

## Development Hell

by Brad Schreiber

### A Feast for the Eye and Mind

*The Stanley Kubrick Archive*, edited by Alison Castle (Taschen.com)

There is no lack of books on the great visionary director Stanley Kubrick. But this deliciously oversized serving includes tabbed sections featuring images from all his films, beginning to end, a 70-minute CD interview from 1966 and, in this definitive first edition, a strip of 12 frames from a 70 mm. print of *2001: A Space Odyssey*, owned by Kubrick himself. This glorious, mammoth undertaking also provides 800 items from the archive, most never seen before, including photos, posters, sketches, production designs, correspondence and notes. Including essays and articles and interviews with Kubrick, and printed by Taschen with the blessing of **Christiane Kubrick** and her brother **Jan Harlan** (who produced Kubrick's last four films), this *Archive* has everything but samples of hair from the iconoclastic, perfectionist master to whom cinema owes so much.

*Backwards into the Future: The Recorded History of the Firesign Theatre* by Frederick C. Wiebel, Jr. (Firezine.net)

L.A.'s surreally funny foursome are as hard to categorize as they are to his-

toricize, but this compendium has interviews and archival photos, with discography, photo chronology and delightful bits of brilliantly silly symbology all along the way. Wiebel, who is the Grand Poobah of Firesigniana, having documented them hysterically and historically through his *Firezine* publication, has now put it all between two covers and allows us to eat it raw. **Ken Kesey's** back cover comment that "these people are revolutionaries" is most apt, for **Phil Proctor**, **Peter Bergman**, **David Ossman** and **Phil Austin** have predicted so much of where we have gone. Firesign is the quantum mechanics of comedy. They cover space and time simultaneously and despite our delight, we cannot explain where they are at any given moment.

*Leo Kottke: Home and Away Revisited* (Mvdb2b.com)

At long last, this guitar phenomenon and quirky raconteur gets the DVD tribute he has long deserved. Music Video Distributors has put together his sold-out, 1988 concert at Toronto's Bathurst Street Theater with previously unseen footage on the road. The six- and twelve-string and slide guitar work is utterly transporting, and so too are Kottke's side performances with **Michael Hedges** backstage in Nashville. There's some picking and grinning with icons **Chet Atkins** and **Doc Watson**, and the quality of the camerawork and sound during the Toronto performance is simply tops. This writer has been awaiting the release of the original concert which aired on PBS, and this music DVD of Kottke is a prayer answered...and exceeded.

*Noam Chomsky: Imperial Grand Strategy* (AKPress.org)

Life is not all fun and games, and this AK Press DVD features MIT linguist and socio-political scholar Chomsky in three different appearances. First is Chomsky in Manchester, NH, followed by an appearance at Merrimack College and finally an interview with **Barry Pateman** of the Emma Goldman Archives. Ranging from American world dominance to Al-Qaeda to control of attitude and opinion, there is plenty of room for deep thought among the 220 minutes included.

*Caught in the Crossfire: The Untold Story of Falluja* directed by **Mark Manning** (ConceptionMedia.net)

To this date, the American public still does not fully comprehend the total devastation of the Iraq city of Falluja, including the abrogation of rules of war. Director Mark Manning risked his life to shoot this 18-minute documentary, un-embedded, showing not only the utter destruction of a city the size of Cincinnati but how its remaining citizens still have no infrastructure and are virtual prisoners in their former city, now rubble. This is raw, powerful filmmaking, which relies on truth, not gloss, to condemn one of the worst atrocities in modern warfare.

You can enter this writer's world un-embedded at the *Brad Schreiber Homepage*, [www.brashcyber.com](http://www.brashcyber.com), or *Storytech Literary Consulting* at [www.thewritersjourney.com](http://www.thewritersjourney.com).

# Missio Impos

by Tony Medley

Ethan Hunt (Tom Cruise) is strapped in a chair with a gun to his wife's head. The billionaire villain Owen Davian (Philip Seymour Hoffman) threatens to pull the trigger every count of ten if Ethan doesn't tell him where the "rabbit" is. The count reaches ten, and the film flashes back to Ethan's engagement party (Michelle Monaghan), which Ethan is pulled away from by a cue a fellow agent, Lincoln Russell (Russell). Thus starts all the action and special effects, which is all this movie is. There is no character development, no plot, and absolute premise. It's the incoherent James Bond franchise at its logical extreme.

That's not to say it's

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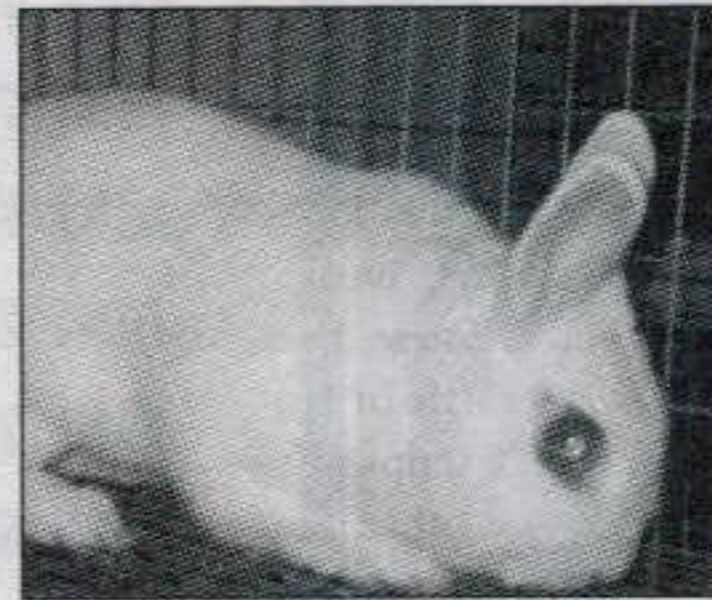
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