

Reviews

interesting film. The movie starts with Klimt (**John Malkovich**) dying of syphilis and flashing back on his life. And where mental illness, optical brilliance and a mess-load of nude artist's models would seem to be the makings of a great film, it ends up being pretentious, light on substance and heavy on the sounds of screaming women and breaking glass. The wooden acting of Malkovich and co-star **Saffron Burrows** only add to the film's unpleasantness—an uneasy look into the life of an uncommonly good painter. —James Bennett

Robson Arms: Season 2

VSC / CTV

Street: 2.19

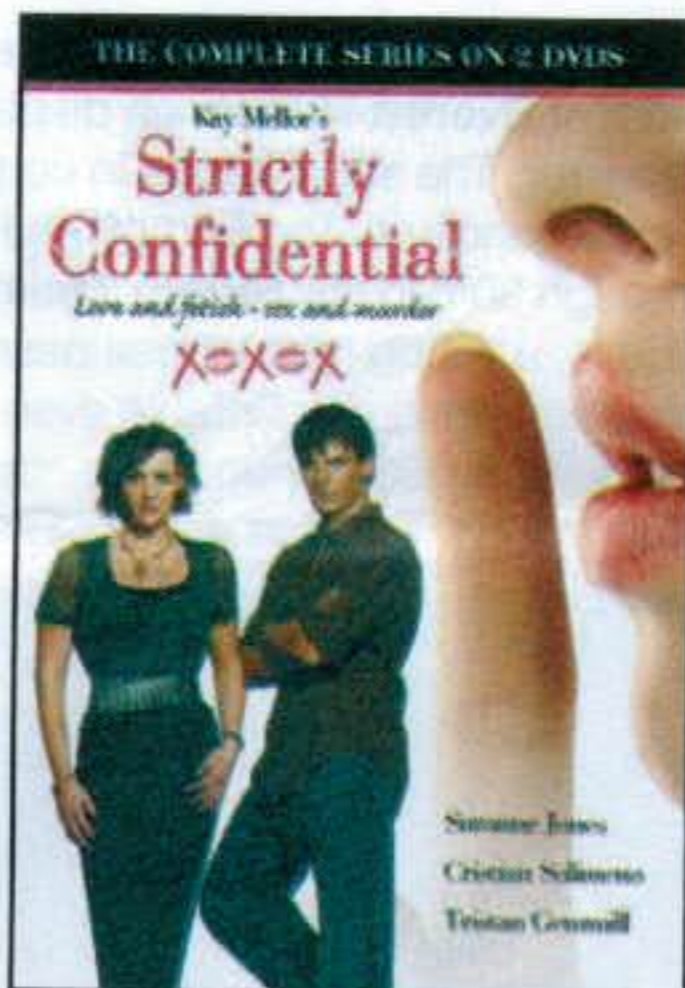
A television show whose episodes are based around an apartment complex in the West End of Vancouver, BC the second season of the Canadian television show **Robson Arms**, was a delightful surprise! Every episode tosses the viewer into the lives of a different tenant each week. Behind these doors we find every stereotype one can muster: the gay couple, the pot-smokers, the compulsive liar, the unhappy couple, the pregnant couple, the lonely sex-ridden girl, the Italian super. But every character has their own quirks and nothing here screams of standardized Canadian culture. I found this show to be quite charming and touching at times, by investing the viewer in the character's lives. The series is a dramedy, the storytelling was funny and quirky, but not dramatic enough to label it a drama. The unspoken tie-ins and reoccurrences are apparent to the watchful eye, like the statue that urinates before something sexual happens. Though this is only aired on CTV in Canada, you can purchase this DVD anywhere. —Adam Palcher

Strictly Confidential

Koch Vision

Street: 2.05

It was February 8th. Reviews were due in two days and I hadn't even opened *Strictly Confidential* because, frankly, it looked retarded. Finally, at 9 p.m. that night, I thought to myself, "I'll skim this thing and just say how bad it sucked and get it over with." This turned into watching the whole thing. All. Five. Hours. ... In one sitting. I was absolutely addicted. It was like crack that you ingest with your eyes and ears. *Strictly Confidential* is a British TV series that tells the story of a cop-turned-sex-therapist who serves as a police consultant on an apparent accidental auto-erotic asphyxiation death. Also, it follows this same



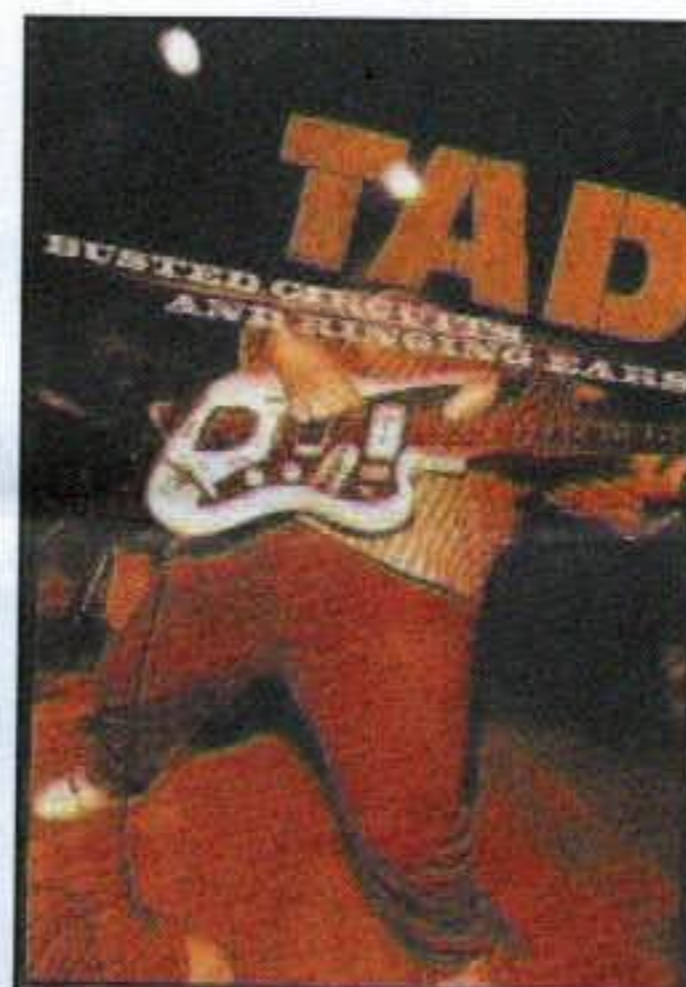
therapist through an affair with her husband's brother, who also happens to be a therapist at her establishment (got that?). What makes this series interesting is that it is a rather intelligent story that explores a pretty broad range of human emotions, where most TV shows aren't made to make you think at all. It switches from light-hearted comedy to a story of forbidden love to gritty crime drama in the span of a few scenes fairly frequently. As a result, the show always manages to remain interesting. The quality of the filming and acting is pretty ace as well. Compound that with the fact that this series is more raunchy and risqué than anything on American TV and it feels more like a series of movies with a continuous story than a TV show. I feel like I can safely recommend this and I suggest that you go buy it if you want to see it because I think it's gonna be a while before you can peep this on KUED. —Aaron Day

TAD: Busted Circuits and Ringing Ears

MVD Visual

Street: 02.19

Grunge turned music on its head in the early 90s, fusing standard garage music with 70s hard rock in such a way as to put a glorious end to hair metal. And while many bands came along to reap the monetary benefits associated with grunge stardom, a handful peaked too soon—namely, **Mudhoney** and **TAD**. Using archival footage, period interviews and music videos, this DVD recounts the story of TAD, a Seattle-based hard rock band that was releasing records on **Sub Pop** as early as 1988. This was a full five years before the major-label feeding frenzy that followed the successes of **Nirvana**,



Soundgarden and Pearl Jam.

The story is augmented with recent interviews with the band and with fellow Seattle musicians **Krist Novoselic** (Nirvana), **Mark Arm** (Mudhoney), **Kim Thayil** (Soundgarden) and **Chad Channing** (Nirvana). It is an incredible story, and in its telling, we are exposed to a really HEAVY band—one that really should have made it big. —James Bennett

Thunderbirds 40th Anniversary DVD Megaset

A&E Home Video

Street: 1.20

Possibly the most famous of the puppet-themed TV shows that were made in the 1960s by **Gerry Anderson**, the Thunderbirds paved the way for puppets in mainstream media. I'm not talking about your run-of-the-mill Sesame Street characters here; I'm talking drama, I'm talking action, I'm talking about sex appeal, damn it! You may have never heard of the Thunderbirds; I used to catch reruns back when it was alright to wear sweat pants in public. You can follow this team of super-elite puppets as they cruise around in spaceships to save the world. This series has inspired several famous movies, such as *Team America World Police* and ... well, that's about it. Anderson creates amazingly detailed miniature sets for the show, and at times I forget that the slow-moving, stiff characters are even puppets. I can't wait for Thunderbirds: the IMAX experience. —Ben Trentelman

The Wheels on the Bus: Mango's Big Dog Parade

Porchlight

Street: 01.22

Watching television made for a two-year-old is always a painful experience. This is compounded even further in the straight-to-DVD shit that kid-friendly production companies prolifically churn out. And even when a video is lauded by parenting groups and features voiceover work by rock legend **Roger Daltrey**, it is still impossible for anyone over the age of three to watch. On this half-hour episode (the third in a decidedly evil series) children get to ride a bus, visit a garbage dump and listen to a **Puff the Magic Dragon** rip-off (Daltrey) sing songs about taking turns and sharing. It is horrible, and it relies far too much on the incorrect notion that kids are reasonable, and not a gang of selfish little slobbery bastards. And while the vocal presence of Roger Daltrey may make you think about **The Who**, the real question should be WHY? —James Bennett

Zelazowa: What They Want Us to Be, We Can't Always Be

Ship King Media

Street: 10.19

I regret I cannot keep to my



typical wit, but this DVD requires brutal bluntness. This is one of the biggest wastes of time I have experienced in my entire life. That includes all of the years I went to church. This fucking DVD even beats church on the boring scale! Although the blurb assures me that Zelazowa is "the only band that matters," a more accurate statement would be "Zelazowa is to music as licking up vomit is to fun." Fortunately, the DVD barely forces me to listen to the pointless racket that is Zelazowa. Instead, the filmmakers opted to show random clips of scenery for nearly five minutes. The people who made this DVD must have taken an intro to abhorrent documentary class. Jon Robertson recently gave Zelazowa's album *Polymorph* a positive review in this magazine. I am sorry if this caused anyone to give this shit a chance. —Joey Richards