

REVIEWS DVDS



THE MOST GIGANTIC LYING MOUTH OF ALL TIME (W.A.S.T.E. PRODUCTS LTD.)

So Radiohead almost had their own TV show, but the funding was cut at the last second, after they made four episodes already. All four episodes are presented together for this DVD. They consist of four creepy animated films with a Radiohead soundtrack, haphazard colors and images, some words scrolling across the screen, and Thom Yorke giggling throughout the interview. Some of it is nice and pretty. Some is stupid and bad. *Lying Mouth* comes off not unlike *Liquid Television*, or the kind of thing projected on a wall at a rave. *Lying Mouth* gets a solid B— a must-see for hysterical Radiohead fans, but even those types are likely to watch this more than once. MEG VAN HANDEL

NASHVILLE REBEL
Jay Sheridan (BEAR FAMILY)

The late Waylon Jennings left a brilliant legacy of uncompromising outlaw country behind, but he doesn't rebel much in this 1966 star vehicle. He plays a humble, small-town country singer ("I don't even have a necktie!") who suddenly becomes a star and loses every-

thing, giving the viewer the rare option to choose between the old or new soundtrack. While not a stellar introduction for those unfamiliar with the Residents' work, Icky Flix will confirm what fans already know: When the Residents aren't busy trying to reinvent the wheel, they still

"I and my musicians are musical astronauts. We sail the galaxy through the medium of sound, and take our audience with us whether they want to go or not."
— Sun Ra

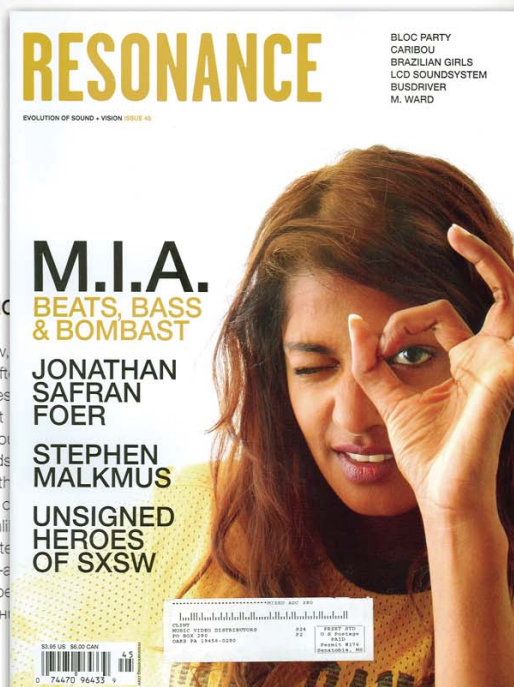
THE MAGIC SUN
Phill Niblock (ATAVISTIC)

This striking non-linear film captures Sun Ra and his Arkestra in free flight. Composed of high-contrast monochromatic images, this is a skittish, moody work accompanied by a soundtrack culled from "Saturn" sessions—all quintessentially difficult Ra compositions. A jittery, high-strung rhythm section paces quietly in the background while a series of musical arguments between brass and keys takes center stage, climaxing in a fluttering, discordant gasp. Director Phill Niblock shoots the players in stark relief and extreme close-up, a ghostly effect that eventually abstracts into vibrating streaks of blinding white over deep black space. Niblock's visual experiment hits only one note, but at fourteen minutes, doesn't have a chance to tire, and the Arkestra's vibrant, celestial swing stays airborne.

Better still are the complementary photo galleries of the Arkestra circa 1965, each narrated with rare audiotape of recitations from Sun Ra and selected messengers. The vintage images include both candid and posed shots of Arkestra members during their New York residency, clad in Ra-issue space clothes, looking "far out, in a cool manner."

Sun Ra himself discusses his early career, describes the "Sound of Joy," explains the importance of his futuristic garb ("the space age calls for space wear") and declares that "truth is bad." His sermons are hypnotic, sometimes delivered in a hoarse whisper and backed with random keystrokes on an unamplified electric piano.

The brevity of the package (30 minutes total) means only the most dedicated seekers should bite, but the experience will edify those familiar with the Sun Ra lexicon. Neophytes should first experience *Space Is the Place*, the 1973 sci-fi black-power musical-action-comedy that frames the Sun Ra mysticism in a comparatively conventional cinematic language. *The Magic Sun* is an advanced course in futuristic free jazz, and meticulous viewing reveals strange bouts of wisdom. FRED BELDIN



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