





“If I’m doing a fake movie, it’s going to be a fake hit.”
-- ‘Lester Siegel’ (Alan Arkin, *Argo*)

“When I can’t talk sense, I talk metaphor.”
-- John Philpot Curran (1750-1817)

Simples!

It is with tremendous pleasure this latest edition of *The FFix* introduces fanzine fandom to the talented young artist Penny Hicks. I managed to score myself an original cover illustration with a promise of a toy meercat but that’s clearly not going to suffice in our future dealings, although I believe her father Dave still works for beer (you’d think that’d be cheaper, but..).

In Passing

A couple of decades back, might any of us have expected Peter Jackson (*Bad Taste*, *Meet the Feebles*) could some day direct award-winning adaptations of JRR Tolkien’s fantasy novels, or Sam Raimi (*Evil Dead*, *Darkman*) the hugely entertaining *Oz the Great and Powerful*? What fresh cinematic surprises await us, I wonder: Quentin Tarantino’s *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*, Eli Roth’s *Noddy in Toyland* or Lars von Trier’s *Swallows and Amazons*? To be frank, given the current state of Hollywood, none of these would particularly surprise me.

Language Barriers

Back when the 2007 adaptation of *Sweeney Todd* was released, there were apparently a significant number of Johnny Depp / Tim Burton fans who turned up without realising it was a musical, a fact the trailers had been careful to sidestep. I suspect something similar is going on with the romantic comedy *Populaire*, since the television ad I caught last week didn’t include any dialogue, which would have tended to tip audiences off the film is French and subtitled (The second tv ad I saw included one line of dialogue, *in English*, and that struck me as significantly more duplicitous.)



Another case in point: the trailers for *All You Need Is Love* pushed the presence of its Irish lead, Pierce Brosnan, whilst managing to dodge the fact it began life as the Danish romcom *Den skaldede frisør* (*The Bald Hairdresser*) and the bulk of the film is in either that language or Italian.

None of which is a particular worry for me, I should add. Some of the best films I've seen in the past five years have been subtitled, but I suspect I'm in a minority there and this does strike me as verging on sharp practice.

Down the Loccol

- Chris Holmes, Montreal: "After such a prolonged absence, it is good to have you back. A regular schedule is a wonderful thing to aim for but very hard to maintain. I love the comic books that Paul Grist has put out over the years, but waiting for the next issue is a given... he is terrible at meeting publication dates and he never really explains the delays. His latest creation, *Mudman*, is a typical example."

I'm a big fan of *Jack Staff*, but the gaps between issues meant I opted for the digests.

"I am always amazed at your involvement with the fandom of the moment. Truthfully, I was always one of the people on the fringe of Fandom and late Seventies were as close as I came to being an active member. The last convention that I attended was the Worldcon in Winnipeg in 1994, can that really be twenty years ago... I love the idea of Fandom but I'm like Groucho Marx, I wouldn't want to belong to any organization that would have me as a member. At the age of 56, I know myself well enough to know that I am a watcher and not a doer. Therefore, I salute you and all the others like you, who throw themselves into the organizational activities that make Fandom what it is.

"Cartooning is still my greatest passion. Thank God that I still have that, age has robbed me of so many things. I liked the illustrations in your latest *FFix* by David 'Tozo' O'Connell. Is he a local fan or someone from your wide circle of international friends?"

David's a well-known British comics artist. Good job I have those incriminating photographs of him and the Queen Mother at Spearmint Rhino.

Needless to say, Chris, I'd be delighted to carry new work by your good self.

"The paragraph concerning your 'date' was very moving, at least for me. I told you, long ago, that I could scarcely imagine what it would be like to lose my wife and then manage to navigate the future without her. You are to be commended for attending bereavement counselling; most of us need help to cope with life and so few of us have the strength of character to actually seek it out. How long have you been attending the counselling?"

It was just seven weeks in total, but it certainly helped move me forward to a place where I'm finally able to consider a new relationship. It's unlikely to happen, in the next future anyway, but at least I'm there.

IAHF: Heloise Tudor; Rachael Wright; Kirsty Clarke; Penny Hicks (with an rather rude birthday cartoon); Sybil Danning (with a surprise birthday "xo"); Loren MacGregor ("I can now claim I've actually read a fanzine this year..."); Phil Plumbly; Pete Lyon; Brandy Lee ("Congrats on the date. That's a big first step!"); David Wake; Mike Cheater ("I'm finding the Kindle Fire a good platform for reading zines and they make ideal reading material on the bus when heading out to jobs. Must get round to loccing some (which I can also do on the Fire when I get rid of the awful predictive spell checker which wants to totally ruin whatever I write.)"); Nic Farey ("Glad to see it back, mate!"); Ang Rosin; Dave Haren; Paul Birch; Andy Hooper; Ned Brooks; Jeremy Grimoldby ("Good read!"); Lucy Huntzinger ("Excellent stuff! If I had anything

essayish to write, I'd seriously consider putting out another fanzine, but... I don't."); Lesley Ward ("Ta for this. Pleased that you've been seeing so much of your godchildren and also taken up a bit of drawing again. Must put the beads aside and get the paints out myself someday soon."); Richard Gray ("I often allege that brevity is poverty, but that's more a question of use of language than a desire to have my ageing eyes overwhelmed with screen work! Do keep them coming..."); Michael Abbott; Cathy Palmer-Lister; Brad Foster; Lloyd Penney (with news that Yvonne snagged a role in S6 E12 of the Canadian cop drama *Murdoch Mysteries*); Jonathan Cowie ("Note you interviewed Novacon 42 guest of honour Jaine Fenn. 'Jaine' is an alumnus of Hatfield PSIFA, which I founded in 1978; of course she was a generation after me but we bumped into each other at a couple of the Hatfield Shoestringcons. Anyway, good to see that she was a GoH."); Theresa Derwin; Teddy Harvia; Siobhan Wilson (whose EP *Glorified Demons* I heartily recommend).



This thirtieth edition of *The FFix* is dated 3rd June 2013. Edited by Steve Green, who can be contacted via stevegreen@livejournal.com or as [stevegreen666](#) on Skype. Cover illustration by Penny Hicks; logo by Pete Lyon, cartoon on page two by Brad Foster; thanks, everyone! My usual gratitude to Bill Burns for his generous hosting over at [eFanzines.com](#). A Gutter Press production: filmed before a live audience, because the dead ones begin to stink after a while.

If you can read this, you're too close.