass. Have you really ever listened to Teddy do "Turn off the lights"? What a great mood song and great for slow dancing too.

HAPPY BIRTHDAYS TO ...
Gene Simmons from the band KISS just turned 73 on August 25th. Geoff Downes of Asia turned 70 years old the same day.

EXPANDING MY VOICE ONLINE

I recently started sending items to two great online news outlets. One is: *EastBoston.com*

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE
Notice is hereby given by Todisco Services, Inc., of 171 Boston Street, Salem, MA pursuant to the provisions of Mass G.L. c. 25B, Section 39A, that they will sell the following vehicles on or after September 17, 2012 beginning at 9:00 a.m. by public or private sale to satisfy their garage keepers lien for towing, storage, and notices of sale.

2007 ACURA RDX
Vin # 5J8TB18267A007060
Vehicles are being stored at multiple Todisco Services, Inc. locations, and may be viewed by appointment only.
Signed
Todisco Services, Inc.
092, 0909 & 0919/2012

by Frank Conte and the second is: *Reverebeach.com* by Bob Upton. Check both out. What a great news source and remembrances of past years.

Check out my piece on all the constant-development going on in East Boston at *eastboston.com*. The other piece at: *reverebeach.com* is a great old memory piece of mine from my childhood days going to the beach and amusements down at Revere Beach.

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

It is almost time for the celebration if you are a graduate of East Boston High School, Classes of 1972 & 1973. Come to your 50th reunion, Saturday, September 17th, Hilton Garden Inn. For more information, contact Jim Kearney at: *jkebh72@gmail.com* or Karen Buttiglieri at: *kbuttebh73@gmail.com*.

I GUESS IT'S A NOT SO GREEN NEW DEAL

Here's a good question for folks out there. What are we supposed to do when either electric car batteries or solar panels age out and to be replaced? I just found out what the answer is to these questions. Both items will end up buried in a landfill somewhere. You heard me, buried under ground somewhere. Perhaps before we start marketing this so-called green technology, we ought to plan before these items start needing to be replaced. Just thinking out loud here.

FORD GOING ELECTRIC BY LAYING OFF 3,000 U.S. WORKERS?

The Ford Motor Company has started running their TV commercials for electric vehicles, like the new electric Mustang and the new electric line of Ford 150 pickups. However, they also just announced they are laying off their U.S. employees

According to Ford, more of their vehicles will now be "built" in Mexico where there is plenty of cheap labor to be had. Tech-

nically, the cars will be assembled in Mexico after China ships over all the parts necessary to "build" a vehicle.

Then and only then will vehicles be shipped across the border to be sold here as domestic vehicles. All sounds like hocus-pocus, blue smoke and mirrors to me. Where is Big Labor on this? What actions are they taking, if any?

JUST IN ONLINE INBOX

A few issues back I wondered what you readers out there thought who did "The Sun Ain't Gonna Shine Anymore" and Loretta Dulong emailed me regarding the many versions of this hit song. She says the song was written by Gaudio & Crewe in 1965 for Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons. It was also released in 1966 by the Walker Brothers. She stated, The Four Seasons & Frankie Valli was her favorite version and the Walker Brothers her second favorite.

STILL FEEL BAD ABOUT WHITNEY HOUSTON

One day this past week I had Music Channel 509 on my TV and the voice came on my TV. None other than Whitney Houston was singing "The Greatest Love of All" and I remembered how great that 1985 single was and how impactful the lyrics were too.

She had a voice like few others and this particular song in very many ways was really all about her. After her death in 2012, the lyrics made one cry out in sadness.

Houston had so much going for herself and sadly it seemed in her life she could make such bad choices and in the end it took her down much too soon. There were so many more songs never sung. It all ended too soon and tragically for her.

ANSWER TO TRIVIA QUESTION

Before there was Harold and those Blue Notes. There was CHARLEMAGNES.

GALLO & Co.
Real Estate
Mattéo Gallo
Appraisals
Sales & Rentals
376 North Street • Boston, MA 02113
(617) 523-2100 • Fax (617) 523-3530

NOBILE INSURANCE
MICHAEL F. NOBILE, CPCU
Email: *MNobile@NobileInsurance.com*
ALBANO F. PONTE, CEP
Financial and Estate Planning
Email: *AFPonte@msn.com*
Phone: 617-320-0022
BOSTON MEDFORD
30 Prince St., Boston, MA 02113 39 Salem St., Medford, MA 02155
617-523-6766 781-395-4200
FAX: 617-523-0078 FAX: 781-391-8493