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*Season One*



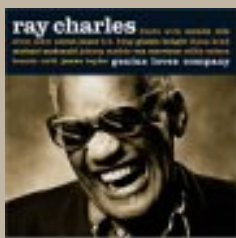
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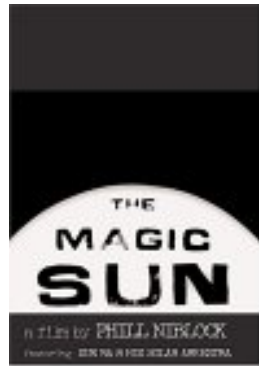
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## The Magic Sun-a film by Phill Niblock featuring Sun Ra & His Solar Arkestra

Posted by [Neal Gardner](#) on March 17, 2005 10:11 PM (See [all posts by Neal Gardner](#))

Filed under: [Music: Ambient](#), [Video](#), [Video: Music](#) - Scroll down to read [comments on this story](#) and/or add one of your own.



### [Sun Ra - The Magic Sun](#)

DVD from *Music Video Distribu*

Release date: 08 March, 2005

Oh the '60s were weird, I'll tell you what. This film from 1966 by Phill Niblock is not actually a film of Sun Ra. Well it is and it isn't. The film was shot in a negative process and with extreme close-ups which make identification of any one object difficult. It's what they used to call an underground film. The background/foreground music is by Sun Ra and the images of black and white become an abstract painting. Disengaging the discerning eye is recommended for best viewing experience. Like the bit on David Letterman, "Is This Anything?," I would answer, "This is something."

## Hot TOPICS

On [Just Business: Could the WTO Lead to Reefer Reform?](#) by Eric Olsen *certainly all of the same restrictions that apply ...* [\[more\]](#)

On [Two Hideous Crimes](#) by Eric Olsen *I did not have the impression Victor's idealism is...* [\[more\]](#)

On [Terri Schiavo: What's a Parent to Do?](#) by gerri *my niece bacame a young brain damaged woman,in 198...* [\[more\]](#)

On [Mitch Hedberg and Stephen Lynch: Sept. 23, 2004, Celebrity Theater, Phoenix, AZ](#) by matt *This is interesting to read. I just saw him at Car...* [\[more\]](#)

On [Bad 'N' Ruin: The Faces Story \(a random playlist\)](#) by Anna *The Faces mucic was not "ragged and sloppy"...wher...* [\[more\]](#)

On [Cocteau Twins Pull Out of Coachella '05, Cancel Reunion](#) by Eric Olsen *very sad, I was pretty excited about this - I will...* [\[more\]](#)

On [Moving the Rabbit Hole](#) by Eric Olsen *hmm, that was an odd way for me to put it, wasn't ...* [\[more\]](#)

On [Most Important Video Games Ever \(Part I\)](#) by

[AMERICAN IDOL 4 -  
Ongoing News and Reviews](#)

[MICHAEL JACKSON on Trial](#)

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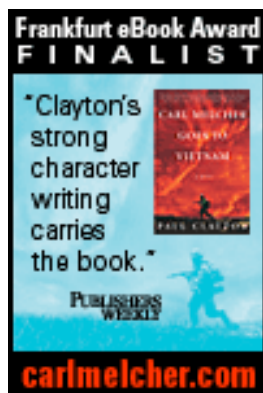
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Three free jazz compositions--  
"Celestial Fantasy," "Shadow  
World," "Strange Strings," are  
performed by The Arkestra which in  
parts reminds me very much of  
Miles Davis's work in the '70s. The  
trumpet player sends out random  
notes which somehow don't seem  
so random. I'd swear Miles was  
playing the part. Sun Ra was  
definitely ahead of his time,  
whatever interplanetary measure  
he was using.

Also included on the disc are four  
short recitations by Sun Ra  
recorded in the '60s. He  
accompanies himself on Wurlitzer  
electric piano on three of them.  
They seem to have been recorded  
in a room somewhere, street noises  
are heard along with the sound of  
the recorder being turned on and  
off. My favorite title of the bunch is  
"Truth Is Bad."

Sun Ra was a very unique,  
talented, visionary, dedicated  
musician. He was born in May 22,  
1914 in Birmingham, Alabama and  
died May 30, 1993. His real name  
was Herman P. Blount and he was  
also known as Sonny. He changed  
his legal name to Le Sony'r Ra for  
reasons that I have not gone into  
here. Suffice it to say that he  
believed he was from another  
planet, and he very well might have  
been right. Click on the link to visit  
Joe Moudry's page which can  
provide much more information on  
Sun Ra. [http://www.dpo.uab.edu/  
~moudry/](http://www.dpo.uab.edu/~moudry/) There is a good article  
there, a text of a lecture given in  
1995 at the Alabama Jazz Hall of  
Fame by Robert Campbell of  
Clemson University.

Dennis G. Jerz  
*Old text games seem dull?  
Try some of the new one...  
[\[more\]](#)*

On [Coldplay and Filesharing](#)  
by Aaman  
*They aren't really ditching it -  
they'll see comme... [\[more\]](#)*

On [Congressional Zombies  
Feeding on Terri Schiavo's  
Corpse](#) by Steve S  
*Answer B. they have the  
authority to seek retri...  
[\[more\]](#)*

On [Bin Laden Thanks  
Administration Officials For  
Planning "Assistance"](#) by  
Victor Plenty  
*It's my duty to help those  
who cannot help themsel...  
[\[more\]](#)*

On [Why does the Catholic  
Church hate Walmart?](#) by  
Victor Plenty  
*Corporations managed only  
for stockholders and not...  
[\[more\]](#)*

On [ENCOUNTERED CLAY  
AIKEN IN ACEH](#) by Reg  
*I am amazed that an article  
discussing Clay's trip...  
[\[more\]](#)*

On [U2 Breaks More Records:  
Four Consecutive Shows Sold  
Out In Toronto](#) by Phillip Winn  
*Darned pre-sales! [\[more\]](#)*

On [Season that Cigar  
Humidor, Boy!](#) by matthew  
Rosen  
*I do not think you could ever  
properly season a hu...  
[\[more\]](#)*

On [The Minuteman Project](#) by  
Bubba ??  
*I too am a MMP participant. I  
live in AZ about 80 ... [\[more\]](#)*

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**American Artist C. Tögel**



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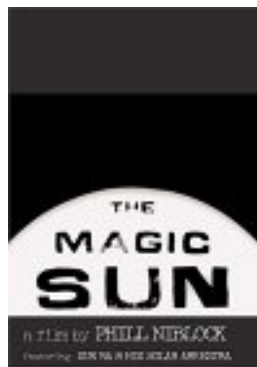
Click Here for  
Original Art by Collected  
American Artist C. Tögel

Full-time professional artist Conni Tögel is listed in MARQUIS Who's Who of American Woman as well as on AskART - the "American Artists Bluebook". Conni's oil and watercolor paintings have been published in several magazines and are found in galleries and collections in countries around the world.

[Read more...](#)

Filmmaker Phill Niblock, web research shows, is a recognized minimalist musician and filmmaker, and director of Experimental Intermedia, based in New York City. He has worked with Thurston Moore and Lee Ranaldo of Sonic Youth, if you need current references. He has performed in Europe this year, and also Toronto, Detroit, Milwaukee, San Francisco, and Austin. [phillniblock.com/](http://phillniblock.com/)

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Posted by [Neal Gardner](#) on March 17, 2005 10:11 PM (See [all posts by Neal Gardner](#))  
Filed under: [Music: Ambient](#), [Video](#), [Video: Music](#)

**Comment on this post and/or leave a message for the author here.**

Comment 1 posted by [godoggo](#) on March 18, 2005 12:43 AM:

The only Sun Ra I've enjoyed much (granted I haven't heard all that

On [Nashville Rock Scene Post 1978 part one of four](#) by wally bangs  
*Great to hear that The Dusters are still going str...*  
[\[more\]](#)

On [Book Critics Diss and Dish](#) by Rodney Welch  
*Nice roundup, Carlo, sounds like it was a good mee...*  
[\[more\]](#)

On [R&B singer gouges his eye out?](#) by Meo  
*Baby we still love you no matta what boo.... its a...*  
[\[more\]](#)

On [1984](#) by jadester  
*thanks! i've also got to punch out a review of Bra...*  
[\[more\]](#)

On [Death and Dying: Thoughts on Terri Schiavo](#) by jadester  
*i couldn't have put it better myself. I either wa...*  
[\[more\]](#)

On [Chavez Rocks!!!](#) by Aaman  
*That is correct, Divya, but because of the realiti...*  
[\[more\]](#)

On [Kim Mathers Arrested](#) by jason  
*And I hope America gets better grammar programs in...*  
[\[more\]](#)

On [Debut Album Review: Easley's Room Noises](#) by mrbenning  
*Thanks a bunch, Temple!*  
[\[more\]](#)

On [U2 TO REHEARSE FOR TOUR IN VANCOUVER](#) by jason  
*Pattapper: thanks for the input, enlighten us o...*  
[\[more\]](#)

**Open threads on:**  
[Music](#), [Video/Film/TV](#), [Books/Magazines](#), [Culture/](#)

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### Top Posters

Most prolific Blogcritics for February

- [bookofjoe](#) (75)
- [Eric Olsen](#) (59)
- [Jan Herman](#) (33)
- [Chris Beaumont](#) (31)
- [DrPat](#) (29)
- [Aaman Lamba](#) (28)
- [Marty Dodge](#) (28)
- [Chris Muir](#) (27)
- [Katharine Donelson](#) (22)
- [Matt Paprocki](#) (22)

[\[Leaderboard\]](#)

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much) is his stuff from the "50s and early 60s. It's not that I have anything against free jazz – quite the contrary – but that the musicianship of his sidement was generally much better in the early stuff. James Spaulding, one of my favorites, leaps to mind.

### Post a comment

(Or ping: <http://blogcritics.org/mt/tb/26722>)

[ Please read the [Official Comment Policy](#).]

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URL:

Comments:

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### Top Commenters

Most prolific Commenters for last 24 hours (updated 12:46)

- [Victor Plenty](#) (27)
- [Dave Nalle](#) (23)
- [Eric Olsen](#) (16)
- [Eric Berlin](#) (15)
- [Temple Stark](#) (14)
- [Richard Porter](#) (11)
- [gonzo marx](#) (8)
- [Steve S](#) (8)
- [Brandon Weber](#) (7)
- [SFC Ski](#) (7)

[\[Leaderboard\]](#)

### NEW RELEASES THIS WEEK

- CDs by [Al Barger](#)
- DVDs by [Duke De Mondo](#)
- Movies by [Chris Beaumont](#)

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- [Michael Z. Williamson](#)
- [Tom Verlaine](#)
- [Daniel J. Flynn](#)
- ["Mr P" - young Bush administration operative](#)

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