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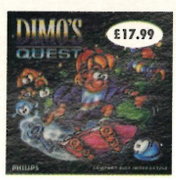
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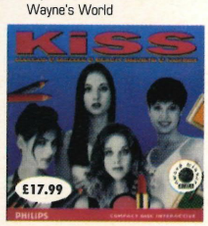
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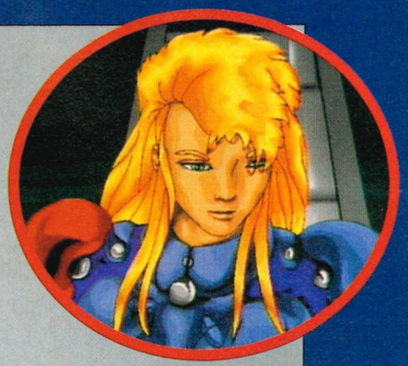
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Jessica Darkhill, the heroine of Chaos Control, will appear on CDi in February



Christmas is fast approaching and independent distributors are tripping over themselves to pump out their old VHS assets on Video CD. This is great news for the consumer, who will at last have a wider choice of software to play with. The Video CD catalogue is growing by the month.

But alarm bells are already ringing in the industry. In the rush to pump out existing video material on CD, some companies are forgetting one vital factor: quality. MPEG encoding is not an easy business, as Philips and other pioneers have realised. Despite the move towards real-time encoding systems (ie one minute of film takes one minute to encode), there is no quick, cheap, easy way of transferring video to CD. Picture quality can, to say the least, vary considerably.

A few of the discs that have been sent to our office are, quite simply, atrocious. You might be prepared to forgive a bit of graininess on a cult film such as Halloween, but there is simply no excuse for pixallated blobs flying all over the screen on superb concert footage from the Rolling Stones. The buying public will not tolerate such shoddy results for long, and if poor quality discs continue to appear for sale, the long-term damage to Video CD's reputation could be considerable.

In future, CDi Magazine will rate discs for encoding whenever possible. If we are previewing a title which is not yet available, we'll reserve judgement.

Andy Clough,
Editor



Steve Austin gets trigger happy in Scrooged, a modern day interpretation of Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol



If Mutt has been driving you to distraction in Litil Divil, make use of our hot tips section

COVER
Cover designed by Ursula Morgan. Chaos Control, produced by Infogrames, France, illustrated by Bob Corley.



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GoldStar
PLANS HARDWARE LAUNCH



Top to bottom: current player, GP1-11 portable, the new model

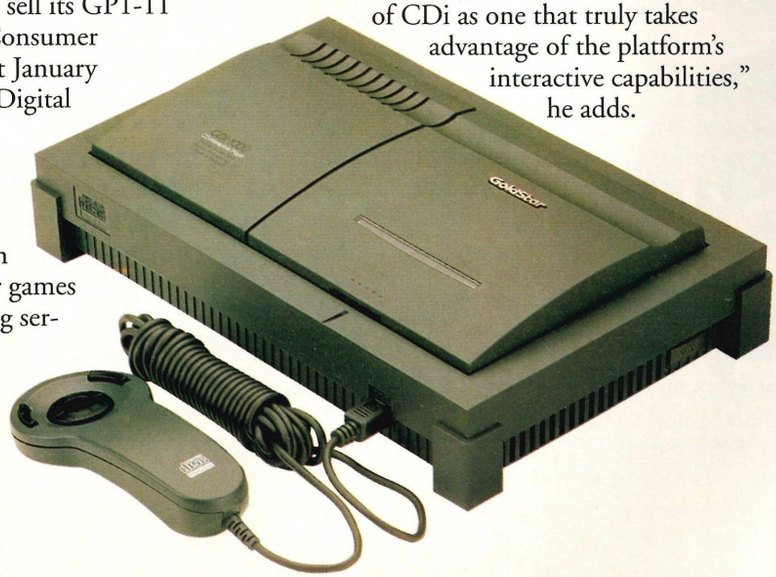
Electronics giant GoldStar is to launch a range of CDi players in the UK and US. The company has already announced its plans for the US market, and will introduce its UK CDi models next year.

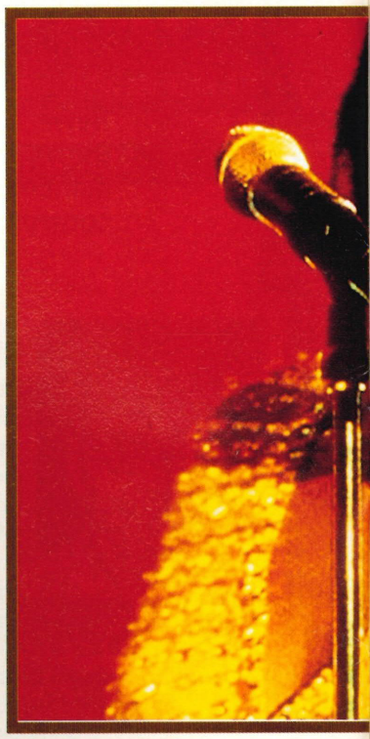
There will be two models for the UK. One is an adaptation of the Philips 450, branded with the GoldStar name (below right), which is likely to sell at an identical price to the Philips version at £299. There will also be a larger, more expensive model priced at £399 to compete directly with the Philips 210.

In the US, the company may also sell its GP1-11 portable player, first seen at the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas last January (above right), which has built-in Digital Video capability. The two other models will have the option of a DV upgrade.

But GoldStar will target its CDi players at the office and education market, rather than the computer games sector, according to UK marketing services manager Roger Thompson. The company has already unveiled its own 3DO player for the games market.

"The current view of CDi as a games player limits the technology's vast potential," says Jeff Mularkey, GoldStar's vice-president of marketing in the US. "GoldStar's aim is to position CDi technology as a versatile tool in the realm of education. We view our approach to the positioning of CDi as one that truly takes advantage of the platform's interactive capabilities," he adds.





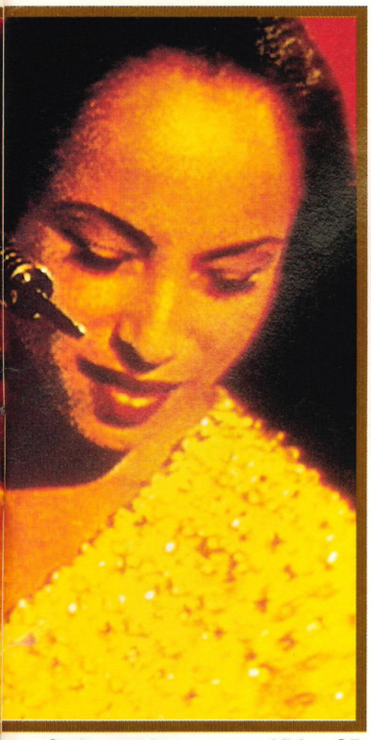
BURN:CYCLE TOPS THE LOT



Burn:Cycle scorched to No 1 in the all formats CD Gallup chart in November, beating off Rebel Assault on Mega CD, PC and Mac CD-ROM. The game also hit the number one spot in the single format CD chart, outperforming Rebel Assault on Mega CD and Doom II on PC CD-ROM.

The result is a stunning success for Philips Media and the game's developer, TripMedia. Such a result would have been unthinkable a year ago and is a huge boost to CDi's credibility as a games platform.

In addition, Philips Media has also emerged as the leading all formats CD software publisher for the third quarter of



Sade: coming soon on Video CD

CLASH OF THE VIDEO STARS

Music videos from Sade, The Clash, Judas Priest and The The are to be released on Video CD as a result of a deal between Sony Music and software company OmniMedia.

Sade will be the first release in December. The rest of the titles will be launched in January next year. Each will cost £17.99.

OmniMedia is the company responsible for the encoding of the first batch of music Video CD titles from Picture Music International (see issue 7) and has now signed production deals with Sony, Castle Communications, BMG Records and MCA Entertainment Group.

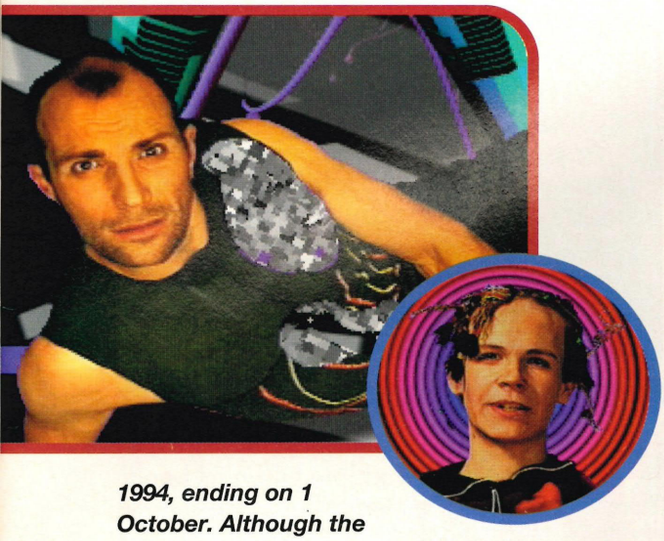
In addition to the Sony discs, OmniMedia has also produced a number of big-name Video CD titles for Castle Communications. These include Rolling Stones Live At The Max (two discs), Stevie Nicks: Live At Red Rocks, Belinda Carlisle: Runaway Live, Aretha Franklin: Live At Park West, Bob Marley: One Love Peace Concert, Fresh Live Cream and Alice Cooper: Prime Cuts. The Castle discs cost between £17.99 and £24.99 and have just been released (see our reviews, page 36).

The company says it has spent considerable time and effort improving its encoding techniques since the release of the first five PMI discs, which had a number of technical flaws. The PMI titles have been re-encoded and particular attention has been paid to picture quality and the audio quality on Kate Bush '94, which came in for severe criticism.

OmniMedia has also improved the controls on its discs and added fades between tracks, which are now much smoother. Operating instructions can be heard in French, German, Spanish, English and Italian.

In a separate deal with OmniMedia, video distributor Art House Productions is to release six titles from its film catalogue on Video CD. These are: La Grande Illusion, La Grande Bouffe, One Deadly Summer, The Navigator, The Scarecrow and The Chant of Jimmie Blacksmith.

OmniMedia: 081 974 6766
Castle Communications: 081 974 1021
Art House Productions: 071 253 1140



1994, ending on 1 October. Although the company controls all CDi publishing, the fact that it picked up 16.4 per cent of all CD sales, including CD-ROM, Mega CD, CD32 and Mac CD formats, is proof that its multi-platform publishing strategy is beginning to work.

"Many people in the industry haven't yet recognised just how big CDi is," says Simon Turner, Philips Media's senior vice-president. "This latest Gallup chart success is a double indication of the strength of the format as a whole and also that Philips Media is now emerging as a publisher in its own right."

There are three other CDi titles still in the single CD format chart: The 7th Guest, Mad Dog McCree and International Tennis Open. Burn:Cycle will be released on PC CD-ROM sometime next year.

VIRGIN BUYS ESP

Electronic Sound and Pictures, the software company which developed A Child Is Born on CDi, has been bought by Virgin Interactive Entertainment.

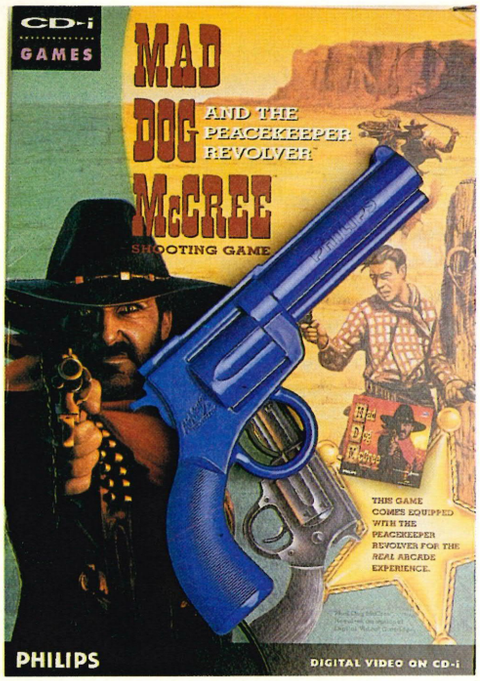
ESP, which also has close links with the music industry, was snapped up by Virgin when ESP's sister company, Next Technology, went into receivership. "VIE has acquired Electronic Sound and Pictures and the assets of Next Technology," says ESP director Graham Brown-Martin. "Unfortunately, Next Technology ran out of money and the other shareholders weren't very supportive." The main shareholders in Next Technology were Brown-Martin, Philips (through PolyGram) and communications giant Carlton.



Brown-Martin: will receive "formidable" backing from Virgin Interactive Entertainment

Fifteen of ESP's 20 staff have moved from the company's former base in Cambridge to Virgin Interactive's HQ in Ladbroke Grove, London. "Our focus will be music and non-fiction entertainment," says Brown-Martin. ESP has worked with a number of bands to develop interactive music titles. These include U2, The Shamen, The Grid and Nine Inch Nails (see profile, issue 6). As yet, none of these have been released. "We have dropped out of the U2 project, but we hope the Nine Inch Nails and The Shamen discs will come out on CDi and PC CD-ROM next year. We have also completed One World and One Tribe on PC and Macintosh CD-ROM for Virgin Sound & Vision," says Brown-Martin.

Although ESP will remain a separate unit within VIE, Brown-Martin says the company will receive "formidable" financial backing from Virgin.



TROUBLE SHOOTING

Philips has issued guidelines for using the gun with Mad Dog McCree after some consumers had difficulty calibrating it. It is important to stay in exactly the same place when calibrating the gun by shooting on the target at the top left and bottom right of the TV screen. After that, you must stay on exactly the same spot when playing the game and not move about, otherwise the calibration will be altered. For further information, please contact Philips Media on 071 911 3081/3091.

IN BED WITH MADONNA



Superstar Madonna is coming your way on Video CD this Christmas as part of a package of titles from video publisher VCI.

VCI has struck a deal with Philips Media to put such classic titles as In Bed With Madonna, Strictly Ballroom and the hit TV show Have I Got News For You on Video CD.

"The deal highlights the fact that Video CD is here to stay," says Philips Media director Trevor Southam.

The selection is drawn from VCI's catalogue of best-selling VHS releases and includes Mr Bean, Smith and Jones — Foul, Live and Steamy, The Wind In The Willows and Roald Dahl's Big Friendly Giant.

The first nine titles are now available (see reviews on pages 30, 38 and 40).

THE CROW



The cult film The Crow is to be made into a CDi game by Philips Media as the company continues to licence titles which it hopes will bring more street credibility to the system.

Dave McElhatten, president of Philips Media Games, says: "I can think of no better property than The Crow to use as a basis for a game. It's a hit at the box office and a huge success in video rental stores. It is is a perfect match between the interactive entertainment and film industries."

The title will be released on PC CD-ROM as well as CDi in 1996. It is decribed as "an extension of the movie, with the same Gothic-style and hot alternative rock soundtrack", and will be produced in conjunction with the newly-formed interactive entertainment company Content. The Crow, which was released earlier this summer, grossed $50m in the US and is expected to gross $100m worldwide.

PHILIPS UNVEILS PC/CD-i BOARD

Philips has added full CDi playback functionality to the PC platform with the introduction of the CDi/PC playback board at the COMDEX exhibition in Las Vegas last month.

Used in conjunction with the Philips LMS CM208 quad-speed CD-ROM drive, the CDi/PC board turns any industry standard PC into a fully-featured CDi player. It will enable PC owners to access the entire library of CDi titles. This includes MPEG-encoded linear Video CD material and interactive games, education and reference titles carried on the CDi platform. The board offers full colour display of all CDi images and 16-bit audio. All the multimedia functions required for CDi are included on the PC/CDi board and run independently of the host CPU, so CDi programs will play directly from the CDi disc. This means there is no need for time-consuming installation on the PC's hard disk.

Philips initially expects the CDi/PC board will be fitted by PC vendors under manufacturers' supply agreements. Upgrade kits for retrofitting to users' existing PCs will be offered later through specialist computer stores and retailers.

CDi GOES UNDERGROUND

The Parisian transport authority RATP has adopted CDi technology for its latest interactive guide to the city's streets and public transport network.

Using a touch-sensitive video screen, users can call up information on underground and railway stations, route maps, ticket prices, street maps, important sites and monuments and airports. Information is available in five languages: French, English, German, Spanish and Italian.

The new system is intended to replace the old illuminated maps with buttons that have been used on the Metro since 1937. The first unit was installed at the Chateau de Vincennes Metro station and will be tested in ten Metro stations and ten RER railway stations before being expanded across the complete network.



NEW CONTROLLER

The new CDi games control pad, first seen at the European Computer Trade Show earlier this year, is now available from Philips dealers for £24.99.

It replaces the Touchpad which was originally developed for games players who found the standard CDi remote control unit too cumbersome.

The latest controller is similar to the type used with other computer game systems and has X/Y controller on the left, and three action buttons on the right. It wires directly into the CDi player.

Buyers of the new 450 CDi player who want to use two-player games can also buy a splitter unit which allows two controllers to be linked to the player. The unit costs £5.99.



Who's the man with the silly expression? It's Terry Jones of Monty Python fame, receiving his very own CDi player and copies of the Monty Python discs from Maarten Hesselt of Daedalus Automation, the producer. Hope you enjoy some of the old clips, Terry. We did.

COMING SOON!

DECEMBER 9

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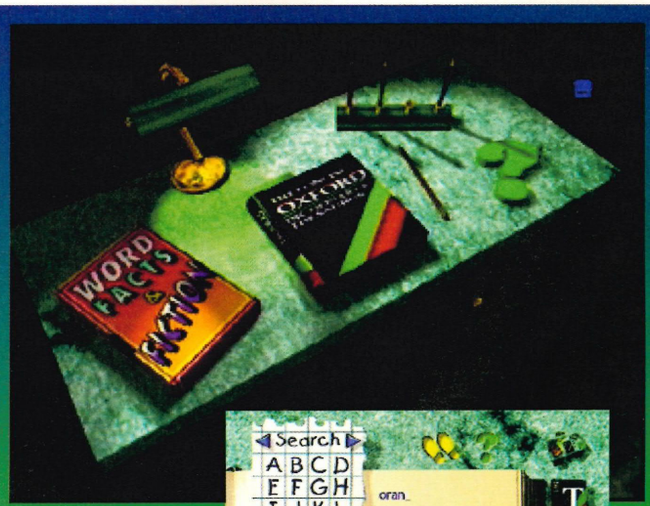
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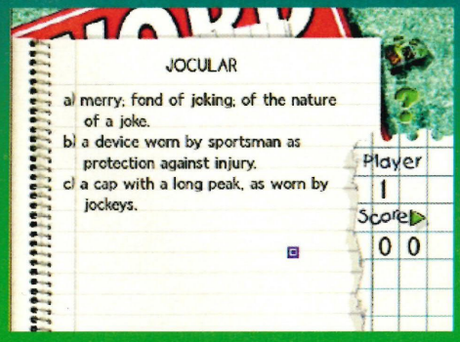
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CONCISE OXFORD DICTIONARY

Philips is to release The Concise Oxford Dictionary and Thesaurus on a single CDi disc for £34.99 in February 1995. It will enable you to access 120,000 entries and 190,000 definitions using your CDi player.

All you have to do is click on the dictionary icon, key in the first few letters of the word you want using the cursor, and then highlight the word when it appears on screen. The correct definition will then be displayed. To find other words with a similar meaning, just click on the Thesaurus icon. If you want to hear the words pronounced properly, just click on the loudspeaker icon. Philips has also included a simple word game where you have to highlight the correct definition of certain words to help improve your vocabulary. This CDi dictionary should prove an invaluable source for schools and libraries, as well as in the home or office.







CHAOS CONTROL

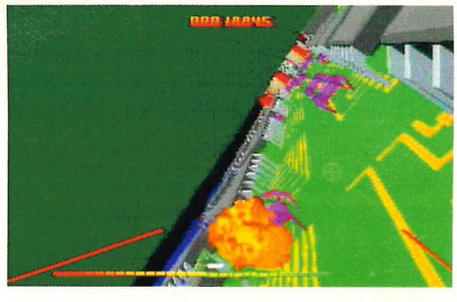
Infogrames' latest shoot-'em-up has probably the most amazing visuals yet seen on CDi, reckons JASON ALESI











So, you wanted good graphics on the CDi did you? Took a look at the multi-format games mags and saw all the real-time rendering going on and thought your CDi would never be able to produce something as sumptuous at that, eh? Wanted a game so visually stunning that you could invite all your friends round and go "Well, what do you think of that?" and watch with pleasure as their jaws dropped to the shagpile.

Brethren, your prayers have been well and truly answered. Welcome to Chaos Control, a shoot-'em-up with graphics to die for.

Chaos Control looks impressive compared to any game on any platform and even the notoriously judgmental Edge magazine said that it had "world-class visuals". It wasn't far wrong either. Every frame of this MPEG-encoded blast-a-thon has been individually rendered with exquisite attention to detail (even down to Infogrames' use of a real 3D map of New York).

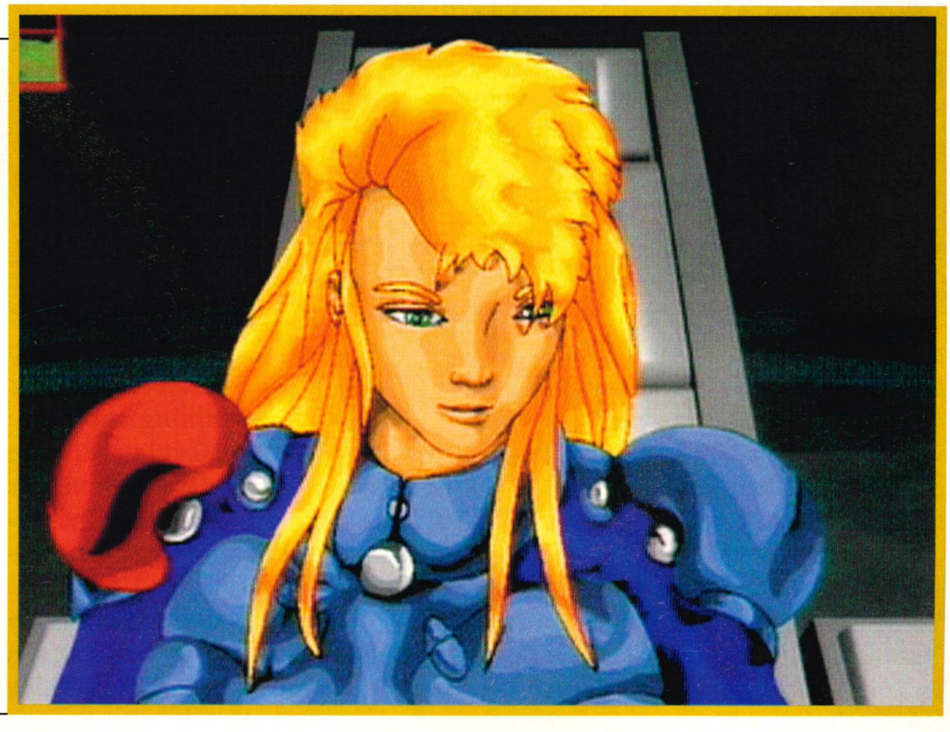
It is this that makes the game. Not the gameplay so much — fast and frenetic though it is, when it comes down to it, a shoot-'em-up is still a shoot-'em-up — but the way it looks, the things that briefly catch your eye as you dive through the canyons of Manhattan chasing enemy spaceships or hunt computer viruses in a virtual world. Just look at the glorious backdrops that unfurl beneath and around your ship as another enemy squadron dives headlong towards you.

But make no mistake. The enemy ships may be superbly designed, with a Gigeresque organic feel to them, but they are going to try and kill you. In fact, rather a lot of them are going to try and smear your molecules all over the upper atmosphere with extreme prejudice.

And so to the plot. In fact, despite the statement a couple of paragraphs ago, Infogrames has taken a certain amount of care to make sure that

Jessica Darkhill

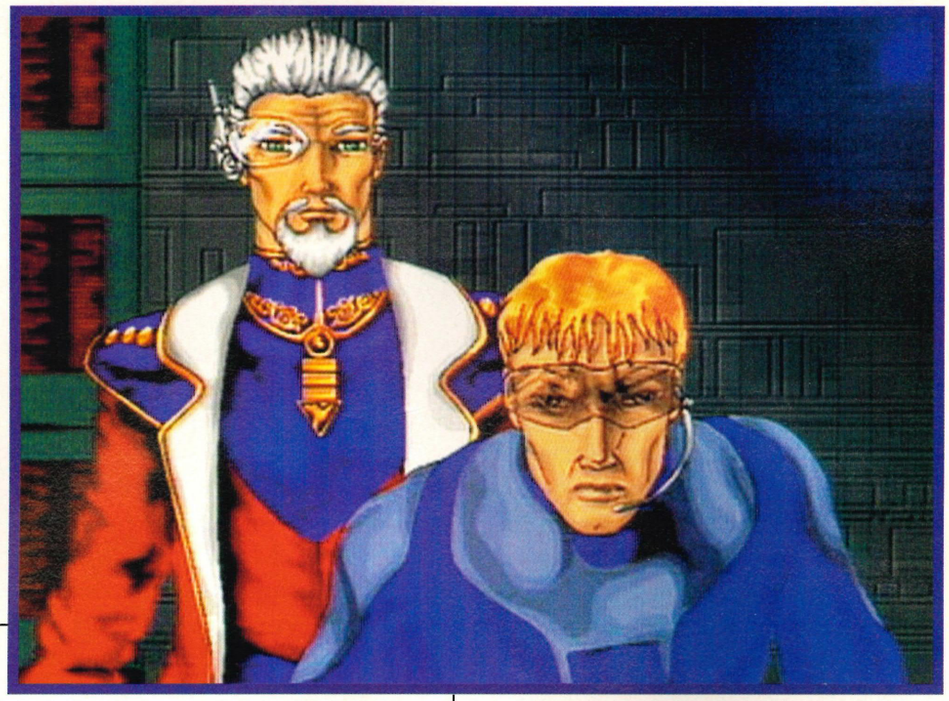
Jessica Darkhill: Jessica is one of the best pilots in the Orbital Defence Forces. She is part of the 11th squadron. At the start of the game she is a lieutenant; when she arrives in Manhattan, she is promoted to the rank of Major. Her task is to carry out the FUNSAI operation to drive through the enemy lines and destroy the Kesh Rhan flagship. Her father is the commander of the New Babylon Lunar base. Her fiance, Major Morgan Kain, was killed in the attack on Mars by the Kesh Rhans. Jessica is fearless and volunteers to fight a virus planted by the Kesh Rhans in the Manhattan GHQ computer control system.



Hank McBride
Hank McBride is a pilot who is part of group 1 of the 11th Squadron. He is a close ally of Jessica and has a crush on her.

Morgan Kain
Morgan Kain is Jessica's fiance. Died during the battle of Mars.

Arakh 'Kreen
Arakh 'Kreen is the Lord Commander of the Kesh Rhan fleet. He wages the battle to destroy Earth from his flagship.



Commander Darkhill
Commander Darkhill is Jessica's father. He is on Lunar Base. He is very proud of his daughter but wants to save her from danger. He educated her so that she knows how to face difficulties with nerve and courage. He sometimes regrets that she is now in the military.

Major Karanov
Major Karanov appears only in the first animated sequence. The Lunar Base commander has put her in charge of explaining Jessica's first mission to her.

Captain Yoko Nakamura
Captain Yoko Nakamura is the scientific officer who works in the Manhattan GHQ research section. She helps Jessica fight the virus by proposing an experimental solution called "virtual control". Her husband was killed when the Kesh Rhan attacked Mars.

General John C Blackburn/Commander Andrew Jenkins
General John C Blackburn and Commander Andrew Jenkins are both based at Manhattan GHQ where they direct the FUNSAI operation. They warn Jessica against certain dangers and supply her with all the information she needs for her mission.

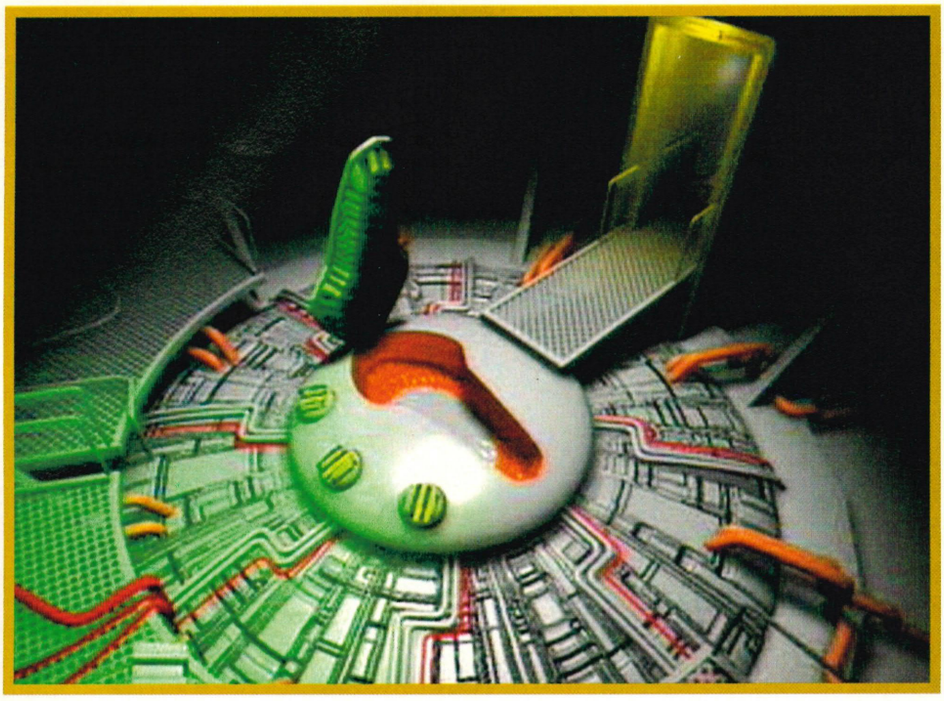
◀ this shoot-'em-up is beyond the run-of-the-mill in more ways than just its graphics. This is a shoot-'em-up with a plot. Yes, it all sounds rather bizarre, but we are talking storyline and characters here.

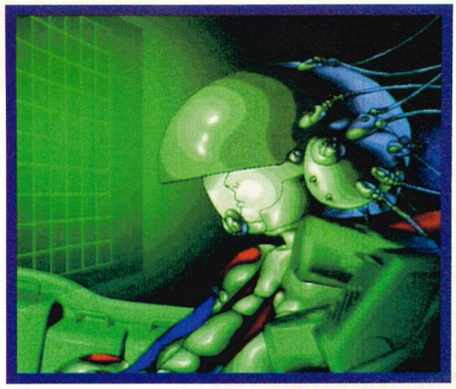
You are Jessica Darkhill, rather nifty at blowing things up, and the Earth is being invaded by aliens (the Kesh Rhans, if you must know). But let's not worry too much about the details. Play the game, let it unfold and stop being so nosy. Admittedly, we're not exactly talking about the depth of a Burn:Cycle, but the manga-derived animated sequences that are sandwiched between the levels add an awful lot to the atmosphere of the game.

Not that Chaos Control is exactly lacking in it. The soundtrack is nearly as sumptuous as the graphics, Infogrames providing a suitably dramatic aural backdrop to the whole concept of having to save the world.

Another neat thing they've done is vary the levels. Admittedly, every stage does involve rather a large amount of destruction to the Kesh Rhan fleet, but each one is different. The first, introductory level involves zooming round Manhattan and the Statue of Liberty. Next you're up against computer viruses in a virtual world dominated by huge chips, circuit boards and some rather surreal imagery. Then it's out into orbit and around the abandoned hulk of a space station, chasing and pursuing the invaders until you face the labyrinth of the flagship itself (bits of which are very similar to flying down the trench of the Death Star in Star Wars).

In fact, it's only in the final section that you get to have any say about the direction you fly in. Normally this sort of system where you whizz about on "rails" leads you to start chomping hunks out of the walls in frustration, but Chaos Control manages to avoid that. It's partly down to the graphics (again), but also the actual movement of the ride is constantly changing. There's very little flying dead straight; instead you find your craft scream-





ing round ridiculously tight turns, fitting through horrendously narrow gaps, and generally doing enough to induce motion-sickness in the easily afflicted.

Perfection, it isn't. For one thing the genre of the game is, by its very nature, limiting and despite Infogrames' best efforts to navigate round those shortcomings, people who find shoot-'em-ups a waste of time are unlikely to be converted. Also, due to the vast majority of the game being one long MPEG-encoded movie, the enemy ships don't disappear off the screen when you hit them. Explosions track them so that you know that they're out of the equation, but even though they're rarely on screen for any appreciable length of time, it can make things confusing in places.

But those are the only real quibbles when it comes down to it. For the graphics alone you should buy this game. The gameplay is just an added bonus.

THE PLOT

You are lieutenant Jessica Darkhill, leader of the Arcs Interception Squad, one of the surviving units of the bloody battle against the Kesh Rhans, who destroyed the colonies of Pluton and Mars. As the Kesh Rhan forces ready their next offensive against Earth, in order to annihilate Earth's remaining forces, you re-enlist the 11th squadron of the Silver Dragons assigned to the Lunar Base. The enemy fleet approaches, joined by what seems to be the flagship of the Kesh Rhan fleet, announcing the start of the final invasion.

THE CHALLENGE

Your first task is to fight against the Kesh Rhan outer-space warriors who swarm over the Manhattan area and try to block the passageway to GHQ.

The second phase of the game places you in a virtual world in which you must fight the virus program that the Kesh Rhans have planted in the defense control computer network.

In the third phase, at the controls of a powerful fighter ship, you take off to attack the main part of the Kesh Rhan fleet. This phase takes place in the orbiting space station.

The final phase is a battle of spaceships that forces you into a trap-laden labyrinth. You must destroy the Kesh Rhan flagship.

RATINGS

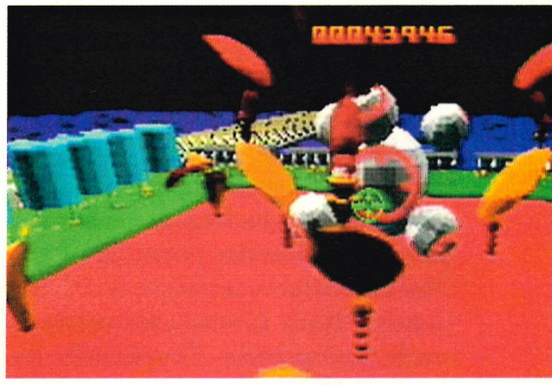
Graphics: 98%

Sound: 92%

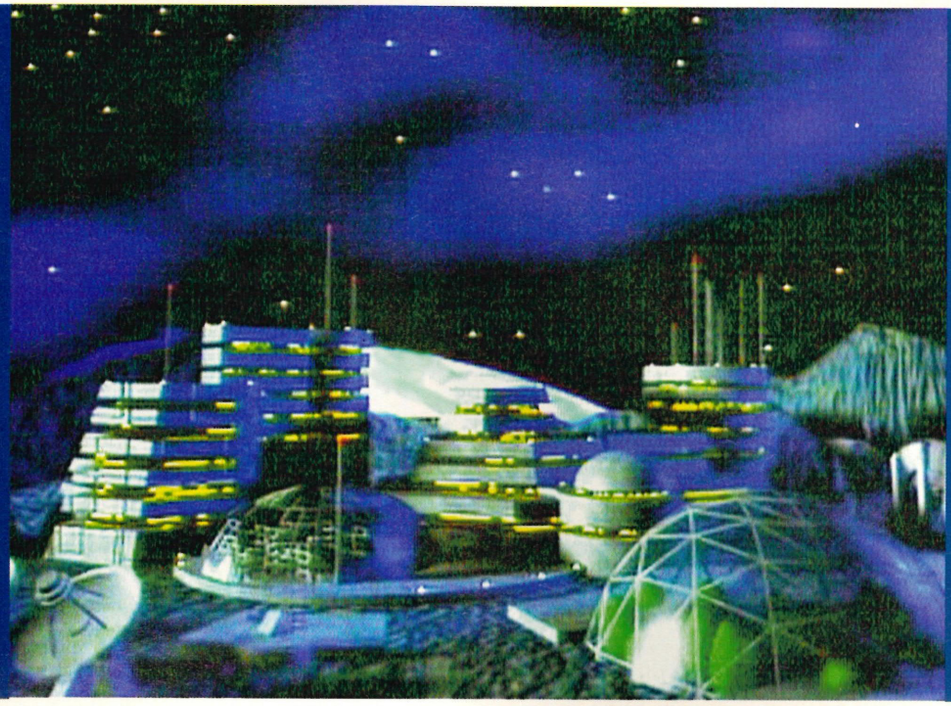
Interactivity: 82%

Overall: 90%

Cost: £49.99 *Out: 10 February*



ANDY STOUT talks to Franck Devron and Benoit Arribart of Infogrames, the brains behind Chaos Control



CHAOS THEORY

As anybody who has been anywhere near this magazine in the past few months knows, the renaissance of the CDi as a games platform is well and truly under way. TripMedia's Burn:Cycle is the first of a whole batch of games that will be appearing in the near future that seriously exploits the technical spec of the CDi player. Once you start adding MPEG into the equation, some of the new games become breathtaking.

The first of the second generation games to utilise the potential of the Digital Video cartridge is Chaos Control, from Lyons-based software house, Infogrames. Graphically it's leaps and bounds ahead of almost anything else on the market, a non-stop carousel of beautifully rendered 3D images, spinning and twisting on the screen in front of you. And it's not a bad game, either.

Your task is to defend the earth from alien attack by fighting through seven enemy-infested levels to reach the invaders' headquarters.

Considering the lack of real-time rendering on the CDi, the result is stunning. It is no surprise that Infogrames is once again expanding the boundaries of CDi technology. With International Tennis Open and Kether, the company had already stretched CDi gameplay as far as it would go in the early, pre-Digital Video days. Now, the company is doing it all over again with the added memory and performance of the DV cartridge.

"The difference is that there is now no limit to the imagination."

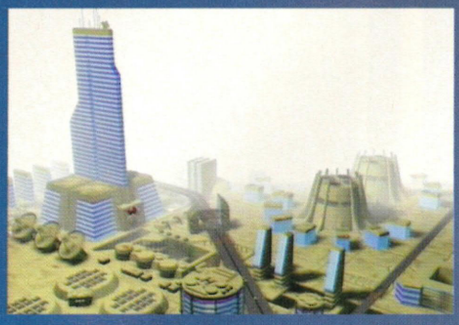
"The difference is that there's now no limit to the imagination," says Franck Drevon, the game's graphic artist. "You can make everything textured, so you can basically make a real interactive movie. It's a very interesting development for the graphics, but makes the programming more difficult."

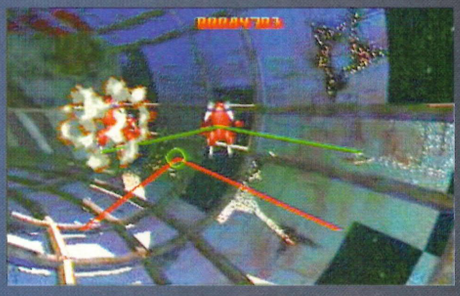
Interesting is hardly the word that springs to mind though. Mind-blowing, more like. The use of DV has really opened up whole new vistas of graphics quality, not to mention the added bonus of being able to access the extra Megabyte of onboard RAM.

All told, the graphics for Chaos Control originally took up 108 Gigabytes before the MPEG compression reduced it to a manageable size. Every frame of the DV movie sequence was rendered on the most powerful Silican Graphics workstation using SoftImage's Creative Environment package.

In fact, most of the game is constructed from a DV movie sequence. Everything else is synchronised into the movie, with only the power bars, laser shots, scores and explosions being genuine sprites. This leads to the only really noticeable problem with the game: the enemy ships do not disappear when you hit them. Rather they are tracked by the explosions across the screen.

"As it is not in real-time, the ships don't disappear from the screen," admits Drevon. "The ships were











Far left: lunar base. Clockwise from top left, this page: the Manhattan sky base; dogfight on the Mother Ship; the Statue of Liberty; departure from the Mother Ship; fighting the Kesh Rhan in Manhattan

included in the 3D rendering, so it is impossible to destroy them. But the enemies don't stay on the screen for a long time, so you only see them for five seconds and after that the view changes."

The other potential drawback is that the game is essentially a movie sequence. Apart from being able to choose the direction you head in the Mother Ship, there is no significant control. Normally, this would lead to really dire gameplay, but Chaos Control manages to overcome this. You might be riding on "rails" (ie a predetermined course), but the quality of the graphics means that doesn't really matter.

"It's not very important that it's only a ride," says Benoit Arribart, who oversaw the technical aspects of the game. "It's not so important that you can't choose which direction you travel in. As it is a good shoot-'em-up, you only think about it for a few seconds then you forget about it as soon as you begin to play."

Drevon admits the rail system can be a bit limiting, but says the solution is "to make the game in such a way that the player doesn't think about that limitation. We have made a lot of camera movements so that it looks like you are inside a spaceship. When you play, it doesn't occur to you that you can't turn left or right."

"The game is a match between the cyber, the manga and the neo-romantic."

The graphics themselves range from the very organic design of the enemy spaceships (no prizes for guessing that Drevon is a fan of the designer on the film Alien, H R Giger), to the cartoon-graphic representation of the characters. Drevon says he is highly influenced by the imagery of manga films, and describes the game as "a match between the cyber, the manga and the neo-romantic cultures".

"The design of the characters is very manga," he explains. "It was a direction we took particularly for the American and Japanese market." The look of the games is based on manga imagery, so is the the dialogue and so is the plot. In fact, the only difference between this game and the films is that people's eyes are a lot smaller and the female characters don't show their knickers at every opportunity. But what on earth has all this got to do with a shoot-'em-up anyway?

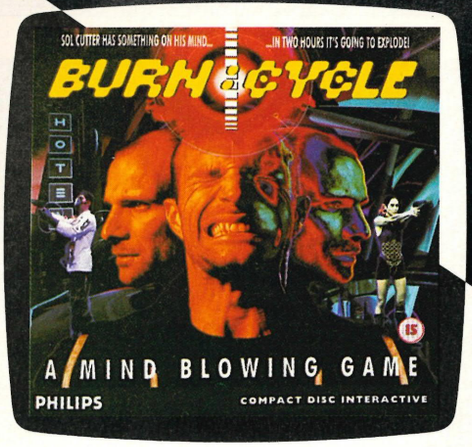
"When I started this project, I wanted to create a real story," says Drevon. "It is a shoot-'em-up, but I wanted to create a story outside the gameplay, to create a real world. I wanted to take it beyond just winning a level and progressing to the next. One of the main attractions of the game is that you have a lot of different worlds with different ambiences, so you are not just inside the computer or in space."

In that regard, Chaos Control has certainly succeeded. Although the gameplay itself never really varies, there is enough of a difference between the levels to keep your mind occupied, whether it is skimming the earth's atmosphere or tumbling through the decaying guts of an abandoned space station.

So where does Infogrames go from here? Chaos II is the obvious answer, but graphically can the CDi get any better? Yes and no, is Drevon's answer.

"Yes, you can always improve, but I think the evolution will not be in the graphics but in the interactivity as new programs are developed."

Produced by Infogrames



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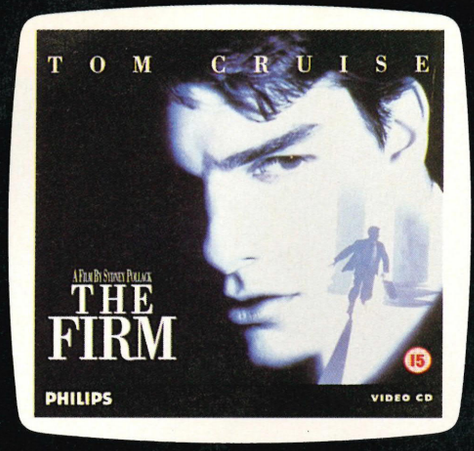
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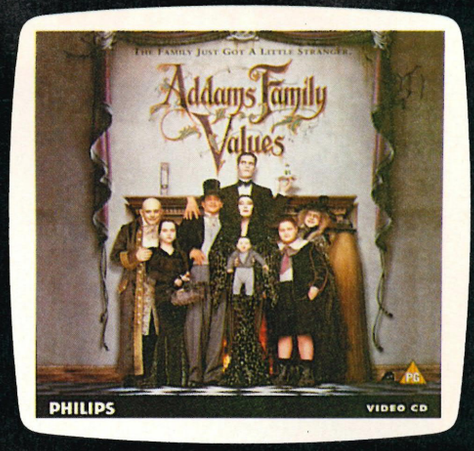
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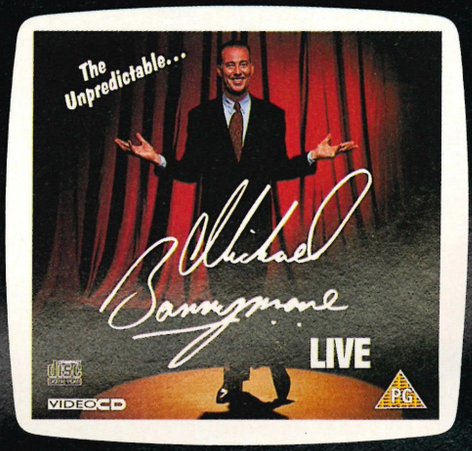
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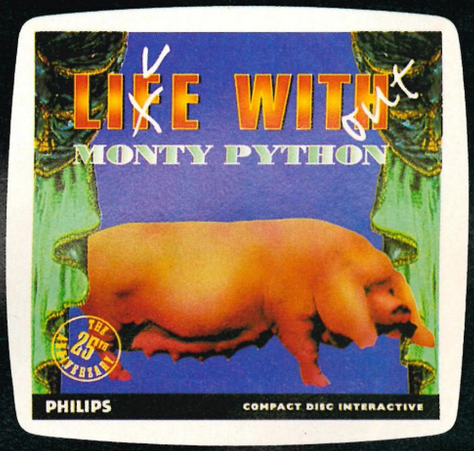
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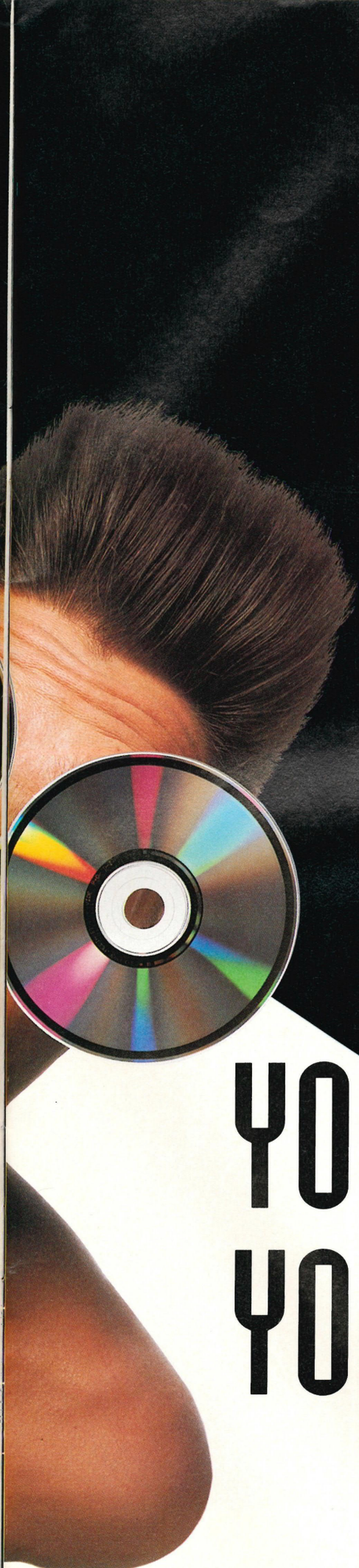
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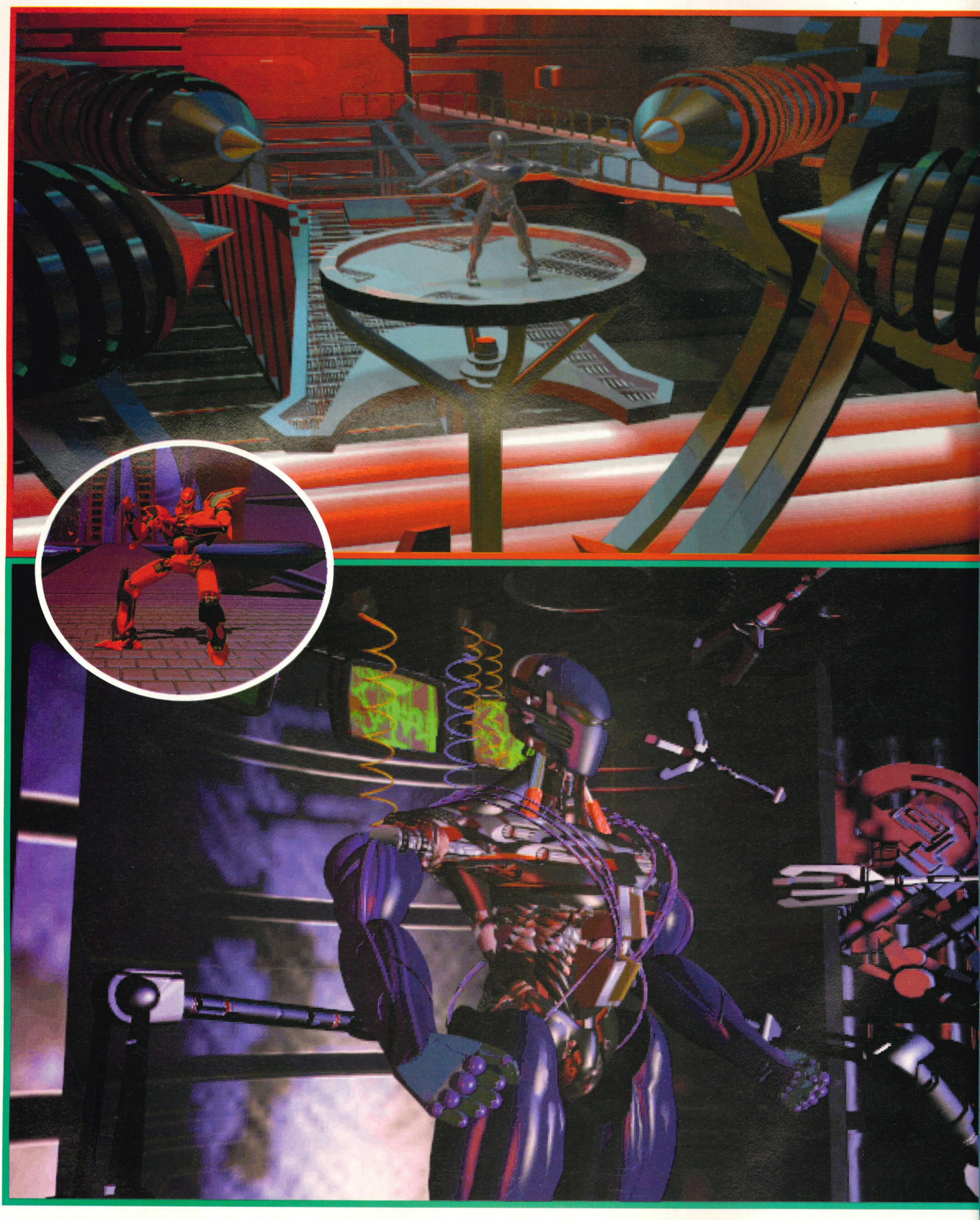
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RISE OF THE ROBOTS

ANDY CLOUGH previews one of the most exciting games currently in development for CDi — Mirage Technology's stunning beat-'em-up

Rise is set in a highly industrialised world of the future. Over the centuries of technological progress, the planet has paid a heavy price. Life is only sustainable in huge city states that constitute civilisation. The land and oceans beyond have been plundered for raw materials and are irretrievably polluted.

Now, all the essentials of life — food, water and breathable air — are manufactured in the population centres. A ruling politico-military class controls the production of these resources and manipulates the human underclass accordingly. Both military and trade wars between city states are regularly instigated as a means of population control.

The game takes place in Metropolis 4 in the vast Electrocorp building where military and industrial robotics are manufactured. All human staff have been replaced by a super intelligent liquid metal morphing robot, known as the Supervisor, which has been programmed to manage the whole complex and its production. An ego virus has infected the Supervisor, causing it to take over the security defences of the complex and the other robots within it.

In a desperate attempt to save the complex, the company has sent in a Cyborg which is immune from the virus. The Cyborg has been created from robotic and human parts and has transmitters which connect it to the Electrocorp digital information network. It has no firepower to minimise damage.

The player controls the Cyborg in battles against five types of enemy robots as well as the Supervisor. Each robot is governed by its own artificial intelligence which will affect the style with which it fights. The Supervisor provides the ultimate challenge, with special moves which will include melting to avoid a punch, forming anvils and spikes for hands, and turning into a metal block as defence.

DEVELOPMENT

Rise of the Robots is being developed by Mirage's in-house programming team, Instinct Design. The team, headed by ex-Bitmap Brother Sean Griffiths, was formed in 1992 to develop high quality products that stretch the technical capabilities of new CD-ROM machines.

The game is being created using bespoke Autodesk 3D Studio CAD modelling software, that produces high quality ray traced graphic images. 3D Studio works like a film studio, allowing the operator to build different sets, add colours and textures and position cameras and lighting.

Each robot character is modelled piece by piece from the original blueprint designs and shaped to its exact dimensions. Each section of a robot is created in mesh form and then linked hierarchically to produce a fully animated character.

Chief villain in the game is the Supervisor, a sexy and voluptuous computer generated female robot. She has been created using similar techniques used to produce the special effects in films such as Jurassic Park and Terminator 2. Her sleek liquid metal body "morphs" into lethal shapes as she fights.

Kwan Lee, a professional interior designer, has been employed to design and build the sets for the game. He is creating the external view of an entire city and the inside of a robotics manufacturing plant where the game takes place.

Music for the game has been provided by Brian May of Queen. It was May's solo album, *Back To The Light*, which first attracted the Mirage team. They wanted to use two tracks from the album, *The Dark* and *Resurrection*, and May agreed. He has also written additional music specifically for the game.

The CDi version of Rise will play on all CDi players, but owners with a Digital Video cartridge will be able to access enhanced gameplay, additional cinematic sequences and information on the making of the title. Rise has one and two player options.

GAMEPLAY

ONE PLAYER GAME: this option pits you against the CDi machine. You take the role of the Cyborg and you must battle your way past the formidable series of Electrocorp robots who protect the Supervisor, the ultimate opponent. If you select this option, you will be offered two options: Mission Briefing and Training.

MISSION BRIEFING: this option puts the Cyborg into the security services directed mission where you ▶



The Cyborg

The Electrocorp Cybernetic Organism model ECO 35-2 represents the ultimate development to date from Electrocorp's Sci-Bio technology team. The ECO 35 series is the first anthropomorphic droid to meet the corporation's design and performance specification for this secret project. It is governed by an implanted human brain and possesses a full personality, so is capable of a large range of emotional responses. The ECO 35 has considerable strength and is a formidable combatant. Special moves include the turbo head-butt and shoulder barge. Its main weakness is its human CPU, which means it can suffer mental fatigue.

Loader Droid



A mass-produced robot used in manufacturing plants across the planet. The Loader is now considered old technology and is in the process of being replaced by the more sophisticated BHF03 Builder droid. The Loader has never been assigned combative tasks, and possesses no self-defence software other than the regular standard hazard avoidance procedures. It has exceptionally powerful arms which are capable of delivering damaging blows, but is restricted by its slow speed. Special moves include the double fork slash.

Sentry Droid



Designed by Electrocorp's Japanese subsidiary, the formidable Sentry droid is a development of the technology used in the Exterminator's construction. Up until the time of the Rise mission, the Sentry has been purely a research model employing prototype systems under test for future use in a new generation of combat robots. Now the Supervisor has employed this model to be her first line of defence in a direct attack on her command floor high in the Electrocorp tower. The Sentry droid has full recoil power conversion in all its limbs which makes it extremely fast. The super-rapid CPU can alter moves at a moments notice. The Sentry is red for easy identification. It is a high category threat for any opponent. No weaknesses have been identified. Special move is the flying jet kick.

must meet each robot in mounting order of combat skill and aggression. It is only by following the mission briefing and by battling your way past all the opposing robots that you will finally meet the ultimate challenge to your combat skills — the Supervisor.

TRAINING: this option lets you, the Cyborg, select between the individual robots. Using the controller, choose your preferred combat opponent. You may select any of the robots except the Supervisor.

TWO-PLAYER GAME: this enables you to select an opponent for the Cyborg from the range of Electrocorp robots. You will not be able to play one robot against another — Electrocorp's droids are programmed not to engage one another in combat — but you will be able to pit the Cyborg against its twin. Since both combatants are player-controlled, there is no difficulty level setting for this option. The Supervisor remains under the control of the CDi player at all times. You cannot select the Supervisor from this option.

DIFFICULTY LEVEL: choose between easy, medium and hard. This determines the aggression and skill levels of your computer opponents.

BOUTS: each encounter with an individual robot is divided into separate bouts. For each encounter you can choose three, five or seven bouts. Each bout has a limited duration or is a fight to a knock-out finish.
To survive and progress to the next robot, you have to win more than half the bouts (ie at least two out of three, three out of five and five out of seven).
A bout can be won by knocking out your opponent, or inflicting the most damage within the bout's time span. You can select bouts of 20, 40 or 60 seconds.

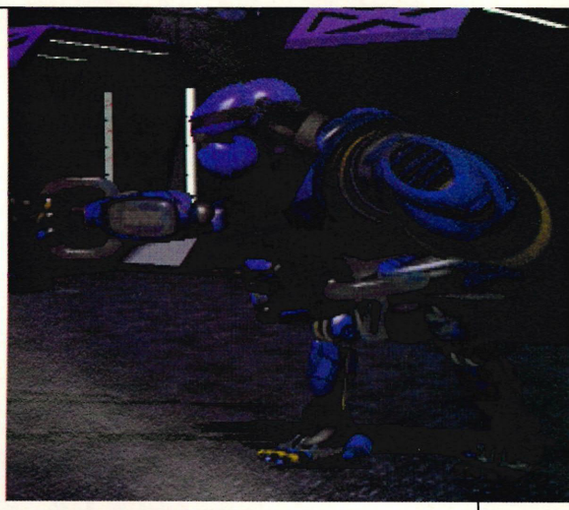
Crusher Droid



The Crusher droids were introduced into the Electrocorp production halls when a series of Builder droids developed autonomous routines and destroyed an entire production line. When not required to act as production line "bouncers", Crusher droids are used for entering hazardous areas on the production lines to free jammed machinery and extract waste materials. Once under the control of the Supervisor, the Crusher is an opponent which presents an immediate threat to the Cyborg. The Crusher is a purpose-built droid debilitator, used to immobilise dangerously malfunctioning production droids. It is



Builder Droid



The BHF03 Builder droid is the model designed to supersede the more primitive Loader class. It is designed to carry heavy plant and components around the engineering floors of manufacturing units. The Builder has a more humanoid form than the old Loader type. Many of its physical capabilities are the same as a human's in that it can perform construction work in much the same way, but with much greater strength and endurance. It has a rather static combat style, and tends to crouch rather than use its full height of 3 metres. The Builder has powerful arms and efficient blocking tactics, but is slow and has vulnerable legs.

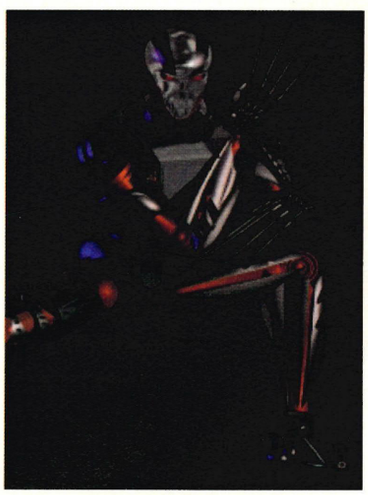
The Supervisor



The Supervisor takes the form of a menacing female, but she can morph into other shapes for particular tasks. Due to a flaw in the Supervisor's radical technology, she has developed the Ego Virus. Her personality has become corrupted and she has begun emulating psychopathic conditions normally only found in humans. This behaviour disorder coupled with the Supervisor's intelligence and morphing capabilites means she poses the greatest threat to the Cyborg and, consequently, the whole of Metropolis 4. No weaknesses have been identified.



highly agile and designed to terminate any faulty droids immediately. The Crusher's pincer arms must be avoided at all costs: the pincer mincer is its speciality. Its only weaknesses are a vulnerable CPU housing and vulnerable arms when they are extended.



Exterminator Droid

As the name suggests, the Exterminator has been designed for combat and security applications. It is Electrocorp's generic combat class robot and has rapidly become the standard machine in all the planet's military organisations. The Exterminator, recruited by the Supervisor, is a top secret development model and features modifications not found on production military droids. It performs with speed, intelligence and can be programmed to operate battlefield weapons of various types. The Exterminator has advanced artificial intelligence and is readily trainable alongside its human comrades. Weaknesses include a vulnerable CPU housing and limb joints. Special moves are the cyber slash and catapult spin.

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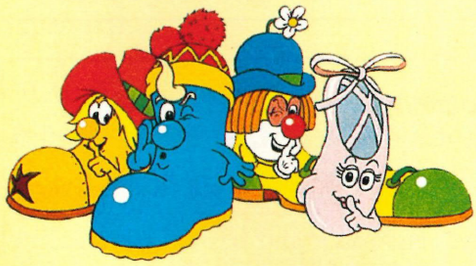
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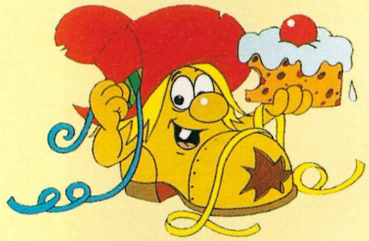
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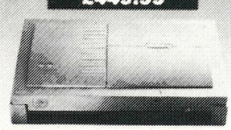
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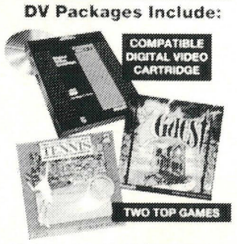
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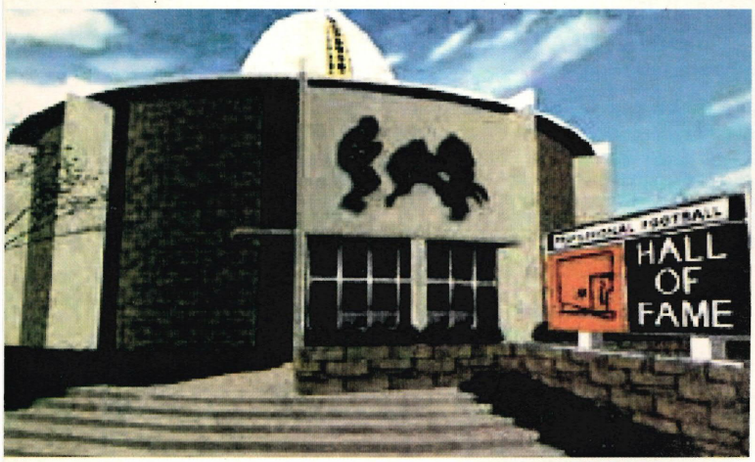
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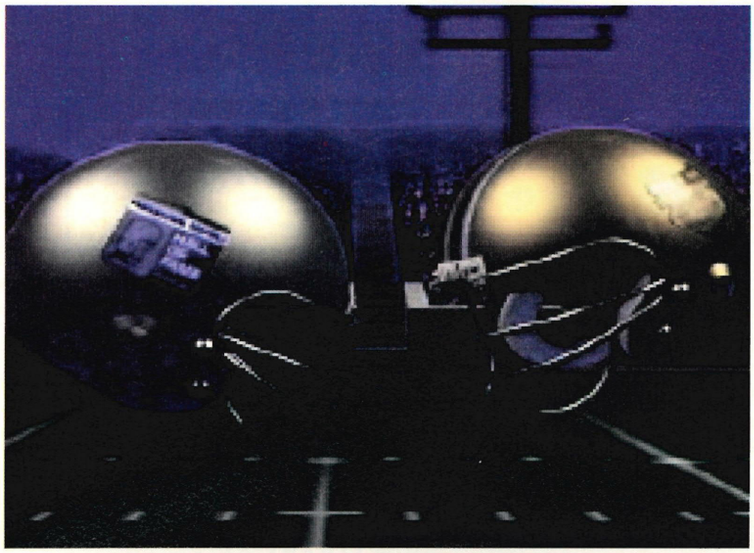
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ZACH MESTON takes an early look at the first American football game on CDi

NFL HALL OF



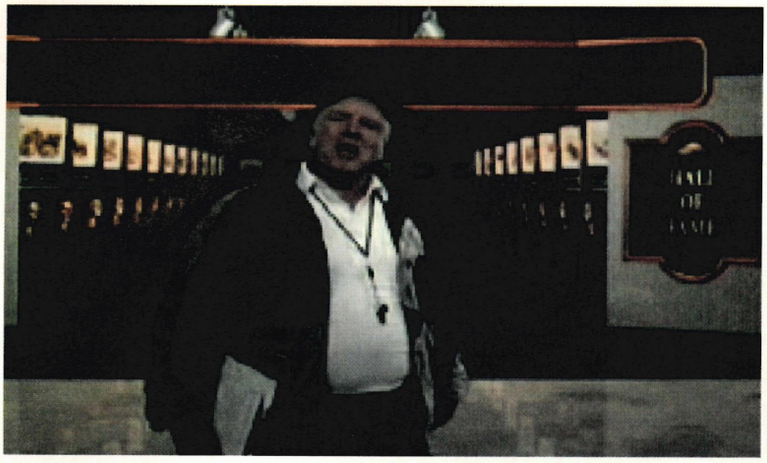
NFL Hall of Fame Football is the first CDi title to tackle (bad pun, sorry) the subject of American football, combining a wealth of historical information on the best players in the game's 100 plus year history, with an action simulation of the game itself.

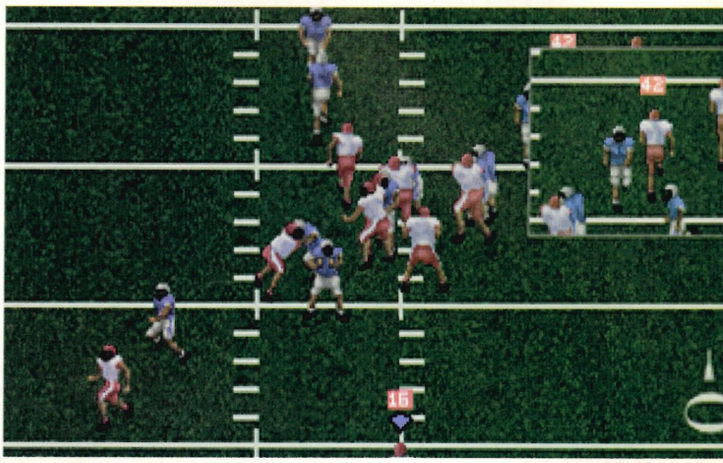
Hall of Fame Football has two separate historical modes. The somewhat-redundantly titled Hall of Fame mode gives you the history and stats of every NFL player enshrined in the real NFL Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio.

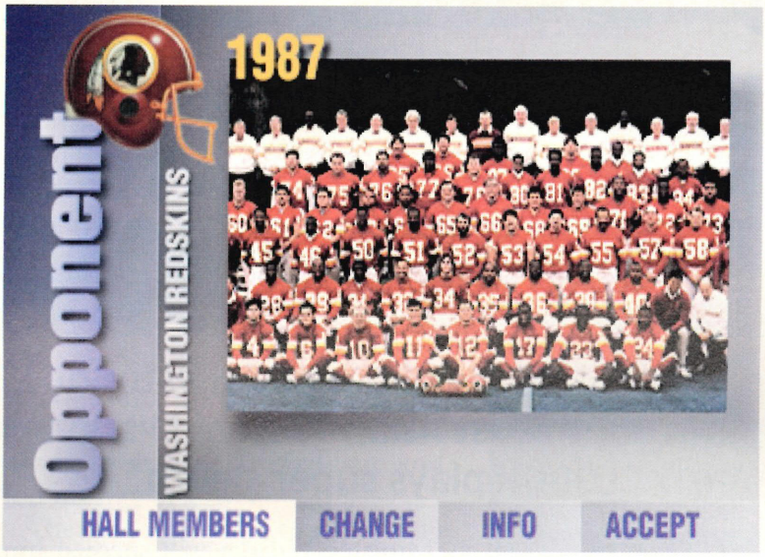
A narrator with a suitably gruff American accent informs you of each player's accomplishments; some players also have exceptionally crisp Digital Video sequences of career highlights taken from NFL Films archives. Stat hounds will be overcome with glee at the overwhelming amount of data, but less avid American football fans will be left wishing for more anecdotal history of each player and less number recitation.

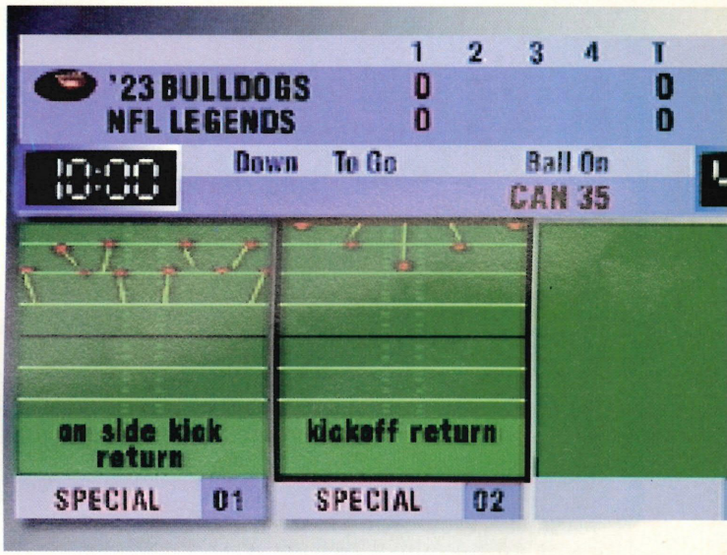


The Hall of Champions mode gives you a peek at 40 of the greatest NFL teams of all time, from the 1920 Akton Pros (who played in the days when men were men and



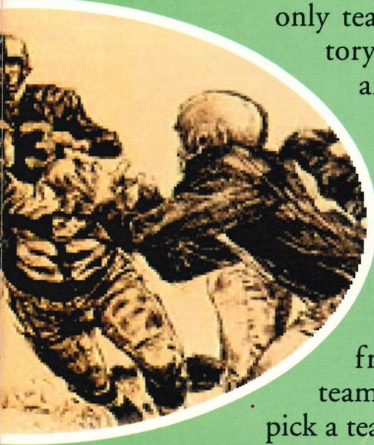






FAME

helmets were optional) to the 1972 Miami Dolphins (still the only team in NFL history to go through an entire season without a loss or tie). It's worth scouting each team very closely, because it is from this 40-team pool that you pick a team to control in the football simulation.



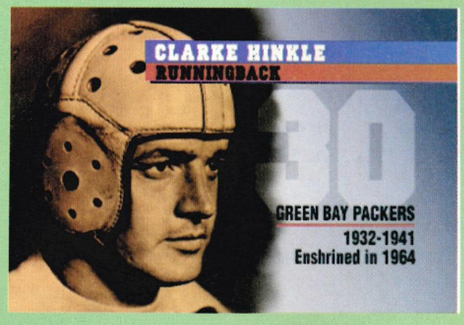
And speaking of the football sim, there are four modes of play: practice, quick play, exhibition play and league play. Each option is more detailed and involved than in the last. Practice lets you drill on individual offensive and defensive plays; quick play throws you immediately into a game; exhibition play gives you more setup and gameplay options; and league play lets you simulate an entire NFL season.

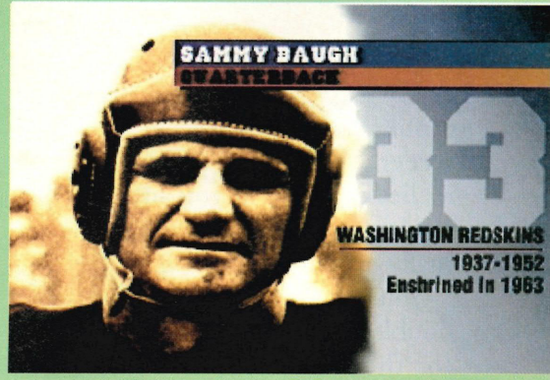
While the football sim portion of Hall of Fame Football is still in the early stages of development, the historical sections are practically complete, and they look fantastic.

Here's hoping the game plays as good as it looks.

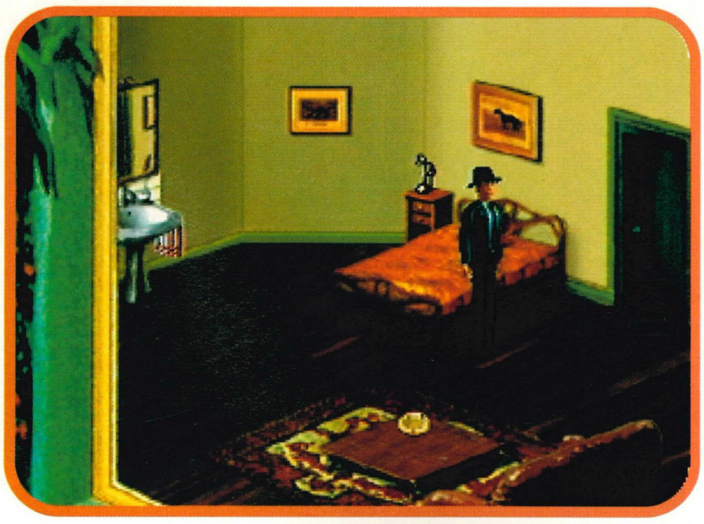
Produced by Philips POV
Cost: TBA Out: 1995

Clockwise from top left: the NFL Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio; game menu; your introduction to the Hall of Fame; on the pitch; score card; team members; essential protective head gear!









SECRET MISSION

Double agents, Cold War politics and mysterious happenings in South East Asia — Secret Mission has it all. ANDY CLOUGH plays super sleuth

Your task in the game is to play a secret agent who must accomplish two missions. First, you must discover your true identity and second, you must recover valuable documents and hand them over to your nation's embassy.

In the opening sequence, a plane lands at an unknown destination in a tiny kingdom of South-East Asia sometime during the 1950s. As you get out of the plane, a Chinese fella greets you by kindly knocking you unconscious. He then gets shot in the back. Mystified? You will be.

Later, you wake up in a hotel bedroom with a cracking headache. There is a bottle of chloroform beside you on the bed. Baffled, you explore the room for clues. Then the phone rings. There is a woman waiting downstairs for you in the lobby.

Once you work out how to leave the room, you go downstairs to meet her. You have no recollection of her, but she clearly knows you and is expecting you to whisk her off to dinner. As the dialogue appears on screen, you have to choose your replies carefully. If you admit to having lost your memory, she will eventually explain everything.

You are told you are an American double agent, JEF4, in fact working for the Russians. The woman you



have met is your boss, Natacha. It appears you are in the country of Opalia, situated between Burma, India and China, which makes it a very strategic spot indeed.

The two superpowers of the time, the US and USSR, have failed in their attempts to create an alliance. They have therefore decided to set their respective secret services to work to win the favour of the King of Opalia, to control him, or if the worst comes to the worst, to eliminate him.

The King is the last descendant of his line and, according to the law, if anything happens to him, his Prime Minister Vishaka will succeed him. Happily, the king has at last found a woman he loves, and he intends to announce his engagement during a national holiday.

But the evil Vishaka has other plans. Hell-bent on seizing power, he plans to have the King assassinated. Before he embarked on his political career, Vishaka was the head of the mysterious tribe of Thug-Nots, who live deep in the heart of the jungle. He retains enormous influence over them and uses them as his secret army.

The Russian and American secret services know that Vishaka is preparing something, but they don't know all the details of his plan. The only way you can find out more is to enter the palace and find a way into the secret room where you will find the details of the plot.

JEF4 begins his investigation in the city, but soon realises that the palace is too well guarded for him to get in unnoticed. He asks Gundhi,

who knows the guards, to go in his place. Gundhi discovers the secret room where the documents are hidden.

But to get into the secret room, JEF4 must find a necklace of which there are only two copies — the first is around Vishaka's neck, the second is hidden in a village in the deepest part of Thug territory. He must then travel into the jungle to find the village. To do this, he has to overcome a number of obstacles. These include jumping across a precipice with his side-car, finding his way through the jungle alone, and avoiding death by drowning and eloctrocution by contact with an electric eel.

Once in the village, he must get the necklace and then return to the city. JEF4 finds a huge statue. When he solves a puzzle, a door in the statue will open, allowing him to descend into a hiding place which contains the sacred necklace and crates of weapons. After he has blown up the arms cache, JEF4 must escape from the Thug village and find his way to a river.

There he will find a canoe to help him get back to the city.

He must now move quickly to get into the palace. Once there, he will find the documents which spell out the details of the plot. JEF4 now has three choices: to regain his memory using a special potion, go to the Russian embassy or go to the American embassy and hand over the plans.

Whichever he chooses will determine the outcome. It is up to you.

For preview purposes, we only had a very early version of the disc with French text. But the early indications are that this will be a thought-provoking and enjoyable game. There is no Digital Video, of course, but the base-case graphics are still quite adequate.

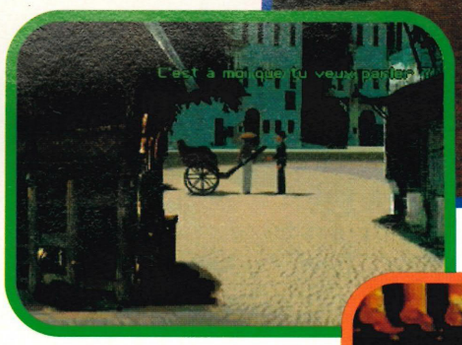
There are enough plot twists to keep even the most hardened detective happy, and nothing is ever quite what it seems.

Produced by Microids
Cost: TBA Out: 1995



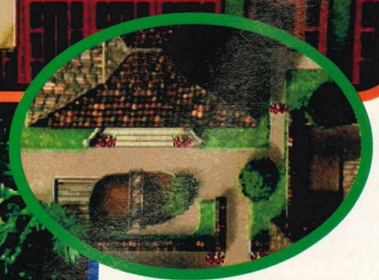






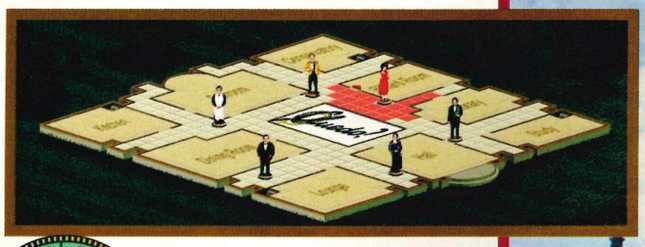






Clockwise from top left: your arrival in Opalia; in the hotel bedroom; meeting a strange woman for dinner; leaving the hotel and going into town; at the restaurant where you uncover your past; entrance to the palace; meeting your contact in the park

CLUEDO





Stars of screen and stage take part in this CDi version of Cluedo, reports ANDY CLOUGH

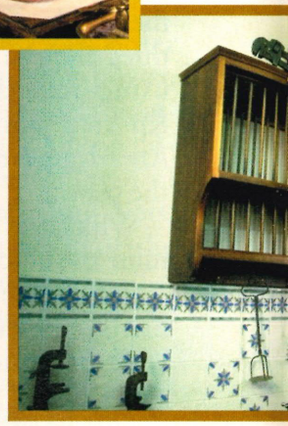
This is a superb adaptation of the classic Waddingtons' board game to CDi. 3T Productions has done an excellent job in keeping the feel of the original game by using a first rate cast, including Joan Sims as Mrs White, John Standing as Colonel Mustard and David Healy as Professor Plum, and filming the video sequences at Arlington Hall in Cheshire to bring it all to life.

The rules are exactly the same, and up to six people can play. Each time you enter a room on the board you will be transported into an actual room as photographed at Arlington Hall. Once inside, there is vital evidence to be found. A red magnifying glass will reveal a clue, while a ticking clock is a hint that a video sequence can be accessed. It is these "live" sequences which really give Cluedo on CDi the edge, because you are drawn deeper and deeper into the action in a way that can never happen with a traditional board game.



Your fellow players may betray themselves at any moment, and you can interview them, discover their whereabouts at the time of the murder or hear each witness's statement. Remember, not everyone will tell the truth! Once you think you have enough evidence, you can reveal the murderer's identity to the butler in the room in which you think the murder was committed. You have three chances to crack the mystery, so don't waste them too readily.

There are three story lines on the disc, and you can let the CDi player choose one at random, or choose one yourself at the start of the game. The really clever part is that each story has four different outcomes, so there are 12 scenarios on the disc. If you are unsure of any of the rules, there is an admirably clear interactive rulebook included on the disc.



Cluedo is an ideal game for the CDi format and one which the whole family can enjoy — especially after Christmas lunch! It's like taking part in your own murder mystery on TV where you can play the part of a real sleuth and test your skills

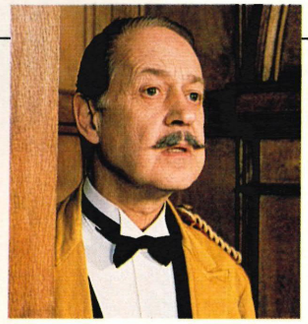
RATINGS

Graphics:	89%
Sound:	89%
Interactivity:	90%
Overall:	90%

Cost: £39.99 Out: Now



Mrs Peacock
(Susan Wooldridge)
Starred in The Bill and Bergerac for TV. Film roles in Hope and Glory and Frankenstein.



Colonel Mustard
(John Standing)
Recent performances in Riders for Anglia TV, Ways and Means with Joan Collins for the BBC and Hayfever at Albery Theatre.

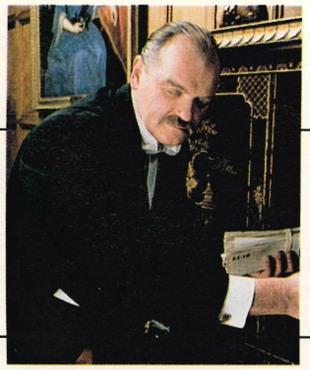


of observation and cunning to the full.

This is one CDi title you should definitely not be at home without this Christmas. And to make it even more fun, Philips is packaging the disc with six detective note cards and dry wipe pens so you can take notes as you go along.

3T Productions has brought TV production values to the game and used the Digital Video capabilities of CDi most skilfully. A second Cluedo disc is promised next year with a further three stories, so who says you can have too much of a good thing?

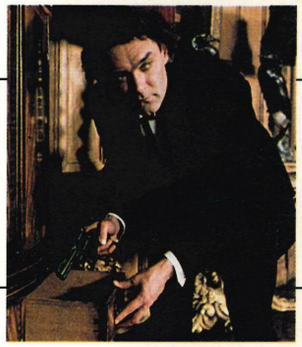
Produced by 3T Productions



Mr Boddy
(Angus Macinnes)
TV appearances in Lovejoy, Howard's Way and The New Statesman. Films include Superman II, Star Wars, The Krays and Witness.



Miss Scarlet
(Nicola Van Dam)
Van Dam has starred in theatre performances of A Tale of Two Cities, The Canterbury Tales and The Pirates of Penzance.



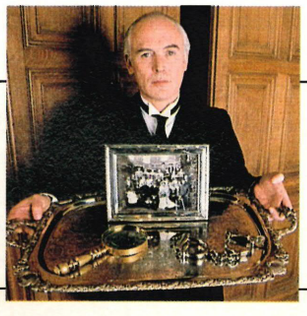
Mr Green
(Stuart Milligan)
Trained at the Webber Douglas Academy of Dramatic Art. TV roles in the Harry Enfield Show, True Crimes and Dempsey & Makepeace.



Professor Plum
(David Healy)
Brought up in New York and Dallas, Healy began his acting career in the UK in 1964. He has played numerous theatre and TV roles.



Mrs White
(Joan Sims)
Born in Laindon, Essex, Sims won a scholarship to RADA. She has appeared in over 50 films, 100 television productions and numerous radio broadcasts.



The Butler
(Terence Harvey)
From 1979-82, Harvey was a member of the RSC. TV credits include Casualty, Prime Suspect III, Poirot, The Bill and Bergerac.

DISCWORLD

ANDY CLOUGH delves into the fantasy world of science fiction author Terry Pratchett, whose work forms the basis of a new CDi game

If you haven't already heard of Teeny Weeny Games (TWG) and its sister company Perfect10 Productions, you soon will have. Why? Because TWG is the company behind Discworld, the forthcoming computer game derived from the novels of the enormously popular and successful fantasy science fiction author, Terry Pratchett. And the really good news is that the game is being developed for release on CDi, as well as other platforms, next year.

Work on the PC/CD-ROM version is nearing completion, so CDi Magazine decided it was time to pop down to south London and see what the TWG gang are up to.

Finding TWG's London office is easy. They live above the NatWest bank in Norbury, so presumably they only have to pop downstairs if they want to borrow some cash! The company is headed by managing director Angela Sutherland and director Greg Barnett. Sutherland is the producer on the Discworld project and Barnett is in charge of directing and scriptwriting.

TWG began life about three years ago converting games for console platforms with clients such as Acclaim and Konami. The team then began developing some original titles, and decided to move into the development of more sophisticated games for high-end platforms.

"Discworld is our most ambitious project to date," says Barnett who, with Sutherland, has 12 years experience in the computer games industry. "We have had 30 people from Britain, the US and Australia working on it for about two and a half years. We wanted a flagship title, so we approached Terry Pratchett with the idea of licensing Discworld. Terry is a keen PC games player and had been approached by numerous companies who wanted to turn his novels into a game, but he turned them all down. We persevered, wrote a full script for the game and created some graphics, and eventually he agreed to let us have the licence to develop it."

Once agreement had been reached, work on the project began in earnest. TWG assembled a team of scriptwriters, animators, programmers and musicians to begin building the game.

"Terry Pratchett has created a fantasy world in his Discworld novels which is set on a disc on top of four elephants, which in turn sit on top of a giant turtle," explains Barnett. "It is a world of comic fantasy and we have basically licensed all the characters from him. Terry has maintained a keen interest in the development of the game. He has given us a free rein as long as we didn't break any of the rules of his world. He has also invented some characters for us."

So what is the game all about? Well, it's hard to explain in a few words, but here goes. The game is set in the town of Ankh-Morpark, the leading city in Discworld. A secret brotherhood is formed among the local trades people and they get together to conjure up a big dragon. Using the dragon's powers, they want to destroy all their competitors. Now it's a pretty big deal if a dragon appears in Discworld, so the population gets a little concerned. So along comes the chief wizard, Rincewind,













Photography Mark Tynan

whose task it is to figure out how to get rid of the dragon. His job is to uncover the brotherhood and then defeat the dragon. Simple stuff, you might think, but TWG reckons that there are around 100 hours of gameplay and enough plot-twists to keep anyone happy.

The game is scripted like a traditional film, with four acts. Most of the gameplay is puzzle-based, although there is some Rambo-style action as well, but I won't give *too* much away at this stage.

Simon Turner, the lead animator on the project, had the task of interpreting the characters in Pratchett's novels onto the screen, while Nick Pratt produced the background graphics. The use of animation means the game will fulfil one of the main criteria from Philips — that it must play on a base-case CDi system without the optional Digital Video cartridge. "Obviously, having the extra memory of the Digital Video cartridge would have helped," says Barnett, "but we still believe the CDi version will maintain the quality of the PC and Macintosh versions of the game."

When we saw work in progress, most of the graphics and animation had been completed, and the voiceovers and soundtrack were going through final testing before being added to the game. It is in the area of sound that TWG has really added some neat touches to the game. The company has recruited some hot talent to record the voiceovers for all the different characters. They include Eric Idle, of Monty Python fame, Jon Pertwee (aka Doctor Who), Tony Robinson (Baldrick in Black Adder), Kate Robbins (Spitting Image) and relative newcomer Rob Brydon.

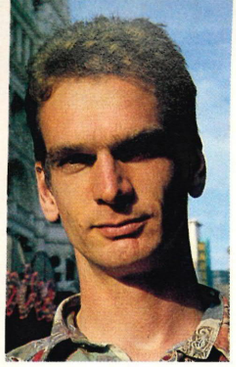
It is a formidable team, with some of the actors taking multiple parts. We were lucky enough to hear some of the early recordings, and the results are terrific. "Eric Idle spent eight and a half hours in the studio in Los Angeles," says Barnett, "and spoke at least 20,000 words. Altogether we had 90 different voices taking up 2,000 Mb of digital information before compression!"

It is not just the voiceovers, however, which have got the royal treatment. Much attention has been paid to the music, scored by TWG's own Rob Lord, who has specially written the music for each scene. There are 80-100 fully scored "themes" which help create the atmosphere so essential to any game.

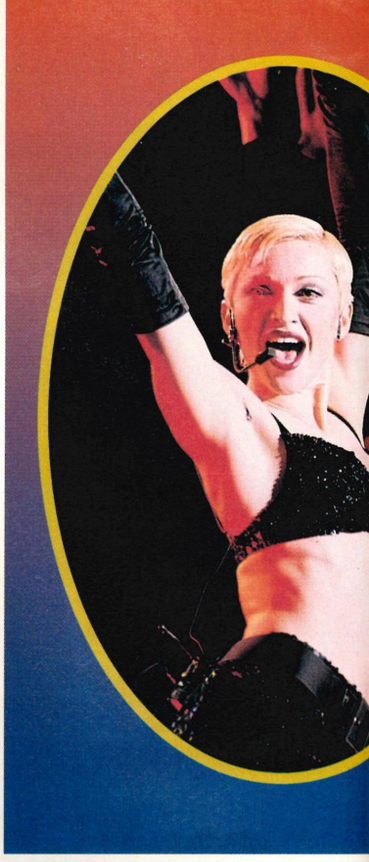
If all goes to plan, Discworld will be released on CDi during the second quarter of 1995.

credits

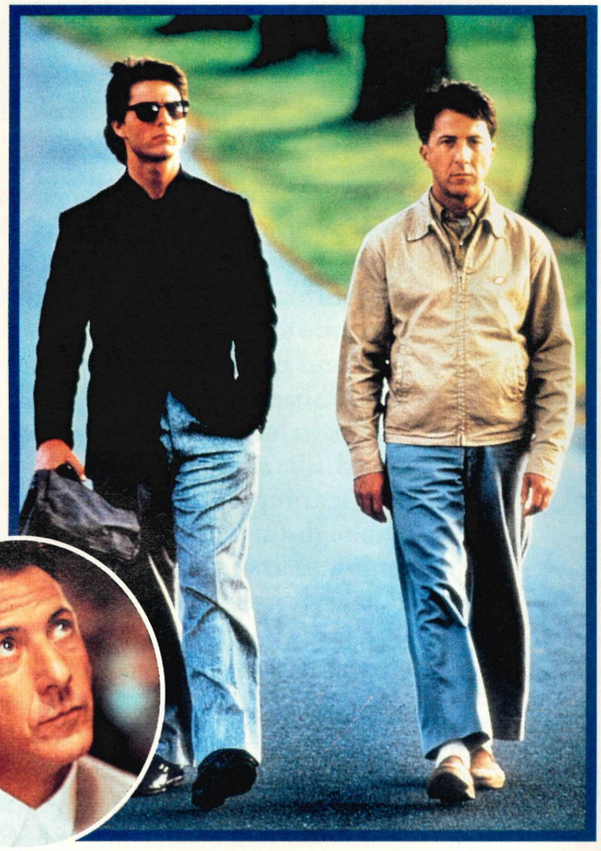
Producer:
Angela Sutherland
Directing and scriptwriting:
Greg Barnett (middle left)
Dialogue:
Paul Kidd
Lead animator:
Simon Turner (above)
Background artist/ animator:
Nick Pratt
Art manager:
Paul Mitchell (bottom left)
Programmer:
David Johnston (above left)
Music:
Rob Lord
Manchester office:
Mark Roll, John Young



BEN SOUTHWELL gets in the festive spirit and assesses the latest batch of films due for release this Christmas from Philips Media



RAIN MAN



Very highly praised when released, winning Oscars for Best Picture, Director, Actor (Dustin Hoffman) and Screenplay, Rain Man is a brave and intelligent movie about connecting with other people.

Tom Cruise plays Charlie Babbitt, a young man who discovers at his father's death that he has an autistic brother, Raymond (Hoffman). The movie is the story of their journey together across America in order to contest their father's will.

It's a journey of discovery as Charlie learns more and more about his brother and begins to understand what it means to be part of a family. As they travel towards their destination, Charlie's motives change from purely mercenary to something far more complex.

Hoffman is superb as the autistic brother. Every sound and every nuance make him as watchable as ever and he thoroughly deserved his Oscar.

Unfortunately, Cruise just isn't in the same class. Many people thought this film marked a watershed for Cruise, the role giving him the chance to show off his acting ability. On this evidence, he is a performer who is still locked away, unwilling to expose too much of what happens inside.

The growth of the film, which relies so heavily on Charlie's journey of discovery, is severely restricted by Cruise's limitations.

As a result, what should be a tremendously powerful and moving film falls short in its emotional impact.

But it remains a brave film about a tremendously difficult subject.

Rating: ☆☆☆☆☆
Encoding: good
Price: £17.99
Available: now



Tom Cruise (Charlie Babbitt) and Dustin Hoffman (Raymond) travel across the US



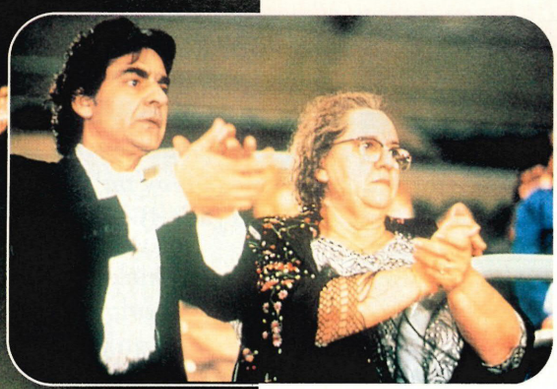
IN BED WITH MADONNA

This behind-the-scenes look at Madonna's 1990 world tour is an absorbing, exhilirating look at the material girl in action on and off stage.Contrasting grainy black and white cinema verite for the behind-the-scenes footage with full colour and choreographed cameras for the stage shows, director Alex Keshishian captures the essence of life on the road with one of the world's biggest stars. While Keshishian had unprecedented backstage access, Madonna insisted on complete control over all the material. The result is as interesting for what she has chosen to let us see as what she has edited out. There are some very revealing moments with her father, as well as entertaining scenes showing Madonna and her then current flame Warren Beatty.
It is put together with wit and intelligence, but it's the use of exciting concert footage to break up these private moments that keeps the film moving. Swooping cameras and multiple angles have captured the thrill of an excellent entertainer on top form. Madonna certainly knows how to put on a show and it's all here: the sets, the costumes, the dancing and, of course, the music.

Rating: ☆☆☆☆
Encoding: good
Price: £17.99
Available: now



Ballroom dancing down under: get your glad rags on, Doris



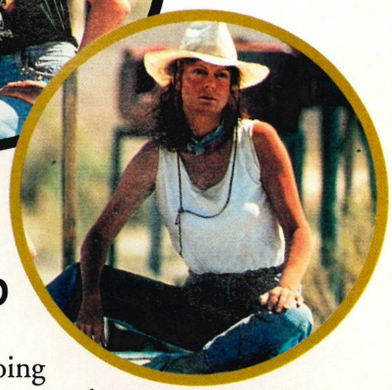
STRICTLY BALLROOM

I absolutely adored Strictly Ballroom. I know that sounds over-the-top, but it's how this film makes you feel. It's got charm, style, bags of heart and very simply and very gently it will knock you off your feet.
A small scale Australian film, Strictly Ballroom must go down in history as one of THE most charming sleeper hits of all time. Its tale of a young dancer who encounters tough opposition from family and colleagues when he insists on performing his own steps in dance competitions will have you tapping your feet within minutes of the start and itching to get up and take to the floor well before its wonderful finale.
From the parting red curtains that mark the start to the final frame, Strictly Ballroom is a spell-binding fantasy, a satire that's just one of the best feel-good films of the last ten years. Made with a freshness and an optimism rarely seen these days, it's so infectious it will soon have you reaching for your dance card and practicising those dance steps. Let's just hope the encoding lives up to the vibrancy of the original.

Rating: ☆☆☆☆
Encoding: *no disc*
Price: *£17.99*
Available: *now*



Geena Davis (left) and Susan Sarandon

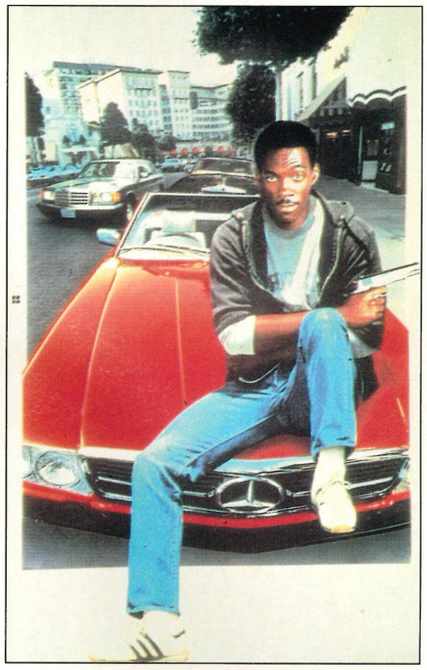


THELMA AND LOUISE

I know I'm going to upset a few people, but I didn't rate Thelma and Louise as highly as others did. This female buddy "road" movie had just one plot too many for my liking, and left me at the roadside as it roared off into a land of incredulity. That said, it caused a stir at the time of release, creating a new genre almost single-handedly.
Geena Davis and Susan Sarandon star in the title roles as a housewife and waitress who decide to go away to put some fun into their lives. After a near rape incident the women find themselves on the wrong side of the law, on the run and facing escalating trouble.
It's a film with something to say, but it is also an enjoyable ride. Director Ridley Scott abandons his more familiar cityscapes and studio sets for the fresh challenge of the American West and presents us with a movie that is truly beautiful to look at. What else would you expect from the man who brought us Blade Runner and Alien?
He also gives us a film packed with acting ability. Sarandon and Davis are excellent as the heroines of the title, while Harvey Keitel is brilliant as the only truly sympathetic male in the whole film. He plays the cop in charge of bringing the women to justice while trying desperately to help them.
It's a movie to make you think, laugh and cheer. A sort of Butch and Sundance for the 1990s, if you will.

Rating: ☆☆☆
Encoding: no disc
Price: £17.99
Available: now

BEVERLY HILLS COP



They say the originals are always best, and they're certainly not wrong when it comes to Eddie Murphy's character Axel Foley, alias Beverly Hills Cop. This hugely entertaining mix of comedy and action was a massive hit and features Murphy (in a role originally intended for Sylvester Stallone) at his wisecracking best as Detroit cop Foley, who goes to LA to track down the killers of an old friend.

This was one of the films that secured Murphy's status as one of THE major stars of the time, and it's easy to see why. He's on top form with a script that gives him plenty of opportunities to let his mouth run away with the show. With Judge Reinhold (in the role that made him a star) as one of two reluctant accomplices, Steven Berkoff hamming it up nicely as the evil mastermind and a soundtrack that spawned several hit records, it's no wonder this was one of the most popular films ever made.



Rating: ☆☆☆☆
Encoding: no disc
Price: £29.99 (twin pack)
Available: February '95



Above: Eddie Murphy and his reluctant accomplice Judge Reinhold

BEVERLY HILLS COP II

Better than Beverly Hills Cop III but nowhere near as good as the original, Beverly Hills Cop II is almost a re-make of that mega-hit rather than a sequel.

Eddie Murphy returns to LA hot on the trail of more dastardly criminals. This time the action is directed by Tony Scott, but where his Top Gun was thrilling and exciting, this is dull and formulaic.

Instead of the wit and pace of the first film, this one leaves a nasty taste in the mouth. The casting of Brigitte Nielsen as one of the baddies appears to have been taken as a licence for a serious attack of misogyny on the part of the scriptwriters and although all the regulars are back, the fun of the original has gone AWOL.

Rating: ☆☆☆
Encoding: no disc
Price: £29.99 (twin pack)
Available: February '95

SCROOGED



An interesting update to Dickens' A Christmas Carol, Scrooged is a sort of Ghostbusters meets literature. Bill Murray stars as Frank Cross, the mean, nasty and sadistic president of a New York TV network.

In other words, he's a modern day Scrooge. As in the original, he is visited at Christmas by ghostly figures from past, present and future (including a wonderfully maniacal cab driver), all determined to show him the error of his ways. Directed by Richard Donner (of Lethal Weapon fame), Scrooged is an interesting hybrid, but not a runaway success. The story gives lots of opportunities for the special effects department to strut its stuff, with many of the ghostly apparitions being genuinely scary. Bill Murray is always watchable, but here he gets swamped by the effects and there just aren't enough jokes.



Rating: ☆☆☆
Encoding: average
Price: £17.99
Available: now



AIRPLANE

Once upon a time there were disaster movies. Huge monsters of films that were about fires, earthquakes, sinking ships and airports. Then came Airplane, a frenetic, hysterical spoof of disaster movie cliches, and almost overnight the genre was dead.

Well, maybe it wasn't quite like that, but Airplane certainly hammered more than a few nails into the coffin.



Nothing like a quick spliff while at the controls of a 747

It is hard to think of a film with more jokes per minute than Airplane. There is always so much going on that it's hard to keep up, and it's almost impossible to take them all in in one viewing.

Practically every disaster cliche is spoofed (as well as a few other genres thrown in for good measure) and there are plenty of puns, visual gags and just downright stupid stuff to keep you amused.

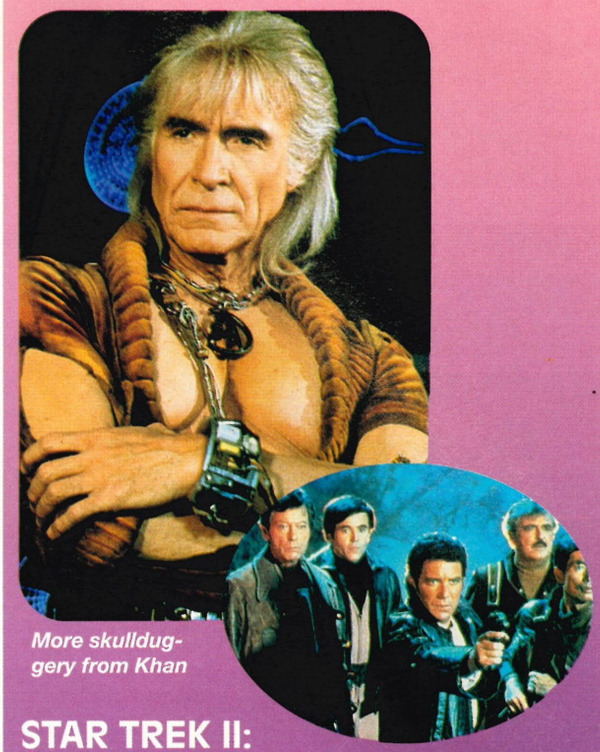
So what if some of the jokes fall a bit flat? It really doesn't matter because before you've had a chance to realise it, you're laughing at something else. OK, so maybe it's a bit juvenile, but Airplane is like a breath of fresh air, a comedy that really makes you laugh right to the last frame. It's even worth reading the end credits.

Rating: ☆☆☆☆☆
Encoding: no disc
Price: £17.99
Available: February '95

RATINGS:

☆=poor
☆☆=average ☆☆☆=good
☆☆☆☆=very good
☆☆☆☆☆=excellent

The films featured are from Paramount Pictures, MGM/UA, PolyGram Video and VCI



More skullduggery from Khan

STAR TREK II: THE WRATH OF KHAN

One of the best of the Star Trek movies (which on the whole have been very good) and a huge relief after the so sloooow Star Trek - The Motion Picture.

Gone is the pomposity of the first movie, and in its place we get a rollicking good tale filled with all the best from the television series. It's as if everyone suddenly woke up and remembered what made Star Trek great in the first place.

The Wrath of Khan is basically an adventure story that boldly pits Kirk's Enterprise against Khan (a villain from the original TV series) in a battle for control of a new lifeforce. The pace is fast and the action well handled by director Nicholas Meyer.

Of course, there is still a great deal of Trekkie moralizing involving Kirk (at his humanist best), and great personal sacrifice and tragedy, but that's what the Star Trek mix is all about. All the regular stars are on display once again, with the addition of Kirstie Allen (of Cheers fame) who made an early career appearance as a new Vulcan member of the crew. Sadly she didn't become a regular.

It's not as much fun as Star Trek VI (also directed by Meyer), but for my money it runs a close second.

Rating: ☆☆
Encoding: no disc
Price: £17.99
Available: TBA

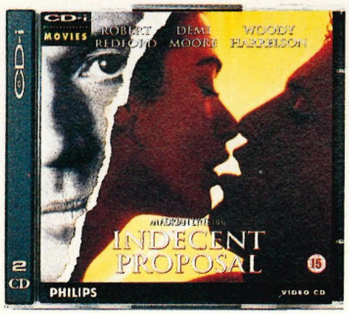




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INDECENT PROPOSAL © ™ £17.99



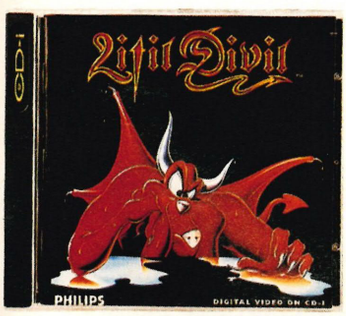
TINA TURNER© £19.99

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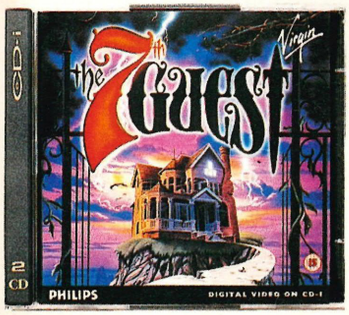


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OVERALL RATING
OCT '94

CD-i MAGAZINE RATING:

GRAPHICS	**96%**
SOUND	**95%**
INTERACTIVITY	**95%**

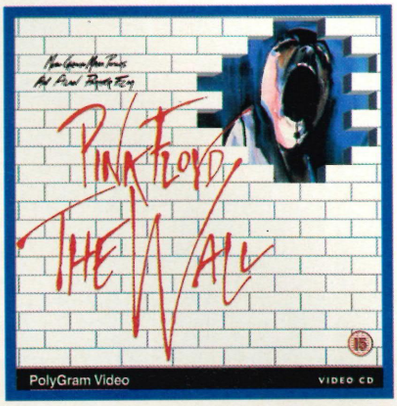
COMET
YOU KNOW WHERE TO COME.

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JUKEbox

PATRICK BATEMAN, ANDY STOUT and JASON ALESI pick out the good and the bad from this month's Video CD music releases

PINK FLOYD: THE WALL



As rock films go, this is probably one of the defining ones. Not necessarily for all the right reasons, but Alan Parker's film version of the Floyd album can certainly be defined as a landmark.

First the good stuff: Gerald Scarfe's animation which is sandwiched in between the live action. This is truly stunning, Scarfe managing to pour all the bitterness of the album into his illustrations and adding even more of his own famous vitriol. Other reasons to buy it? Ah, there you've got me slightly. The problem is that the album from which the film sprang is so deeply flawed that the visuals have to follow.

For some people this could be the ultimate nightmare: what amounts to 95 minutes of music video. Parker tries his best with the source material, but most of the metaphors are clunkingly leaden-footed and so is the music. Floyd had by this time ceased being really a group and more a vehicle for Roger Waters to whinge.

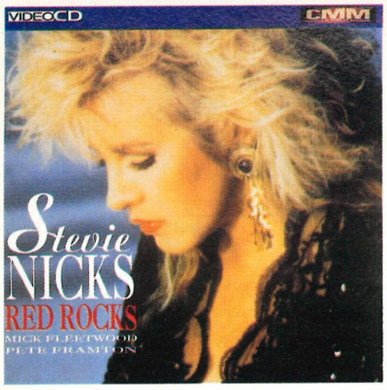
JASON ALESI

Rating: ☆☆ Encoding: average Cost: £19.99
Available: now Contact: Philips Media 081 911 3081/3091

CREAM

If the Alice Cooper disc shows how an interview interleaved with a live performance can be interesting, this one shows how it can be exceptionally dull. Yet again it all comes down to the subject matter. The main problem is that so much has been written and filmed on Cream over the last decades that anything else really has to stand out to be at all memorable. This doesn't, it's as simple as that. Dropped in among the talking head stuff is film of the band at work.

STEVIE NICKS: RED ROCKS



The introduction to this one disc Stevie Nicks Video CD is straight out of the Marty DiBergi school of rockumentary cliches. It opens with a Lear jet, no less, flying high over the sun-baked expanses of California.

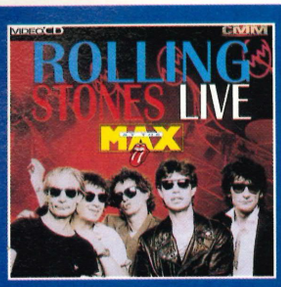
It then cuts to a stunning natural sandstone skyscraper — the Red Rocks of the title — where thousands of fans are swarming towards the venue like pilgrims to worship. Cut back to the rock stars themselves, who are arriving in a convoy of white limousines.

So what about the concert itself? The eerily lit Red Rocks present a perfect natural backdrop to the music — especially in the shots taken from the gig's "eye in the sky" aerial photographer. Thankfully, the Video CD transfer is well up to scratch, and even manages to encode the notoriously difficult rock and roll audience footage without breaking up. The audio quality is top notch, too. Old hippies will love it.

PATRICK BATEMAN

Rating: ☆☆☆ Encoding: very good
Cost: £17.99 Available: now Contact: Castle Communications

ROLLING STONES: LIVE AT THE MAX



This is one of those discs. The type that should never have seen the light of day. Why? Well, the background is grainy, the band members keep bit-mapping and the sound is the thin, weedy sort of stuff that you used to get with the dreaded flexi-discs. The first copy I had of this disc was both aurally and visually excruciating. It had obviously been converted using some arcane method involving yoghurt pots and bits of string. The worst part is that the content, the Stones in full flight on the spectacularly-staged Steel Wheels Tour, is excellent. Jagger struts, Keef solos, huge bits of apparatus explode, inflate or light up like Christmas trees. What is more, it was filmed using the latest IMAX technology and the quality of the original master tape is superb. A quick call to Castle Communications followed. Did they really want to release it in this state. Er, well, maybe not. Didn't we like it? No. Sorry guys, but it's back to the drawing board on this one.

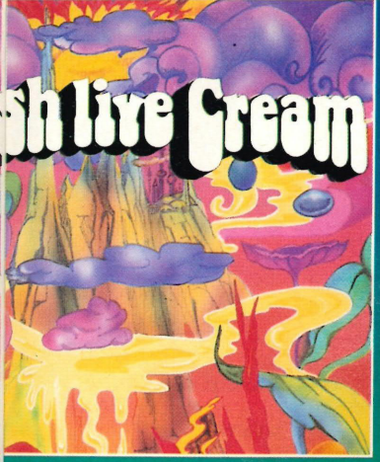
JASON ALESI

Rating: ☆ Encoding: enough said Cost: £24.99 Available: TBA Contact: Castle Communications

BELINDA CARLISLE: RUNAWAY LIVE

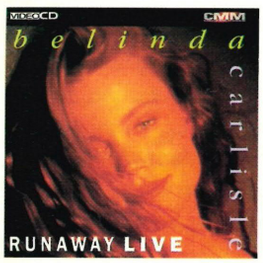
Belinda Carlisle. To the disinterested observer, she is notable for three things: cheekbones to die for, tastefully exposed cleavage and a handful of catchy tunes. Thankfully, all three are on show in this two-disc Video CD set, taken from a Birmingham NEC show during the 1990 Runaway Horses tour. Sadly, though, despite the blurb on the cover, this is a long way from being a "classic live performance". Ms Carlisle's vocal chords were showing signs of mid-tour fatigue, while the Brummie audience was perhaps a little more reserved than the fans back in the US of A.

The biggest problem is her backing band.



This is probably the main area of interest, a handful of tracks recorded live in the studio while one cameraman pans frantically between Baker paradiddling, Clapton soloing and Bruce singing. The filming is dodgy, the sound is not an awful lot better (though you have to make allowances for the age of the material), and apart from a couple of Old Grey Whistle Tests, bands never really reached the peek of their performances solely in front of cameras. Cream just look like they are going through the motions. It might be worth a giggle for some of the fashion monstrosities on show, but apart from that it doesn't really add anything to the Cream story. For die-hards only.
ANDY STOUT

Rating: ☆☆
Encoding: average
Cost: £19.99
Available: now
Contact: Castle Communications



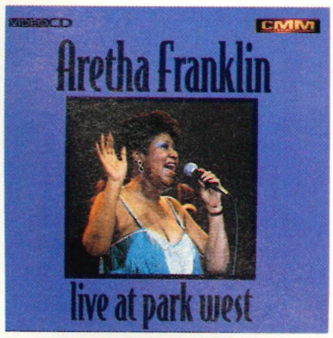
Belinda's best material — Circle In The Sand, (We Want) The Same Thing, Vision Of You — are Grade A pop songs. The trouble is that Belinda has roped together a Grade B rock band — complete with redundant guitar solos, chugging power chords and a weak rhythm section.
The encoding is really rather good, with high levels of detail and little in the way of digital jiggery-pokery. That is until the encores begin and the lights come up — the challenge of encoding 7,000 bouncing Brummies is beyond even the most sophisticated MPEG engineer. Strangely, the audio doesn't hold up nearly as well. The mix is often painfully thin — exposing the bathroom warble that Belinda slips into in her quieter moments — and generally the music sounds compressed and tinny.
PATRICK BATEMAN

Rating: ☆☆
Encoding: very good
Cost: £19.99
Available: now
Contact: Castle Communications

RATINGS:
☆=poor ☆☆=average
☆☆☆=good ☆☆☆☆=very good
☆☆☆☆☆=excellent
All these Video CD music titles, with the exception of Pink Floyd: The Wall, are available from Castle Communications on 081 974 1021.

ARETHA FRANKLIN: LIVE AT PARK WEST

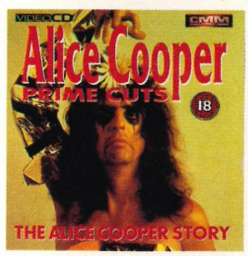
The sign behind the stage says it all. Six feet tall and twelve feet long, it is a larger-than-life signature of a larger-than-life singer. Just her first name, mind. After all, how many Arethas do you know? This single disc Video CD package is taken from a nine year old televised concert the "Queen of Soul" gave at the Park West nightclub in Chicago. But while the tracklist may be missing some of Ms Franklin's more recent crossover hits, there's more than enough classic material here to keep soul fans stoked up. With a 12-strong backing band, and possibly the most hideous dress this side of Vivienne Westwood, Franklin tears her way through her back catalogue, with splendid performances of Respect (twice), Sweet Bitter Love, Say A Little Prayer and Freeway of Love. As usual, Aretha makes full use of that phenomenal four-octave, gospel-trained voice, shifting effortlessly from a smoky baritone whisper to eyewatering falsetto at the drop of a hat. There is no need for flashy visual techniques here, all the pyrotechnics you need are in Aretha's vocal chords. She also demonstrates a nifty talent as an impersonator, pulling off a creditable impression of fellow soul artist George Benson, who was sadly not around to perform the duet Something We Can Feel.
Audio quality is as good as you can expect from a TV broadcast, but the visual encoding is no better than workmanlike. The main culprits are the electronic "mosquitoes" that swarm around the edge of many of the moving edges.
PATRICK BATEMAN



Rating: ☆☆☆☆ Encoding: average
Cost: £19.99 Available: now Contact: Castle Communications

PRIME CUTS: THE ALICE COOPER STORY

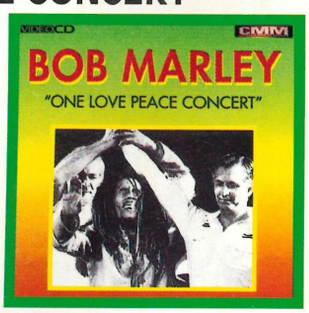
This is more like it. A disc that combines live performance, archive clips and some actual narrative from the people concerned. Cooper was the high priest of shock, a hammy pre-punk, theatrical Hammer horror film set to music. Before the Pistols came along and said the naughty f-word on TV, people like Cooper and The Tubes were the ones that undermined the moral fabric of society. The marvellous thing was that they were highly entertaining with it. Witness the terrible make-up, the wonderful sneer of "Billion Dollar Babies" or the consumate teen-angst of "I'm Eighteen".
ANDY STOUT



Rating: ☆☆☆☆ Encoding: average
Cost: £19.99 Available: now Contact: Castle Communications

BOB MARLEY: ONE LOVE PEACE CONCERT

My Complete Family Encyclopaedia says this about Bob Marley: Marley, Bob (Robert Nesta) 1945-1980. Jamaican reggae singer, a Rastafarian whose songs, many of which were topical and political, popularised reggae in the 1970s. This CD doesn't say a lot else about him. Marley himself only makes a couple of cameo appearances. Most of the disc gives a brief thumbnail sketch of the reggae movement in Jamaica. Despite that though, it's still quite good.
ANDY STOUT



Rating: ☆☆☆ Encoding: average
Cost: £19.99 Available: now Contact: Castle Communications

There's fun galore for kids this Christmas, with a host of new titles to play with: cartoons, films and games for all ages



THE BIG FRIENDLY GIANT



Roald Dahl's enchanting novel is turned into a full length animated feature film by Cosgrove Hall Productions.
Little Sophie is snatched from her orphanage bed one night by an awesome giant, known as the Big Friendly Giant (BFG). It is the start of a thrilling adventure.
The BFG's job is to catch dreams in Dream Country and blow them into children's bedrooms when they are asleep. Sophie sees the BFG at work, but people are not supposed to see giants. So the BFG whisks her away to his own planet where Sophie soon finds out that not all giants are friendly.
There is a constant threat from the bigger, uglier, cannablistic giants like The Bloodbottler, The Trogglehumper and The Fleshlumpeater.
Sophie is determined that the giants must be stopped from carrying out their fiendish plans, and the only person she can think of with enough power is the Queen of England. Will the Queen listen to her? Can Sophie stop the giants? Find out in this beautifully animated and narrated 90 minute feature film.
David Jason stars as the voice of the BFG, Amanda Root as Sophie and Angela Thorne as the Queen in this two disc set.

Rating: ☆☆☆☆
Encoding: good
Cost: £12.99
Available: now
Contact: Philips Media

DAFFY DUCK AND FRIENDS



Our four year-old tester, Luc, went nuts over this one. Sure, these cartoons have been around for a while, but they're still great. There are eight to choose from, including Yankee Doodle Daffy, The Wacky Wabbit, To Duck or Not Duck and The Fresh Hare.
With your own Video CD collection of cartoons, there's no need to subscribe to the cartoon channel on satellite TV any more. Just pop in the disc and away you go. Good value at £9.99, but again remember this is mono sound

POPEYE

You get classic cartoon capers in this hour-long Video CD. Popeye has to keep his strength up and eat plenty of spinach to make sure his skinny sweetheart Olive Oil isn't swept off her feet by his arch enemy Bluto.
There are seven cartoons to choose from, including Aladdin and His Wonderful Lamp, Ancient Fistory, I Don't Care and Floor Flusher.
But remember, these are very old cartoons (many from the 1950s) so don't expect pin-sharp picture quality and sound. It's rather like listening to a cou-

THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS: THE TALE OF TWO TOADS



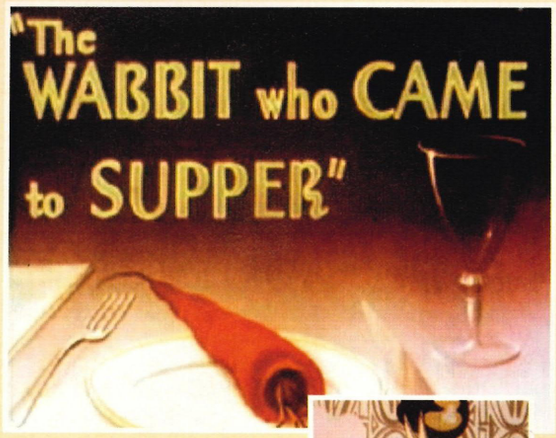
Poor old Toad of Toad Hall gets kidnapped by an evil imposter and becomes a prisoner in his own home.
Mole and Badger can't understand what is going on, but eventually come to Toad's rescue.
The familiar characters created by Kenneth Grahame are brought to life through the voices of Sir Michael Hordern, Peter Sallis and David Jason. Excellent animation and detailed sets make this a joy for any young child to watch.

Rating: ☆☆☆☆
Encoding: good
Cost: £12.99
Available: now
Contact Philips Media

RATINGS:
☆=poor
☆☆=average
☆☆☆=good
☆☆☆☆=very good
☆☆☆☆☆=excellent

To contact Philips Media , phone 071 911 3081/3091. CD Vision is on 081 503 0589.







with the inevitable crackles for period atmosphere! Great fun, though.

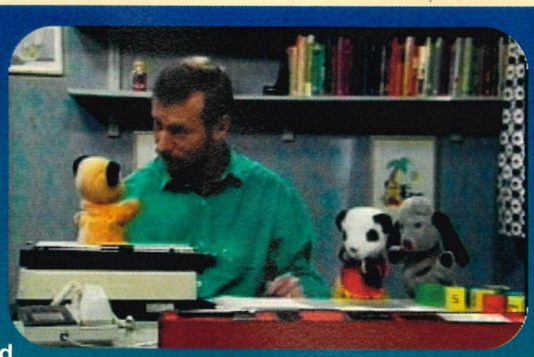
Rating: ☆☆☆
Encoding: average
Cost: £9.99
Available: now
Contact: CD Vision

ple of your favourite old vinyl records — you forget just how much hiss, crackle and pop there was! Kids will still love them though, so for £9.99, I don't reckon it's bad value. And you have all the functionality (forward, reverse, skip etc) of CDi. Play them over and over again, and they won't wear out either.

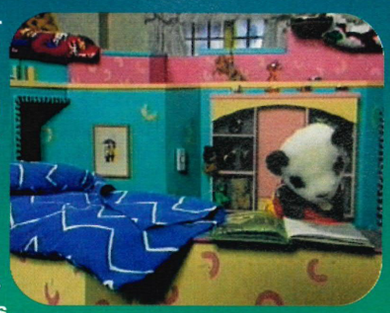
Rating: ☆☆☆
Encoding: average
Cost: £9.99
Available: now
Contact: CD Vision



LEARN WITH SOOTY: START TO READ



Harry Corbett's popular children's characters Sooty, Soo and Sweep star in this simple, easy-to-follow "learn to read" Video CD.
The disc has been devised in consultation with educational specialists and incorporates tried and tested educational and learning techniques. Sooty, Soo and Sweep, guided by Matthew Corbett, introduce the basic skills that children really need to understand if they are to learn how to read. It can be fun, too!
Watch Sooty, Soo and Sweep in their own home or follow Sweep as Matthew takes him to the shops. Includes footage shot in a real classroom. Parents can develop the ideas suggested in the programme and adapt them for their own children. Written and presented by Matthew Corbett.





Rating: ☆☆☆
Encoding: good
Cost: £12.99
Available: now
Contact Philips Media

WIN A FREE COPY OF FAMILY GAMES ON CDi!

As a special Christmas treat, we are giving away 10 free copies of Family Games, courtesy of Philips Media. All you have to do is answer the three simple questions below and send you answers to: CDi Magazine, 60 Waldegrave Road, Teddington, Middlesex, TW11 8LG. The first ten correct replies will receive a free disc. The winners will be notified by post. No correspondence will be entered into. The judges' decision is final. Employees of Haymarket Publishing and Philips Media may not enter.

1) Name the original creator of the TV puppet Sooty.

_____

2) Whose voice is used for the character of the Big Friendly Giant in the film of Roald Dahl's best-selling novel?

_____

3) Where does Toad live in Wind of the Willows?

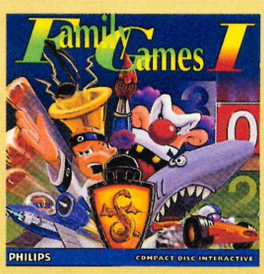
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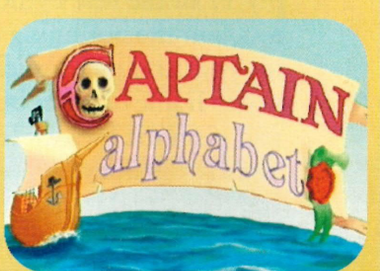
NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

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☐ If you do not wish to receive further information from Philips Media or Haymarket Publishing, please tick this box.





Family Games contains ten games for all the family, mixing action and adventure, brain teasers or straightforward entertainment.
Try your hand at Captain Alphabet, a spelling game, Skid Kart or Where's That Sound?
There is also a straight-forward piloting game, Full Attack, and simple shooting games like Morphon Invasion and Hot Rocks. You can even draw your own shapes and colour them in using Draw Stamp Colour.



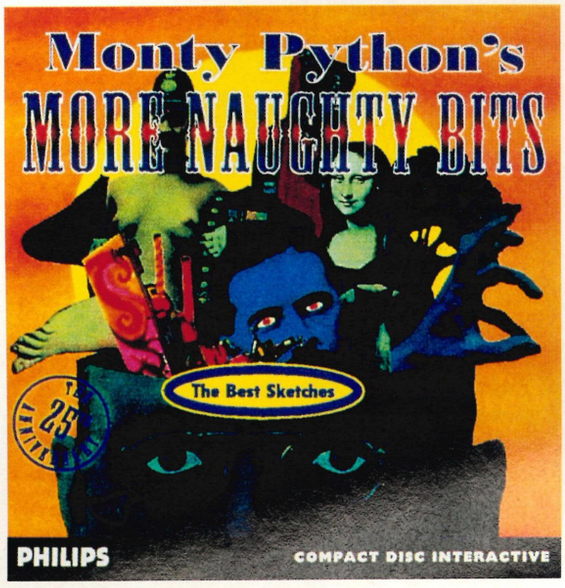




JUST for laughs

Fancy a giggle? ANDY CLOUGH spent a few rib-tickling hours watching the latest batch of comedy releases on Video CD

MONTY PYTHON: MORE NAUGHTY BITS



For those of us of a certain age, this is truly classic comedy. Remember the Parrot Sketch, Black Knight or the quite revolting Fat Man in the restaurant? (I made the mistake of watching the latter while eating breakfast — not to be recommended!)

This disc will bring the memories flooding back, and the humour is as perfect now as it was then. The Python team, including the irrepressible John Cleese and Michael Palin, will have you in stitches. Some of the sketches have now become folklore, still mentioned in pub conversations and often mimicked. But you can't beat the originals.

There is nothing particlarly clever about this CDi version. It is simply 17 of the best Python sketches transferred to CD. There is a nice touch at the beginning during the opening sequence (I won't spoil it for you) and each sketch is accessed by simply clicking on the appropriate frame of a reel of film. To move the cursor, don't do what I did and push the joystick left or right, move it up or down. This seems a slightly unnatural movement in relation to the screen graphics, but you'll get used to it.

Before long, you'll probably be repeating all the best lines to your friends and driving them nuts. You can pick from such classics as Merchant Banker, Argument Clinic, The Ministry of Silly Walks and Four Yorkshiremen (as a Yorkshireman myself, a particular favourite, that one).

Obviously, there is very little interactivity on this title, although a Monty Python game on CDi is in development (see News, issue 8). But if you are a Python fan and want to add their material to your CDi collection, this will do nicely.

Some of the video quality is a little the worse for wear, but this appears to be down to the age of the originals rather than any particular problem with the MPEG encoding. My only other criticisms are that the cut-off between tracks is rather abrupt, and the disc is a tad on the expensive side.

Rating: ☆☆☆☆
Encoding: good
Price: £19.99
Available: now

SMITH AND JONES: ONE NIGHT STAND

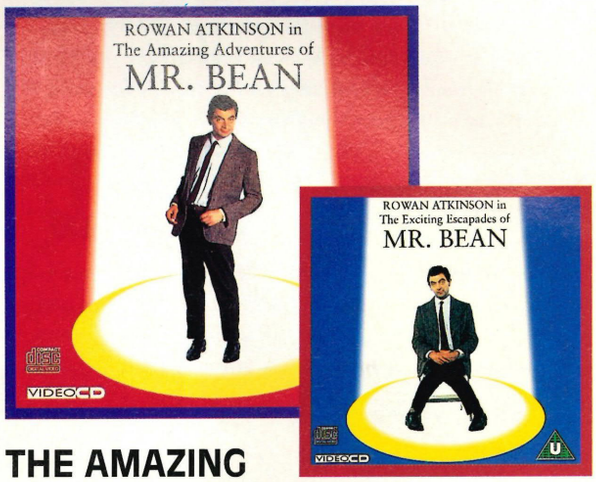
18

Two of Britain's hottest comedy talents star in their first live video, recorded in June 1994 at the Theatre Royal in Stratford East, London. Join them in their vibrant debate on an awe-inspiring range of themes from Devon to Death, self-assembly furniture to the Summer of Love!

Smith and Jones have a superb sense of comic timing. Their double entendres are legendary, as the worldly-wise Smith plays up to the naive innocence of Jones.

Together, they run through a whole range of everyday topics — sex, drugs, parenthood — in their own inimitable style. For your money you get 70 minutes of witty (and often crude) observations on human life. One word of warning — there is some pretty strong language and this is definitely 18 certificate material, so don't say you weren't told!

The encoding is sharp, but then the MPEG processor doesn't have too much to cope with, as the two men are filmed sitting on



THE AMAZING ADVENTURES OF MR BEAN

The comic genius of Rowan Atkinson is guaranteed to have you in stitches after the first 30 seconds of watching this disc. This one contains sketches from Mr Bean, the original pilot episode, winner of the 1990 Golden Rose of Montreux, which introduced us all to the most embarrassing man on the planet. His personality is a hideous cocktail of viciousness, innocence and ingenuity. There is something quintessentially British about Atkinson's sense of humour, the way he takes a typical, everyday event and turns it into a recipe for disaster. There is an element of all of us in Mr Bean. You may never have done some of the things he does, but I bet you've thought about it! There he is in The Exam, unable to answer a single question, or On The Beach, trying to change into swimming trunks without taking off his trousers, or desperately trying to stay



stage most of the time and only occasionally leave their seats.
One doubt lingers in my mind. The price. £17.99 might be OK for a full-blown feature film, but it's a bit steep when you consider that the same material on VHS costs £5 less.

Rating: ☆☆☆ Encoding: good Price: £17.99 Available: now

awake in The Church. It is eye-watering material.
The second half of the disc contains sketches from The Return of Mr Bean: The Restaurant, The Department Store and The Royal Film Performance, among others. This is the type of material Video CD is crying out for. More please!

Rating: ☆☆☆☆
Encoding: good
Price: £17.99
Available: now

THE EXCITING ESCAPADES OF MR BEAN

As if to answer my prayers, here is the second of the Thames Video/VCI Mr Bean discs.
Remember the car park scene? The one with the battered yellow Mini? Or the TV installation sketch? Need I say more.
If you haven't already seen the escapades of Mr Bean, you should. If you saw the programmes when they were first shown on TV, then they will still bring tears to your eyes second or third time round.
There are thirteen sketches in all, stretching over an hour. They are taken from The Curse of Mr Bean and Mr Bean Goes to Town, and there is one additional sketch — The Bus Stop — which was never shown on TV.
Encoding quality is generally good, with only one or two minor glitches which you probably won't notice.

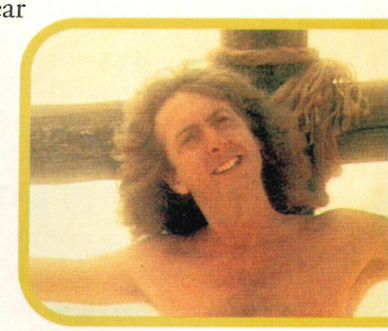
Rating: ☆☆☆☆
Encoding: good
Price: £17.99
Available: now

RATINGS:
☆=poor
☆☆=average
☆☆☆=good
☆☆☆☆=very good
☆☆☆☆☆=excellent
Contact Philips Media 071 911 3081

JUST for laughs

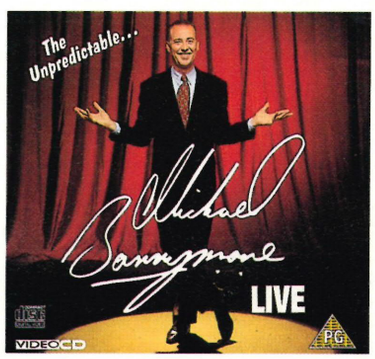
MONTY PYTHON— THE BEST SONGS

To celebrate the 25th anniversary of the TV series Monty Python's Flying Circus, here is a Video CD collection of 17 of the most famous Monty Python songs. All songs can be played with or without the lyrics, which appear on screen. Includes Always Look On The Bright Side Of Life, the Lumberjack Song and Every Sperm Is Sacred.
The disc also includes two of the most famous Python sketches, the Argument Clinic and The Parrot Sketch. These can be played with the voice of one or other of the two actors muted, enabling you to act that part yourself, karaoke style.



Rating: ☆☆☆ Encoding: no disc available
Price: £19.99 Available: now

THE UNPREDICTABLE MICHAEL BARRYMORE



OK, I admit it. I wasn't actually present at the Blackpool Opera House when this was filmed. But I heard about it.
Michael Barrymore was at his rib-tickling best, and made light of his much-publicised problems with alcohol. Hurling himself around on stage, clutching a glass of orange juice, the 6' 3" comedian proved once again why he deserved the accolade of Comedy Awards Entertainer of the Year in 1993.
Whether heckling the audience, imitating the Blues Brothers or just being himself, Barrymore is guaranteed to make you laugh.

Rating: ☆☆☆☆ Encoding: no disc available Price: £17.99 Available: now

HAVE I GOT NEWS FOR YOU — VOLUME 1

15

An hilarious compilation of some of the funniest moments from the hit BBC2 show, which regularly attracts over six million viewers.
The familiar crew is there: host Angus Deayton, Mr Private Eye (Ian Hislop) and comedian and all round good guy Paul Merton.
This specially edited compilation begins with footage from the very first show. Special guests include Griff Rhys Jones, Neil Kinnock, Rory Bremner, Chris Evans, Harry Enfield and, of course, the infamous Tub of Lard. As ever, the wit and satire flows fast and furious. If you missed any of the early series, now is your chance to catch up.
Watch Paul Merton confront Angus about the affair with his wife, witness Ian Hislop explain the libel laws on TV (very funny, allegedly) and see Angus suffer during the Brown Suit episode.
Have I Got News For You has proved to be one of the most enduring comedy shows on TV. This disc won't disappoint, even if it is on the pricey side.



Rating: ☆☆☆☆
Encoding: no disc available
Price: £17.99 Available: now

VIDEO cd

Looking for some cheap and cheerful stocking fillers? PATRICK BATEMAN reviews the first batch of Video CDs from CD Vision

BEYOND THE LAW

15

Cynthia Rothrock is not a name that will mean much to most of CDi Magazine's readers. Unless you are the sort of person who hangs around the shadowy corners of flea-bitten video shops, that is. Because Ms Rothrock is the queen of straight-to-video, chop-sockey martial arts movies.

She churns out between three and five films a year (typical titles are *Rage and Honour* and *No Retreat, No Surrender II*). Beyond The Law is an early example of her "work", a Hong-Kong produced actioner that has been crudely dubbed into English.



The chubby-cheeked Ms Rothrock plays a tough FBI agent sent to Hong Kong to bring back an informer on the run from the Mob. Helping her are two of Hong Kong's "finest", a pair of cops so crass, homophobic and reactionary they make Little and Large look like the Sitwells.

Forget the plot, though (the cast certainly did). It merely acts as a frame to hang the martial arts set-pieces on. The fight scenes are surprisingly well choreographed — Ms Rothrock is certainly more adept with her fists than delivering her lines.

As usual, the real star of the show is the sound effects engineer. He must have been smoking some mighty strong herbal remedies during this movie. By the end, you feel that if Ms Rothrock picked her nose, he would cook up an ear-splitting "Craaackkkkkkk!!!" to accompany the action.

The encoding is workmanlike, although there is enough on-screen garbage to keep LaserDisc owners looking smug. Like all CD Vision's releases, there are no chapter contents for the movie (an annoying omission), and only a very rudimentary screen title.

In conclusion, Beyond The Law is complete and utter rubbish. It's only redeeming feature is that it is so over-the-top awful, anthropology students and Jonathan Ross might find it enjoyable.

Rating: ☆ Encoding: average
Price: £12.99
Available: now



PENN & TELLER: DON'T TRY THIS AT HOME

For those of you who haven't seen their recent Channel 4 TV series, Penn & Teller are a pair of US magicians who have re-invented the magic show for the younger, slacker audiences who would rather see a rabbit boiled alive than pulled out of a hat.

Consequently, much of their act focuses on the grotesque — maggots and houseflies are among their most regularly used props — while at the same time humorously stripping away the hocus pocus to show how the tricks are actually performed.

This "democratic" approach got the duo

HALLOWEEN

18

Halloween was a film that spawned a genre: the stalk and slash movie. But nothing that followed could hold a lantern to director John Carpenter's 1978 milestone.

The plot seems familiar now. In a sleepy Illinois town, the six-year old Michael Myers stabs his elder sister to death on Halloween night. Fifteen years later, he escapes from a high security mental asylum and heads for home, pursued by the obssessive Dr Loomis (Donald Pleasance). Back in Haddonfield, Illinois, the unsuspecting Laurie (a gawky Jamie Lee Curtis) and her circle of teenage pals are stalked and, one by one, dispatched by the tall, dark and gruesome Mr Myers — who sports a spooky Halloween mask.

On paper it doesn't add up to much, but John Carpenter has fashioned a genuinely scary shocker. From its pioneering use of the killer's point-of-view (complete with heavy breathing in the background) to the excellent electronic soundtrack, Halloween makes up for its low budget with genuine innovation.

Unfortunately, the quality of this Video CD fails to match the content. The picture quality is muddy throughout, with most of the colours leached away. Some of this is no doubt a result

turfed out of the Magic Circle, but they are crying all the way to the bank, having conjured up a fortune out of TV series and live appearances.
This Video CD is a recording of an American TV show and features some of their best material. In particular, there is a stunningly choreographed expose of "the chainsaw a person into tiny parts" trick, executed with such panache that you end up applauding the TV screen. Other notable episodes include the diminutive Teller being run over by a 69,999 pound truck (the maximum weight permitted on New York roads), Penn being attacked by killer marshmallows, and both of them being locked in a glass booth filled with thousands of bees.
This Video CD transfer is almost completely error-free. Indeed, the disc looks a lot better than most NTSC to PAL programming broadcast on terrestrial TV these days. But, for some crazy reason, all the commercial breaks of the original programme are retained in this version — leaving you staring at 10 seconds of blank screen every 15 minutes.
As a committed Penn & Teller enthusiast, I have to recommend this disc. But part of me wonders whether it will stand up to repeated viewing. When you've seen one killer marshmallow, you've seen them all.

Rating: ☆☆☆☆
Encoding: very good
Price: £12.99
Available: now

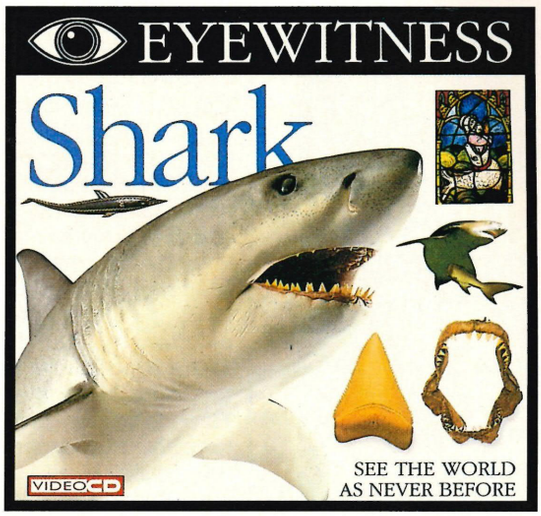


of the original, low budget film stock, but less forgiveable are the constant glitches and dropped frames that blight much of the first disc. Thankfully, the problem is less pronounced in the second disc, although it still occurs sporadically. A great movie, but a flawed Video CD.

Rating: ☆☆☆☆ Encoding: poor Price: £12.99 Available: now

SHARK

One of several titles from the excellent Dorling Kindersley Eyewitness series, co-produced by BBC Wildvision and BBC Lionheart Television. This is a 35-minute exploration of one of the most fearsome and misunderstood creatures. Did you know, for example, that sharks existed 150 million years before dinosaurs? Or that they can smell blood over 1 km away?
There is excellent underwater footage of some of the 375 different species of shark, and as this programme was originally shot for television, the quality of the camera work and graphics is excellent. The transfer to Video CD is quite excellent, with only the occasional small blemish compared to the original.
For anyone with an interest in natural history, the Eyewitness series of discs provide a fascinating insight into the creatures of our natural world.



Rating: ☆☆☆
Encoding: excellent
Price: £9.99
Available: now

THE OUTLAW

The Outlaw is a two-hour long black and white western directed 51 yeas ago by the reclusive aircraft entrepreneur, Howard Hughes. Although the film is ostensibly about the outlaw Billy the Kid, and his alliance with Doc Halliday to outrun the pursuing Sheriff Pat Garrett, the real star of the show is the pneumatic Ms Russell.



She plays the sultry Rio, a young prairie woman with more hormones than you or I have had hot dinners. She nurses the injured Billy back to health, a task which involves a lot of bending over and hanging over cleavage. Unfortunately, believability is not part of her character's make-up: first Billy the Kid kills her brother, then rapes her, so, of course, she falls in love with him.The Video CD encoding is fine, with only the wagon wheels and horses' legs throwing a spanner in the MPEG works. The Outlaw is painfully slow in parts but still great fun.

Rating: ☆☆☆☆
Price: £12.99
Encoding: very good



VICTIMISED

When Victimised was released on VHS last year, it provoked a stinking row.It's easy to see why. Like the video tape, this Video CD is packaged as a Sharon Stone movie. What the packaging doesn't tell you is that it's a 15-year-old Sharon Stone movie, and it's not really a movie at all — just a made for TV filler.

It's also unclear what the 18 certificate is doing on the cover. Unlike Ms Stone's more recent movies — Total Recall, Basic Instinct, Sliver — there's very little violence and no sex in Victimised .

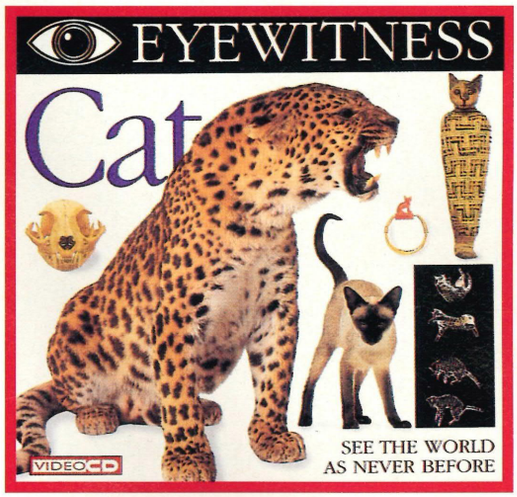
What you do get is a bog standard thriller (sic) in which Stone plays a troubled centrefold star who is stalked by a demented serial killer — a killer who is using his large chopper to perforate the models who appear in the soft-porn "male interest" magazine, Paradise.

The love interest is provided by stalwart character actor Tom (alien) Skerritt, the craggy cop whose crusty exterior is slowly stripped away by Ms Stone's charms. But devotees of the actress's incredible disappearing underwear technique will be sadly disappointed — her knickers stay on throughout. In fact they're the tightest thing evident in this flabbily constructed and shoddily directed affair.

The Video CD transfer is just about acceptable, although colours are a little lifeless and "jjaggies" do rear their ugly, square heads when the on-screen action becomes too intense. All told, Victimised is a dog of a film. The sort of tripe that would make you rip the satellite dish from the wall if it was shown on Sky Movies. Gold. Avoid at all costs.

Rating: nil
Encoding: fair
Price: £12.99
Available: now

CAT

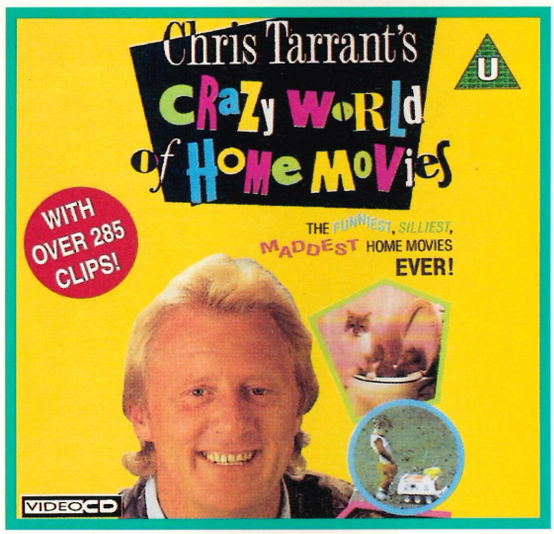


Cat is one of a series of Eyewitness natural history titles from publisher Dorling Kindersley produced in association with BBC Wildvision and Lionheart Television. The original VHS has now been transferred to Video CD by CD Vision. It gives 35 minutes of linear video taking the viewer on a wildlife tour which mixes fact, history, anecdote, myth and legend. Cat was originally filmed for television, and it shows. The graphics and production values are first rate, and there is some terrific footage of tigers, leopards, jaguars, panthers — and, of course, good old domestic cats too.

There is no interactivity as this is a simple linear Video CD which runs for about 35 minutes, so in many ways it is just like watching a normal TV programme. But it is full of interesting information with excellent narrative and superb pictures to match. I was concerned that the picture quality would suffer with the transfer to MPEG, but there was little evidence of the "blocking" that has afflicted many other Video CD titles. If you are interested in animals and want to find out more about the cat family, this is an ideal way to do it.

Rating: ☆☆☆☆
Encoding: excellent
Price: £9.99
Available: now

CHRIS TARRANT'S CRAZY WORLD OF HOME MOVIES



Imagine a program constructed from all the home video off-takes that Beadle junked because they were too staged, unfunny or just plain bad to be shown on his ITV show.

Imagine the whole sorry cart load of tapes being fronted by the master of scripted "spontaneous" bonhomie, Chris Tarrant. The fact that it was recorded in an afternoon using the TV studio as a location gives an idea of the budget. Imagine you had paid £12.99 of your hard earned dosh to sit through Tarrant's back-of-an-envelope gags while squinting at dodgily-encoded videos of — pass the stitches, Nurse — a bloke sitting constipated on the bog. Or a fat person sitting on a chair and — gasp! — falling over. No one would ever really go out and buy bargain basement crud like this on state-of- the-art Video CD...would they?

Rating: ☆
Encoding: poor
Price: £12.99
Available: now

THE WORLD OF JOHN COLTRANE

For many music fans, John Coltrane is the Godfather of jazz. And this Video CD musical documentary more than does justice to his genius.

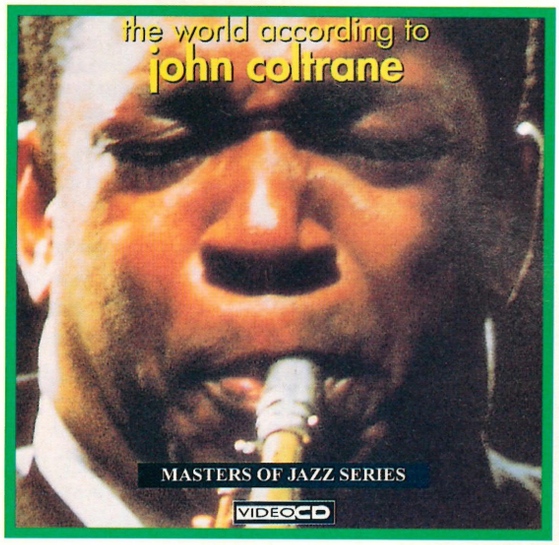
The Video CD takes us through three decades of jazz history, from the swing of the 1940s, through 1950s be-bop to the growing influence of looser, more free-form styles pioneered largely by Coltrane and Miles Davis from the beginning of the 1960s.

Every burp of a second-rate pop star now appears to be recorded for posterity. But much of Coltrane's early work was recorded and not filmed. Just thank God the TV cameras were there by the late 1950s to film him playing alongside Miles Davis, Thelonius Monk and finally with his own quartet blasting out a coruscating version of My Favourite Things.

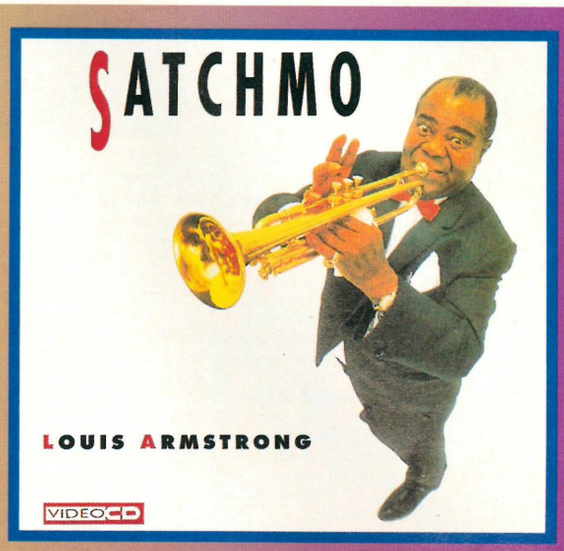
The music produced in this decade of collaboration was both astonishing and accessible to anyone with a broad interest in music and improvisation. Naturally, allowances have to be made for the quality of earlier recordings, and most of the material is in mono rather than stereo.

The first colour footage does not appear until well into the second half of the one hour disc. Even so, the largely black and white footage is well reproduced - given the quality of the original 1950s and 1960s NTSC broadcasts. Remember, they didn't have digital recording then. But this is still a must-buy for any Video CD collector.

Rating: ☆☆☆☆
Price: £12.99
Encoding: good
Available: now



SATCHMO



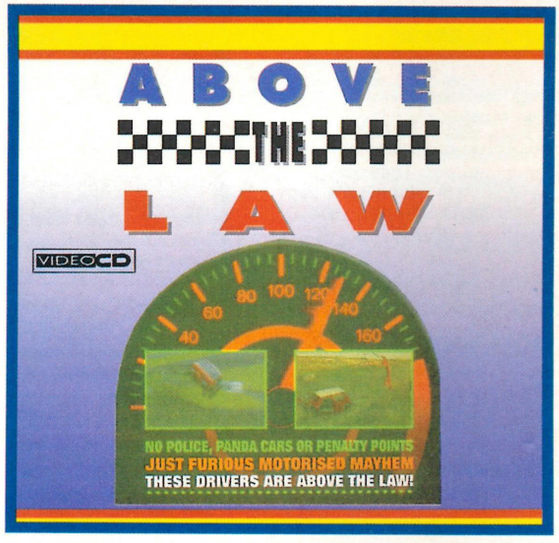
Louis 'Satchmo' Armstrong arrives on Video CD. A timely release, to be sure, as Satchmo's rendition of All the Time in the World climbs up the singles charts, thanks to the latest Guinness ads.

That song is not among the dozen, digitally remastered classics on this top-notch two-disc set, but there is plenty to keep the punters happy.

There's lots of archive movie footage and photography to go with the music, as well as some newly discovered home movies and 1930s Chicago nightclub footage that will make the set a must for collectors. This 86-minute documentary is based on the acclaimed written biography by Gary Giddins and covers Louis Armstrong's career from its beginning in the early 1930s and leading up to the late 1960s. The encoding is good throughout, and although the songs are all sourced from mono masters, the digital remastering gives them an added sheen when played on Video CD.

Rating: ☆☆☆☆
Encoding: Good
Price: £12.99
Available: now

ABOVE THE LAW



The Americans have a wonderful phrase, "rubber-necking". They use it to describe the morbid tendency of punters to congregate at the scene of a fatal accident and crane their necks to get a good view of the carnage. Much the same could be said of people who go out and buy Above The Law. Put bluntly, this Video CD is 52 minutes worth of traffic accidents filmed at racing circuits and rally courses. Above The Law exists solely to satisfy mankind's desire to rubberneck. Lorries, motorbikes, drag racers, speed boats and racing cars all get trashed in an unfeasible variety of ways. The encoding quality is variable, as you would expect, given the provenance of the video clips, but it is never less than watchable.

Rating: ☆☆☆☆
Encoding: good
Price: £12.99
Available: now

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☆=poor
☆☆= average
☆☆☆= good
☆☆☆☆= very good
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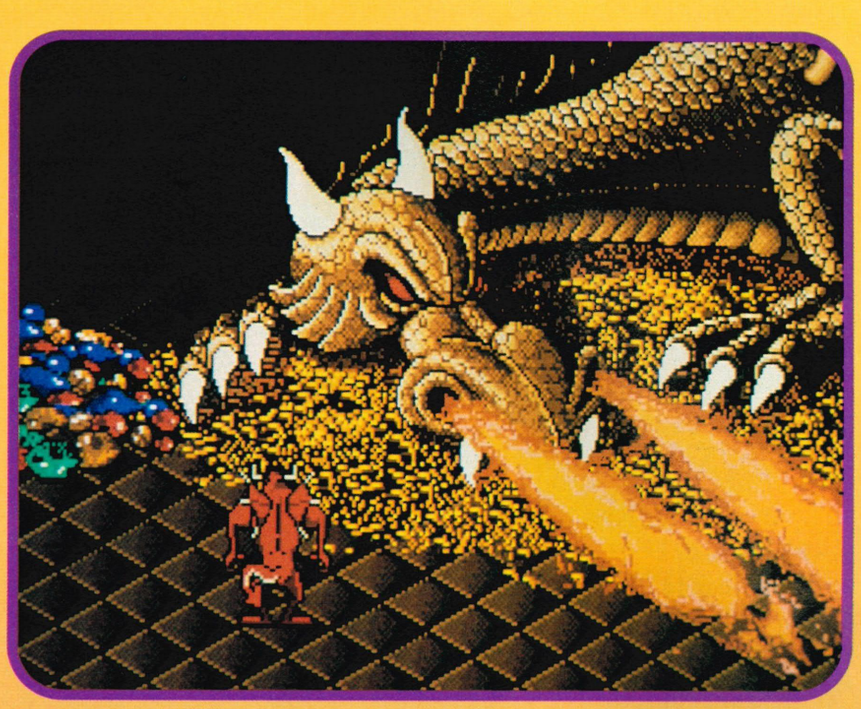
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STEVE HAYES and DARREN HEDGES begin our three-part guide to Litil Divil



Litil Divil

PLAYER'S GUIDE

LEVEL 1:

1) You walk towards the bridge. A green bridge guardian armed with a club attacks you. Press an action button and move the joystick to the south east. Hit the guardian five times. The guardian will disappear into the gorge. Continue and enter the tunnel.

2) Continue. Pass the crossing. Don't step on the electrical bolt on the floor near the torches or you will be electrified. A wall blocks your passage. Turn to the right. Turn to the right again. Take the gold on the floor, walk across the gap (press button 2 and continue). Take the new gold pieces and eat the apples (provided you have already lost some memory).

3) Return to the crossing near the entrance of the tunnel. Move to the right. Place yourself in front of the door and and press button 1. You enter the Goodies Room. Here you find spider spray (2,966 coins), a bucket (10 coins), a needle (1,099 coins) and a sickle (3,456 coins). Buy spider spray and the bucket and leave the room.

4) Pass the crossing and open the door of the room in front of the Goodies Room. You enter the Spider Room. A big spider spews out little spiders which try to weave a web around you. Use the spray you have just bought to kill the giant spider before the web is finished. Move close to the spider and press button 2 to spray (the spider should flash). Use button 1 to squash the little spiders with your feet. You must then press button 2 as fast as possible and neglect the little spiders. Once you have sprayed the spider 16 times, it explodes. Pick up the torch it leaves behind. You leave the room. The room disappears and energy is restored. (This happens every time you finish a room, with the exception of the Goodies Room and the Save Room.)

5) Move up again and enter the first tunnel on your left. Explore the tunnel on your right. Try to get past the heads by walking near the wall. Take the key, turn round and walk towards the Swamp Room.

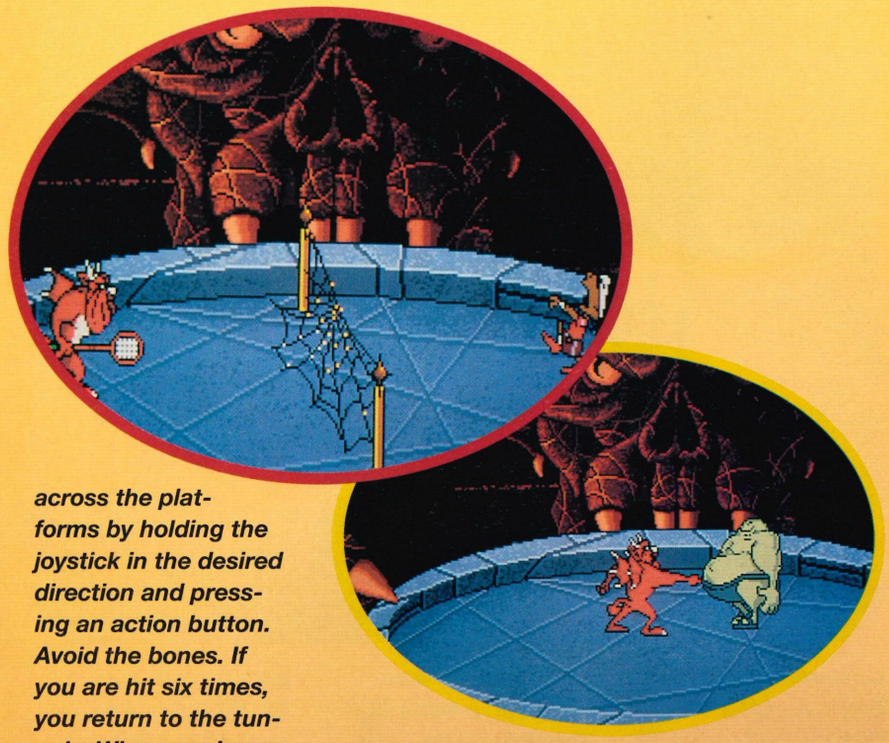
6) In the Swamp Room, you find yourself standing on a rock. You face some other rocks that move up and down in the swamp. Jump from rock to rock until you reach the fire monster on the wall. Your moves are:
— Pull the joystick down and press a button to jump down.
— Pull the joystick right and press a button to jump up.
— Repeat the first movement.
— Repeat the second movement twice.
Don't jump on the final rock until most of the fire monster's breathing has died down. Once you have landed on the far right-hand rock, fill your bucket with water and pour the water into the fire monster's mouth. The fire monster turns into mud. You leave the room and life force is restored.

7) Continue and explore all tunnels. Jump to avoid the spikes in the floor (the spikes are located near the skeletons). Take the food, the pieces of gold and the life heart. Move towards the centre of the tunnels when you see windows in the walls, otherwise you will be smashed by the prisoners. You should be able to gather more than 20,000 gold coins. Go back to the Goodies Room and buy the items that are left (the needle and the scythe) as soon as you have enough gold coins.

8) Walk towards the Save Room. Before you can enter the Save Room, you must pass a closed door. You can only open this door if you found the key in stage 5. Enter the Save Room. Walk to the bed if you want to save the game. Move to the stairs to exit without saving. It's important to remember the position of the Save Room for later use. Keep in mind that you can always return to the Save Room to restore energy.

9) Continue and walk towards the Platform Room.

10) In the Platform Room, you must find the crystal. Jump



across the platforms by holding the joystick in the desired direction and pressing an action button. Avoid the bones. If you are hit six times, you return to the tunnels. When you jump on round platforms, a doorway appears. Enter the doorway to be transported elsewhere in the room. Once you have got the crystal, you must re-enter the doorway you last left.

11) Explore the area south of the (disappeared) Platform Room. Don't leave until you have found the key.

12) Return to the area north of the former platform room. Look on the map. On the left of the map you will see a tunnel that is marked with two signs. These signs mark the stairs you passed by before. Move to the left. Now you cross the tunnel with the stairs. Open the door with the key you found before. Choose the first tunnel on your left and enter the Arena.

13) In the Arena, you need the needle. A sumo wrestler attacks you. Punch or kick the wrestler to win the fight. You must hit the wrestler six times. After the sixth hit, you bring out the pin and prick the wrestler. If you are hit nine times by the sumo, you lose the fight.

14) Continue and enter the Death Room. Inside, you have to destroy three skeletons and Mister Death himself. Kick Mister Death once to make the first skeleton appear. To destroy a skeleton, you have to kick it six times (button 1). Then jump on the pile of bones the skeleton has crumbled into (button 2). After you have got rid of all three skeletons, you can destroy Mister Death by kicking him twice. Leave the room by entering the door.

15) Continue and turn right at the crossing. Enter the Siren Room and play the "Simon says" game. Repeat the symbols given by the mermaid by jumping on the backs of the three fish. The fish's symbols are: left fish), middle fish |, right fish <. You can only leave the room after the game has been completed. You win after you have completed the five series. After the second winning guess, the mermaid is caught. You will leave by a trapdoor.

16) Continue. Turn right at the crossing and take the key. return to the crossing and choose the right tunnel. Climb the stairs and enter the Furnace Room.

17) In the Furnace Room you must set the three furnace dials so that the barriers are removed. Then the rope is burned and you can pick up the anvil that appears. Use a button to kick the slug that constantly changes the settings of the first dial. To set the dials, you must put Mutt in front of a dial and push the joystick up.

18) Return. Move down towards the bottom of the map. Open the door with a key, walk over the stairs and take the gold. Return. Turn left at the third crossing. You have reached the exit. Two hands will appear and take away all your gold coins. If you collected enough gold coins, you receive a key. If not, you have to go back and look for the remainder of the money. (If you gathered 52,669 gold coins, the hand will take away 51,000 coins.) Use the key to open the door and continue.

19) Open the door to the bridge. Defeat the bridge guardian (toad). You need the scythe you bought in the Goodies Room to survive. To defeat the toad, you must pull up the joystick while pushing a button. Jump back after each hit. The toad will turn into mud and disappear. Cross the bridge.

20) You have now reached the Lost Souls Room. You see three statues. Each statue shows an object (a torch, an anvil and a crystal). Each time you walk past the statues, a ghost is released. You must have the required objects to move to the next level.

LEVEL 2:

21) Beat the purple bridge guardian and enter the tunnel. Move to the left and take the key. Turn round and continue. Enter the Goodies Room. Look at which objects can be bought and their prices (sunglasses 1,111 coins, magnifying glass 5,463 coins, a piece of wood 1,243 coins, an axe 2,000 coins and a cravat 9,032 coins). Return as soon as possible to buy the sunglasses. Leave the Goodies Room and return to the tunnel that leads to the entrance. Move right. Continue, open the door with the key, traverse the gap and enter the Sacrifice Room.

22) In the Sacrifice Room, you need to pull ropes to raise a series of platforms. To pull a rope, you position Mutt in front of it and press a button. After the platforms have been raised, you move towards the first platform. Then you automatically walk towards the woman and tie her up. The woman gives you a kiss. You receive a love heart and leave

the room through the door (the woman changes into a doorway). Possible sequence: 2-3-6-2.

23) Choose the right tunnel, take the key and enter the Save Room.

24) Leave the Save Room and choose the second tunnel on your right. Take the key and the food. Turn around, continue and enter the Gob Room.

25) In the Gob Room, you have to reach the doorway at the upper right-hand corner of the room. Bouncing balls, crumbling bridges and a green gob monster will make your task extremely difficult. If you lose the game several times, return to the Save Room to restore your powers. Use the first bridge. Look where the bouncing balls reach their highest position and move to that place. The middle of the bridge will crumble. Press a button and move the joystick to jump and move to the second save area. Then hide between the second and third gargoyle head. Be alert. If the green gob catches you, you will be eaten. Hide between the first and second gargoyle head. The green gob will now be jumping in front of the exit door. Take your chance! This stage seems more difficult than it is.

26) Continue. Open the door with a key. Continue and walk towards the Dragon Room. Keep in mind that you can find a heart in the left tunnel near the entrance of the Dragon Room. Enter the Dragon Room.

27) Use jewels to plug the nostrils and then pick up a brooch. The jewels are piled up at the lower left of the room. Press a button to pick up a jewel. Move a little to the right. Then press a button again to throw the jewel towards the dragon. Throw from the following locations: the bottom, and the right side of the stone just on the left of the nostrils. Plug the second nostril immediately after you have plugged the first one. Then walk to the gold coffer with the skull in it. Mutt will pull out the brooch and leave the room.

28) Choose the first tunnel on your left and enter the Skull Room.

29) In the Skull Room, an eyeball is hidden under one of the skulls. Then the skulls are switched around. Indicate which skull contains the eyeball. You win after three correct guesses. The game is over when you make three incorrect guesses.
To make the game more difficult, birds fly above you and hit you on the head. Four hits will cause death. At the end of the game you receive a dice. The room disappears.

30) Continue. Choose the tunnel on your right and take the plan of the minefields. From now on mines will become visible. Continue and look at the painting on the wall. If you have already got the sunglasses, you see three coloured bottles (red, green and blue). Turn back, move to the right and continue. Do not touch the bombs. Open the door with a key. Continue and collect objects.

31) Return to the Save Room to restore energy.

32) Walk to the Goodies Room and buy all items. You should have 25,000 gold coins by now. This amount will do. Leave the Goodies Room (enter the Save Room if necessary) and go to the Arena.

33) Strike the enemy (a grey man with white hair) with your axe.

34) Continue. There is no need to explore the tunnels on your right. Move left and enter the Witches Room.

35) Empty the potions into the cauldron in the following order: red, green and blue. (The solution can be found in the portrait in the dead-end tunnel near the Safe Room. You need the sunglasses to see it.) If you walk close to a bottle, Mutt will grab



it. Then press button 1. Walk over to the cauldron, move the joystick up and press button 1. Now Mutt can run out of the room through the door on the other side of the witches. Then run in a zig-zag motion past the cat. The creature will chase you as soon as you become small.

36) Continue and explore the tunnels on your right. Take the gold and the key. At a certain moment, the cursor on the map doesn't move anymore while you are still walking in a tunnel. This means you have reached the endless tunnel. Just turn back. Don't enter the Bubble Room before you have found the key. To restore energy, just step on the X sign on the floor (in the tunnel that leads towards the key) and press button 1.

37) Continue to the left and enter the Bubble Room.

38) In the Bubble Room, you stand on a ledge and face a room full of floating bubbles. From time to time, a bubble appears with a lever in it. Try to catch the lever by jumping across the bubbles. Preferably choose big bubbles. Then return to the left edge. Once Mutt has returned, he will place the lever in the hole and release the platform on the other side. Then you must jump to the other side. The room will disappear and lives will be restored.

39) Continue and explore the tunnels north of you. Search for the key and take all the gold that is still there. Then move to the exit. Suddenly a hand will come out of a window and a voice will ask for your gold. (You have 60,151 coins, 2,800 will be left). Once you have given your gold, you will get a key and you can open the door. Continue and open the door towards the bridge.

40) Beat the bridge guardian with your scythe.

41) Move along the statues. They show a heart penetrated by an arrow, a brooch and a dice. Now you leave level 2.
Part 2 due in February.

STEVE HAYES and DARREN HEDGES take you on the first part of our guided tour of Don Bluth's Dragon's Lair 1

Dragon's Lair 1

PLAYER'S GUIDE





Goal: the object of the game is to rescue Princess Daphne who is held against her will in the castle of the evil wizard Mordroc. To do this you, Dirk the Daring, must survive a journey through the different rooms of the castle. Finally you will meet Singe, the fire-breathing dragon. A flashing light indicates in which direction you should move. If monsters are flashing, press an action button to use your sword.

Levels: some of the levels have a reflection level. You will sometimes get this mirror image when you fail to finish a level on the first attempt. Sometimes you will also get the reflection of a room you played earlier in the game.

LEVEL 1: ENTERING THE CASTLE

In front of Dirk a big, dark castle looms up in the moonlight. He walks over the suspension bridge. Immediately he is attacked by one-eyed tentacles. Push an action button and Dirk will scare them away with his sword. As Dirk runs into the castle, gates and doors close behind him. Finally, he arrives in a room with three closed doors. When the floor in front of Dirk disappears, you have to push backwards. Then the right door opens and in the doorway you will see a yellow light flashing. Push right and you have finished the first level.

NB: The following levels appear randomly. It is possible that Dirk will enter some rooms twice.

LEVEL 2: THE OCTOPUSSY ROOM

Dirk enters a room in the castle. He is attacked by a giant octopussy. Push an action button and Dirk will use his sword. The wall in front of Dirk lights up. Push up to jump forward. Then the doorway on his right lights up. Push right. Now the stairs light up. Push backwards. Dirk starts to climb the stairs but the giant tentacles are everywhere. The table on the left lights up. Push left and Dirk will jump on it. Now the door in front of you starts to move up and down. Push up and you will leave the room.

LEVEL 3: THE SNAKE ROOM

Dirk finds himself in a misty room. An enormous snake appears. Press an action button and Dirk will kill the snake on his left. Press again to kill the snake that appears on his right. Then push up to grab the skull. Dirk will climb out of the room by using a piece of rope.

LEVEL 4: THE ROPE'S ON FIRE

Dirk is standing on a little platform. Push left. Dirk will grab a piece of rope. But it is on fire. So you have to push to the left three more times. Dirk will reach the other side of the room.

LEVEL 5: THE SNAKE POOL

Dirk is in a subterranean archway. On his left the floor disappears, so jump to the right. Then jump forward or you will be stabbed by several knives. Then the floor starts to crumble under Dirk's feet. Push left. Now the floor under him changes into a black substance. Push up. Dirk will dive into the water pool. Immediately he is attacked by water snakes. Go to the (Reflection level: left = right, right = left.)





right to leave the water pool. Again, the ground starts to crumble under his feet. Push up and Dirk will jump forward. A giant spider will attack him. Push an action button and he will kill it. Then jump left to the last remaining part of the floor. Slowly two blocks approach each other with Dirk right in between. Push up or Dirk will be crushed. (Reflection level: left = right, right = left.)

LEVEL 6: THE MONSTER POT

When Dirk enters the room, green slime begins pouring from an open pot. Move the joystick up. Dirk will jump away to avoid contact. Then Dirk examines a glass that contains a red liquid. Suddenly he is attacked by an alligator monster. Press an action button and Dirk will smash it with his sword. Then push down to avoid the slime. A huge yellow ghost will suddenly appear out of the pot. Press a button to use your sword once more. Then push to the right as the green slime takes over the entire room.

LEVEL 7: THE GIDDY GOONS

A trap door opens and Dirk climbs through it. Behind his back a Giddy Goon approaches. Push an action button and the Giddy Goon is hit and disappears. Push up to climb the stairs and escape from two other Giddy Goons. Two more murderous goons appear in front of Dirk. Push an action button and they will "rest in pieces". Push up and Dirk escapes from the Giddy Goons that are left over.

LEVEL 8: THE SLIDE ROOM

Dirk walks down the stairs. Suddenly a large part of the staircase changes into a slide. Push left to go to the part of the staircase that is still intact. As he walks next to a big hole in the floor, Dirk is attacked by one-eyed tentacles. Press an action button to kill a few tentacles. Then push left before you are overwhelmed by them. Then a hole on your left lights up. Push left and Dirk will leave the room through it.

LEVEL 9: THE SMITHY

Dirk is surrounded by fire in this room. A flying sword will attack him. Push an action button to deflect it. Repeat this action with an attacking mace. An anvil will then rise and it will fly towards Dirk. Push left to avoid it. After that, Dirk is attacked by a spear. Press an action button to knock it away. Now Dirk inserts his sword in a pot of flames. Suddenly he is attacked by the blacksmith. Press an action button to strike the statue. Dirk will leave the room. (Reflection level: left = right, right = left.)

LEVEL 10: THE WOODEN MALLETS

Dirk stands in front of two wooden mallets. Push forward and Dirk will run through the swinging mallets. Dirk is confronted with the Grim Reaper. Press an action button to destroy him. Then jump back (push backwards) to avoid the killer thorns. Dirk runs towards a door. Push forward to exit the room.
(Reflection level: left = right, right = left.)

LEVEL 11: THE HURRICANE ROOM

Dirk sees Daphne who is taken away through a door. As Dirk opens the door, it releases an enormous hurricane of trash and objects. Dirk will be sucked into a room. In front of him there is a diamond, on his right there is a door. This door opens and the doorway flashes. Push right to leave the room.



LEVEL 12: THE CLOSING WALL

As Dirk enters the room, a wall is rapidly closing in front of him. Push up to jump forward.

LEVEL 13: THE ROOM ON FIRE

Dirk walks through another room. Suddenly a table falls down through a hole in the ceiling. Then there is a flash of lightning and the table catches fire. Push right to avoid getting burned. Immediately there is more lightning, this time behind you. Jump forward (push up). Push down as new lightning sets the whole room on fire. The table flashes. Push left and Dirk will remove the table and climb through the hole behind it.

LEVEL 14: THE FLYING HORSE

Dirk mounts an iron horse. As he turns the knob on the head of the horse, it starts flying. Push right to avoid getting burned. Then push left. Push right again and then push left three times. The horse lands and Dirk walks through a door.
(Reflection level: left = right, right = left.)

LEVEL 15: THE ELECTRIC KNIGHT

Dirk enters this room just in time to hear Daphne's cries. Suddenly a black knight will appear. He uses an electrified sword that emits electrical currents as he begins hitting the floor. Jump left, right and forward. Then jump right, left, right and left again. Finally, Dirk will be standing in front of the electric knight. Push an action button. he will destroy the knight and escape through a tunnel.
(Reflection level: left = right, right = left.)

letters

Write to CDi Magazine, Haymarket Publishing, 60 Waldegrave Road, Teddington, Middlesex TW11 8LG.

leading edge

CDi was the first real CD-based multiplayer on the market, and as little as a year ago it was virtually written off by the majority of the industry. What a difference 12 months can make! I purchased my player in November of last year, mostly due to the additional Digital Video cartridge. Since then, with the arrival of software such as Space Ace, Dragon's Lair, The 7th Guest and more recently Mad Dog McCree, Chaos Control and Burn:Cycle (a title that has got virtually every reviewer raving about the CDi platform — without the DV expansion!), the future is looking brighter. 3DO has now made it into the market (although like CDi a few years ago, stockists are few and far between), and I have been fortunate to have access to one for a limited period. In my view, the CDi has the edge. You only have to compare games that are available on both platforms, in particular Mad Dog McCree, to see the difference. Although 3DO has a double speed CD drive, access time is incredibly slow, making the 3DO version virtually unplayable.



CD-ROM shoot-out: CDi v 3DO, there's no comparison!

Although the DV cartridge greatly enhances the CDi player's capabilities, the makers of 3DO are already looking at producing an expansion cartridge for this machine. Is this an option Philips is considering for CDi? Is it viable? And what are the prospects of Philips producing an external double speed CD drive?

Many thanks for producing the only magazine dedicated to CDi.

Matt Musgrove
Bracknell

Philips is keeping its plans close to its chest, but we know of no decision at this stage to fit a double-speed CD drive or expansion cart.

ED



handle gently

I recently bought a CDi 450 and I really enjoy playing it, but it looks like it can easily be broken. The CD cover could be broken with the slightest touch and the plastic used to make it is pretty thin. The CDi 210 and 220 both feature an open/close button and a play and stop button, so you don't have to turn them off and on again when you want to play another CDi disc. The older players are much more robust than the new 450. Why is this?

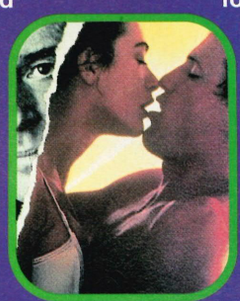
Wayne Huang
London

Philips replies:
The CDi 450 underwent a rigorous test program. Just opening and closing the lid starts the disc.

ED

worth every penny

I thought I would write after seeing issue 8 (October) of your magazine. At first I was slightly perturbed after seeing the cover price increased by a pound although the contents seemed to be about the same. There was of course a free CDi stuck to the front cover which at first glance didn't seem too promising. So it came as a pleasant surprise when I loaded the disc to find a full episode of a new drama series on it. I hope we shall be seeing many more cover discs like this one even if it does mean increasing the cover price by one or two pounds. There could be a big potential in the not-too-distant future for this type of disc and not just for people interested in CDi. The Video CD standard means that you might get owners of 3DO, Amiga CD32, Jaguar, MPEG-compatible PCs and Macs — as well as the promised new Video CD players — picking up your magazine just for the free CDs. While we are on the subject of Video CDs, as well as the reviews of the actual content of the films, I'm sure many readers would be interested in the actual quality of the encoding and sound. Now I appreciate your reviewer may not be watching the Video CD version at the time of going to press, but this side of things could be covered in subsequent issues. I was surpised in the last issue that you never mentioned the fact that the first generation DV cartridges do funny things to White Book standard Video CDs. I noticed when I bought Indecent Proposal that the image didn't fill the whole screen at the sides but stretched it from top to bottom, causing Demi Moore and co to look thin and out of proportion. The same thing happened with The Krays and The Crying Game. Did you not know about this situation or has Philips told you not to say anything?



Demi Moore: out of proportion?

David Humphries
Luton

We are trying to address the issue of encoding on films, but the problem is that we usually review the films in advance of their release and we rarely have any of the finished Video CD discs available before going to press. We are trying to get advance copies from Philips, but this is proving very difficult as they don't press review copies. Regarding the problem with the early DV cartridges, Philips has agreed to replace any faulty cartridges free of charge. Phone 071 911 3081/3091 for details.

ED

time for some trivia?

We have only just bought a CDi 450, but we are very impressed with it. I also like your magazine — particularly with its full CDi catalogue at the back.
Can you find out if there are any plans for the following titles to be developed for CDi? The Star Wars trilogy and more Star Trek films, especially Star Trek IV: The Voyage Home (which undeniably has the best script of all the Star Trek films), Fantasia, The Crystal Maze and the Lion King.
Trivial Pursuits is also a game that would transfer superbly to CDi, as would The Guinness Book of Records.

Glenys Chew
Bury

Two of the Star Trek films are, or soon will be available, on CDi (see catalogue, page 55) and others, including Star Trek IV, are due to follow next year. Unfortunately, we know of no plans at the moment for the development of the other titles you mention on CDi.

ED



Captain Kirk and his crew boldly go where no CDi has been before

compatibility is the key

I saw your magazine for the first time in the newsagent's today — just the one I was looking for. CDi products do not play a large part in the other computer and games magazines, so well done.
Can you supply me with back issues?
I'm in the middle of Kether at the moment and I can't believe that it can be completed in five lives. Am I missing something?
I do believe that the CDi player is the future of home entertainment but there are some points which really annoy me:
1) Having to change discs half way through a film.
2) Music CDi discs that can't be played on a normal CD player.
3) The choice of software. I go green looking at the stuff that can be played on CD-ROM. Can't Philips make an adaptor to make CD-ROM discs compatible with a CDi player?

Terry Freeman
Belfast

Philips is still evaluating a carousel player to overcome the problem of changing discs. Although the newer White Book Video CDs do not play on a normal CD player, we understand a few Video CD publishers are looking at music discs which will play on a normal CD player. As far as we know, Philips has no plans at this stage to make CD-ROM discs compatible with CDi.

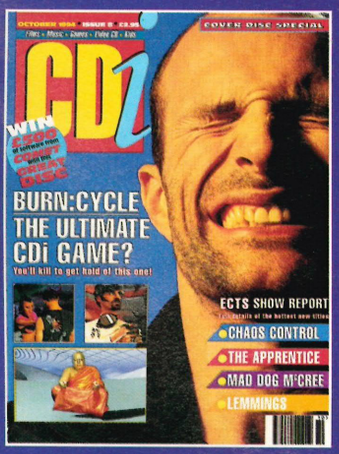
ED

under cover

I like the magazine a lot and I am planning to subscribe. I need to know one thing, though. Was the demo CD on the cover of your October issue a one-off? Or do you plan to have a cover-mounted disc on every issue or every other issue? If you mount a disc on every issue, I believe that you would get twice as many subscriptions. I hope to see a game on the next cover disc.

Matt Leone
Bolton

We plan to mount a cover disc on as many issues as possible, but it is expensive to do so every time.



We are working on another CDi cover disc for our February issue next year. Watch this space!

ED

anyone for widescreen?

I just thought I would drop you this note to applaud your magazine. The only comments I would make to improve it would be to add further pages and a free CD on every issue, since £2.95 is not a lot to ask for a publication which only appears every two months.
I recently bought Sting's offering on CDi and although I have to agree with your reviewer that it is dull, I thought the quality of the encoding was great.
Was this due to it being in letterbox?
As a film buff, I love to buy videos that are presented in their proper ratios and had been hoping to see the same from Video CD. How about asking the rest of your readers (in a poll) to see whether they would like to see widescreen offered alongside pan and scan, especially if it improves the picture quality?



Sting: great encoding

Carter Brown
West Midlands

If you, too, would like to see more Video CD films in widescreen, drop us a line.

ED

burn:cycle

Please can you help me with Burn:Cycle. I bought it at the Future Entertainment Show and I think it is absolutely gobsmacking. All credit is due to Philips Media for making such a brilliant game.
Anyway, I can't figure out 1) how to get into the hotel and 2) how can I talk to Zip, because when I enter the Televerse all I get is the news and advertisements. Please, please help me as I am going nuts!

Jamil Bhatti
London

If you need any help with CDi games, please call the Philips Clubline on **0891 244424**.

SOL CUTTER HAS SOMETHING ON HIS MIND...
...IN TWO HOURS IT'S GOING TO EXPLODE!

BURN:CYCLE

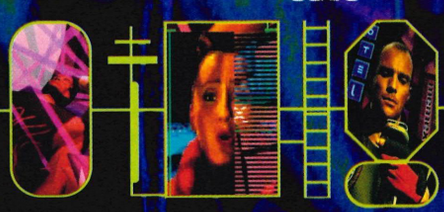


15

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GAMES WORLD

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C&VG

A MIND BLOWING



GAME

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Philips CDi Catalogue



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Meet the characters from the TV series and explore the world of Sesame Street. Includes some letter based games.
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Visit Bert and Ernie's place, Big Bird's House and the Count's Castle.
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The story of Beauty and the Beast told by Mia Farrow.
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Classic cartoons from Hanna Barbera. Each time you win a game, collect a letter. When you can spell Cartoon Carnival, you are rewarded with a cartoon in Digital Video.
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Price £7.99 Cat. No. 690 016 2

MUZZY (DV)
A hugely popular BBC TV series debuts on CDi. A simple and fun way for young children to learn a foreign language (English/French), with Muzzy, the friendly green monster from outer space.
Price £39.99 Cat. No. 810 008 4

PAINT SCHOOL 1
Choose from several hundred scenes to paint or start from scratch and you can draw your own picture. There are a huge variety of colours and palettes available.
Price £19.99 Cat. No. 690 009 2

PAINT SCHOOL 2
More pictures to paint using the CDi's enormous colour palette. The magnifying glass allows you to zoom in on the fiddly bits.
Price £19.99 Cat. No. 690 002 2

PECOS BILL
A colourful retelling of the legend of Pecos Bill – the fearless buckaroo. Narration by Robin Williams.
Price £9.99 Cat. No. 690 012 2

RICHARD SCARRY'S BUSIEST NEIGHBOURHOOD DISC EVER
Explore the wonderful world of Busytown, a metropolis populated entirely by furry animals.
Price £24.99 Cat. No. 690 038 2

RICHARD SCARRY'S BEST NEIGHBOURHOOD DISC EVER
The second in the popular series of Richard Scarry's children's books. Visit the library, the fire station or your home.
Price £24.99 Cat. No. 690 037 2

SANDY'S CIRCUS ADVENTURE
Sandy, the cuddly sea lion, is



lost in the circus and your child is invited along. Together they can explore all the fun and excitement of the big top.
Price £24.99 Cat. No. 690 022 2

SANTA CLAUS'S MICE
Mice, a clumsy albatross, hardworking gnomes and a kind Santa Claus feature in this Christmas fairy story.
Price £15.99 Cat. No. 811 001 2

SHIPWRECK
Learn about electricity and how it works by completing certain tasks or playing an exciting adventure game.
Price £24.99 Cat. No. 811 002 5

SOUNDTRAP
Second in the series of Two-Can/Epic interactive learning discs. This one explores the creation of different sound waves.
Price £24.99 Cat. No. 811 003 2

STICKYBEAR MATHS
Children help the Stickybear family succeed in this animated adventure by solving problems using addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. Children are rewarded with animated adventures as they solve maths problems.
Price £24.99 Cat. No. 810 006 4

STORY MACHINE MAGIC TALES
Create your own fairy tales or adventure stories by adding your own scenes, characters, narration and dialogue.
Price £24.99 Cat. No. 690 025 2

STORY MACHINE STAR DREAMS
Star Dreams whisks you away on an intergalactic adventure of your own making. Create your own stories.
Price £24.99 Cat. No. 690 024 2

SURF CITY
Sing along to the superb music of the Beach Boys as you explore a typical 1960s beach town in America.
Price £15.99 Cat. No. 810 009 1

TELL ME WHY 1
Find out the answers to 175 questions on five topics: Our World, How Things Work, The Zoo, How Things Began and The Human Body.
Price £7.99 Cat. No. 690 003 2

TELL ME WHY 2
Another 175 questions answered on the same five topics as in Tell Me Why 1.
Price £7.99 Catalogue 690 004 2

THE BFG (VCD)
Based on the best-selling novel by Roald Dahl. A full length animated film featuring the voice of David Jason as the Big Friendly Giant.
Price £12.99 Cat. No. 380 900 6

THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS (VCD)
A Tale of Two Toads. This feature length story is brought to life by the voices of Peter Sallis and David Jason.
Price £12.99 Cat. No. 380 900 8

TOM'S MAGIC PICTURE SHOW
Help to enrich your child's English vocabulary and ensure that they make steps in languages such as French and Spanish.
Price £24.99 Cat. No. 811 000 9

ZOMBIE DINOS FROM PLANET ZELTOID
Dexter the Dinodroid takes you back to the days when dinosaurs ruled the earth.
Price £34.99 Cat. No. 811 001 8

GAMES

ALICE IN WONDERLAND
Roam around Wonderland as you try to solve the rhymes and puzzles that will take you on to the next level of this adventure.
Price £29.99 Cat. No. 690 065 2

ALIEN GATE
Hordes of nasty monsters are advancing through the Alien Gate with one objective – the destruction of your world. You must stop them all or risk death.
Price £19.99 Cat. No. 810 004 9

BACKGAMMON
Everything you need to play backgammon on CDi, including three animated opponents each with a different skill level, from beginner to expert.
Price £9.99 Cat. No. 690 039 2

BATTLESHIP
You command a fleet of five ships. Your mission is to seek and destroy your enemy's ships before he destroys yours.
Price £29.99 Cat. No. 690 033 2

BURN:CYCLE
Sol Cutter has passed out in the Softech Corporation where his brain has been downloaded with a computer virus. A live action cyberpunk game.
Price £44.99 Cat. No. 810 011 4

CAESARS WORLD OF BOXING (DV)
Join the boxers, promoters, managers and reporters at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas. Work your way through the ranks in this two-player game.
Price £49.99 Cat. No. 810 014 3

CAESARS WORLD OF GAMBLING
Experience the real sights and sounds of the Caesars Palace casinos. Learn to play the most popular casino games.
Price £24.99 Cat. No. 690 027 2

CD SHOOT
Practice your shooting skill in Sporting, Ball Trap, Olympic Trap and English Skeet, based on international rules.
Price £29.99 Cat. No. 811 001 4

CHAOS CONTROL (DV)
This fast-paced arcade game with 5 different levels is based entirely on computer graphics in which the aim is to defeat an alien fleet which is invading the solar system.
(Feb)
Price £49.99 Cat. No. 810 020 0

CLUEDO (DV)
While remaining faithful to the original board game, Cluedo on CDi is a slick and polished electronic game for all the family.
Price £39.99 Cat. No. 819 100 2

CONNECT FOUR
The CDi version of the popular vertical chequers game.
Price £19.99 Cat. No. 690 020 2

DEFENDER OF THE CROWN
The Saxon lords have chosen you to lead them in the fight against the hated Normans. Your skills will be

thoroughly tested.
Price £9.99 Cat. No. 690 069 2

DIMO'S QUEST
Dimo is the cool young dude who takes you on a "candy quest" as you battle your way through an increasingly difficult series of mazes. Simple, but addictive for young children.
Price £19.99 Cat. No. 810 016 6

DRAGON'S LAIR 1 (DV)
Second in the series of CDi arcade games by Hollywood animation specialist Don Bluth.
Price £49.99 Cat. No. 810 018 1

DRAGON'S LAIR 2 (DV)
Dirk the Daring is back in this madcap sequel to the original Dragon's Lair. The evil wizard has returned and he has kidnapped Daphne again.
Price £49.99 Cat. No. 810 012 5

EARTH COMMAND
Your task is to save the world from impending environmental disaster. By adjusting population growth, taxes and environmental policies you can prevent Armageddon – or is it too late?
Price £34.99 Cat. No. 810 007 2

ESCAPE FROM CYBERCITY
Your mission is to survive the dangers of CyberCity, fight your way to the train and destroy the Guardian's planet.
Price £39.99 Cat. No. 690 071 2

HOTEL MARIO
The world's most popular plumber makes his debut on CDi. There are seven different locations and 80 levels to explore as you battle to save the princess of the mushroom kingdom from the evil Bowser.
Price £34.99 Cat. No. 810 009 0

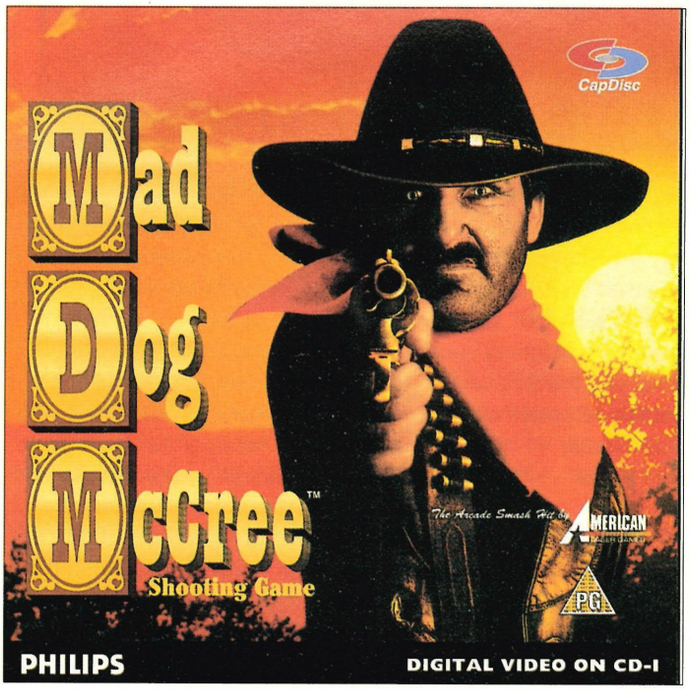
INCA
You are the last surviving Inca. To save your race you must journey across space, battling enemies and collecting special powers on the way.
Price £39.99 Cat. No. 810 012 6

INTERNATIONAL TENNIS OPEN – 2 PLAYER
The popular tennis simulation game in two-player version so you can fight to match point against your friends as well as the CDi player.
Price £39.99 Cat. No. 810 008 2

KETHER
You are Melkhor, a space knight, who has to land on Kether and rescue Eta Carene, Princess of Wisdom. Stunning graphics in this mix of arcade action and puzzle solving.
Price £34.99 Cat. No. 810 012 8

LINK: FACES OF EVIL
Nintendo characters appear for the first time on CDi. Ganon has captured the island of Koridai and Link must save it from the Faces of Evil.
Price £29.99 Cat. No. 810 008 0

LITIL DIVIL (DV)
Poor old Mutt must work his way through the Labyrinth of Chaos where he has to find the Mystic Pizza of Plenty. A game of exploration, fighting and puzzle solving.
Price £39.99 Cat. No. 810 016 9



KISS
Kiss is an electronic magazine for teenage girls with tips on fashion, make-up, health and beauty. Ten chapters include 'Late Night', 'Wild' and 'Be Anything You Want'.
Price £19.99 Cat. No. 811 004 7

LASER LORDS
Explore alien worlds in the Laser Lords' star cruiser.
Price £39.99 Cat. No. 690 074 2

LEMMINGS
The object of this classic game is to prevent these furry little creatures from killing themselves in over 100 dangerous and puzzling scenes. **(Dec)**
Price £24.99 Cat. No. 811 201 1

LORDS OF THE RISING SUN
A Japanese strategy game on CDi featuring live actors and interesting gameplay.
Price £39.99 Cat. No. 690 098 2

MAD DOG McCREE (with gun) (DV)
A coin-op quality shoot-'em-up set in a ramshackle Western town: if you're a real sharp-shooter, you'll end up blowing these guys away. Released with a special gun.
Price £69.99 Cat. No. 810 008 9

MAX MAGIC
The first electronic magic set that allows children to amaze their family and friends with tricks that boggle the mind. **(Dec)**
Price £24.99 Cat. No. 810 019 1

MEGAMAZE
A series of ever more complex mazes will test your wits to the full in this exciting game of skill.
Price £19.99 Cat. No. 810 008 3

MUTANT RAMPAGE (DV)
A good old-fashioned beat-'em-up set in a post-apocalyptic world. Fast and adrenalin-stuffed action.
Price £39.99 Cat. No. 810 017 9

MYSTIC MIDWAY R.I.P
The "master of cemeteries" Dr Dearth welcomes you to his shooting gallery. 15 targets, ten game levels and the chance to record your score.
Price £34.99 Cat. No. 690 152 2

OTHELLO
Pit your wits against Albert Einstein or Leonardo da Vinci in this electronic version of the popular board game.
Price £24.99 Cat. No. 810 016 3

PALM SPRINGS OPEN
Play 18 of the world's most famous and challenging holes on your own TV. Control "live" golfers on actual courses.
Price £39.99 Cat. No. 690 013 2

PHANTOM EXPRESS
Join Dr Dearth, the Master of Cemeteries, on a roller coaster ride in the sequel to Mystic Midway. Phantom Express takes you through the stages of life in this 3D shooting game.
Price £29.99 Cat. No. 810 017 8

PINBALL
Play four pinball games in your living room without having to feed money into a slot machine.
Price £29.99 Cat. No. 690 034 2

POWER HITTER
Baseball challenge which puts you up against the game's great pitchers. The announcer comments on your every move.
Price £34.99 Cat. No. 811 001 7

SARGON CHESS
There are 16 levels of this chess program, or use the special novice level. Experienced players have the pleasure of more advanced levels.
Price £29.99 **Cat. No. 690 030 2**

SPACE ACE (DV)
Space Ace has been zapped by the evil Borf and you must help him defeat the dreaded Infanto Ray and save the earth. Great animation by Don Bluth.
Price £49.99 **Cat. No. 810 007 3**

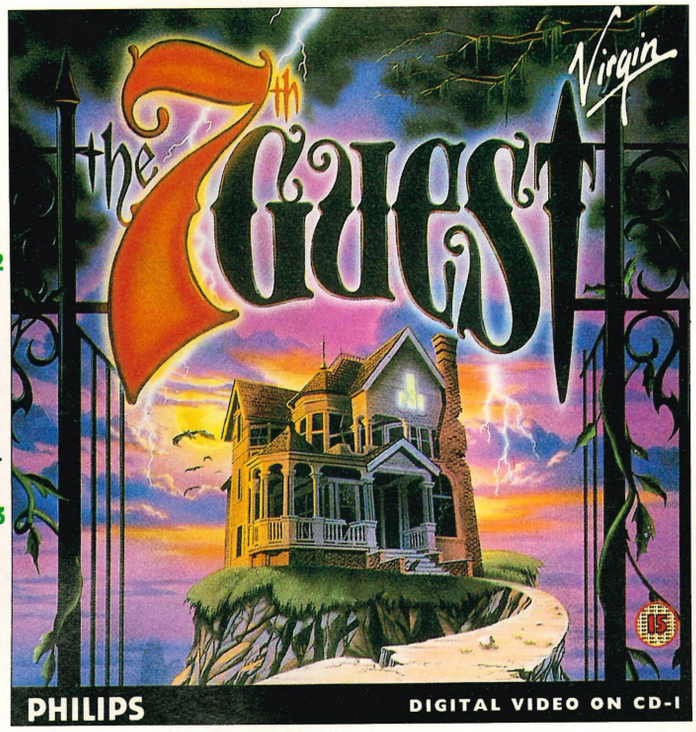
STEEL MACHINE
As the lone pilot of a small space fighter you have just three ships to use your skills to defeat the enemy battleships that threaten to enslave your home planet. A fast and furious shoot-em-'up with a hard core dance soundtrack.
Price £19.99 **Cat. No. 810 016 0**

STRIKER
The first full soccer game to appear on CDi. Striker Pro is a based on the highly successful Ultimate Soccer on the Sega MegaDrive and Striker on the SNES and Amiga.
Price £29.99 **Cat. No. 811 004 4**

TANGRAM
Choose from beginner, intermediate or advanced levels of play in this well-known puzzle game.
Price £9.99 **Cat. No. 811 001 5**

TETRIS
The classic Russian puzzle game featuring ten levels of play and made popular by the ubiquitous Gameboy. Ten CD soundtracks and video backgrounds make this version something special.
Price £29.99 **Cat. No. 690 188 2**

TEXT TILES
A word spelling strategy game for all ages. Use the given words to spell vertically or horizontally.
Price £19.99 **Cat. No. 690 043 2**



THE 7TH GUEST (DV)
Virgin Games' fabulous mystery adventure game, first released on CD-ROM, is now available on CDi. Simpler to load, with stunning sound and graphics, the CDi version comes complete with CD soundtrack.
Price £49.99 **Cat. No. 811 004 0**

THE APPRENTICE (DV)
A jump and run style platform game. You take control of the wizards apprentice, Marvin, through his tasks which include running, jumping, flying and even swimming.
Price £34.99 **Cat. No. 810 019 9**

THE ULTIMATE NOAH'S ARK
Explore in detail the wonderful painting by artist Mike Wilks and try to discover which animal does not have a mate. You could win a prize of £10,000.
Price £24.99 **Cat. No. 811 003 1**

THE WHAT'S IT WORTH AUCTION GAME
Challenge the CD-i player or opponents by buying and selling objects at the auction and you can become the winner by having the most valuable collection. **(1995)**
Price £24.99 **Cat. No. 811 004 6**

VIDEO SPEEDWAY
Motor racing game with ten tracks to choose from. The player can race karts, Formula 3000 or Formula 1. Alter your car's dynamics in the pit and then head for the track. Arcade style action gives hours of fun.
Price £29.99 **Cat. No. 819 001 1**

VOYEUR (18)
Adult political whodunnit which combines the suspense of Alfred Hitchcock's *Rear Window* with an American soap opera. Spy on the house of Presidential character Reed Hawke and his family and find out who the real baddies are.
Price £39.99 **Cat. No. 810 016 2**

WACKY WORLD OF MINIATURE GOLF
A golf game with 18 holes to play. First you must key in your name and choose one of 12 characters to represent you.
Price £19.99 **Cat. No. 810 013 5**

WORD PLAY
A game for 2, 3 or 4 players. Collect from a pool of letters and compete against the other players to create words with these letters and gain points. **(Dec)**
Price £19.99 **Cat. No. 819 100 4**

ZELDA'S ADVENTURE
Now it is Princess Zelda's turn to prove herself against the mysterious powers of Ganon! The evil Ganon had captured Link and is hiding him deep in the uncharted area of the Tolemac. Zelda must rescue Link by solving the puzzles of the Seven Signs of Tolemac. **(1995)**
Price £39.99 **Cat. No. 810 014 7**

ZELDA: WAND OF GAMELON
The evil Ganon has captured Link and the Triforce. The only way to rescue Link and save the world is to gather all the seven signs of the Tolemac.
Price £29.99 **Cat. No. 810 009 6**

MUSIC

ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER (DV)
The Premiere Collection from the Lloyd Webber stable includes hits sung by Jason Donovan, Sarah Brightman, Michael Ball and David Essex.
Price £15.99 **Cat. No. 810 200 1**

ANTISTATIC
Formerly known as Pulse, the latest psychedelic music disc from Hex features rave visuals and groovy music. Ideal for chilling out in the early hours.
Price £15.99 **Cat. No. 810 017 0**

BRYAN ADAMS (DV)
The Waking Up the Neighbours video from Canadian Bryan Adams comes to CDi in digital stereo and video.
Price £15.99 **Cat. No. 810 200 2**

BON JOVI (DV)
Bon Jovi's Keep the Faith album with full Digital Video to accompany every track.
Price £15.99 **Cat. No. 810 200 3**

CLASSICAL JUKEBOX
Study the lives of 15 of the world's classical composers and listen to their music. With 90 minutes of video highlighting facts about their work.
Price £15.99 **Cat. No. 690 005 2**

CREAM OF CLAPTON (DV)
The best of Eric Clapton in full Digital Video for fans and casual listeners alike.
Price £15.99 Cat. No. 083 862 4

CURE SHOW (DV)
All the wonders of The Cure's music with superb digital stereo sound and DV to match.
Price £15.99 Cat. No. 087 742 4

DAVID BOWIE: THE VIDEO COLLECTION (VCD)
A treat for Bowie fans as PMI releases one of the first six music videos on Video CD.
Price £19.99 Cat. No. 491 186 2

ESCAPE
Club music and psychedelic visuals brought to you by Hex. Incorporates eight hard-core techno tracks with real-time computer graphics.
Price £15.99 Cat. No. 810 011 7

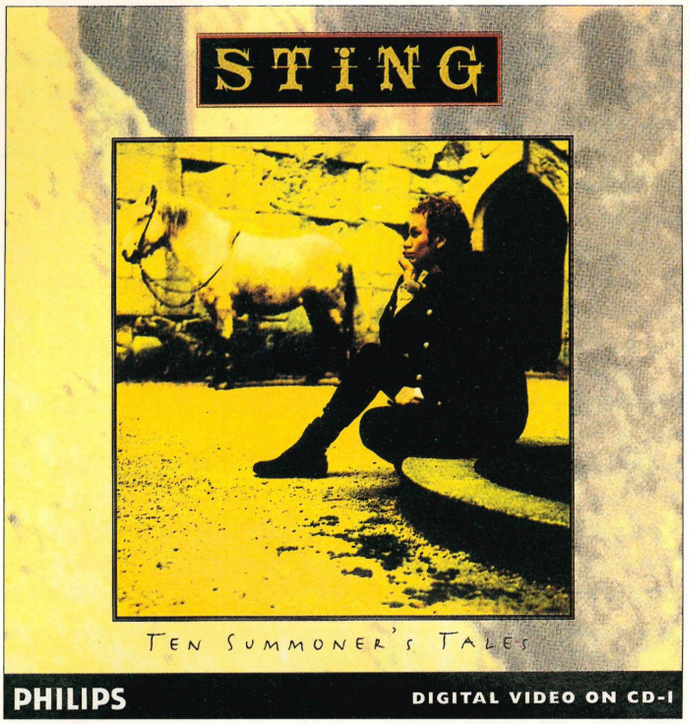
GOLDEN OLDIES JUKEBOX
Jump and jam to the tunes of the 1950s and 1960s. The artists who sing them come alive on your TV screen. Lyrics appear with the music.
Price £15.99 Cat. No. 690 006 2

JAMES BROWN
Soul singer Brown performs 13 songs on this CDi music disc. Sing along to your favourite songs with lyrics on screen.
Price £15.99 Cat. No. 811 000 6

JAZZ GIANTS
From Big Band to Bossa Nova, experience an interactive jazz journey through 19 great songs.
Price £15.99 Cat. No. 690 096 2

KATE BUSH: THE WHOLE STORY '94 (VCD)
Kate has made something of a comeback recently, so enjoy the best of her music on CDi.
Price £19.99 Cat. No. 491 288 2

LOUIS ARMSTRONG
Explore the achievements and life story of Louis Armstrong as you listen to his music. Includes rare interviews with the man himself.
Price £15.99 Cat. No. 690 031 2



PAVAROTTI
Listen to the world-renowned tenor sing 13 favourite songs while you explore his life story.
Price £15.99 Cat. No. 690 040 2

PINK FLOYD: DELICATE SOUND OF THUNDER (VCD)
Two disc set of Pink Floyd with accompanying video to tracks such as One of These Days, On the Run and Shine.
Price £19.99 Cat. No. 491 275 2

PINK FLOYD: THE WALL (DV)
Pink Floyd's mid-80's night-mare brought to your TV. Stupendous soundtrack.
Price £19.99 Cat. No. 812 542 2

PRELUDE
Study the art and music of the era of Post-Impressionism. With a gallery dedicated to specific painters or styles.
Price £15.99 Cat. No. 690 107 2

QUEEN: GREATEST FLIX 1+2 (VCD)
Freddie Mercury and the boys strut their stuff. Includes a 16 page booklet.
Price £24.99 Cat. No. 491 271 2

STING: TEN SUMMONER'S TALES (DV)
The full album with Digital Video and CD sound.
Price £17.99 Cat. No. 089 566 4

THE THREE TENORS (DV)
Pavarotti, Carreras and Domingo in concert for opera fans.
Price £17.99 Cat. No. 071 427 4

THE WORLDS OF... (DV)
5 top bands from the *Rhythm King* label with DV clips, interviews & your own music mixer.
Price £15.99 Cat. No. 811 003 8

TINA TURNER: SIMPLY THE BEST '94 (VCD)
Tina Turner compilation album featuring the best of her work.
Price £19.99 Cat. No. 491 303 2

TINA TURNER – RIO '88 (DV)
One of rock's great survivors at her sell-out concert in Rio '88. Includes full DV footage of Tina on stage
Price £15.99 Cat. No: 083 340 4

TODD RUNDGREN: NO WORLD ORDER
One of the first truly interactive music discs which allows you to play DJ by altering the tempo, mood and style of the original tracks on the album.
Price £15.99 Cat. No. 810 015 9

INFO & REFER-ENCE

A CHILD IS BORN
A complete childbirth and pregnancy manual based on the stunning photographs of an unborn child by Lennart Nilsson. Provides a detailed look at the whole process of reproduction.
Price £29.99 Cat. No. 810 005 0

ART OF THE CZARS
Visit the Russian city of St Petersburg, explore its architecture and study the art collection in the Hermitage Museum.
Price £34.99 Cat. No. 690 105 2

CREATE YOUR OWN CARICATURE
Play at creating your own Spitting Image style puppets either from the faces on the disc or using your own photographs on Photo CD.
Price £29.99 Cat. No. 811 000 1

COMPTON'S INTERACTIVE ENCYCLOPEDIA
The entire 26 volumes on one disc. Video clips from famous events in history, 5,200 long articles, 32,000 short ones.
Price £149.99 Cat. No. 810 004 7

DUTCH MASTERS
Study 300 paintings from the art of 17th Century Holland. Incorporates images and talk.
Price £34.99 Cat. No. 811 002 4

FOOD OF FRANCE
French cuisine presented by Anne Willan, founder of the world famous École de Cuisine la Varenne. Menus and dishes can be brought up on screen.
Price £24.99 Cat. No. 810 005 5

GREAT BRITISH GOLF
Take an historical trip through 500 years of golfing history. Uses material from the British Golf Museum in St Andrews.
Price £9.99 Cat. No. 811 000 4

PHILIPS

HARVEST OF THE SUN (VINCENT VAN GOGH)
Discover the art and life of one of the greatest painters of all time, Vincent Van Gogh.
Price £29.99 **Cat. No. 690 028 2**

PLAYBOY COMPLETE MASSAGE (DV)
Learn an exotic assortment of massage techniques that you can practice with your partner. Full DV demonstrations of each technique are given.
Price £24.99 **Cat. No. 810 008 8**

PRIVATE LESSONS: CLASSICAL GUITAR
Learn to play classical guitar on CDi. Customise your lessons to match your skill level, or visit the guitar museum and see some of the masters' guitars.
Price £49.99 **Cat. No. 810 001 3**

PRIVATE LESSONS: ROCK GUITAR
Learn to play rock guitar on CDi. With examples from Jimi Hendrix to Eric Clapton.
Price £49.99 **Cat. No. 811 003 0**

REMBRANDT: HIS ART AND MUSIC OF THE ERA
17th Century art and music with information in seven languages: English, Spanish, French, German, Italian, Japanese and Dutch. Soundtrack by the Amsterdam Baroque Orchestra.
Price £15.99 **Cat. No. 690 154 2**

RENAISSANCE OF FLORENCE
Take a tour of the Renaissance art of Florence.
Price £34.99 **Cat. No. 690 036 2**

RENAISSANCE GALLERY
An interactive tour through the masterpieces and music of the Italian High Renaissance.
Price £34.99 **Cat. No. 690 044 2**

SOLAR SYSTEM
If star gazing is your thing, then throw away that dusty old telescope and join the futuristic world of CDi. Solar System enables you to examine the planets from the comfort of your own armchair. **(1995)**
Price £24.99 **Cat. No. 811 003 9**

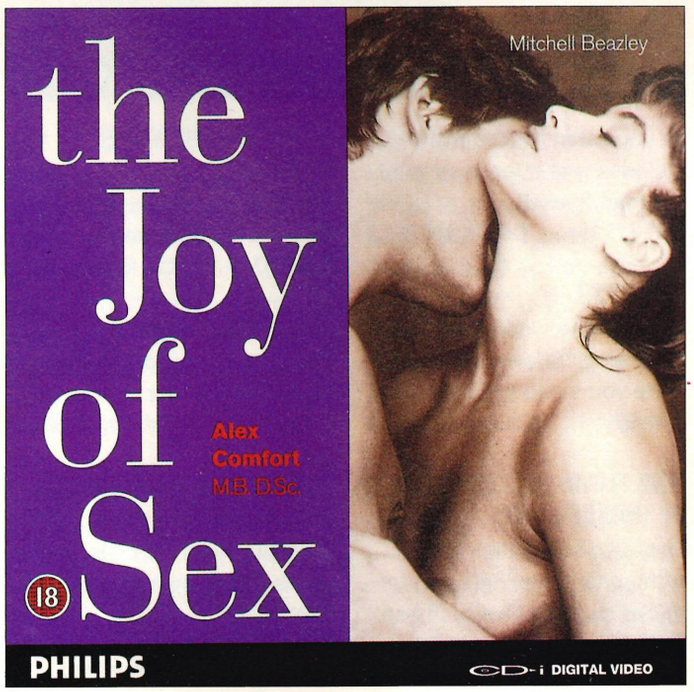
STAMPS: WINDOWS ON THE WORLD
An electronic reference manual with hundreds of stamps and over four hours of narration.
Price £7.99 **Cat. No. 690 011 2**

THE FRENCH IMPRESSIONISTS
This fascinating interactive tour through 19th Century Paris lets you meet the Impressionist artists and their friends, lovers and critics.
Price £34.99 **Cat. No. 690 046 2**

TIME LIFE PHOTOGRAPHY
Turn your TV screen into a "camera" for a course in 35mm photography. 25 step-by-step workshops help you make the most of your camera.
Price £39.99 **Cat. No. 690 017 2**

TREASURES OF THE SMITHSONIAN
Based on the world famous Washington Museum. This disc also allows you to visit a dozen other museums.
Price £39.99 **Cat. No. 690 010 2**

WORLD OF IMPRESSIONISM
Using an interactive map of 19th century Paris, explore the art and music of the era.
Price £34.99 **Cat. No. 690 047 2**



THE JOY OF SEX (DV)
The famous sex guide by Dr Alex Comfort goes interactive in this Digital Video title. 30 minutes of full motion video, plus questionnaires and the Joy of Sex game. Plus free pocket guide with every disc.
Price £29.99 **Cat. No. 811 000 8**

TIME LIFE ASTROLOGY
Obtain your daily horoscope & personal solar chart on CDi. Program in your details and let the computer do the rest.
Price £24.99 **Cat. No. 810 013 6**

PHOTO CD

NATURE UNDER THREAT
Produced in conjunction with one of our best loved charities, the World Wide Fund for Nature.
Price £9.99 **Cat. No. 811 003 6**

CD-ROM

ALONE IN THE DARK 2
Mazes, trap doors, deadly gangsters and bloodthirsty pirates, you'll meet them all when you're... Alone in the Dark.
Price £44.99 **Cat. No. 200 079 9**

MYSTIC MIDWAY
Dr. Dearth welcomes you to his shooting gallery again – this time on MPC CD-ROM. **(Dec)**
Price £17.99 **Cat. No. 810 501 7**

INTERNATIONAL TENNIS OPEN - 2 PLAYER
You can now enjoy the excitement of International Tennis Open on your PC with the same version of the CD-i game on CD-ROM.
Price £44.99 **Cat. No. 810 500 7**

THE JOY OF SEX (MAC)
The famous interactive sex guide is now available on Mac CD-ROM.
Price £39.99 **Cat. No. 811 600 5**

THE JOY OF SEX (MPC)
The Joy of Sex on MPC CD-ROM.
Price £39.99 **Cat. No. 811 500 0**

FILMS

ADDAMS FAMILY VALUES (VCD)
It's love at first sight when Gomez (Raul Julia) and Morticia (Angelica Houston) welcome a new addition to the Addams household – Pubert, their moustached baby boy. The second of the Addams Family films. **PG**
Price £19.99 **Cat. No. 811 203 0**

A FISH CALLED WANDA (VCD)
Starring John Cleese and Jamie Lee Curtis. An American girl, Wanda, comes to London to steal some diamonds with Otto. Things go seriously wrong when English barrister (Cleese) and Wanda meet. **15**
Price £17.99 **Cat. No. 811 200 3**

AIRPLANE! (VCD)
Starring Leslie Nielsen and Lloyd Bridges. The persons and events in this film are fictitious – fortunately! A masterpiece of off-the-wall comedy. An ex-fighter pilot is forced to

take over the controls of an airliner when the flight crew get food poisoning.
PG (1995)
Price £17.99 Cat. No. 811 201 5

ALIVE (VCD)
When your plane goes down, and you have to survive, what do you do? John Malkovitch stars in a tense, dramatic analysis of desperate men. **PG (Dec)**
Price £17.99 Cat. No. 811 202 9

AN OFFICER AND A GENTLEMAN (VCD)
Starring Richard Gere and Debra Winger. Loner Zack Mayo enters Officer Cadet School to become a Navy pilot and in thirteen tortuous weeks he learns the importance of discipline, love and friendship.
15 (1995)
Price £17.99 Cat. No. 811 202 8

APOCALYPSE NOW (VCD)
The Vietnam War provides the backdrop for this "journey into man's heart of darkness". **18**
Price £17.99 Cat. No. 811 201 8

BEVERLY HILLS COP (VCD)
Starring Eddie Murphy and Judge Reinhold. A tough Detroit detective, Axel Foley, finds himself involved in gangland misdemeanours. His best friend is murdered and he follows the killers to Los Angeles. **15 (1995)**
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BEVERLY HILLS COP II (VCD)
Eddie Murphy again in the sequel to Beverly Hills Cop. The streetwise detective once again wreaks havoc in the wealthy suburb of Beverley Hills. **15 (1995)**
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BLACK RAIN (DV)
Michael Douglas and Andy Garcia play New York cops whose job to escort a vicious assassin back to his native Japan. **PG**
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COMING TO AMERICA (VCD)
In this hilarious film, with Eddie Murphy playing four roles, Prince Akeem is an African prince who decides to get wed but is determined to marry an American girl. Murphy is his usual madcap self: Arsenio Hall stars as his friend Semmi. **15**
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FATAL ATTRACTION (DV)
Michael Douglas plays Dan Gallagher, who has a romantic fling with seductive Alex Forrest (Glenn Close) while his wife (Anne Archer) is away. Includes a special epilogue of the original ending, never shown in the cinema. **18**
Price: £15.99 Cat. No. 811 100 8

GHOST (DV)
Patrick Swayze and Demi Moore star as a loving couple split apart when he falls victim to a hit that goes badly wrong. A mixture of fantasy, thriller and comedy with Whoopi Goldberg milking it for all it's worth. **15**
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IN BED WITH MADONNA (VCD)
The sensational rockumentary featuring the outrageous Madonna on tour with intriguing behind the scenes footage. **18**
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Demi Moore and Woody Harrelson play the happy couple who suddenly find their marriage under pressure when, just as they are in danger and in need of extra money, the wealthy and handsome Robert Redford makes the ultimate offer. **15**
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MOONSTRUCK (VCD)
Starring Cher and Nicholas Cage. A young widow falls for the brother of her husband-to-be, and the noisy mayhem that follows is an amusing study of Italian-American life in New York. **PG (1995)**
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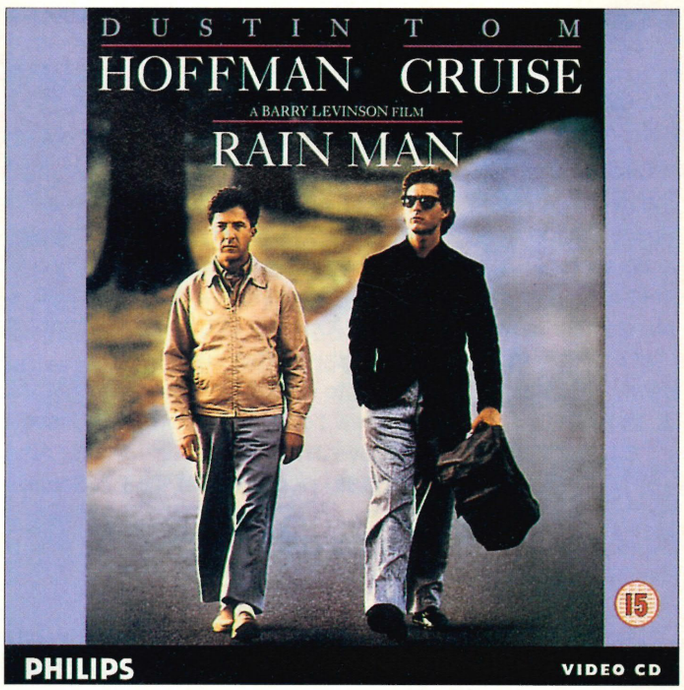
THE NAKED GUN (VCD)
Leslie Nielsen, king of the spoof, moves from the small screen of TV's *Police Squad* and lands a starring role in Naked Gun as the incompetent cop Frank Drebin who is out to foil an assassination attempt on the Queen during a visit to LA. **15**
Price £17.99 Cat. No. 811 200 1

NAKED GUN 2 1/2 (DV)
Lt. Frank Drebin (Leslie Nielsen) loves a mystery. Drebin tackles the big issues – and the biggest of all is how to stop devious Quentin Hapsburg's (Robert Goulet) plan to destroy the environment. **15**
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PATRIOT GAMES (DV)
His days as an intelligence agent behind him, former CIA analyst Jack Ryan (Harrison Ford) has travelled to London with his wife (Anne Archer) and child. Meeting his family outside Buckingham Palace, Ryan is caught in the middle of a terrorist attack on a member of the Royal family. **15**
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Neal Page (Steve Martin) is an urbane advertising executive who was supposed to have a first class seat and Del Griffith (the late John Candy) is a shower-curtain ring salesman eager to share his travel expertise when a snowstorm causes the flight to be rerouted. **15**
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RAIN MAN (VCD)
A powerful and intelligent movie about connecting with other people. Tom Cruise is Charlie Babbitt, a young man who discovers at his father's death that he has an autistic brother Raymond (Dustin Hoffman). As they travel across America to contest their father's will, Charlie's motives change from purely mercenary to something far more complex.
This is a brave and beautiful film about a difficult subject.
15
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SCROOGED (VCD)
High spirited jinks on Christmas Eve puts Frank Cross (Bill Murray) in a ghostly time warp in this hilarious spoof on Charles Dickens's

"A Christmas Carol" **PG**
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SLIVER (VCD)
Starring Sharon Stone and William Baldwin, Carly (Stone) moves to a high rise apartment which was previously inhabited by a woman who looked like her, and commited suicide for no apparent reason. Shortly after moving in her next door neighbour is murdered and she begins to suspect that her own life is in peril. **18**
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STAR TREK VI (DV)
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Starring Kelly McGillis and Jodie Foster. Fiercely independent Sarah Tobias is gang raped in the back of a neighbourhood bar. But that is only the beginning of her ordeal. Sarah has to battle the legal system to win a conviction, not once but twice. **18** (1995)
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THE CRYING GAME (VCD)
A romantic thriller-cum-black comedy which follows the often complex lives of those in the IRA. Forest Whittaker plays the black army soldier Jody, who is unwittingly kidnapped by Jude and is later shot and killed while trying to escape. **18**
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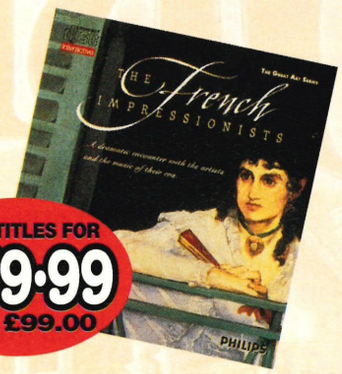


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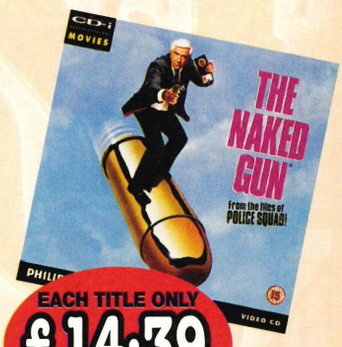
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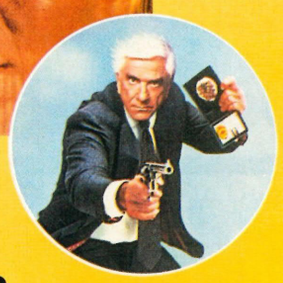
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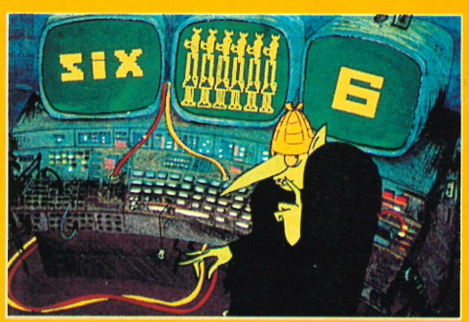
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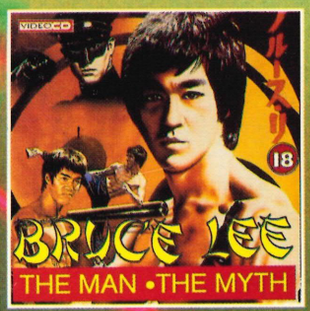
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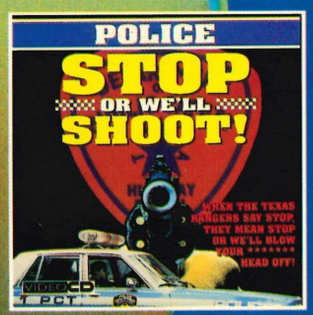
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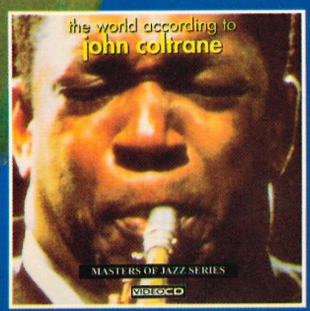












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