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CDi

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four Weddings and a funeral

15

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PolyGram Video

VIDEO CD

inside all the latest news, reviews and scoops for CD INTERACTIVE

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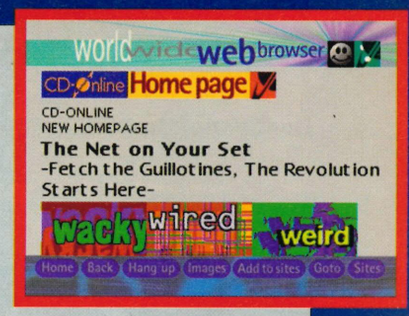
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54 Letters: your chance to air your pet loves and hates and allow us to answer those tricky questions



Read how you can access the Internet through your CDi player on page 4



CDi is joining the Internet. Many of you will have read about the information superhighway, the World Wide Web or the Net and perhaps been left completely baffled. Put simply, the Internet is a way of linking computers all around the world so that they can communicate with each other. It allows you to access a whole world of information and send electronic messages (e-mail) across the globe.

Now a new company, CD-Online, has devised a way of linking your CDi player to the Internet (see News). With the CD-Online package, all you have to do is connect a modem to your CDi player and phone line, insert the special CDi disc and away you go. You will be able to "surf" the Internet through your own TV set at home.

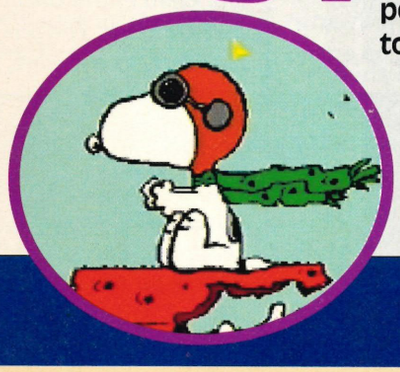
We are working closely with CD-Online to put elements of CDi Magazine on their Internet service, bringing you game hints and tips, news and regularly updated release dates. This information is not intended to replace the magazine, but to complement it. In December, we will carry a cover disc which will demonstrate the CD-Online service in more detail. We hope you will find it as exciting as we do.

I also hope you enjoy our first interactive cover disc. Thanks to everyone at Philips who made it possible.

Andy Clough, Editor



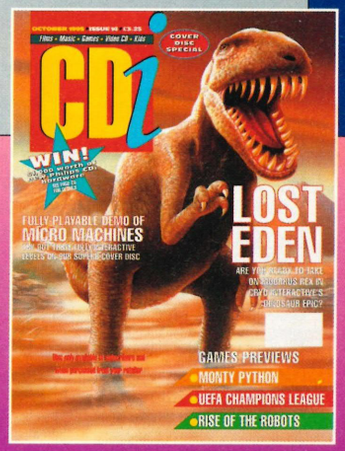
The Pets Shops Boys are coming: find out more on pages 42-43



Snoopy and the Peanuts gang arrive on CDi next month

COVER

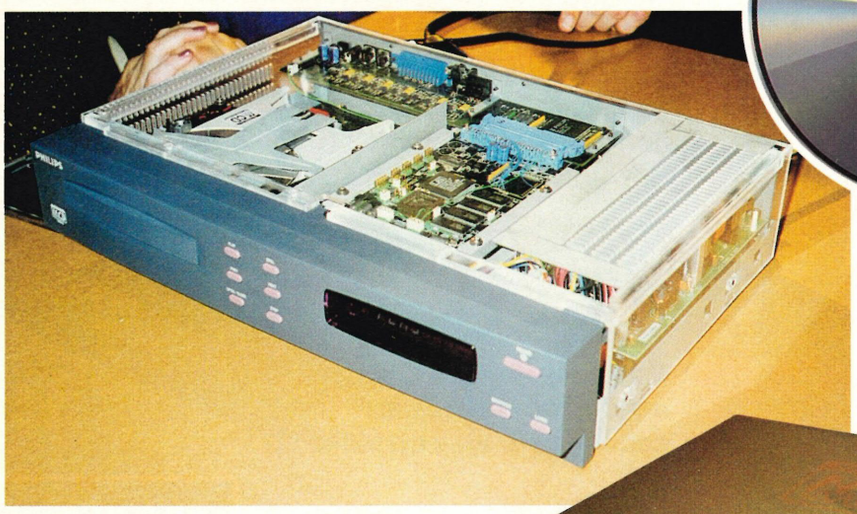
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DISC RIVALS TRY TO AVOID FORMAT WAR





Left: the Philips prototype MMCD player. Sony's model is below



The two rival groups developing the next generation of high density compact discs have agreed to enter talks in an attempt to agree a single standard, thus avoiding a costly format war.

Sony and Philips have developed the Multimedia CD (MMCD) which can store up to 7.4 Gigabytes of data on a dual layer, single-sided disc (see News, issue 10).

The rival SD Alliance has created a family of Super Density Discs (SDD) which can hold up to 18 Gigabytes on a double-sided, dual-layer disc.

Both systems are incompatible and there had been fears of another Betamax/VHS-style format war.

But both groups announced at the IFA exhibition in Berlin that they have entered talks to try and create a single format.

Henk Bodt, vice-president of Philips Electronics, said: "We are sensitive to the needs of a single format for high density CD. We have written to the standards committee to try and find a compromise with the SD Alliance. Efforts are underway to produce a common format. We expect the final format to combine the best of both systems."

For the SD Alliance, Guy Johnson, vice-president of Thomson Consumer Electronic's DVD group, said: "We don't see any problem in reaching an agreement with Sony and Philips in time to launch the next generation of hardware and software by mid-1996. We will have 250 titles available at launch."

The new generation of high density discs will be used for digital video, computer games, computer data storage and audio.

The MMCD disc, for example, can store up to four and a half hours of film encoded to the MPEG 2 standard with analogue or digital Surround Sound, multilingual soundtracks and multiple sub-titles.

Philips and Sony both demonstrated their own prototype MMCD players at IFA which are (theoretically) due for launch next year.

MMCD players are expected to be backwards compatible with MPEG 1 Video CD discs, but the new high density discs will not play on existing platforms such as CDi.

John Hawkins, senior president of Philips Media Distribution, said: "We are looking at how we can integrate MPEG 2 and high density technology into future CDi systems, but that may take some time."



CDi JOINS THE NET

CDi owners will soon be able to access the Internet, the global information network that links computers all around the world. A new company, CD-Online, has been formed to bring the Internet to the TV using a modem, CDi player fitted with a DV cartridge and a special CDi disc. The service will be launched in the UK in mid-October. The initial start-up package, comprising 14.4 modem, connecting cables and the CDi disc, will cost £99. Users will then pay a flat fee of £11.99 per month for full Internet access, but there will be an introductory subscription offer giving six months for the price of four at £48.



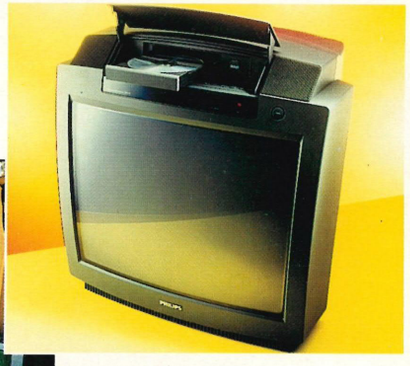
CD-Online has developed its own "browser" to allow users to explore the Internet through their TV. The interface has been designed to make it easy to use with the CDi's "point and click" controller. A "virtual" keyboard appears on-screen for the input of short messages and file names by clicking on the letters on-screen. A conventional keyboard is under development and will be available later as an accessory. Start-up screen graphics are stored on the CDi disc and relayed through the TV set. The system will give full World Wide Web (WWW) access through service provider Pipex, e-mail capability and access to newsgroups. It will also offer the full UK CDi catalogue listing on disc, special offers and competitions, and a CDi Magazine page. We will be bringing you hints and tips, news and reviews via the Internet. The CD-Online Internet package will be available from most existing CDi retailers. For details contact the CD-Online Helpline on 0171 436 8677 or http://www.cd-online.co.uk.



VCD HARDWARE MAKES DEBUT AT IFA

Philips chose the IFA exhibition in Berlin to unveil a whole range of CDi and Video CD hardware products.
Surprise of the show was a 14 inch TV with built-in VCR and VCD players, with separate slots below the screen for VHS tapes and Video CD discs. The Philips AZ6880 portable Video CD player also made its debut, as did the Philips standalone VCR/VCD combination player.
For hi-fi buffs there was a combi mini system with seven disc VCD changer, RDS radio and twin cassette deck, called the Philips FW680V. A five disc carousel Video CD player, the CDC 771 V, allows six hours of continuous film playback and features an "overview" feature which divides the TV screen into nine squares showing the contents of the CD being played.
For travellers and business professionals, the portable TV/Video CD unit with built-in radio and LCD screen provides VCD playback in remote locations.
It can also be linked to a larger monitor for office presentations, and includes an MPEG 2 chip.
Fourteen and 21 inch versions of the Philips combi TV/CDi player, with top-loading drawer, were also on display.
None of the above players are yet available in the UK, but a decision on which models will be imported is expected later this year.















Clockwise from top left: Philips combi TV/VCR/VCD; the combi TV/CDi; the Philips portable TV/radio/VCD; the Philips portable VCD; the Philips VCD/VCR; 7-disc VCD hi-fi system; 5-disc VCD player

COMPETITION WINNERS

The three lucky winners of our PolyGram Video CD competition in August were:

Keith Driver, Aylesbury; Simon Heal, Guildford; and S Sage, Tonbridge.

They each win the entire PolyGram Video CD collection. The correct answers were: 1) M25. 2) Two (Only once in the film, but Hugh Grant said in his speech it was his second time as best man). 3) Wet Wet Wet.

ECTS ROUNDUP





Far left: screen shot from Down In The Dumps. Left: Alien Odyssey

GAMES

Two hot new CDi titles, *Alien Odyssey* and *Down In The Dumps*, made their debut at the European Computer Trade Show in London last month. Both titles are due out in the second quarter of 1996.

Alien Odyssey is an action adventure game produced by Argonaut Software. The adventure begins when you crash land on a strange planet and are befriended by Gaan, one of an oppressed race of aliens. You have to find some way of escaping from the hostile planet without destroying it.

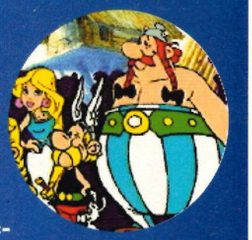
During the quest you must explore four Dak territories, starting with a treacherous high-speed hover bike chase through an enemy-infested forest. At the end of the forest is the communications bunker — a 3D real-time environment with 60 locations — where you must destroy the base and escape the clutches of the evil Dak aliens.

To complete the mission, and escape the planet, you must confront the Dak master who resides in the armoury. The only passage is through the hazardous mine shaft. This part of the game is a furious shoot-'em-up featuring 360 degree real-time screen rotation.

Down In The Dumps is a superb-looking adventure game complete with hi-resolution graphics and some great humour. The Blub family finds itself in a rubbish dump on earth, but the big question is, what on earth are they doing there? It's up to the player to rescue the Blub's from their plight. You have to find the objects necessary to repair the Blub's spaceship in the chaotic universe of the dump. It isn't easy, as you are constantly watched by the bandits who will do anything to stop the blubs from blasting off.

Also on show at ECTS was *The Dame Was Loaded*. Wise-cracking private eye Scott Anger is hired by Carol Klein to find her lost brother, Dan, This fully-interactive adventure game has scenes shot from the player's point-of-view, including pans, tracking, close-ups and rapid cuts. It features 25 actors with 60 minutes of full-motion video and six hours of speech.

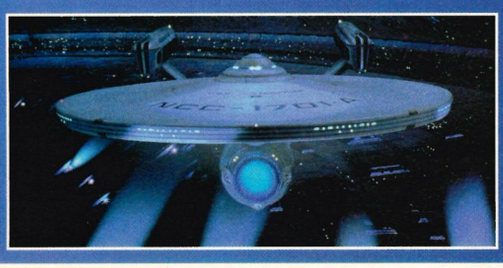
KIDS



Kids are in for a treat in the New Year with two great new CDi titles. Jan Pienkowski's *Haunted House* was first produced as a pop-up book in 1979. Since then it has sold four million copies worldwide. It will be released early in 1996 as an interactive CDi disc which allows you to explore the rooms of this eerie house and view some startling animations.

Felix's Giant Electronic Activity Book is the first interactive comic starring the legendary cat, which will teach kids how to read, colour and draw. There are 12 original songs, role-play games and some old Felix cartoons from the 1920s. It is due out in the New Year.

Fans of those great comic book characters, *Asterix* and *Tintin*, will be able to buy their own linear Video CD versions next year. Titles due for release include Asterix the Gaul, Asterix & Cleopatra, Tintin in Tibet and Tintin and the Blue Lotus. *The Smurfs* will be making an appearance in their own Video CD, too.



FILMS

Serious trekkers will be delighted to learn that *Star Trek: Generations* will be available on Video CD from December 4. Further good news for Star Trek fans will be announced in the New Year, so watch this space!

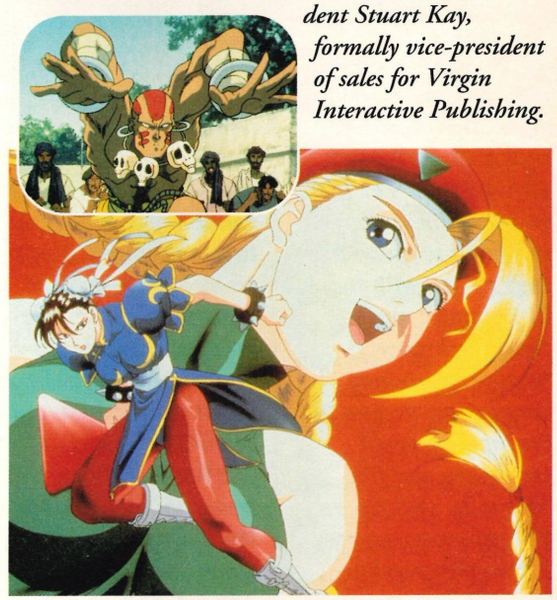
CD VISION SIGNS VIDEO CD DEAL WITH MANGA ENTERTAINMENT

Independent publisher CD Vision has clinched a deal with Manga Entertainment to distribute the Japanese animation specialist's titles on Video CD.

The deal will enable CD Vision to release 20 of Manga's best-selling titles on the VCD format over the next year. First release is likely to be "Streetfighter II - The Animated Movie", which is due out on VHS on October 2 and is expected to be released on VCD in time for Christmas.

Tony Taglienti, CD Vision's joint managing director, says: "I am sure that fans will enjoy watching their favourite Manga titles on VCD."

In a separate development, CD Vision has set up an American subsidiary to distribute its catalogue of VCD titles in the US. Vision Interactive Publishing is based in Irvine, California, and is headed by president Stuart Kay, formally vice-president of sales for Virgin Interactive Publishing.







DISAPPEARING WORLD



3T productions, the company which brought you Cluedo on CDi, has teamed up with Granada TV to produce its anthropological TV series "Disappearing World" on CDi.

Granada has broadcast the series, which looks at how different societies live and exist, for the last 25 years. The CDi disc will contain film footage of eight societies, including the Basques and a tribe on South Sea Island.

"We had access to 800 hours of material," says 3T managing director Sheila Rodgers. "We decided to focus on a small number of societies with different environments and problems. The disc is divided into sections, such as how people make a living, the relationship between men and women and the role of the leader in each society."

3T has already worked with Granada TV on numerous educational software projects, but this is the first time it has produced a CDi disc with the company. There will also be a CD-ROM version of the disc. Work is nearing completion on the title, but a release date has still to be fixed. "We are waiting final approval and then we can go ahead and encode the video," says Rodgers.



Telstar will launch Vegas Girls, its second CDi title, in November. The game involves playing electronic versions of five popular Las Vegas casino games: Poker, Black Jack, Roulette, Dice and Fruit Machines. You get to choose your partner from a selection of beautiful women, and each time you win, your chosen partner will start to undress. The more you win, the more she reveals. A lock-out code is incorporated into the disc to prevent viewing by children. Vegas Girls will cost £19.99. The company's next CDi release is likely to be David Leadbetter's "Faults and Fixes" golf tutorial disc. For details contact Telstar on 01932 222232.

COMING SOON!

OCTOBER 9

Films (VCD)

Forrest Gump	£19.99
Star Trek 3	£17.99
Star Trek 4	£17.99

OCTOBER 23

Music (VCD)

Bon Jovi: Crossroad	£19.99
Rolling Stones: Gimme Shelter	£19.99
Tommy: The Movie:	£19.99
Tina Turner: Live In Barcelona	£19.99
Abba: Abba Gold	£19.99

Games

Cluedo: The Mysteries Continue (DV)	£29.99
Micro Machines	£34.99
Pac Panic	£TBA

Kids

Thumbelina (DV)	£29.99

Films (VCD)

Chitty Chitty Bang bang	£17.99
The Black Stallion	£17.99

Info

Wines of France	£39.99

NOVEMBER 6

Films (VCD)

You Only Live Twice	£17.99
Thunderball	£17.99
Clear and Present Danger	£19.99
Moonraker	£17.99
The Pink Panther	£17.99

Music (VCD)

U2: Zoo TV Live From Sydney	£24.99
Dire Straits: Live On The Night	£19.99
The Who: 30 Year Maximum	£24.99
The Police: A History Of...	£19.99
Abba: More Abba Gold	£19.99
Bon Jovi: Live	£19.99
Oasis: Live By The Sea	£TBA
Cliff Richard: Private Collection	£17.99
Pet Shop Boys: Videography	£17.99



Games

Rise of The Robots	£34.99
Who Shot Johnny Rock? (DV)	£39.99
Invasion From Planet Skyron(DV)	£29.99

Kids

Peanuts: Yearn To Learn	£19.99

Info

Comptons Encyclopaedia '95 (DV)	£TBA

NOVEMBER 13

Films (VCD)

Shallow Grave	£19.99
Malice	£19.99
When Harry Met Sally	£14.99

Music (VCD)

Wet Wet Wet: Greatest Hits	£19.99

NOVEMBER 24

Games

UEFA Champions League	£TBA
Lost Eden (DV)	£34.99

Kids

Crayon Factory	£29.99

All prices and release dates correct at time of going to press, but subject to change.

Monty Python's INVASION FROM THE PLANET SKYRON





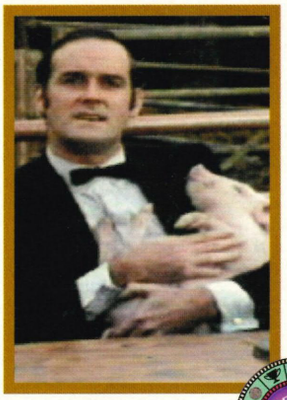
PATRICK BATEMAN meets the Monty Python clan and navigates his way around the bizarre world of Terry Gilliam's classic animations

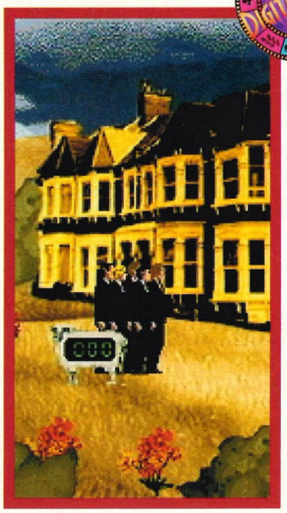
Invasion from the Planet Skyron is the third Monty Python disc to be released on CDi, but it's the first one to use the system's interactive potential in any way — unless you consider singing a karaoke version of the Lumberjack song to be "interactive".

Described by developer Daedalus as "slightly absurdist and unpredictable", Invasion from Planet Skyron isn't a game in the conventional sense. For a start, the Planet Skyron isn't mentioned at all, and the only invading being done is on your TV set as scores of Python related video clips, animations, sound bites, brain teasers and parlour games queue up to kick your common sense in the goolies.

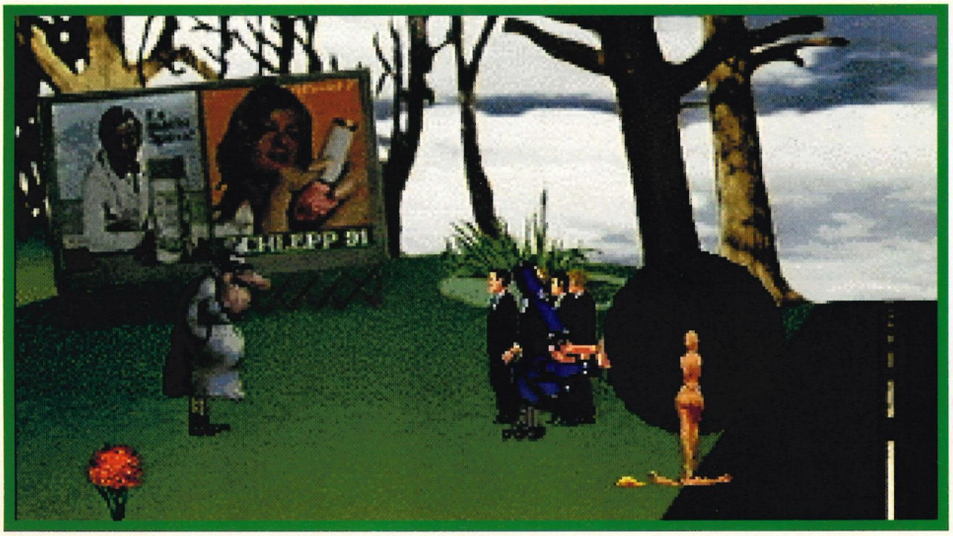
From the very beginning, the game sets out to disorientate you. You boot up the disc only to be greeted by the standard Philips CDi option screen you started out with. But this time, when you click the "Play CDi" icon, an animated version of the Python "clan" (Messrs Cleese, Palin, Chapman, Jones and Idle) breaks out of the Philips logo and smashes the remains of the screen in. The rest of the game continues in the same vein...

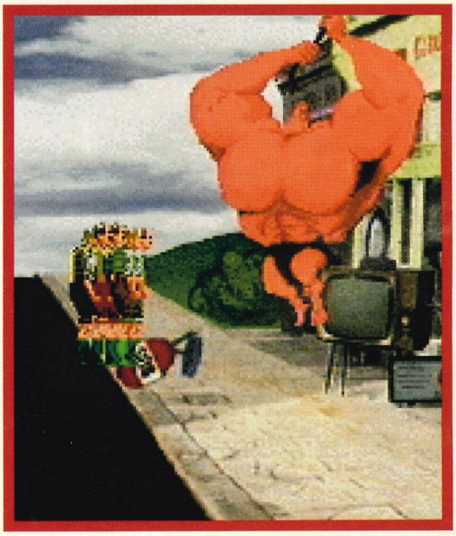
The gameplay involves guiding the Python clan through nine levels, each of which is based upon imagery from the inspired Terry Gilliam animations that gave the original TV series its surreal edge. You control



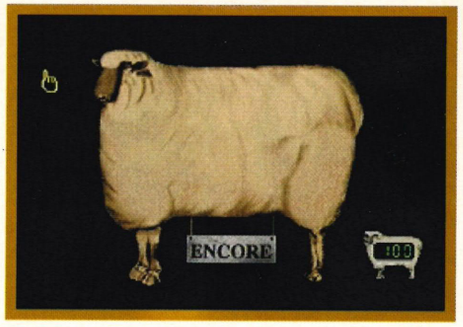


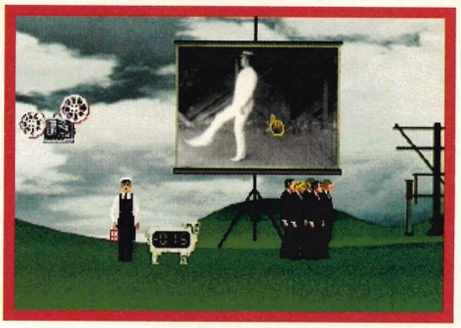


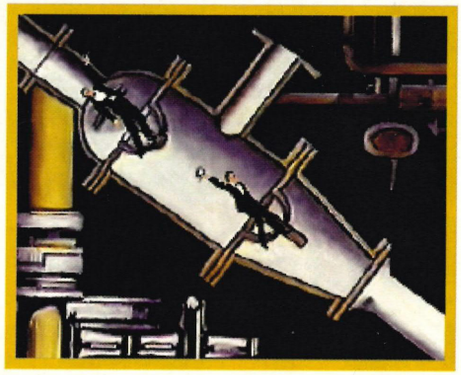


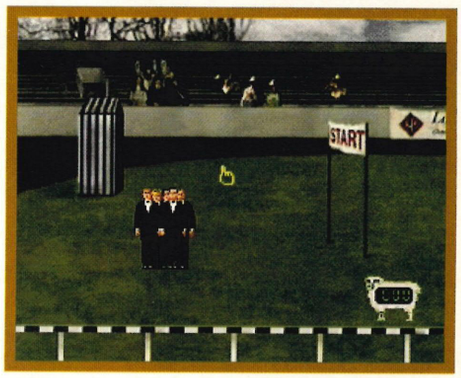


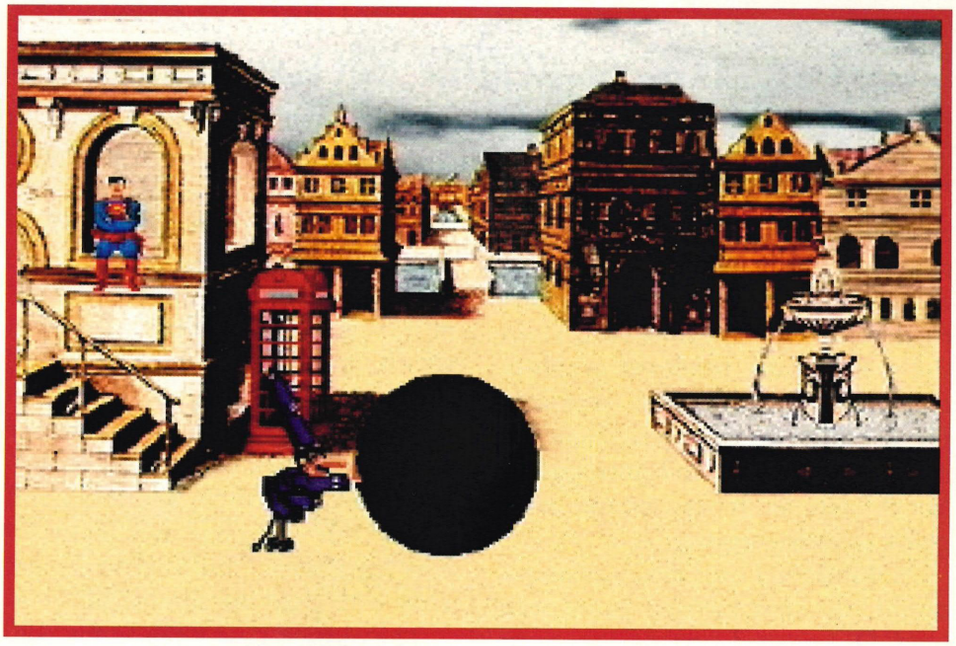












the clan's movements by clicking the cursor where you want them to go. The cursor is also used to activate hot-spots such as doors, windows and the various animated characters (ranging from the Spanish Inquisition to the superannuated highwayman Dennis Moore).

Although the interactivity is often limited to "I wonder what happens if I click here?" school, a certain amount of perverse logic is required to make the next level. For instance, guiding Simon the upper class twit along the tricky "straight line obstacle" involves anticipating his in-bred stupidity and prompting him in the opposite direction to where he should go. And within the hunt-and-click playfields there are stacks of hidden sub-games tucked away to add variety: ranging from shoot-them-ups to playing a tune on Terry Jones' infamous mouse organ (smash them on the head to produce a musical squeak).

It doesn't have the depth or complexity of a traditional graphic adventure like Day of the Tentacle, but that's not really the point. This product is aimed at Python fans who will quite happily spend all day doing the "wrong" thing just to hear Michael Palin say "Duuuuunggg!" repeatedly. There are over 800 sound bites and 50 MPEG video clips (totalling 45 minutes) to keep these kinds of people occupied and off the streets. There is also an incentive to keep them playing, because the higher your score, the bigger and better the video clip you can "buy" in the on-screen cinema. (I suspect the most expensive item is the Dead Parrot Sketch, but I haven't played the game long enough to find out).

For those of us that are not complete and utter Python aficionados, there is still much fun to be had in Invasion From Planet Skyron. Yes, it does have some annoying tics — the frustration factor can quickly kick-in on certain levels — and overall it isn't as polished as 7th Level's Python-based Complete Waste of Time screen saver for the PC.

But it is original, packed with content and slots neatly into the twisted sensibilities of the Monty Python universe. Should you buy it? That depends how much you are in the mood to try out something completely different...

Produced by Daedalus Productions

RATINGS

Graphics: 81%

Sound: 88%

Interactivity: 85%

Overall: 85%

Cost: £29.99 Out: November 6





LOST EDEN

Cryo Interactive's dinosaur epic finally reaches the CDi. The graphics are superb, says JASON ALESI, but is the gameplay up to scratch?

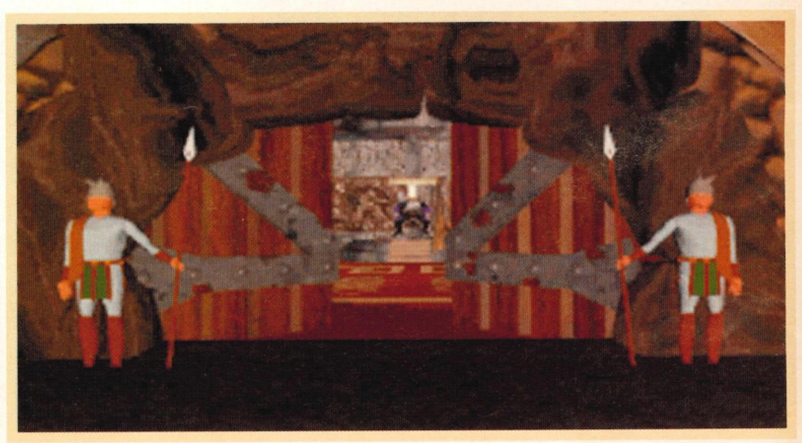
Lost Eden seems to have been in development for about five years. Okay, so it's actually only been two, bit it just *feels* that way. Ever since Paris-based company Cryo Interactive first started developing the game, stills from the wonderfully rendered graphics that pepper the disc have crept into the specialist games press, building up a wave of hype and anticipation for the release. It was, people said, going to look gorgeous.

And it does. Lost Eden is, without doubt, the best looking game seen on CDi yet and one of the most graphically advanced seen on any platform. The cut-away animation sequences used throughout are stunning, for once managing to live up to the promise of the intro sequence. Brontosaurs stomp clumsily round the landscape; pterodactyls glide majestically over shimmering lakes, their reflections tracking them in the mirror-like surface of the water; and velociraptors dart menacingly round the differing terrains with quick, savage movements. If you have any friends still stuck with cartridge consoles, just play them the intro and watch their eyes glaze over and their jaws hang slack. You might even get away with charging admission.

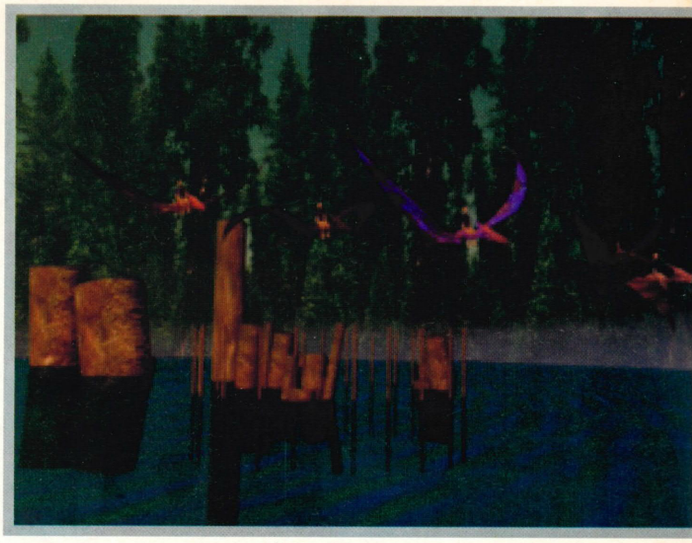
The aim of Lost Eden is for you, Adam, Prince of Mo, to defeat the Tyrans led by the vicious Moorkus Rex and free both humanity and the other dinosaurs from his rapacious conquering. Humans and dinosaurs used to live together quite peacefully in the past and your first task is to uncover that fact, start building defences against the Tyran's attacks and begin to re-establish that earlier coalition.

Inevitably, given the amount of memory taken up by the graphics, the plot develops along fairly linear lines. It doesn't really seem to matter, though, because Cryo has done its utmost to make Lost Eden as immersive an environment as it can get. To that end, the story that develops is rich in character, suffuse with legend and, all in all — especially coupled with the atmospheric









and truly world-class music — rather involving.

The structure of Lost Eden is that of a standard adventure game. You arrive in one location, are set a task (usually involving finding an object of some sort) and with a certain amount of to-ing and fro-ing manage to complete that before moving onto the next location. As different stages are completed, the map of the primordial world that you have access to expands and more locations have to be visited, Tyran defences established and so-on. None of the tasks are particularly taxing — this is not one of those lateral thinking mind-blowers — and pretty soon, after much plot unfolding, you're set up for the final conflict between yourself and Moorkus Rex.

But herein lies the central problem. As far as longevity goes, Lost Eden lacks hundreds of hours of gameplay. Cryo has said that this is a game for people who don't really play computer games and, while that's all very well, it means that the experienced players among you will probably finish it in a relatively short time. A thoroughly enjoyable and involving few hours maybe, but falling quite a way short of being real value for money.

Those of you who found certain other CDi games too easy may find the same applies to Lost Eden.

It is a major problem, but one that due to the sheer beauty of the game can be overlooked with a bit of effort. More diffcult to forget is the verbosity of the central characters, who spend far too much time talking. Maybe a little less time watching the game render and a bit more attention to gameplay would have produced a better balance, but Lost Eden is still a major achievement.

Produced by Cryo Interactive

RATINGS

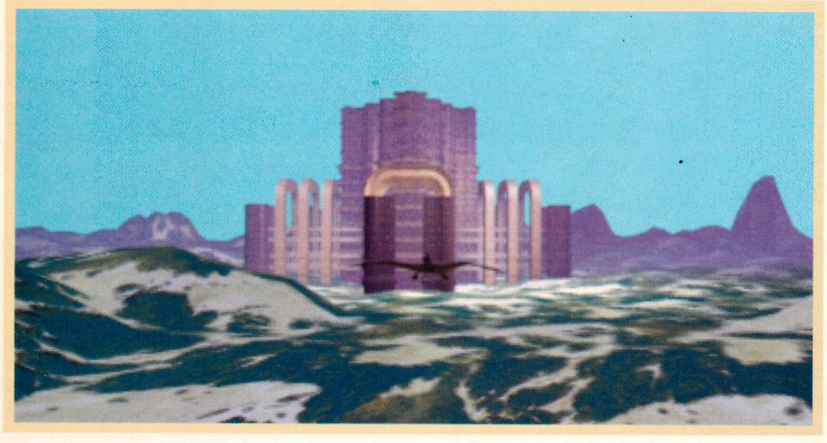
Graphics: 95%

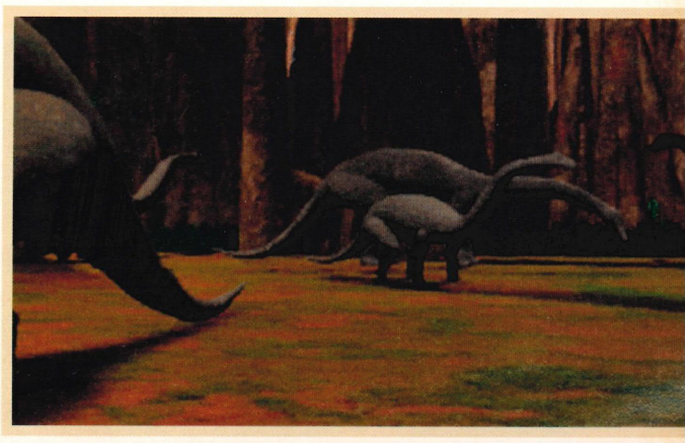
Sound: 95%

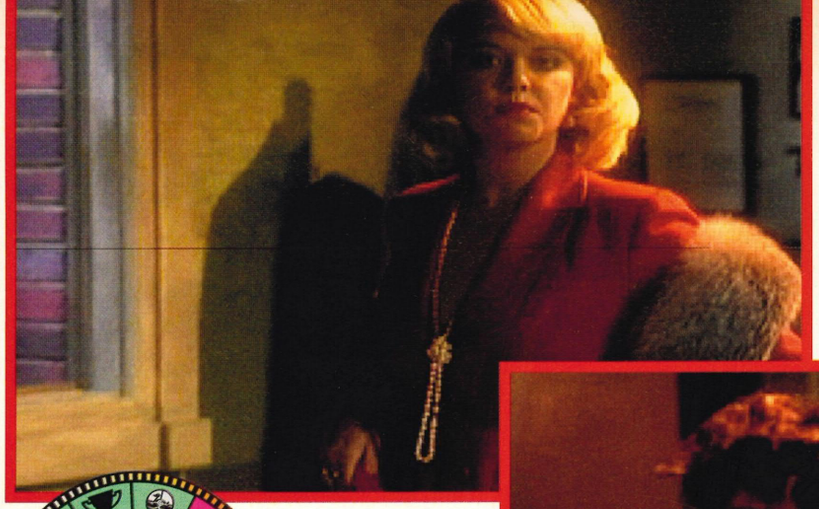
Interactivity: 82%

Overall: 89%

Cost: £34.99 **Out: November 24**











WHO SHOT JOHNNY ROCK?

OK, schmuck, you want a bodyful of bullets? Ace detective PATRICK BATEMAN on the trail of the mob who killed nightclub owner Johnny Rock

A word of warning. The Peacekeeper revolver is not a Tommy Gun. While it's great for doing Clint impressions and twirling around your finger, it's not really designed to accompany a Fedora and spats while being fired from the hip. It's a shame that Philips Media didn't think up some plastic extensions to give the old six shooter a stock and a cylindrical magazine. Ah well, I suppose you can use your imagination...

As you might have guessed by now, Who Shot Johnny Rock? is a shoot-'em-up. Produced by CapDisc, the same people who brought us Mad Dog McCree, the action this time is set in the Roaring Twenties and you play a wisecracking private eye on the trail of the mobsters who plugged Nightclub crooner Johnny Rock.

Although much of the gameplay remains unchanged from Mad Dog McCree – it's still essentially full motion video-footage punctuated by interactive interludes when you can shoot the bad guys – some effort has been made to introduce an element of strategy into the proceedings.

As elements go, though, it's pretty slim: the solution to the mystery is conveniently locked in a safe and if you survive long enough the combination numbers will be given to you one by one. Then all you have to do is mosey on down to Johnny's mansion, machine gun a hundred hoodlums, open the safe and complete the game. Sherlock Holmes it sure ain't.

But you won't give a damn because you'll be too busy screaming "Duga! Duga! Duga! Duga!" and practising your Jimmy Cagney sneer to notice. As with Mad Dog McCree, the game engine is polished and purring: the menu screen is slick, the video footage well encoded and the shot detection as good as you can get with a DV title (there is still a lag between gunshot and hammy death scene, but it's much shorter than on equivalent titles on other platforms).

The only real problem is that if

RATINGS

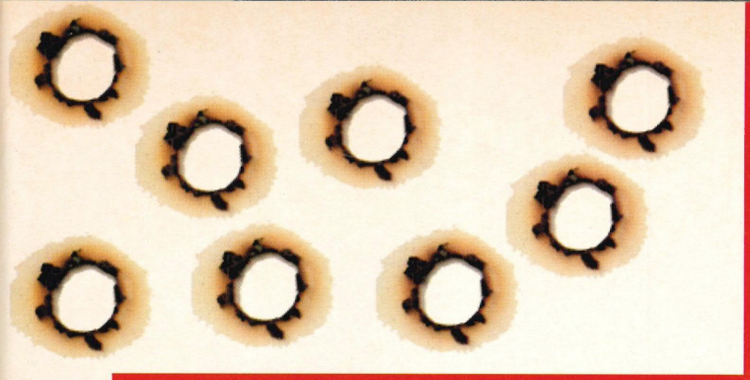
Graphics: 95%

Sound: 90%

Interactivity: 75%

Overall: 82%

Cost: £39.99 Out: November 6

















you've bought and played Mad Dog McCree, there's little new on offer apart from the changes in costume and scenery. The strategy involves nothing more than occasionally buying bullets in the ammo shop and jotting down the combination numbers as they appear. Big deal. On the positive side, there is rather more randomisation programmed into Johnny Rock, so it's now impossible to learn the entire game by rote, which helps it climb up a couple of rungs on the lastability ladder.

But even these innovations can't disguise the fact that, deep down, games like this are designed to be played for a couple of minutes in the amusement arcade, not for a couple of weeks in the living room. That said, if you like this kind of mindless shoot-'em-up action and can get your mitts on a gun, Who Shot Johnny Rock? is as good as this genre gets. As Measle the Weasel (one of the game's more, ahem, colourful characters) would put it: "You pays a yer money and you takes a yer choice...schmuck!"

Produced by American Laser Games/CapDisc

RISE OF THE ROBOTS

After the hype, the let-down. ANDY STOUT finds Mirage Technologie's futuristic beat-'em-up Rise of the Robots seriously disappointing















In a similar way to Lost Eden, Rise of the Robots images have been leaking into magazines for over two years now. The fully-rendered pictures have been spectacular, showing gloriously sculpted hunks of robotics, the light reflecting and refracting off their gleaming carapaces. They've *looked* sinister, like they might twist your arm off and beat you with the bloody stump just for the hell of it. Cybernetic death dealers in glorious 3D, the pinnacle of the modern animator's art.

Rise was going to be big, simple as that. The visuals looked stunning, ex-Queen guitarist Brian May had penned a couple of suitably tumultuous and dramatic numbers for the soundtrack and the stage was set for the game to sweep all before it. And, if they hadn't forgotten one, small, innocuous detail, it would have done. Unfortunately, there's just one problem: the game is unconvincing.

From the poorly executed intro onwards, Rise of the Robots totally fails to live up to its hype. Where did all those lovingly rendered images that graced the magazines come from then? Damned if I know.

To deal with it's problems then. Firstly, the intro is inexcusably poor. Rise's one is murky and muddled, featuring lacklustre 3D images and brief panoramic camera sweeps punctuated by some rather annoying pauses as data is streamed off the CD.

In truth, though, the in-game graphics are hardly much better. As the current games fashion demands, Rise is peppered with cut-away sequences (and therefore more intensely frustrating waits while yet another cinematic sequence is loaded). A couple are quite nicely done, admittedly, but the majority are lacklustre.

Depth-cued, ray-traced and Gourard-shaded they may be, but they're simply not much good.

Also, the music is more invasive than anything, springing up at full volume all of a sudden then cutting off sharply. Worse, the user interface is clunky and about as ergonomically designed as a carrot.

All this is forgivable, but the appalling gameplay isn't. Rise is ostensibly a beat-'em-up and follows the now standardised bouts system with opponents getting progressively tougher as you continue.

The problem is that we've grown used to a certain degree of sophistication with this genre on other platforms, next to which Rise is absurdly simplistic. Not enough tactics, not enough skill, just plenty of button-stabbing. All in all it's desperately disappointing.

Produced by Mirage Technologies

RATINGS

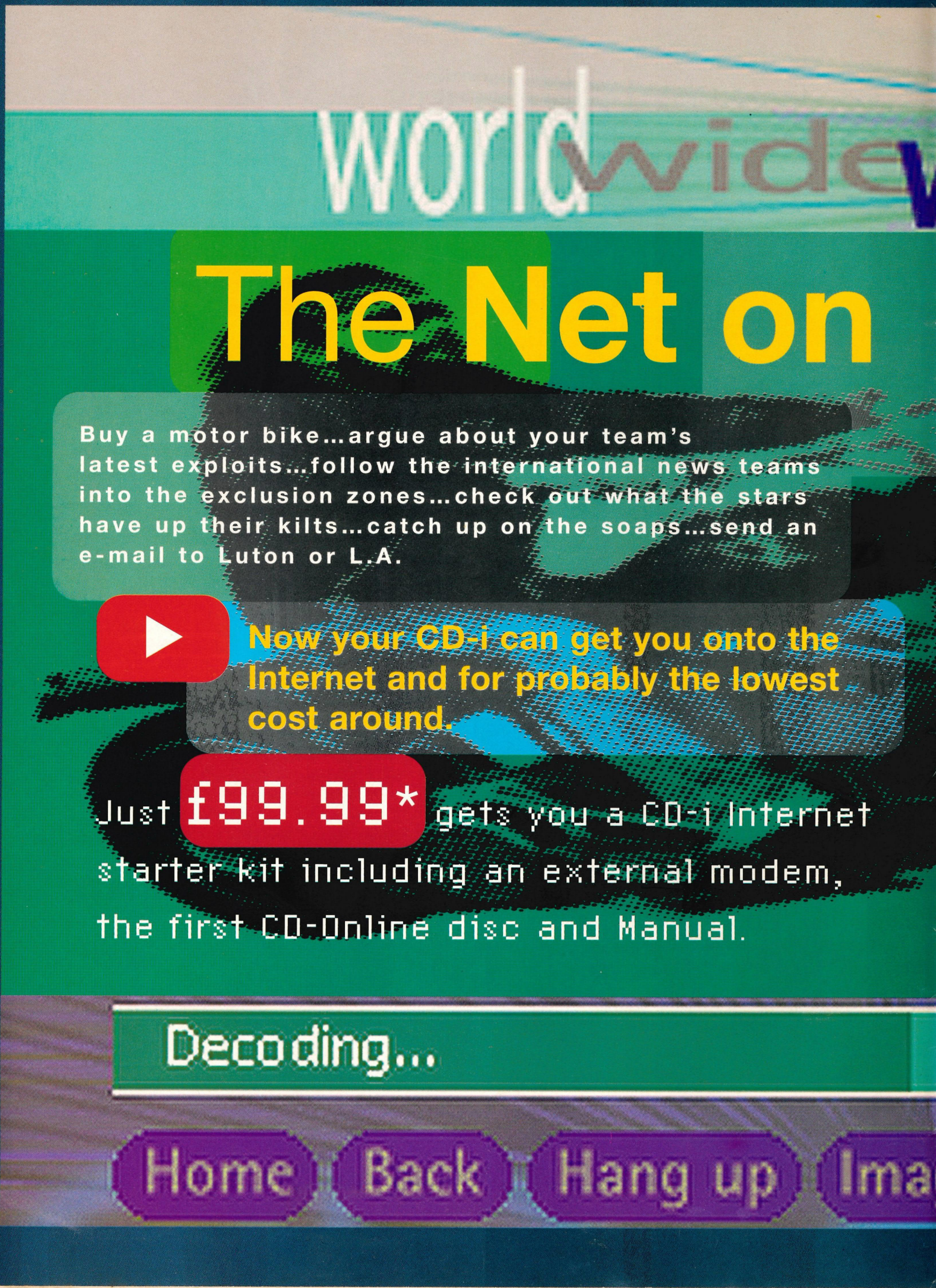
Graphics: 68%

Sound: 62%

Interactivity: 56%

Overall: 65%

Cost: £34.99 **Out: November 6**


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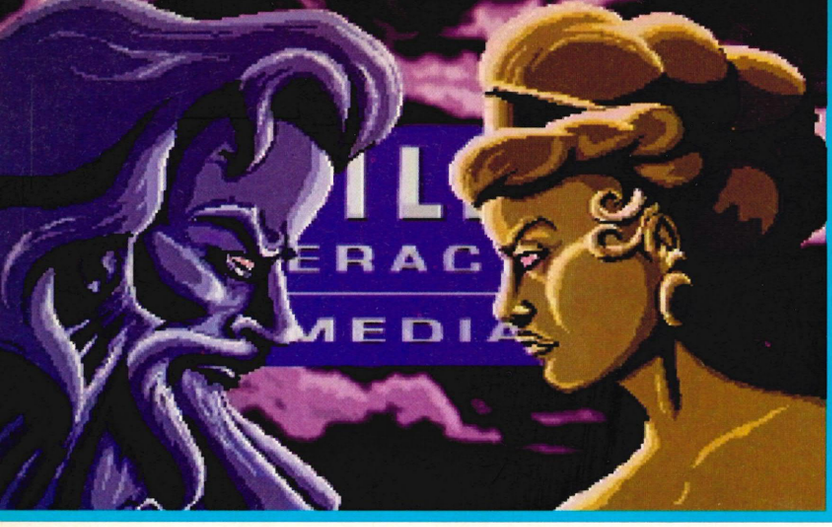
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LABYRINTH OF CRETE

Greek mythology, squabbling deities, an impossible labyrinth and 47 puzzles — what more do you need to fry your brain?

ANDY CLOUGH tries hard not to lose his temper

Puzzle games. You either love them or hate them. Me, I love them until I can't solve a particular problem, and then the frustration sets in. You know the kind of thing — hurling the remote control at the TV, yelling at your imaginary neighbours, kicking the dog.

If you have a short temper, then Labyrinth of Crete may well drive you mad. There are 47 puzzles in seven categories to test your frazzled brain: Temple Tracers, Grecian Scrambles, Word Mazes, Block Challenges, Action Logics, Patchwork Arcades and Zodiac Tiles. More than enough to keep you busy for a few hours — and some. At least you can vary the level of difficulty, from beginner through advanced to expert. Believe me, even the beginner level is no walkover.

So what's all this puzzle solving in aid of, then? Well, it appears you've been a naughty boy (or girl) and been caught stealing from the Temple of Hera. The queen of Mount Olympus is determined to put you to death, but kindly old Zeus says he will spare your miserable little life if you manage to escape from the labyrinth by finding the secret passageway. If you succeed, Hera will work herself up into a terrible rage, just as Zeus intended. Each time you solve a puzzle, you can move a little further out of the labyrinth.

You must battle your way through the Maze of Madness, unlock the Minotaur's armoury, decipher the signs of the zodiac and gain the counsel of Hermes to help you in your attempt to escape.

RATINGS

Graphics: 89%

Sound: 89%

Interactivity: 85%

Overall: 87%

Cost: TBA **Out: November 10**

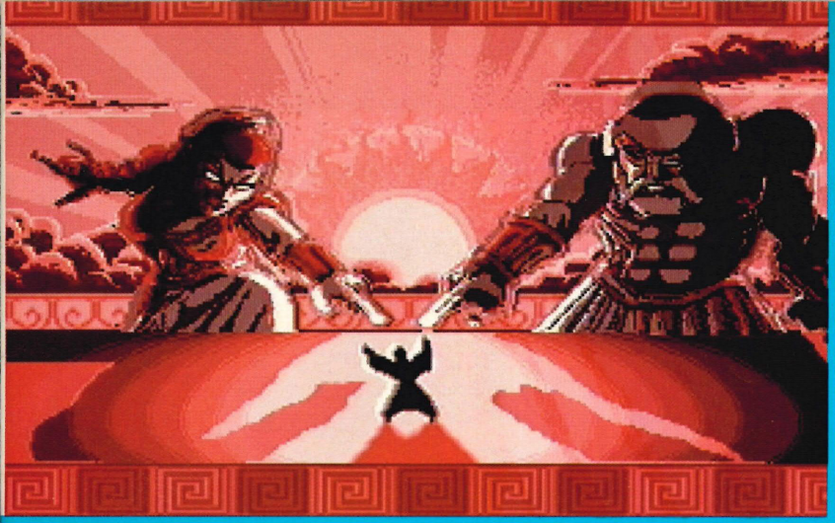
Enough of the plot. Once you get started, it is amazing how the simplest task can drive you to distraction. In one part, you have to change the word "iron" into "ruby". Sounds simple, eh? Just what I thought. In fact, clicking on a letter enables you to move it around the board and if you land on a coloured stone, the letter will change into a different one. The really tricky part is getting all the right letters to spell "ruby" and then inserting them in their rightful place on the board before they disappear.

My other favourite part is the picture puzzles. These consist of dimly-lit illustrations with fragments of the picture whizzing in from the left-hand side of the screen. Your task is to position each block into the correct position within the picture and click on it when it is in place. It wouldn't be so bad if the backgrounds were a little clearer and you could make out the image to start with.

Labyrinth of Crete is a real mind-teaser. If you are into fast-paced shoot-'em-ups, then this may not be your cup of tea. But if some other CDi games have proved too quick and easy, Labyrinth should provide a suitable antidote.

A word of warning: do not, under any circumstances, try playing this game after a few drinks — your co-ordination will go to pieces, with disastrous consequences! Believe me, I know.

*Produced by Philips *FunHouse**

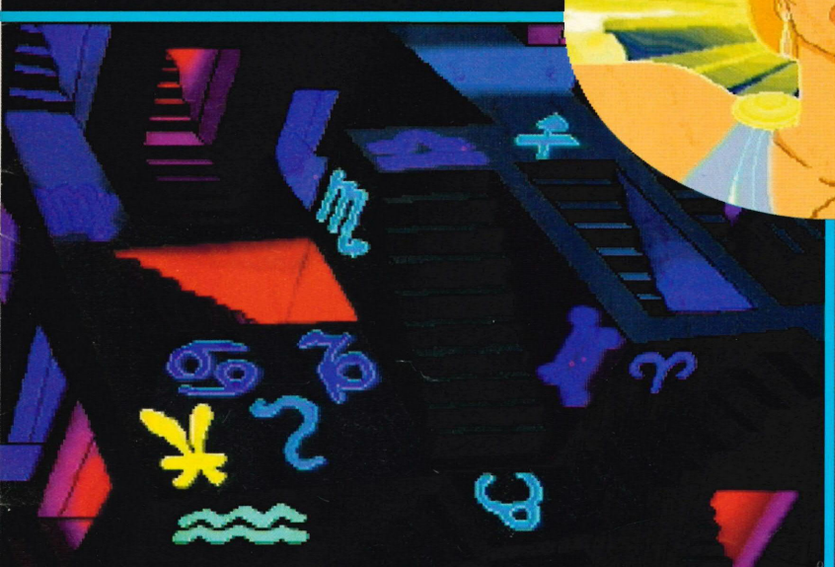




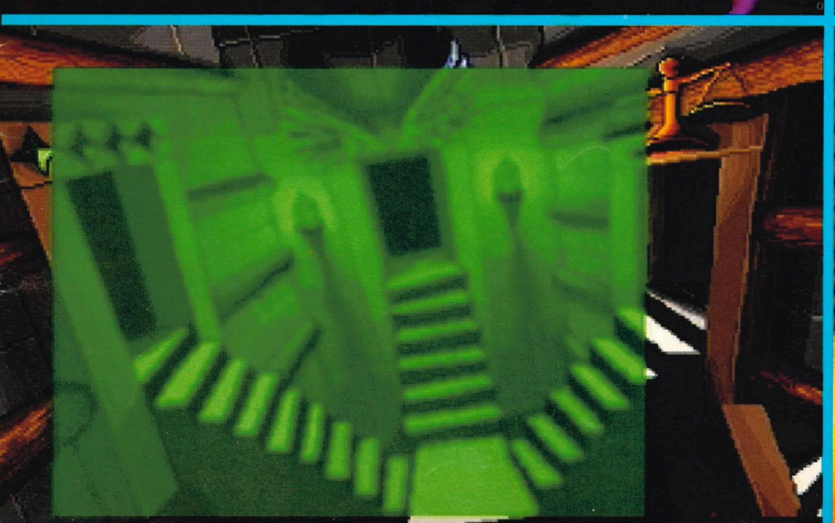

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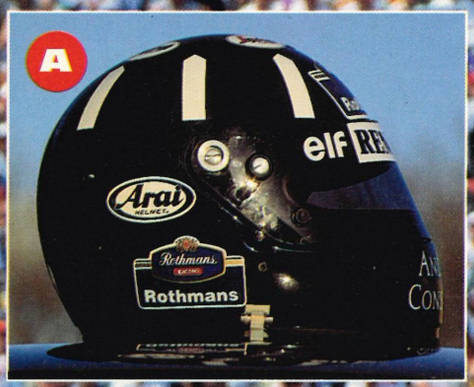
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Just answer the following questions, which are all connected to Formula 1, complete the tie breaker and send your entry to the address below:

1. Which Formula 1 driver's helmet is featured in picture A?

.....

2. Who is the British driver in picture B and which races has he won this season?

.....

.....

3. Who is the German driver in picture C and which other team will he be driving for next season?

.....

.....

Tie-breaker: Complete in no more than 10 words: I can't wait to play Micro Machines on my CDi player because

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Send your answers to: CDi / Hardware Competition, 38-42 Hampton Road, Teddington, Middlesex, TW11 0JE. The closing date for entries is Friday, 3rd November. The winners will be announced in the next issue of CDi. The judge's decision is final. No correspondence will be entered into. Employees of Haymarket Publishing and Philips Media and their families are not eligible to enter.

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3rd PRIZE



UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Test your football knowledge with this UEFA CDi quiz game and video. ANDY CLOUGH tackles an early demonstration disc

With the football season well and truly under way, it was only a matter of time before some bright spark thought of combining the thrills of the game with CDi.

So it is that we have UEFA Champions League, a CDi quiz and video disc based on the final 16 participating teams.

Each team is presented through a short two minute video clip giving a history of the club and highlights from recent years. There then follows a multiple choice quiz with questions about all of them. The quiz consists of 90 questions, five for each club participating in the UEFA Champions League.

There are two ways to play the quiz. Clicking on the button "play all clubs" produces a random series of questions about any club in the league. Pressing on "play two clubs" allows the user to restrict questions to just two clubs. In both scenarios, four possible answers appear on screen and you must click on the one you believe to be correct.

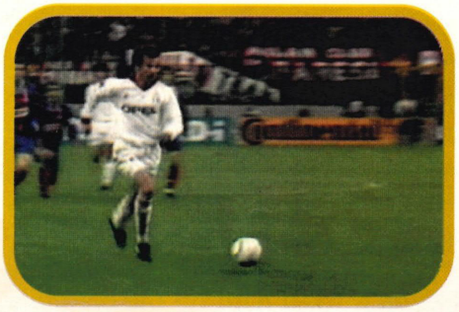
For added fun, several top sports personalities will try and predict which team is going to win this year's championship. When you enter this part of the disc, screen shots of six famous sports personalities will appear on screen. Click on a picture and that person will give their prediction.

Other highlights of the disc will include a full match schedule for the current season, results of all European Champion Clubs' Cup Finals since 1956 and highlights of UEFA Champions League Matches since 1992 in full-motion Digital Video.





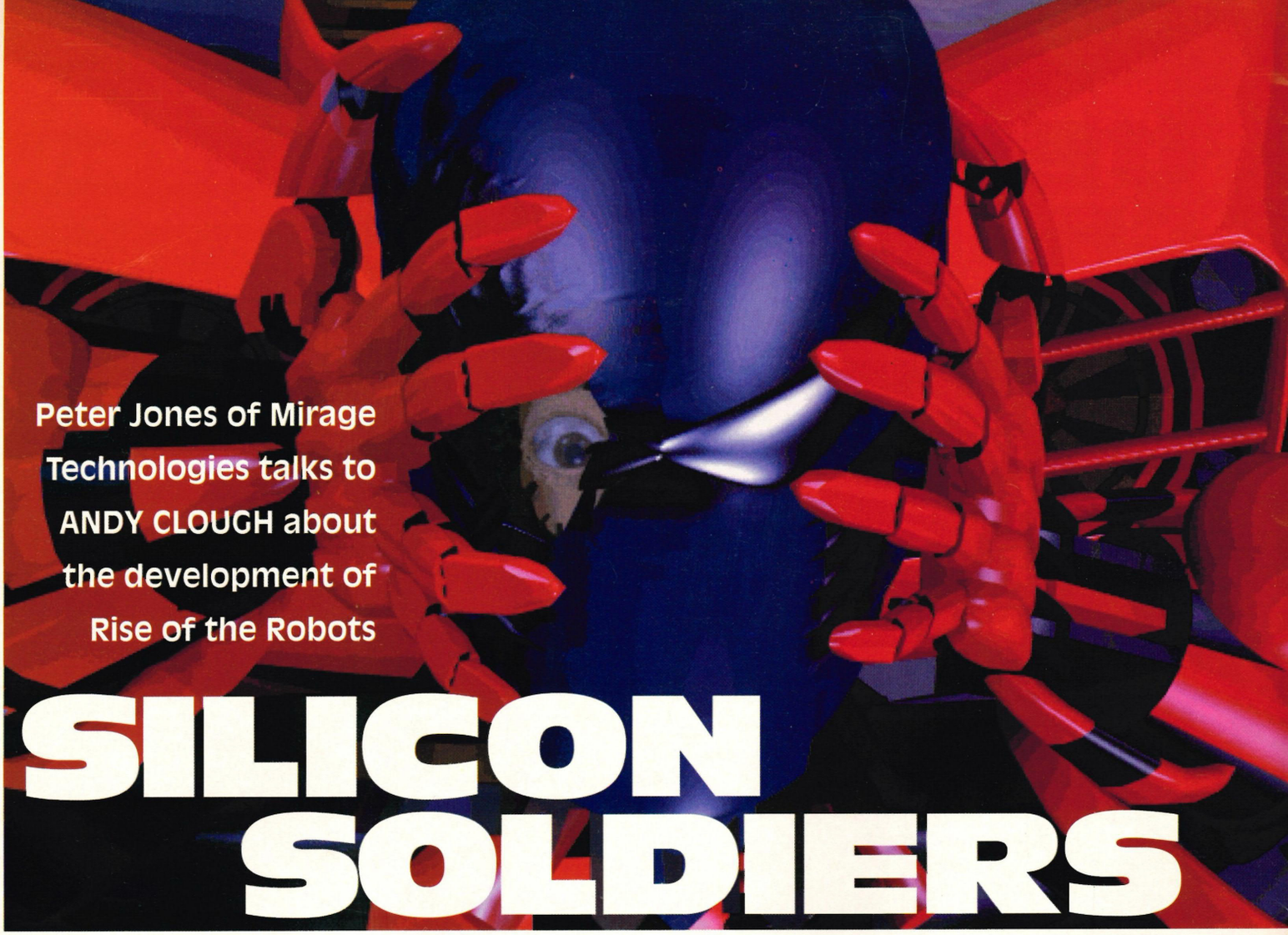




We only had a linear, non-interactive demo disc to play with as we went to press, so a full review will have to wait until our next issue. But suffice to say there is plenty of video footage of — yes, you guessed it — people kicking a football about, and even occasionally scoring a few goals. Exciting stuff.

Produced by HyperVision

Cost: £TBA
Out: November 24



Peter Jones of Mirage Technologies talks to ANDY CLOUGH about the development of Rise of the Robots

SILICON SOLDIERS

AC: How did you get the idea for the game in the first place?

PJ: We came up with the idea for a combat game featuring robots when Street Fighter II was in the arcades, before it came out on home computers. We started to put together the game design and work out what type of people we would need to work on the team.

AC: How did you select the principal members of the design team on this project?

PJ: Andy Clark, our programmer, already knew people at Mirage and was asked to come on board. We then placed an advert in the local job centre for a graphic artist. Sean Naden applied and got the job. He came straight from art college where he had specialised in technical design. We then advertised in a national PC magazine for a PC programmer, and that is how Gary Leach joined us. Kwan Lee, who is a professional interior designer, also saw the advert and got in touch with me to suggest that he'd be useful for designing all the backgrounds to the game — and I agreed with him!

AC: Why did you decide to make Rise a beat-'em-up game? How does it differ from other beat-'em-ups?

PJ: Beat-'em-ups are extremely popular and some, such as Street Fighter, have been very successful. I'm a great fan of combat games and it was our ambition with Rise to make it different and better than anything else that's gone before. We've tried to achieve this in all aspects of the game, namely graphics, playability and sound. As far as the graphics are concerned, we've used a 3D modelling package which has enabled us to create realistic characters and backgrounds as opposed to giving it a cartoon feel. We've worked hard on the playability, which I believe is the most important aspect of any game.

AC: Can you explain how you have used "artificial intelligence" to improve the gameplay?

PJ: We developed our own artificial intelligence system which, in simple terms, means that the computer-controlled robots can react to different situations. So for example, if you're fighting a robot and using the same move against it, then he/she will realise what you are doing and choose a move to counteract your attack. We've also created a complex collision-detection table with the aim of making each bout as realistic as possible.

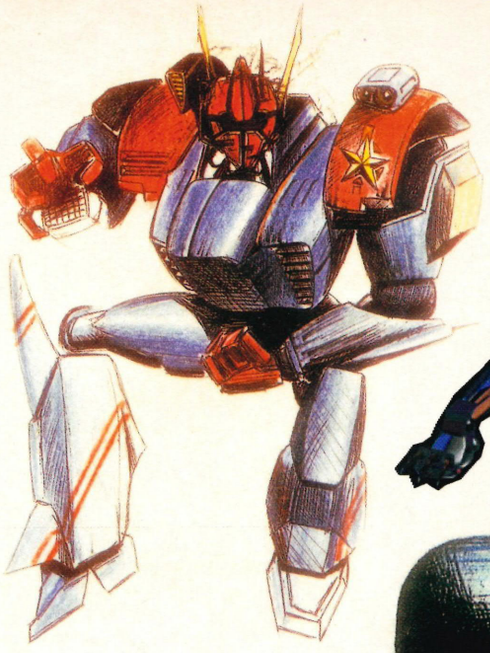
AC: Can you describe the concept behind the robots and how they were actually created?

PJ: We worked with Sean Naden, our 3D modeller and robot designer,

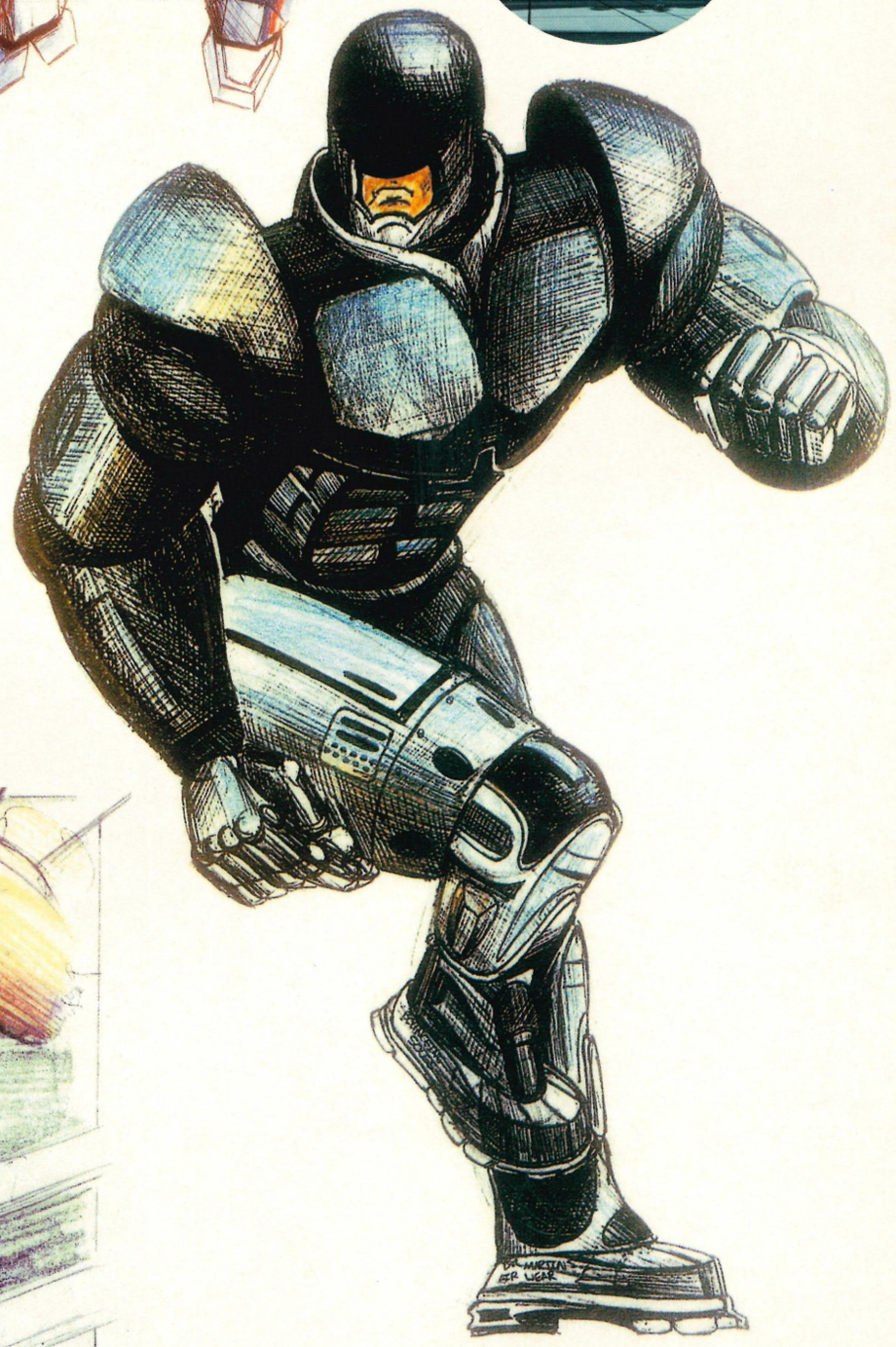
to illustrate on paper our ideas for the robots and cinematic sequences in the game. Sean then converted those ideas on to a computer. Each robot is built using a 3D modelling package called 3D studio. The robots are created in mesh form, then textured and rendered. We then animated the robots using a program called a keyframer which allows you to set the start and finish points of an animation and then it works out the frames in-between. Kwan Lee, our interior designer, created all the backgrounds for the game. The next stage was to put the animated robots into the backgrounds, which was the programmers' job.

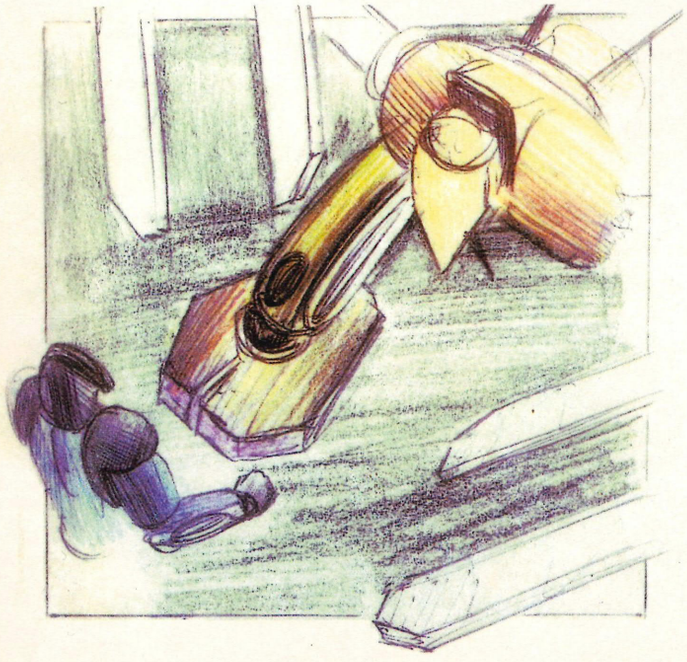
AC: Will the CDi version differ from other formats in any way?

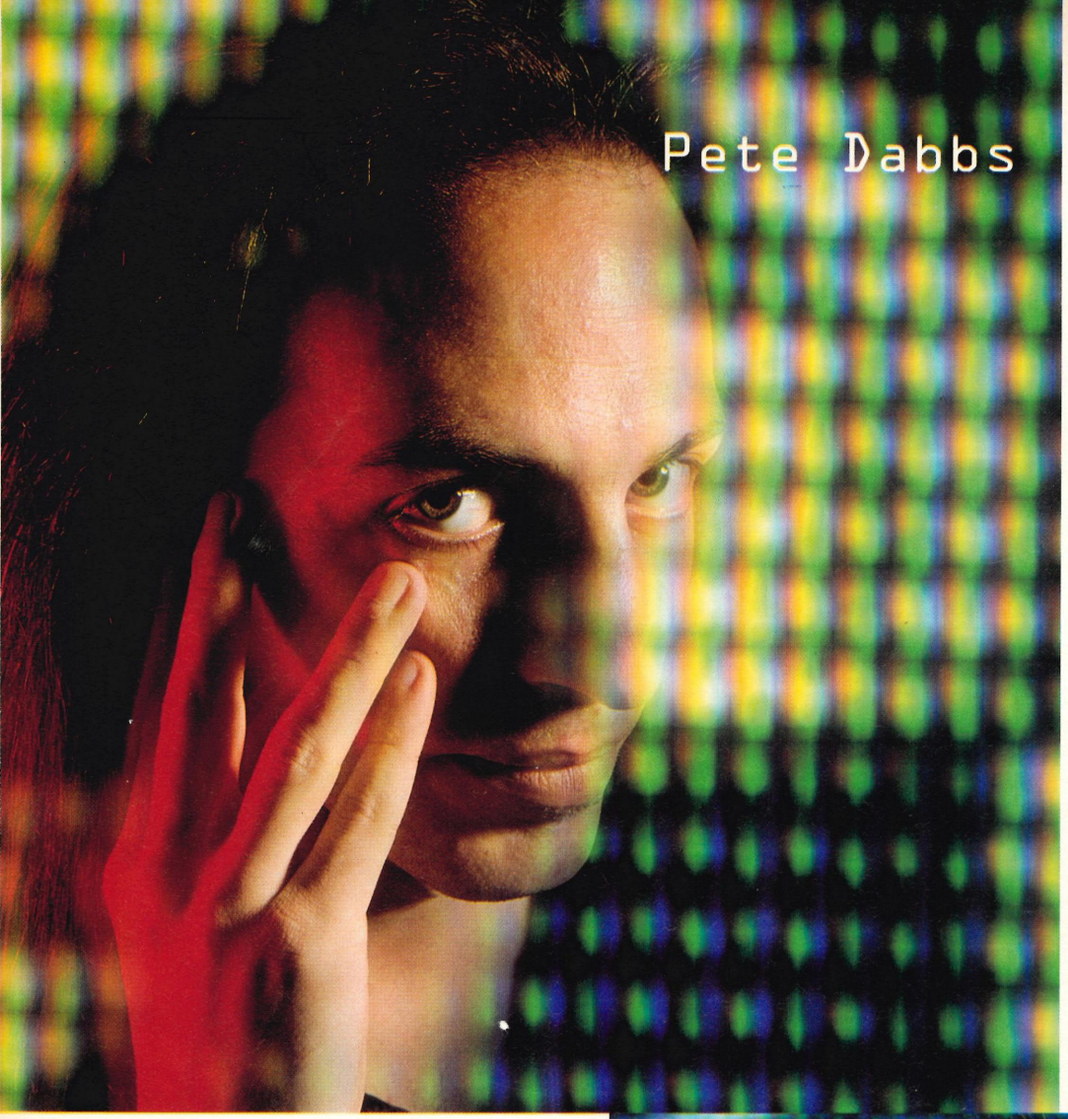
PJ: The CDi version will look and play exactly the same as the PC version. There will basically be two versions of the game on the CDi disc, one for base-case players and one for Digital Video players. The DV version will be enhanced with scrolling animated backgrounds which will look like the SNES version. Although the base-case version will have all the cinematics that the PC version has, the DV version for CDi will use the cartridge to produce true colour animations.











AC: Everyone raves about the graphics in Rise, but how do you tackle the criticism that it is just a good-looking game with mediocre gameplay?

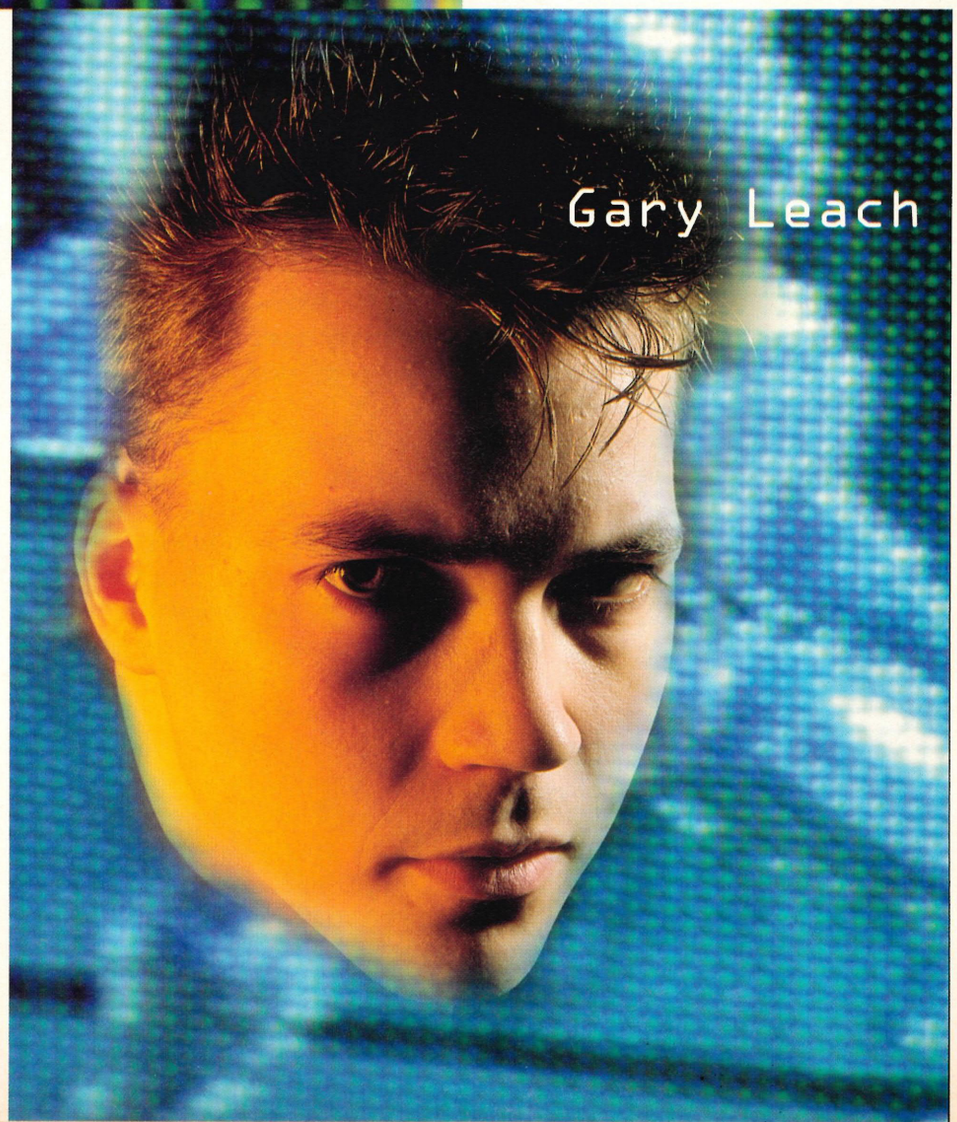
PJ: It is not just a case of creating good-looking visuals. Rise is a combat game and I can't emphasise enough that we believe playability is the most important element in this type of game.
By creating our own artificial intelligence system, each robot can analyse your moves and react accordingly. Each robot has different factors such as aggression, speed, intelligence and motivation that change throughout each bout depending on whether you are making defensive or attacking moves. Because the personality of each robot can change, no two bouts are the same.

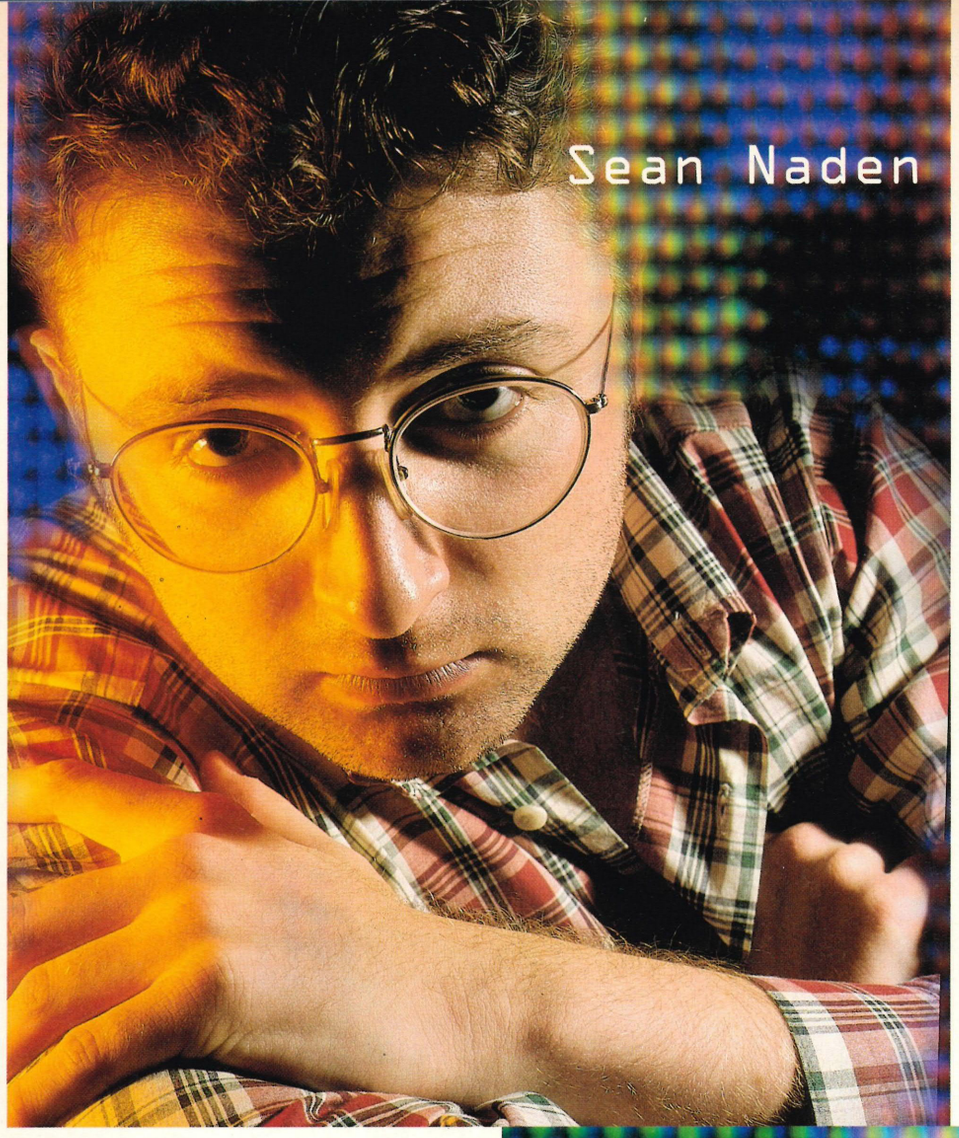
AC: Can you tell me more about Gary Leach's role in the project as a martial arts expert?

PJ: Gary's martial arts experience

AC: Have you encountered any particular problems in developing this game for the CDi platform?

PJ: The main problem was the sheer size and number of frames of the sprites. Although the CDi has one Megabyte of memory on the base-case machine, a portion of this is used by the ROMs and with the sprites being anywhere from 200 to 400k each, most of the memory is used on the graphics. Special routines had to be written to compress the sprite data, otherwise they wouldn't have fitted and we would have had to remove some frames.
Another problem was caused by the CDi only having a 68070 processor and no specialist sprite hardware. The larger sprites take quite a large portion of the available frame time to transfer the sprites to the screen. So we had to write various different sprite printing routines to get around the problem. The game will now run at 25 frames per second.





BACKGROUND

Mirage Technologies is a UK-owned games publisher. The company was founded at the end of 1991 by Peter Jones and Andy Wood with a brief to produce quality, leading-edge products for the new generation of computer hardware. Before starting Mirage, Peter Jones was the European managing director of Sierra On-Line and before that he was marketing director of Microprose. Andy Wood also owns sales consultancy USD which specialises in servicing clients in the computer and video games industry. Mirage has 20 full-time staff.

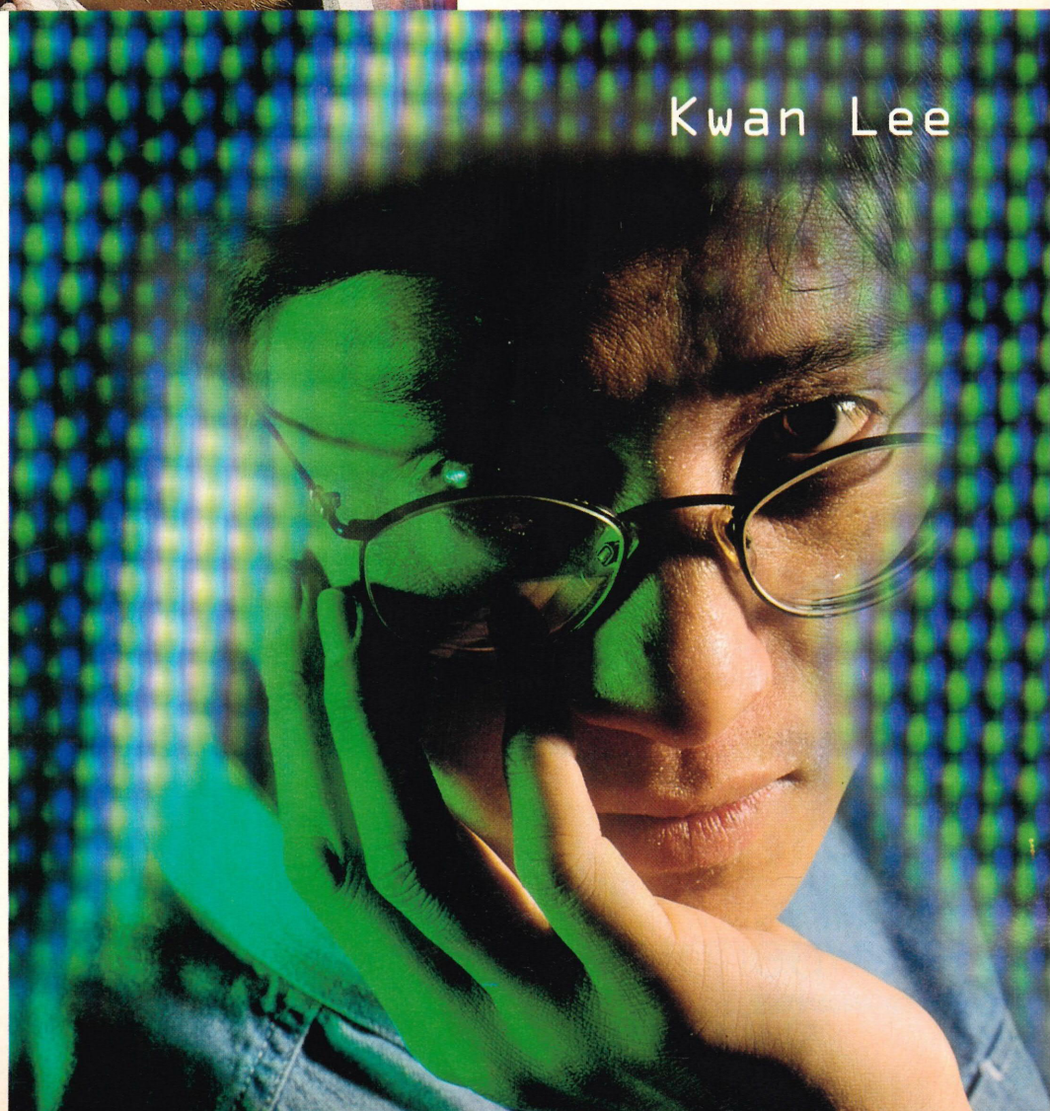
Credits:
Sean Griffiths: designer
Peter Dabbs: CDi programmer
Gary Leach: senior PC programmer
Andy Clark: senior Amiga programmer
Sean Naden: senior artist
Kwan Lee: interiors
Tom Wardle: development assistant
Brian May: music

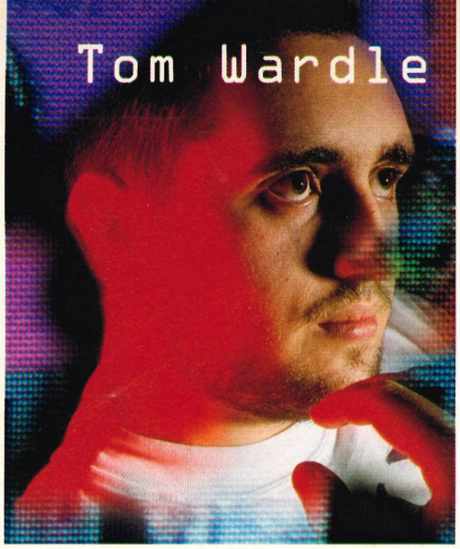
helped us to perfect some of the more humanoid characters such as The Exterminator and The Sentry. The more unusually-designed robots have moves that a human couldn't copy. That's another element that sets it apart from previous combat games.

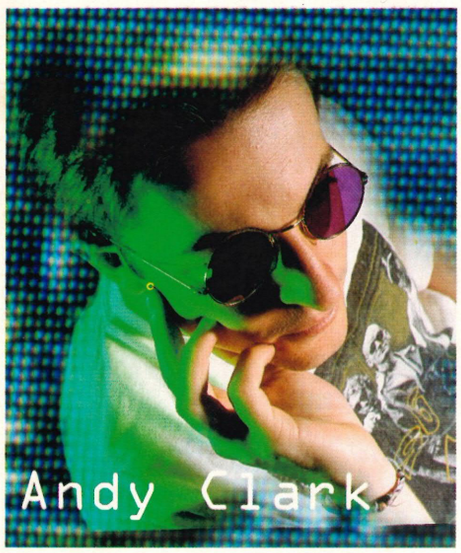
AC: How did you create the backgrounds for the game?

PJ: We chose to use the 3D visual contouring technique because we think it creates a realistic and futuristic atmosphere. 3D studio is very versatile and allowed us to produce a multitude of characters and backgrounds using whatever shapes and textures we wanted. We were able to create fully-rendered 3D characters within a realistic 3D world.

AC: You hired a professional interior designer, Kwan Lee, to design the room sets. How did he approach the task?









PJ: Kwan spent a lot of time texturing all the different elements of the backgrounds to create exactly the right atmosphere for the different types of robots.
There's dirt, grime and rust in the lower parts of the building and it becomes cleaner and more high tech the further up you move. 3D studio is much like working in a real film studio.
You start by creating and painting your set and then you add the necessary lighting and cameras. The computer then renders it all for the final result.

AC: How would you describe the experience of working on Rise?

PJ: The overriding thing I've learnt from this project is that if you have an ambition to do something, then go for it!

Peter Jones is one of the founding directors of Mirage Technologies.

THE PLOT

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.

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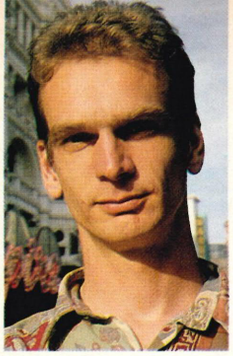
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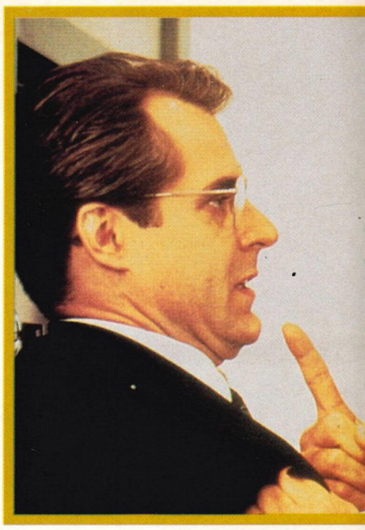
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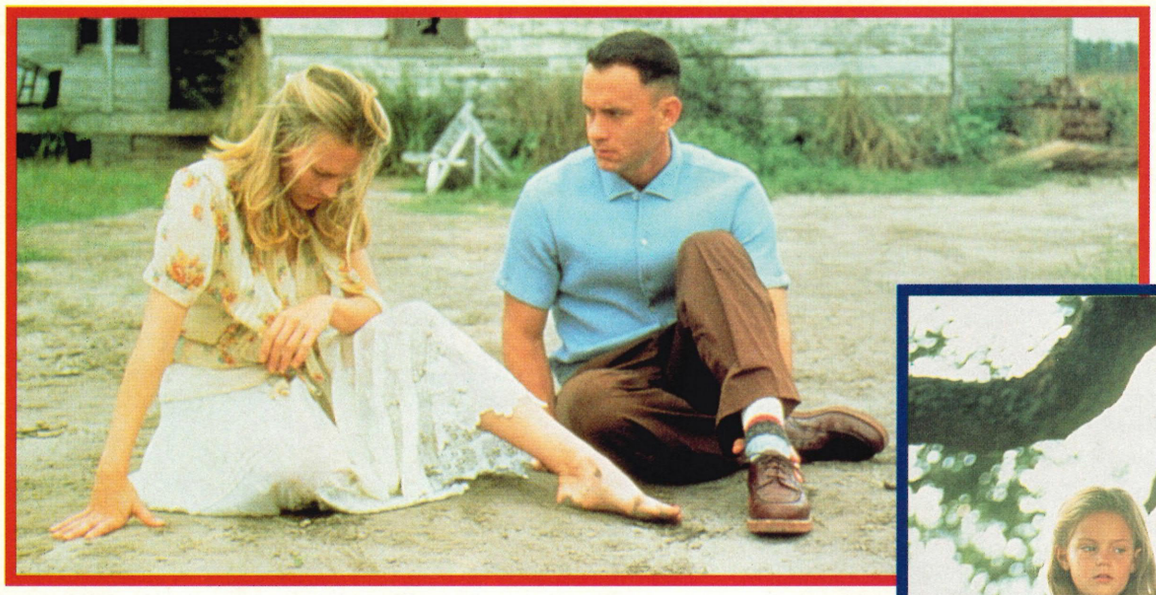
GRANADA

how switched on can you get?



Bond and babes, comedy, action and an Oscar-winning performance from Tom Hanks — there is something for everyone among this autumn's movies on Video CD, says BEN SOUTHWELL







FORREST GUMP

This film is nothing short of a phenomenon. "Simple is as simple does," Gump said. Well "Forrest Gump" earned over $250m at the US box office last year, making it the only serious rival to "The Lion King" for film of the year and DEFINITELY making it THE sleeper hit of all time. To prove the point, it won a string of Oscars, including Best Picture.

Paramount thought this tale of honest simpleton Forrest Gump and his championing of traditional qualities would prove to be a hard sell. Instead, it caught the mood of the country perfectly, leaving the marketing people tripping over themselves trying to keep up.

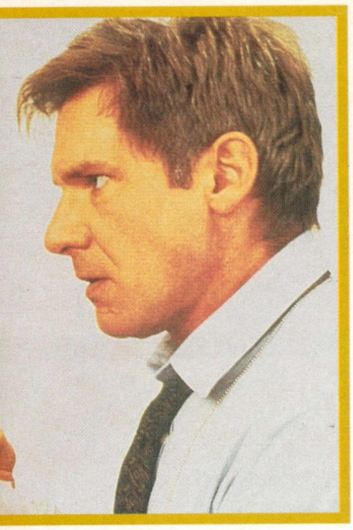
Everyone went mad for Tom Hanks' touching performance, calling the 1 800 LUV GUMP phone lines in the US day and night, and turning this unlikely tale into Paramount's biggest hit ever.

Of course, director Robert Zemeckis knows a thing or two about hits with "Roger Rabbit", "Romancing the Stone" and the "Back to the Future" series. But "Gump" is unlike any of those. Yes, it's very funny, and it displays some amazing technical wizardry to put Gump in scenes with John F Kennedy and John Lennon, but it's a simple, emotional parable at heart, spanning 30 years of American history.

I know "Gump" has its critics, and there's been a whole debate about whether the story is reactionary or progressive. But who cares, you'll love it!



Rating: ☆☆☆☆☆
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Cost: £19.99
Out: October 9 (day and date with the video)

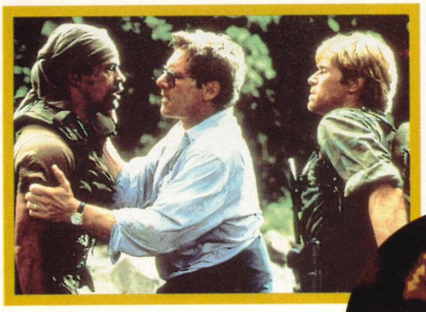




CLEAR AND PRESENT DANGER

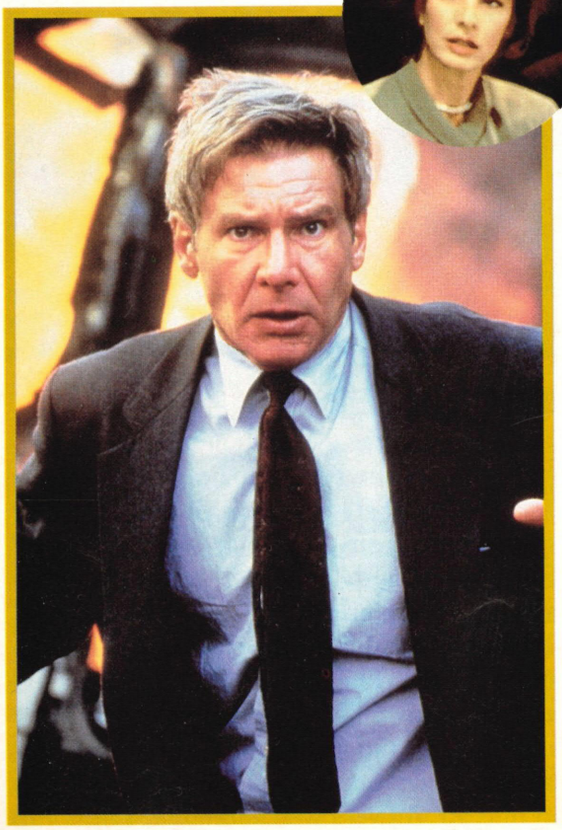
For my money "Clear and Present Danger", the third film to feature Tom Clancy's Jack Ryan, is the best of the bunch. (Ryan really is fast becoming a Bond for the 1990s.) I was in just the right mood for this complex tale of intrigue and revenge in the war between South American drug barons and the US Government.

Clancy usually writes stories that focus our minds on corruption and deception, and this time he's chosen the US government to point out the grey areas between right and wrong, taking the story to the highest level of authority.



The adaptation by writers such as heavyweight John Milius ("Apocalypse Now") translates well to the screen, although it's been criticised by some for having too much talking. True, there are many scenes of men in suits, but director Philip Noyce ("Patriot Games", "Dead Calm") also gives us some stunning action scenes. The ambush on a convoy of American diplomats is one of the best sequences I've seen for ages.





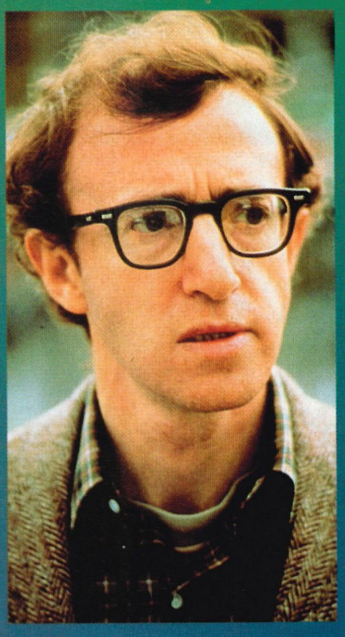
Harrison Ford is as excellent as ever as Jack Ryan, even though this time he's not actually given that much to do until the disappointingly formulaic finale. Strong support comes from Willem Dafoe and James Earl Jones. However, the performer I think most deserving of attention is Anne Archer, who surely should get an award for "Most Thankless Female Role Of All Time", as Ryan's wife.

Rating: ☆☆☆☆
Encoding: no disc
Cost: £19.99
Out: November 6



ANNIE HALL

Before his private life became more newsworthy than his work, Woody Allen gave us some brilliant movies and many would argue that "Annie Hall" is the best of the bunch. Released in 1977, it tapped a nerve across the country winning four Oscars (including Best Picture, Actress and Director), creating new fashion trends, and making Allen a star into the bargain.



It's a semi-autobiographical movie that apparently reflects the relationship between Allen and Diane Keaton (her family name is Hall). As you'd expect from the man who gave us "Play It Again Sam" and "Love and Death", it's an hysterically funny film. What surprised me at the time was the emotional depth of the movie from a man previously seen as a comic.

It's delicious to watch, with any number of scenes competing for favourite bit on repeated viewings. Do you choose the chat-up scene with the sub-titles? Or the one cooking lobsters? Personally, I still rate Keaton's drophead VW Beetle and her eccentric driving top of the list. If someone's a lousy parker I still use that great line: "I'll walk to the curb shall I?"

For trivia collectors, you might like to look out for early appearances by Sigourney Weaver and Jeff Goldblum, but, please, not until you've enjoyed the sheer quality of this classic movie.

Rating: ☆☆☆☆☆
Encoding: no disc
Cost: £17.99
Out: TBA

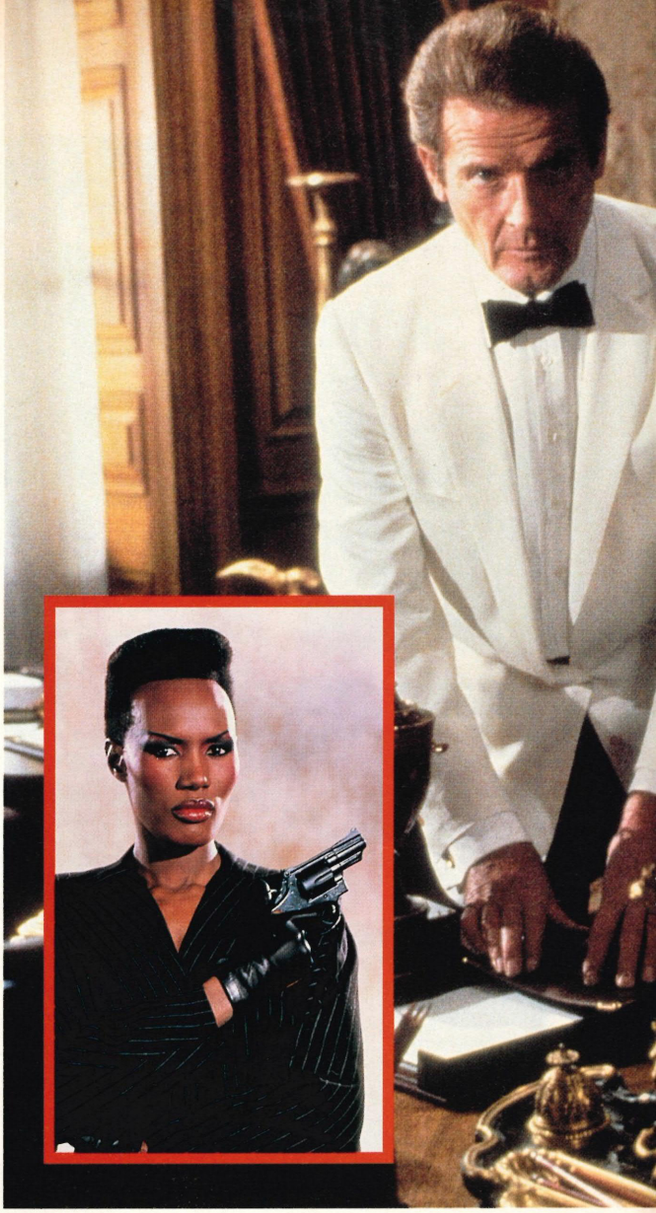
LIVE AND LET DIE



Roger Moore's first stab at Bond was genuinely spooky at the time but now seems a bit pedestrian. Moore, who was obviously getting used to the role, was a more lightweight character than Connery and the quota of one liners and off-the-cuff gags seems to have been raised for "Live and Let Die" as a result. The plot (Bond gets involved with an American drug baron who uses voodoo to terrify his people into obedience) is not among the best. There's the usual assortment of characters to keep things moving, although master villain Yaphet Kotto is upstaged by his voodoo sidekick and Jane Seymour is disappointing as the female lead. However, the speedboat chase, that was amazing at the time, is still fun to watch and there's enough to keep you interested. The dramatic title song by Paul McCartney was nominated for an Oscar.



Rating: ☆☆
Encoding: no disc
Cost: £17.99
Out: December 8



OCTOPUSSY

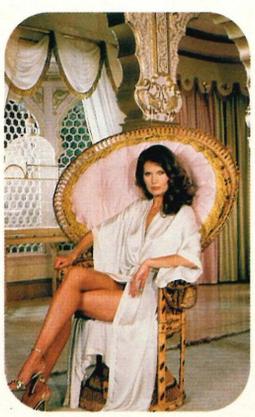


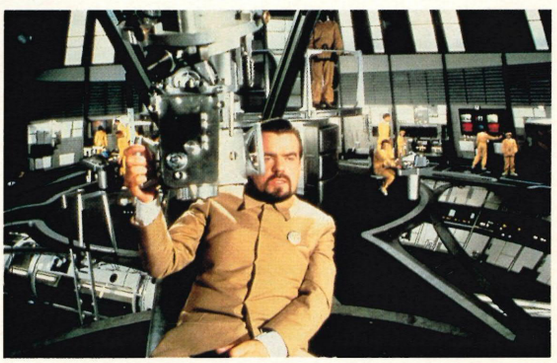
Octopussy" is a return to the more recent Bond formula. The result is a film that is almost entirely a carnival-like cavalcade of set pieces.

There is a plot, but motives and machinations are so involved as to be almost unintelligible. Once more there are two villains, this time involved in smuggling Tsarist treasures. But don't worry about plot, enjoy a superb pre-titles sequence and more set pieces per minute than a Saturday morning serial.

Louis Jourdan joins the list of actors wasted as a Bond villain, but Steven Berkoff ("Beverly Hills Cop") manages to upstage everyone with a portrait of villainy that is so far over the top it could qualify for one or more Olympic high jump records. Add to this tennis star Vijay Amritraj as one of Bond's assistants, and the return of Maud Adams (the only actress to play the female lead in two Bond films) and I think you get the idea that this film is packed full of everything except the kitchen sink.

Rating: ☆☆☆☆
Encoding: no disc
Cost: £17.99
Out: TBA





MOONRAKER

If you ask me, "Moonraker" is easily the worst of the Bond movies. A slow procession of set pieces cashing in on the space boom created by "Star Wars", "Close Encounters" and "Star Trek" but without any of the excitement.

This time Bond is on the trail of a stolen space shuttle. The robbery itself is audacious and impressive, kick starting the movie in the best of Bond traditions as the shuttle is literally flown off the back of a Boeing 747 in mid air. All very well and good, I hear you



A VIEW TO A KILL

A View to a Kill" may have a confused plot, characterless villain and a poor female lead, but none of that can stop me liking it.

The producers of the Bond series went all out for the teen market with this film, hiring pop stars Duran Duran for the title song, and the extraordinary Grace Jones to play one of the villains. The resulting package has a real sense of fun about it, giving Roger Moore's last outing as Bond more than enough stunts, gadgets and spectacle to keep you entertained. Action scenes at the Eiffel Tower in Paris and the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco are particularly memorable.

In the acting stakes, Christopher Walken could have been excellent as the master villain intent on controlling the manufacture of silicon chips for the computer industry, but the script sadly gives him little scope for over-the-top evil. As far as glamour goes, ex-Charlie's Angel Tanya Roberts is totally upstaged by British actress Fiona Fulerton whose Russian spy exits the film far too early for my liking.

Nevertheless, "A View to a Kill" remains a very watchable film, if for no other reason than that it's Lois Maxwell's last appearance as Miss Moneypenny. Surely a cinematic landmark.

Rating: ☆☆☆
Encoding: no disc
Cost: £17.99
Out: December 8



say, but the rest of the plot (madman trying to destroy the world, again) fails to make anything interesting out of this stylish opening. Instead, it's a re-run of old gags and set pieces.
Everything is played for laughs rather than spectacle. Even the stunning Brazilian scenery fails to impress. Roger Moore is definitely going through the motions and Lois Chiles is given one of the most thankless Bond heroine parts ever created.
The special effects are as good as you'll see, but the story isn't. Bond in space could have been a winner, instead it's Bond by numbers, with predictable results.

Rating: ☆☆
Encoding: no disc
Cost: £17.99
Out: November 6





FOR YOUR EYES ONLY

After the out-of-this-world adventures in "Moonraker", the Bond team decided to return to basics with "For Your Eyes Only", relying on story rather than spectacle for entertainment.

The film therefore combines two Ian Fleming short stories involving Bond in a mission to recover a top secret piece of surveillance equipment in the Mediterranean. Unfortunately, neither of the stories was particularly gripping in the first place and this combination left me cold. There seems to be two of everything; two stories, two rather grey villains (neither having very much to do) and two female leads. (Roger Moore is even almost paternal towards one — I mean, this is JAMES BOND we're talking about...!)

Bond fans have debated long and hard over whether this return to basics actually works. In my opinion, despite another Oscar nomination for the excellent title song, it's one of the least memorable of the series. And it's just a bit ironic that it's the first Bond film where Ian Fleming, the original author, doesn't even get a credit.

Rating: ☆☆
Encoding: no disc
Cost: £17.99
Out: December 8







THE PINK PANTHER

Blake Edwards has had his share of hits ("10", "Breakfast at Tiffany's") and misses (did anyone see the terrible "The Man Who Loved Women"?) but his greatest creation is the bumbling, bungling French detective Inspector Clouseau, brought to life by the wonderful and sadly missed Peter Sellers.

"The Pink Panther" is the film that gave the world Clouseau and it's a classic in its own right. A wonderful, stylish reminder of 1960s film making, full of fun, style, glamorous European locations, with a classy cast (David Niven, Claudia Cardinale) and a tremendous sense of the sheer enjoyment of life.

Sellers IS Clouseau, hot on the trail of notorious jewel thief "The Phantom". No actor has ever fitted a part so well, no detective has ever been so incompetent (right down to his terrible French accent) that he doesn't even realise the jewel thief is also his wife's lover.

With its Oscar-nominated theme tune by Henry Mancini, and the animated titles that spawned who knows how many cartoon series of THAT panther, this is a must see. Look out for all the sequels too, but make sure they're the Sellers originals, not the recent copies.

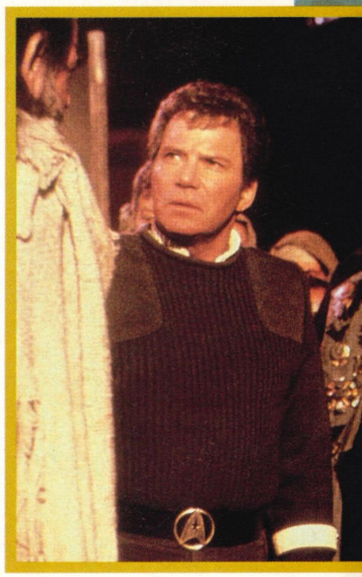
Rating: ☆☆☆☆
Encoding: no disc
Out: November 6 Cost: £17.99

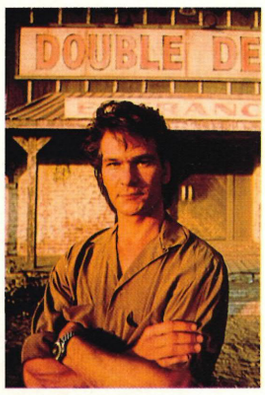
STAR TREK V: THE FINAL FRONTIER

There is a phenomenon in our universe that has been raging uncontrolled for 15 years or more. It is known to a small but growing band. It is called "the curse of the odd-numbered ones".

I refer, of course, to the Star Trek films. The excellence of Star Treks II, IV and VI is sadly let down by the others in the series and Star Trek V: The Final Frontier is no exception.

It used to be "Space, the final frontier", but for the film series this was not enough. The final frontier in Star Trek V is something more important. Everyone is once more on board as the Enterprise and her crew take on a terrorist who has taken over a planet. But this is just a first step in a holy crusade that ultimately leads Kirk and Co to something very similar to an encounter with God. While all this is accomplished with enough verve by William Shatner (aka Captain Kirk) in his feature film directing



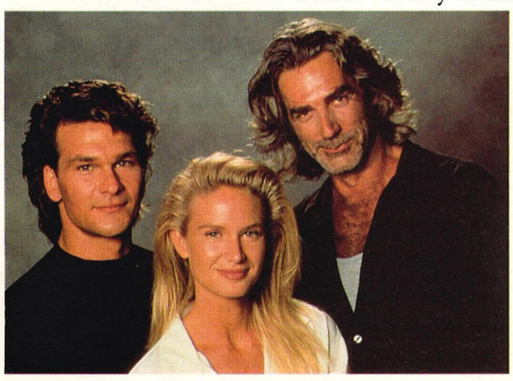


ROAD HOUSE

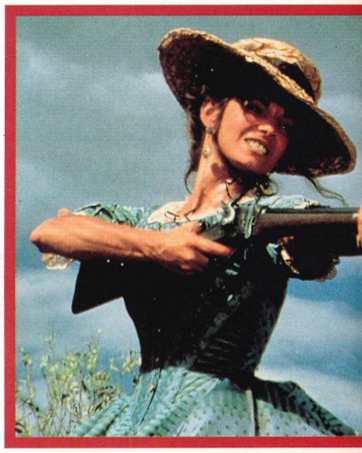
"Road House" was directed by Rowdy Herrington and if ever a director's name matched the film they'd made, then this is it, because rowdy is the ONLY way to describe "Road House".

Patrick Swayze plays a bouncer (with a NYU philosophy major, no less) hired by a local bar/nightclub to keep things clean and tidy. There's only one problem, local bad guy Ben Gazzara. The result? A lot of fighting. And boy, do I mean a lot. Every other scene has someone trying to outdo Swayze in the kung fu stakes and the only rest comes in a fairly gratuitous romance between Swayze and Kelly Lynch. But hey, the whole film's gratuitous.

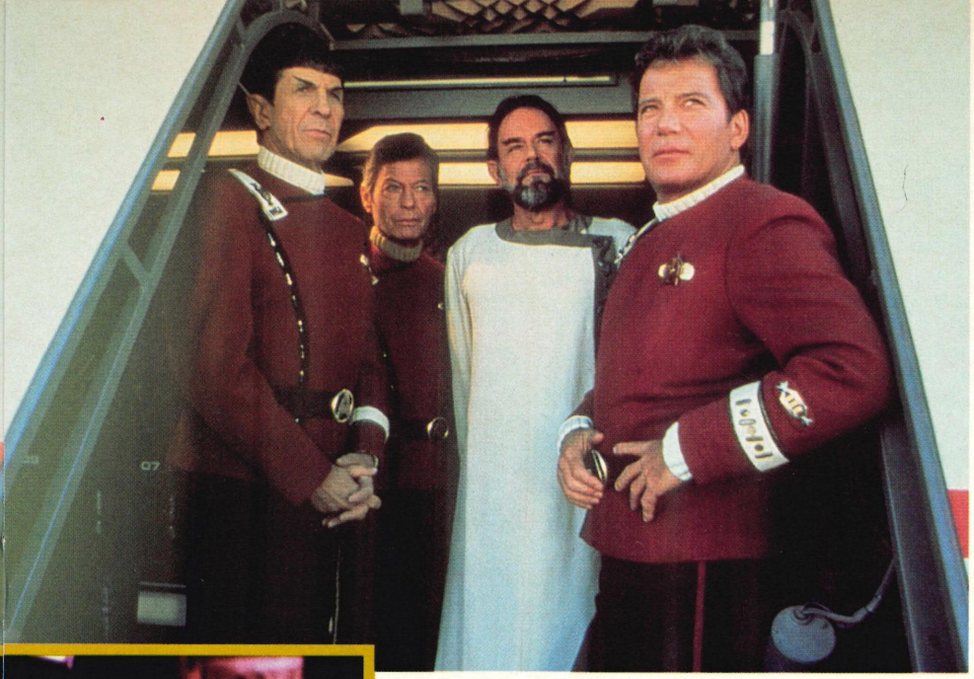
After "Dirty Dancing", this was one of Swayze's few hits before the monster success "Ghost". While it's not a film to stand out on his acting CV, his moves make him a credible fighter, though I'm not so sure about the philosophy major. Certainly you don't need any sort of degree to enjoy this. It's rowdy and it's mindless. It's also a great deal of fun as the action just keeps on coming right at you.

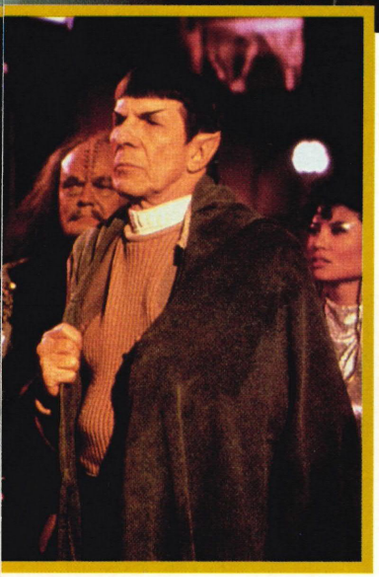


Rating: ☆☆☆
Encoding: no disc
Out: TBA Cost: £17.99



RATINGS:
☆=poor
☆☆=average
☆☆☆=good
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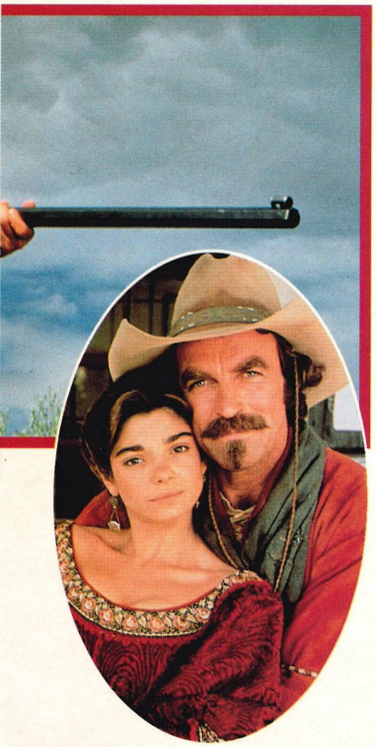




debut, you can't help thinking that the budget disappeared somewhere in the making of the film.
I think the Star Trek films always suffer when they take themselves too seriously and Star Trek V shows all the signs of a serious case of self-importance. Yes, there are plenty of gags, there's lots of action and there's even Uhura belly dancing, but the underlying themes of the movie (God, destiny, humanity) score very highly on the serious-ometer.
Yet, as always, this film is a must for Trekkers everywhere, and all the Star Trek films provide good entertainment.

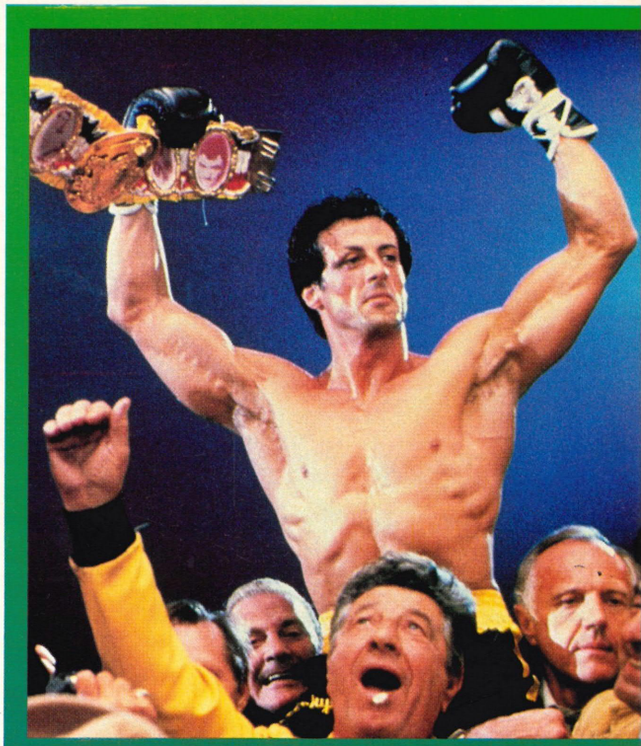
Rating: ☆☆
Encoding: no disc
Cost: £17.99
Out: December 8

QUIGLEY DOWN UNDER



Tom Selleck has been a huge star in television for years, but he's never quite matched that status in the cinema. This film from a script that was originally written for Steve McQueen in the 1970s was never a likely candidate to help him make the transition to big screen star.
In "Quigley Down Under" Selleck plays a gunslinger who travels to Australia to work for an evil land owner (played by the magnificent Alan Rickman of "Die Hard" and "Robin Hood Prince of Thieves" fame). Selleck takes an instant dislike to him, resulting in what is effectively an extended duel to the death.
Unfortunately, the story has too many lapses in tension for it to ever really get going, although Rickman is as watchable as ever and Selleck is also impressive. The real star however, is the beautifully shot Australian landscape. I just hope the encoding does justice to it.

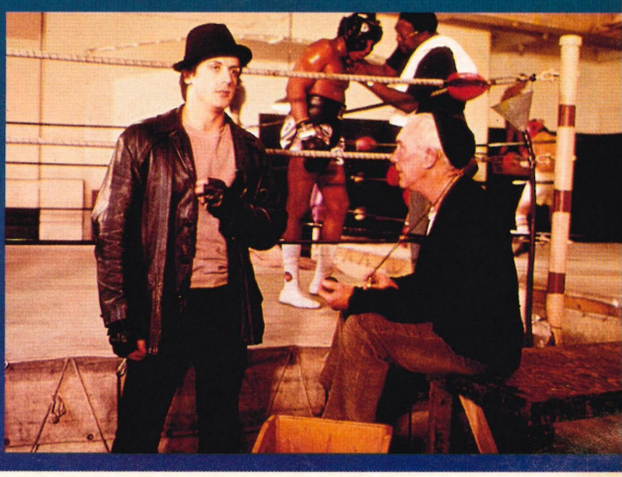
Rating: ☆☆
Encoding: no disc
Cost: £17.99
Out: TBA



ROCKY

His whole life was a million to one shot!" screamed the advertising for "Rocky", and the same could be said for its star and creator, Sylvester Stallone. Stallone is now one of Hollywood's most powerful people, but at the time he was a virtual unknown. He wrote this feelgood rags-to-riches story about a Philadelphian boxer and was so convinced it was his chance for fame that he stuck with it until he was given the green light to star in the picture.
The rest, as they say, is history. Three Oscars (including the prestigious Best Picture), six more nominations (Stallone was nominated as both Actor and Writer) and four (to date) sequels make "Rocky" one of the all-time cinema hits.
It may be a tried and tested formula, it may have a B-Movie story, but it's still very watchable and totally likeable.

Rating: ☆☆☆☆☆
Encoding: no disc
Cost: £17.99
Out: TBA



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Natural history fans have a treat in store with the latest releases from CD Vision



In The Wild: Lions With Anthony Hopkins

Your enjoyment of this VCD will have as much to do with whether you like actor Sir Anthony Hopkins in his true persona as your interest in the lions. At 60 minutes, this documentary feature is sometimes ponderous and over-long. We learn that, since Hopkins saw lions at the zoo, he has "thought about lions, read about them, and the continent they roam". So..?



So his obsession meant finally he just had "to go and find out for myself" about lions — his personal mission to Africa no doubt aided by a large cheque from ITV company Meridian which led the trans-Atlantic co-production of this feature. This hour-long CD is actually packed with excellently-filmed footage of its subject matter. And one must admire Hopkins' nerve when he and his trusty Tanzanian tracker Frank walk to within a few dozen yards of a lioness without any apparent heavy-duty armour. But if you were a lion, would you take on Hannibal Lecter?

The problem is that Hopkins always intrudes and some of his less incisive (nay, inane) thoughts are best left unstated. He reminds us as he tracks lions under the equatorial sun that "God, I am really feeling the heat now" and quips to his scout that it is "Mad dogs and Englishmen" who, like him, go out in the mid-day sun. And I thought he was Welsh!

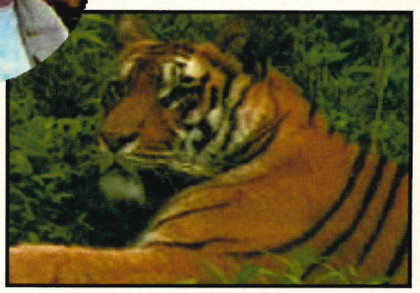
JOE FITZGERALD

Rating: ☆☆☆
Encoding: good (but the audio is a little tinny)
Cost: £14.99
Out: now

In the Wild: Tigers With Bob Hoskins







This is another of the "In the Wild" series of nature programmes that appeared last year on ITV. Basically, the makers have taken the "Survival" format of high quality wildlife footage and made it more palatable to prime time audiences by paying a celebrity to present the whole safari shebang. In this case, the said celebrity is Bob Hoskins and — without a phone in sight — he proves to be a very amiable host. The reason is because unlike some of the more luvvy-like actors who've donned the safari suits before him in this series (Sir Anthony Hopkins, Timothy Dalton), Hoskins doesn't ham this up as some high falutin' quest for inner discovery. He just wants to have a gander at some tigers and his bubbly enthusiasm and occasional attacks of sheer terror appear genuine and uncontrived. As you would expect, the footage of the tigers and their cubs is exemplary. They are without doubt the most photogenic animals around and the excellent encoding and audio quality mean you can see and hear these remarkable beasts in their full glory. Recommended.

PATRICK BATEMAN

Rating: ☆☆☆☆ Encoding: excellent Price: £14.99 Out: now

In the Wild: Wolves With Timothy Dalton



Ex-007 Timothy Dalton trades in his tuxedo and Walther PPK for a woolly hat and gloves as he embarks on a quest "to find out what the wolf is really like..."

Unfortunately, the first thing that he and the viewer discover is that wolves really like to be alone. Poor old Tim scours the frozen wastes of the Alaskan tundra only to discover a slightly senile Eskimo and a couple of bears.

After 15 minutes of near misses you can sense the documentary makers getting a little desperate. In the end they slope off to Minnesota and persuade a research team to stun a wolf by activating a remote control tranquilliser dart built into the collar of one of their wolves under study. Q himself couldn't have dreamed up a more outlandish contraption...

Dalton then jets off to the North Pole for a final confrontation with a wolf pack. Everyone breathes a sigh of relief as the programme reaches its touching denouement as man (or is that ham?) faces beast and concludes that: "The wolf isn't dangerous. It's just a smart animal trying to make its way in a tough world..."

Once again the video and (stereo) audio encoding are first class, suggesting that CD Vision had some top-quality digital master tapes to work from. But I still think 15 quid is a bit over-the-top for a 55 minute documentary that's already been on TV.

PATRICK BATEMAN

Rating: ☆☆☆☆ Price: £14.99 Encoding: excellent Out: now

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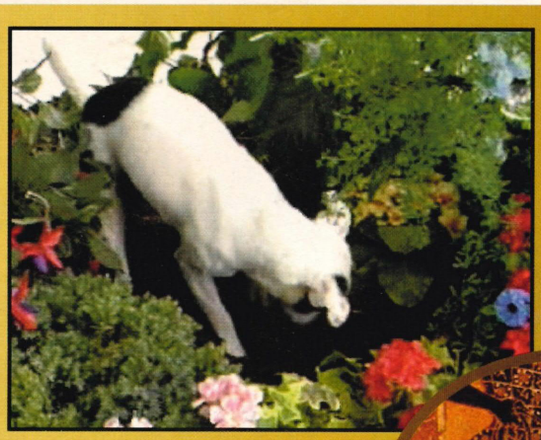
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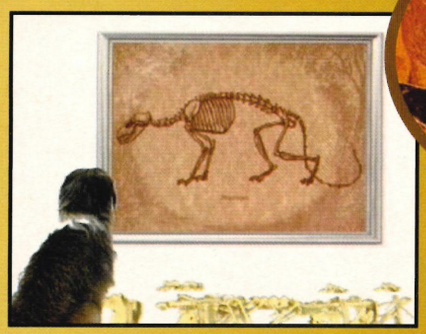
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Eyewitness: Dog

This particular Video CD release may find a ready market in the UK where an estimated six million dogs enjoy year-round hospitality courtesy of their loyal and obedient human companions.

For many city dwellers — like me — day-to-day contact with the canine world mainly consists of avoiding poo on the pavement, and giving unmuzzled bull terrier-type dogs and their charming owners a wide berth.

But this VCD deserves to win dogs some new friends. And the BBC-led co-production epitomises how the Brits can still beat the world without breaking sweat when it comes to high quality natural history programme making.

But let's also give credit where credit is due.— to the dogs. We should not, for example, forget that in 1957 it was a Russian dog that first made it into space, while in the Second World War the Americans trained dogs as parachutists to aid paratroopers and spies behind enemy lines.

The pan-theistic ancient Egyptians and Greeks worshipped gods in canine form, while in English "dog" is an anagram of "god" — perhaps explaining the elevated status some pooches enjoy in the "Terry and June" shires of middle England.

Dog's state-of-the-art graphics and studio shots of man's best friends at play are meshed into library footage explaining their continuing evolution as both domestic and wild animals. This is cutting-edge direction without too much clever-clever stuff which one imagines both adults and kids are equally capable of enjoying.

JOE FITZGERALD

Rating: ☆☆☆☆
Encoding: excellent
Cost: £9.99 Out: now

Eyewitness: Reptile







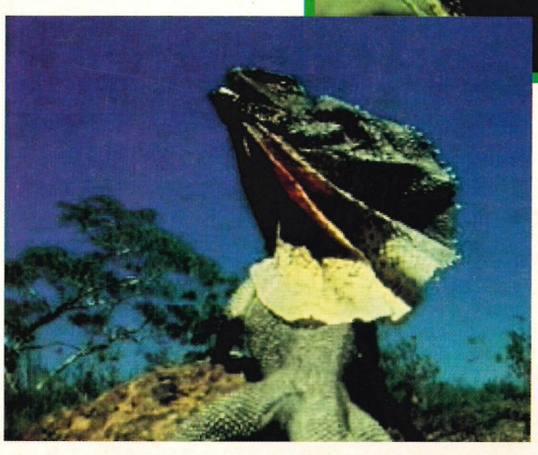
Watching this disc after growing up with years of slow-paced, lovingly-filmed and soporifically narrated BBC wildlife films is a bit of a shock. A reptile appears on the screen and while you are expecting five minutes of easy-paced action with some interesting facts attached, what you get is condensed "factorama".

Bang: reptile. Bang: facts. Bang: more facts. Bang: next reptile. It's a wonder the poor things aren't dizzy after being shoved in front of the camera so quickly.

This technique has its problems. While it is a quick 35 minute skim for those with an advanced case of attention deficit disorder, it whistles by so quickly that the chance of finding out anything about reptiles is largely down to luck and a skilful finger on the pause button. Miss the button and the next "factoid" is bearing down on you like a ravenous crocodile before the last one's even had a chance to scuttle for cover. The result? "Edutainment" rather than education.

In its favour, though, it is snappy and the linking graphics between the animal scenes are superbly produced. It also widens the subject to investigate the myths that grew up around reptiles back in the old days.

This disc is perfect for young kids but you can't help feeling that twice the length and half the speed would have been a lot better.



ANDY STOUT

Rating: ☆☆☆ Encoding: generally good, dodgy in parts Cost: £9.99 Out: now

RATINGS:
☆=poor
☆☆= average
☆☆☆= good
☆☆☆☆= very good
☆☆☆☆☆= excellent
Contact: CD Vision on 0171 240 7764

VIDEOcd

Movies of the more gruesome kind are now appearing on Video CD. We take a look at some of the gorier offerings available



Cyborg 2: Glass Shadow (18)

The year is 2074 and two giant corporations manufacturing cyborgs — one American, one Japanese — are locked in a global struggle for dominance. As part of a rather lethal piece of industrial espionage, one cyborg is injected with a biological, liquid explosive termed Glass Shadow in the hope of blowing the Japanese company's chain of command to oblivion. However, with the aid of a human companion and an ever-present video entity, she escapes.
Now, do you really need to be told that this is all quite appalling? Thought not. Jean-Claude Van Damme was in the original "Cyborg" film back in 1989 but even he had enough sense to give this sequel a wide berth. From the moment the intro voice says, "Cyborgs have replaced humans in all respects; from the soldier in the field to the prostitutes in the brothel", and you can actually hear the narrator drooling over the word "brothel", the film plunges rapidly downhill like an elephant on skis.
An elephant that is with a particular fondness for clichés. The only break in their unstoppable onslaught comes with either a ludicrously poor piece of SFX, some dialogue that a four year old would turn its nose up at as being way too unconvincing, or a half-hearted fight scene. It's scrappy, disjointed, badly directed, terribly acted and all in all a complete waste of time. The most expensive pair of coasters you'll ever buy.

ANDY STOUT

Rating: ☆ Encoding: average
Cost: £17.99 Out: now

RATINGS:
☆=poor
☆☆= average
☆☆☆= good
☆☆☆☆= very good
☆☆☆☆☆= excellent
Contact: CD Vision on 0171 240 7764

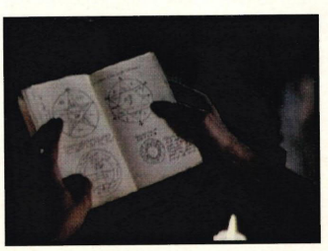


GamesMaster: Gore Special

Any programme which features Patrick Moore and a complete absence of telescopes or xylophones should be viewed as deeply suspect. Any programme which includes such charming linking scenes as a bucket of maggots with a couple of sheep's eyeballs should therefore be so suspicious that it gets banged away by the West Midlands Serious Crime Squad without so much as a by-your-leave. Let's face it, it deserves its punishment.
This marvellously uninformative and gratuitous disc (which if memory serves correctly made its debut on Channel 4 at some Godforsaken hour one night) kicks off with a suitably blood-drenched beat-'em-up featuring stamping on heads with accompanying squishy sounds and exploding skulls. From there it actually gets worse, trawling the globe's digital environs for vomit-inducing scenes and soft porn.
Yes, though oodles of babe shots hardly qualify as gore, breasts win ratings. Therefore the heroic Dominik Diamond (he of TV fame) guides you through a library of dodgy soft porn PC software, bringing a whole new meaning to the term

Ghoulies

If your boyfriend packed in college, started burning incense, chanting Latin and drawing sinister chalk patterns on the basement floor, you'd be a little suspicious, wouldn't you?
Things don't go too smoothly for Rebecca after moving into a creepy mansion which orphaned boyfriend Jonathan has inherited out of the blue. All the warning signs are there: the ivy cladding and ram's skulls. But not even the grave with the pagan pentangle motif arouses anyone's concerns.
Things really start to go wrong when Jonathan discovers a pile of dusty tomes in the library which sure ain't The Bible!
After a few sessions of satanic book learning, Jonathan discovers he can conjure up apparently obedient ghoulies simply using a few marks on the floor and a couple of lines of dog Latin.
It's all a great hoot, and the only drawback is an unfortunate change to luminous green in Jonathan's eye colouring which accompanies his growing black magic powers. Somehow, he manages to pass this off as some kind of vitamin deficiency to Rebecca. It is only when he starts whispering sweet satanic nothings in her ear during love making that Rebecca finally twigs that Jonathan has developed a serious behavioural problem —





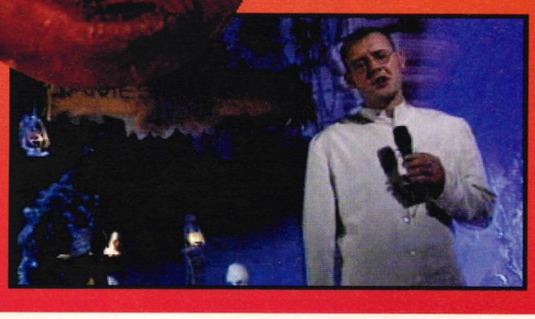
"seminal game". The best bit though is the Death Move Top 10, won by the mad, kilted Scotsman from the game Katsumi Ninja who decapitates his opponents, knocks their heads into the air, and then headbutts them off the screen.

Apart from convincing you that the CDi is a remarkably family-oriented and pious platform, the only real use for this disc is sending it to your local Tory backbench MP or the editor of the *Daily Mail* and seeing how long it will take them to explode and start banging on about moral cesspits. Have to admit though, Katsumi Ninja does look fun.



ANDY STOUT

Rating: **
Encoding: good
Cost: £12.99
Out: now





confirmed by the chalk circle and pentangle drawn under the bed.

There then follows the normal tale of redemption as Jonathan foolishly conjures up his infanticidal father while his ghoulies naughtily slaughter his friends at a satanic weekend sleep-over. But all is well after Jonathan tussles with the forces of darkness, revives his friends, and manages to put his ghoulies back where they belong — until the next time.

Brought to us by Charles Glass and special effects sidekick John Buechler, "Ghoulies" is well tailored to the affluent pre-pub, post-pubescent US population who lap up horror brat pack movies like this by the dozen. If you like the mild fright of the special effects that goes with this movie genre, think of giving Ghoulies a spin — but don't expect too much in the way of sophisticated plot or character-building.

JOE FITZGERALD

Rating: ☆☆☆ Encoding: good
Cost: £14.99 Out: now

The Hidden II



The Hidden II is a sci-fi action movie with a mighty fine pedigree. The 1988 original was a gripping tale about a malevolent alien organism which came to earth and took over "host" humans in order to get its fix of sex, violence, rock and roll and fast cars.

The first 20 minutes of this new movie end with the climax of the original. The alien good guy (played by "Twin Peaks" star Kyle MacLauchlan) tracks down the rock n' roller who has possessed the body of a presidential candidate. In an orgy of gunfire and confusion in a hotel lobby he incinerates the politician's body and blasts the slimy tape-worm organism that emerges into smithereens using his ray gun. Later, the alien good guy possesses the body of the injured detective who has helped him, and the caption comes up: "15 years later."

From then on it's downhill all the way. It transpires that the original, thoroughly illegal alien survived after a morsel of his vapourised flesh was wolfed down by a passing stray dog. It has now "spawned" in the nooks and crannies of a warehouse handily located alongside a ravers' disco, ensuring a plentiful supply of luscious young bodies...

First the positive things. The performances of the two young lead actors are really rather good and give the movie a veneer of credibility and interest it doesn't deserve. The picture quality and soundtrack are also of a surprisingly high quality — the audio is full stereo with a Dolby Pro-Logic mix.

But in all other respects — from the ropey special effects to the brain-dead dialogue — this is a very shoddy follow-up to the original classic. The plot that has more holes than a hedgehog's condom.

PATRICK BATEMAN

Rating: ☆ Encoding: good Price: £14.99 Out: now

Troll



The timing of the Potter family could not be more unfortunate. They move into a New York apartment block just as Torok, king of the Trolls, decides to take over the building in a bid to rule the human world within a 72-hour deadline.

Daughter Wendy becomes the unfortunate device of this plot following a tussle with a troll, who goes on to assume her appearance. From then on a Wendy-lookalike Troll attacks neighbours one-by-one to secure living accommodation for her friends in the fairy world.



Poor Wendy's parents, meanwhile, cannot understand her sudden behavioural problem and consider bringing in the child psychologist.

Finally, brother Harry Junior manages to save the show by working alongside eccentric elderly neighbour and white witch Miss St Clair. He rescues his sister and others from suspended animation and prevents world disaster. The film features lots of excellent special effects, but is let down by a slight fuzziness in pixel quality apparent from watching the end credits on anything other than the biggest TV screen. This is not a bad film by any means, but think carefully before buying.

JOE FITZGERALD

Rating: ☆☆ and a half
Encoding: fair Cost: £14.99 Out: now

the cranberries
DOORS AND WINDOWS





The latest release from the cranberries is a multimedia experience combining audio, video and text using the Philips Rainbow CD format. JASON ALESI takes a peep

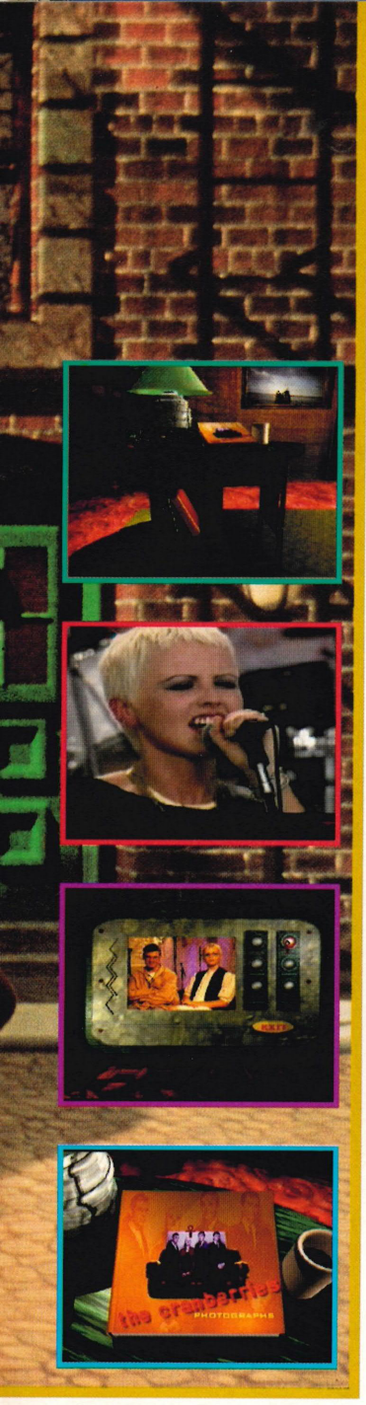
Ireland might well be a small country but it's probably produced more excellent bands per capita than any other nation on earth, and the cranberries are in the forefront of yet another generation of world beaters. Statistics? Well, since the release of their debut album "Everybody Else Is Doing It, So Why Can't We", the follow-up LP "No Need To Argue" and subsequent massive hit with the wonderful "Zombie", the cranberries have gone on to flog a mammoth eight million albums worldwide. Impressive stuff.

"doors and windows" is the latest string to their bow, a fully interactive, multi-format CD combining audio, video and text; a truly multimedia experience that goes some way into delving behind the public persona of the band.

Perhaps more important though — from a long-term, platform perspective — is that this is one of the first discs to take advantage of the Philips Rainbow CD format. This makes it multi-format as well as multimedia, and the disc is equally at home in a CDi player, an audio CD player, PC CD-ROM and Macintosh CD-ROM. No, it can't make toast as well, but it's an important development and one that will hopefully ensure that a quantity of good CDi-compatible music software continues to appear.

"doors and windows" features 10 minutes of QuickTime video, over five minutes of full screen Digital Video, 40 minutes of audio and 90 still pictures; all combining into a multimedia pastiche of the band and their lives. The main screen features them all sitting on their infamous battered old sofa. Behind this are, *quelle surprise*, a collection of doors and windows.

The windows don't do all that much. Click on their hotspots and the shutters open, a picture is displayed and a soundbite is aired. Nice but hardly earth-shattering. It's the three doors that hide the main meat of the program — leading to a bar, a rehearsal room and a lounge. Here, a



AN OPEN AND SHUT CASE



Since the release of their debut album "Everybody Else Is Doing It, So Why Can't We?", the cranberries have shot to international stardom. Now they have released their first multi-platform interactive CD. ANDY CLOUGH spoke to Michael Kushner, head of multimedia music at Philips Media, about the disc's development

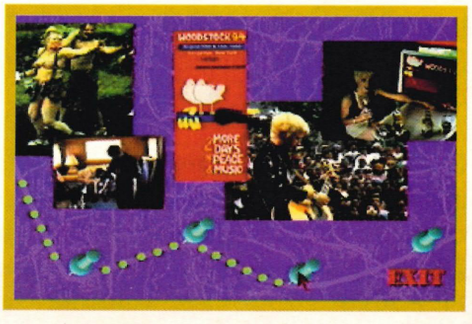
AC: Whose idea was it to develop "doors and windows" as a multimedia product?
MK: It was a joint effort between Ted Cohen, now vice-president of multimedia music at Philips Media, and the assistant producer Richard Mack.
AC: Why did they decide to work with the cranberries?
MK: At the beginning of the project, a buzz was beginning to build around the band, and Ted and Richard had a feeling that by the time the disc came out, the band would be a big hit. They certainly got that one right! Also, the band had a strong fan base and appealed to the right age group.
AC: Did the band approach Philips or vice versa?
MK: Initially Philips approached Island Records, a division of PolyGram, which is in turn owned by Philips. As the cranberries were just building their momentum they were happy to collaborate.
AC: Why did you decide to adopt the Rainbow CD format?
MK: The advantage of Rainbow CD, which Philips Media developed, is that you can combine a number of different formats on one disc. So it will play on a Macintosh, PC or a CDi player, as well as a standard audio CD player. This means retailers don't have to handle a number of different versions of the same product.
AC: How much involvement did the band have in the disc's development?
MK: Obviously the band had final creative approval of the disc's content. They also shot some of the video sequences themselves while on tour, provided memorabilia and appeared for blue-screen shots which were later incorporated into the disc with computer-generated backgrounds.
AC: Who worked on the design of the disc's content?
MK: Ted and Richard worked closely with M/B Interactive, the interactive design arm of New York advertising agency Mezzina Brown. They were joint developers on the project.
AC: Who do you think will buy this type of disc?
MK: It will appeal to serious cranberries' fans and people who have bought multimedia computers. We hope it will be a fun multimedia experience which allows users to have an intimate look at a world class band.
AC: What benefits will the CDi element of the disc have over the Mac/PC sequences?
MK: For one thing, the CDi viewer will be able to see exclusive footage of the band's live performance of "Zombie" at the Woodstock '94 festival in full-screen, full-motion MPEG video. And the sound quality will be much better on CDi compared with CD-ROM.
AC: Are you developing any other Rainbow CD discs at this stage?
MK: Some projects are under discussion, but there is nothing I can announce at the moment.

bit of exploring with the cursor will turn up anything from songbooks and photo albums to a full screen video of the band performing "Zombie" at Woodstock '94.
You can interview the band, examine local newspaper coverage of their early days or boot up the CD audio and blast a couple of tracks out.
So far, so good. The interface is easy to use (particularly on CDi) and the whole package has been nicely designed. But the biggest let-down is that there isn't quite enough information on the disc. With the Rainbow CD format, there's less memory for the designers to play with and this disc doesn't really contain enough information to be exhaustive. It is more a brief glimpse of the band rather than a full portrait. Also, the sound quality from the interview sessions is inexcusably dire. PC users may be used to poor audio, but CDi owners are not.
They really should have done something about that.
Make no mistake, "doors and windows" is a good disc but in terms of interactivity it's more of an EP than a full album.

Produced by Island Records

Rating: ☆☆☆☆
Encoding: average
Cost: £19.99
Out: September 18









OASIS: LIVE BY THE SEA

So Oasis were pipped to the post by Blur and failed to get to the Number One slot with their August single release. I'm afraid that Manchester's finest (1994-1995) don't quite deserve the top spot in CDi's October rankings of releases either.

The 70 minute, 14 track "Live By The Sea" release is culled from a perfectly impressive, driving live performance at Southend Cliffs Pavillion in April this year.

The end result is perfect raw material for a live audio CD to add to the record collection next to Oasis's best-selling debut album "Definitely Maybe", and is no doubt definitely (or maybe?) a "must-buy" for Oasis fans. But we are talking Video CD here, and in visual terms the product is as enticing as a flat pint of Boddingtons and a meat pie left overnight next to a pile of ashtrays.

Oasis probably do not kick off with one their strongest tracks ("Rock n Roll Star"), but by the time "Some Might Say" and "Live Forever" come around there is a fair chance the viewer's foot will be tapping away. Yet the only tapping foot among the band members appears to be that of drummer Tony McCarroll (now replaced by Alan White) occasionally hitting the base drum pedals. All else is still.

Perhaps it's part of Liam Gallagher's deliberately cultivated nihilistic charm that he chooses to stand virtually motionless for the 70 minutes spent incanting his "no future" bleak landscape views of Lancashire's post-modern, urban, youth environment.

It would be churlish to suggest, given the obvious live talent of the rest of the band, that the reason brother Noel Gallagher (guitar and vocals), Paul Arthurs (rhythm guitar), and Paul McGuigan (bass) appear even more static is because they need to concentrate on playing their instruments.

But the end result, apart from the odd twitch from Liam's tambourine, gives the camera crew working on this PMI release very little to work with. The music is a treat for the ear 'oles but not yer pork pies, as Blur's Damon Alburn might ludicrously say.

Those among you who like to glean a few pointers on guitar licks and chords will be disappointed that three acoustic solo efforts from Noel Gallagher contained on the VHS version of "Live By The Sea" have been dropped. Certainly they suggest that his considerable talent and songwriting abilities have yet to be fully exploited — when he can remember the words. But those interested in more Madchester sound, pure and simple, will probably prefer the uninterrupted VCD edit.

Rating: ☆☆☆ Encoding: no disc
Cost: £TBA Out: November 6
Contact: PMI on 0171 605 5000

Pet Shop Boys Videography

If any band represents the mood of the past decade it's probably the Pet Shop Boys. Nirvana might have tapped into the damaged Generation X psyche, rave propelled a new drug-based culture into the annals of contemporary society, but Neil Tennant and Chris Lowe probably grasped the nature of the zeitgeist better than anyone. To that extent, their distillations and refinements of chic, urban cool into sleek, four minute dance numbers have had an incredibly wide focus, appealing to a large and increasingly eclectic audience. There are four number ones and twelve top ten singles nestled into the pits of this disc, all starting with the understated and simply incredibly stylish "West End Girls" in 1985. That

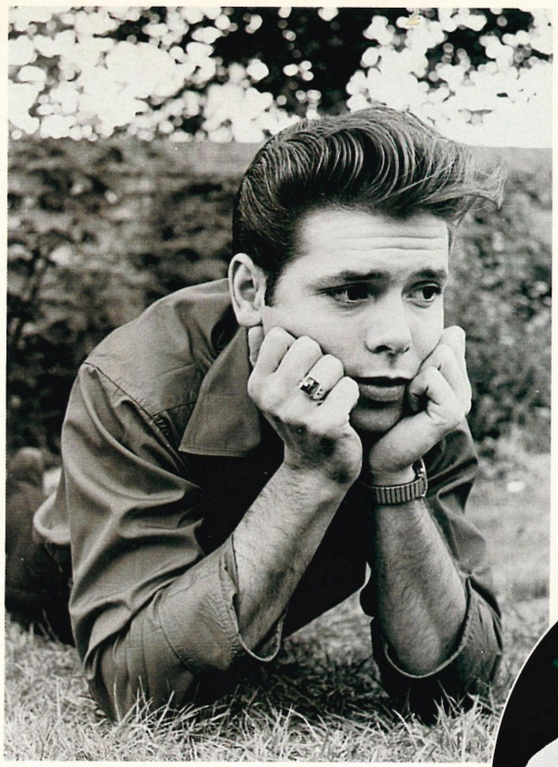


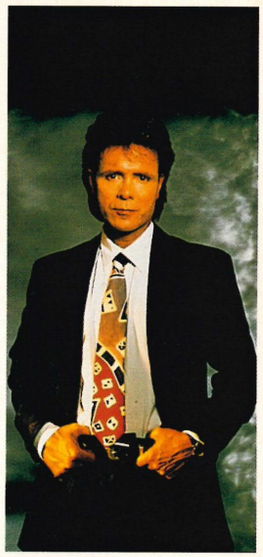
track went on to sell 1.5 million copies worldwide, become number one in a list of countries that reads like a roll-call of UN members and firmly propelled Tennant and Lowe into the global consciousness.
Naturally, though, the video was cheap. The early batch of promos are a triumph of style over budget, and if none are particularly memorable, at least they don't disgrace themselves. Most interesting to watch though is Tennant's acting, which is almost non-existent during the black-humoured paean to enterprise culture of "Opportunities", becoming hectic during "Suburbia" and positively thespian for "It's A Sin".
"It's A Sin", with its dark mutterings about being brought up in the bosom of Catholicism, was the first promo with a decent amount of money behind it and from "Videography" onwards they started to become spectacular. Though the Bruce Weber-directed "Being Boring" won the Music Week Best Video Of The Year award (despite being banned from a couple of TV channels due to some rather tame nudity), "Heart" is probably the best on the disc. It is a Gothic intrigue filmed in Yugoslavia with Sir Ian McKellan hamming it up wonderfully as a vampire.
The videos range from the good to the magnificent, the music is wonderful and the only problem is that it stops at 1991 and therefore you don't get the band's awesome "Absolutely Fabulous" number. Apart from that, it's sheer, stylish brilliance.

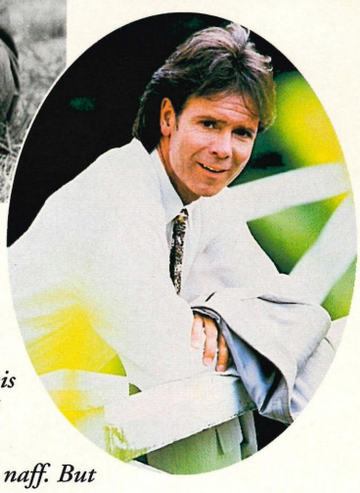
Rating: ☆☆☆☆
Cost: £17.99
Out: November 6

Contact PMI on 0171 605 5000









CLIFF RICHARD: PRIVATE COLLECTION

Titter ye may. Even Cliff fans would have to admit that Cliff's pop video offerings contained on this 1979-1988 collection have a dated feel about them.
Crueller souls would suggest that we are talking naff. But the collection does have a certain kitsch appeal and also serves as an interesting study in the development of the British pop video from the late 1970s onwards.
The revival in Cliff's career following his apparent early 1970s swan song "Power To All Our Friends" started with the late 1970s hit "Devil Woman", ironically paralleling Margaret Thatcher's rise to power.
Cliff, like Thatcher, has both admirers and detractors. But time has proved that Cliff has the greater staying power. And in both cases, the one thing you can't argue with is success. So let's just remind ourselves of Cliff's enviable record of chart hits contained in "Private Collection".
There are a total of nine Top Ten hits here among 16 tracks featured. Among them are "Some People" (No 3); Cliff's paean to the joys of the Sony Walkman, "Wired For Sound" (No 4); melancholy "Carrie" (No 4); no-comment-necessary "Dreamin'" (No 8); and the incontrovertibly superb "We Don't Talk Anymore."
It was WDTA which finally put Cliff back where he belonged — right at the top with a Number One hit . And this is where he has stayed since the late 1980s, with a series of Christmas hits beginning with "Mistletoe and Wine".
What is not reflected here are the other collaborations which accompanied the revival in his career. There was the No 1 parody of his late 1950s hit "Living Doll" recorded with The Young Ones, plus a series of duets recorded with Olivia Newton-John, Phil Everly, Sarah Brightman, Elton John and Van Morrison.
Ideally, an updated and broader selection of Cliff's works would prove more of a fair deal to Cliff's cross-generation loyal following rather than this VCD version of a seven year old VHS release. But yes, when it comes to my Christmas Day lunchtime this year, I'll be sitting down with Granny in front of Cliff's singing rather the Queen's Speech. And we will be rooting for Cliff, rather than Take That, Robbie, or Michael Jackson, to make it to Yuletide No 1.

Rating: ☆☆ Encoding: no disc Cost: £17.99 Out: November 6 Contact: PMI



PHILIPS FW380i

Pete Bell of WHAT HI-FI? Magazine puts the new Philips FW380i CDi mini system through its paces

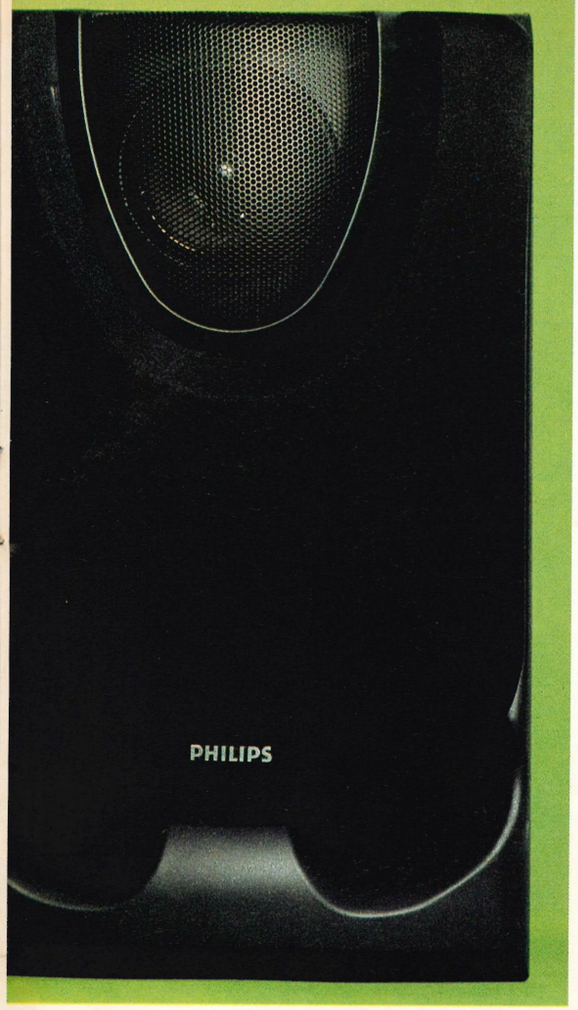
Mixing the CD-interactive format (CDi) with the well loved mini system is Philips' best chance of getting CDi more widely accepted. The company's stand-alone units, like the CDi 450, have always had to be hooked up to full-sized separates to deliver hi-fi sound, but the FW380i is an audio system in its own right.

As a family entertainment package, this mini has everything to offer — music, movies, and games — all in one small package.

A Digital Video cartridge is built-in to this system for watching Video discs, and the £600 FW380i gives the viewer a front row seat at the movies. With the aeroplane crash sequence from "Alive" in motion, the Philips unit centres its attention on the noise of the failing engines and screaming passengers. The terror in voices is captured well, but the impact of the crash could sound bigger. Even with 25W coming from the amplifier section, this system is a bit short on bass wallop, and the dynamic bass boost button doesn't do much to aid the system.

This mini is much better at creating the atmosphere for large concerts. It can supply that feeling of "being there" in a live audience, and listening to "The Rolling Stones At The Max" Video CD, for example, it projects the buzz of the concert and Mick Jagger's voice, making him seem large enough to jump right into your living room.

Of course, a mini system also has to play audio tapes and CDs well, and the FW380i has rock, pop, classic and jazz sound effects to help it along. Dance and rock music is a bit treble tinny, but the fast bass punch gives the FW380i a rich, lively sound. Some clarity and separation



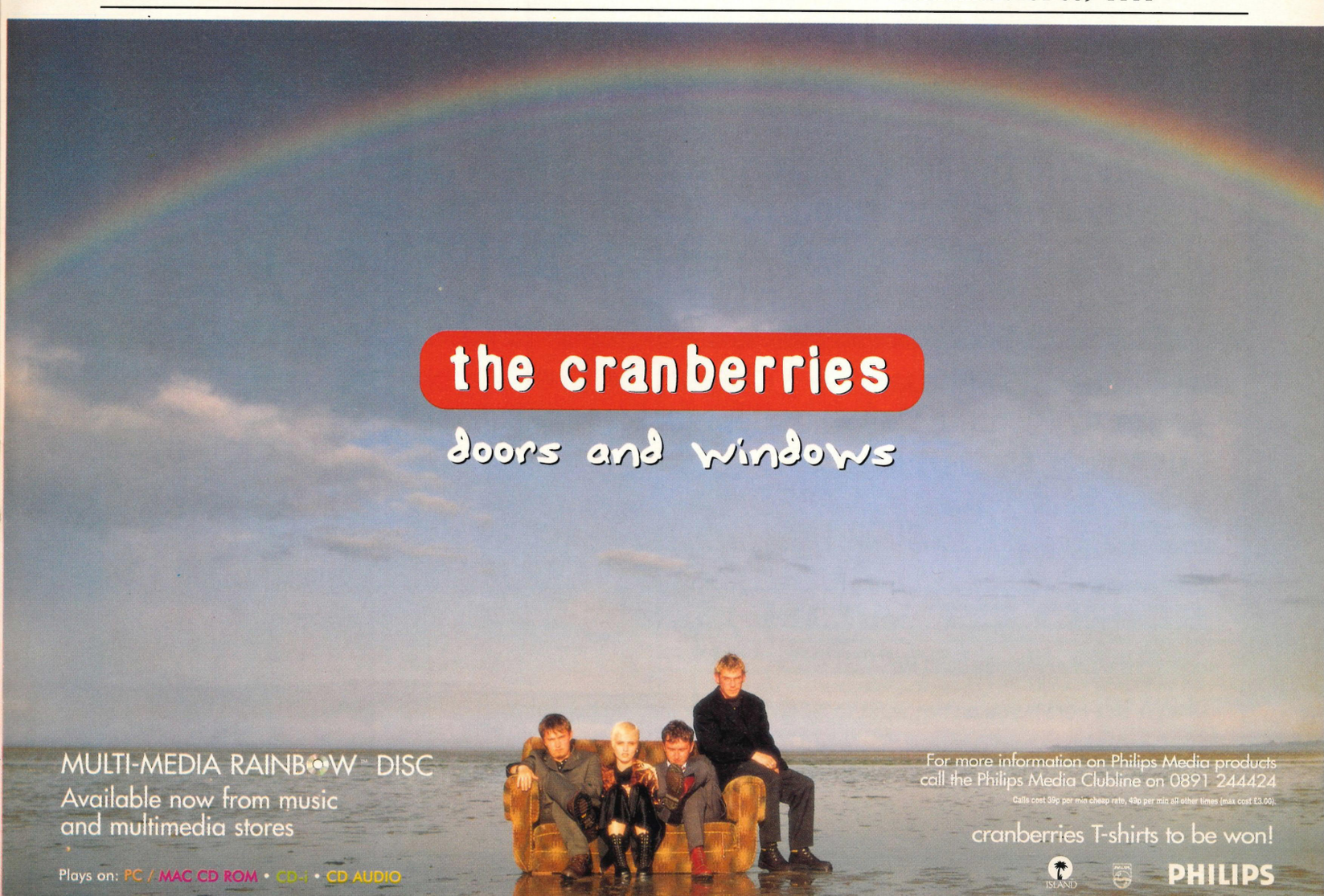
"Mixing the CDi format with a mini-system is Philips' best chance of getting CDi more widely accepted"

is lost, but the three-band tuner gives fairly clear FM reception and the overall sound quality is comparable to conventional £400 mini systems.

The FW380i is easy-to-use with on-screen menus and a wired CDi remote control, which is not overly responsive for games, but does the job. A separate hi-fi remote is provided, and a scart to phono lead and RF connector link the system to the TV.

This first CDi mini is a lot of fun. It may not have top hi-fi sound quality, but it certainly makes a good home for CDi. It is a shade expensive at the moment, but the mini system could well have found a new life long partner.

Rating: ☆☆☆ (out of 5)
Cost: £599
Contact: Philips Consumer Electronics 0181 689 4444



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Brush up on your maths, reading and geography with Snoopy and the Peanuts gang this month







PEANUTS: YEARN TO LEARN

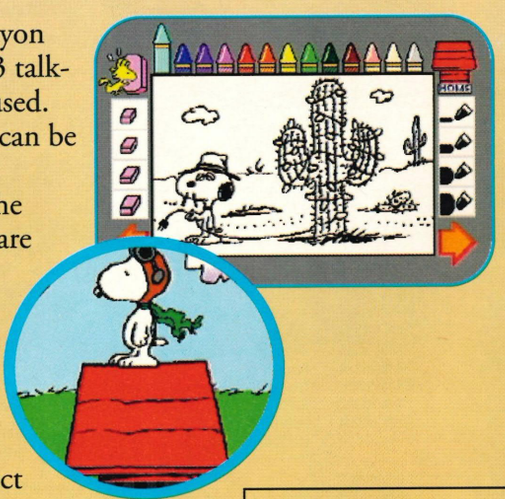
Snoopy and the Peanuts gang make their debut on CDi with this interactive learning disc. Kids aged three to ten can practice their maths, geography, reading and colouring with the ever-popular comic strip characters.

Each exercise can be adapted to a child's ability by increasing or decreasing the difficulty level. Join Woodstock, Snoopy and Linus in the maths section, or let Snoopy teach you the names of all the states in the USA in the geography section.

For those who want to hear some classic Peanuts stories come to life, there are five different stories with narration to choose from. Clicking on hot spots will reveal some zany sounds and magical effects.

Kids love to colour, and one of the benfits of CDi is that they can do it on-screen without messing up your living room! The colouring portion of this disc provides ten pictures of the Peanuts gang, various crayon sizes, assorted rubbers and 13 talking crayons to keep kids amused. Up to 40 coloured drawings can be saved and worked on again.

If that isn't enough to keep the young ones busy, then there are two extra exercises. The Flying Ace game builds memory skills by challenging kids to avoid hitting obstacles. And the Sound Effects game has three screens filled with sound effect buttons for kids to play with.



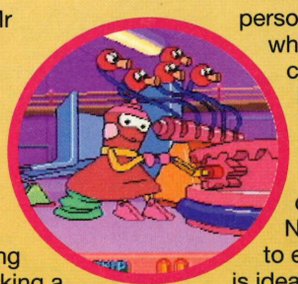
Produced by Image Smith Inc.

Rating: ✔✔✔✔ Cost: £19.99
Out: November 6 Contact: Philips Media

CRAYON FACTORY

Regular readers will remember this disc from our October issue last year. Already available in America, the disc is scheduled for release in the UK this November on both CDi and CD-ROM.

The crayon factory of the title is "one of the happiest places on earth". Saturday, an adorable robot, works with a host of colourful characters as they merrily produce all sorts of different crayons. For the British version, the voice of Saturday is narrated by Julie Walters. Everyone is happy until the evil Mr Penn arrives to manage the factory. Out go some of the older workers and in come some very unpopular working practices.



Children have the option of just watching the story unfold or taking a tour of the factory. If they take the tour, they can visit different departments, learn to mix and sort colours, check patterns and adjust the machinery. One of the best bits is where you get to mix your own colours to produce personalised crayons, which you can use to colour the story boards and then sit back and watch as they re-animate in your own choice of colours.

No reading is required to enjoy this disc, which is ideally suited for children aged four to eight.

Produced by SideWalk Studio

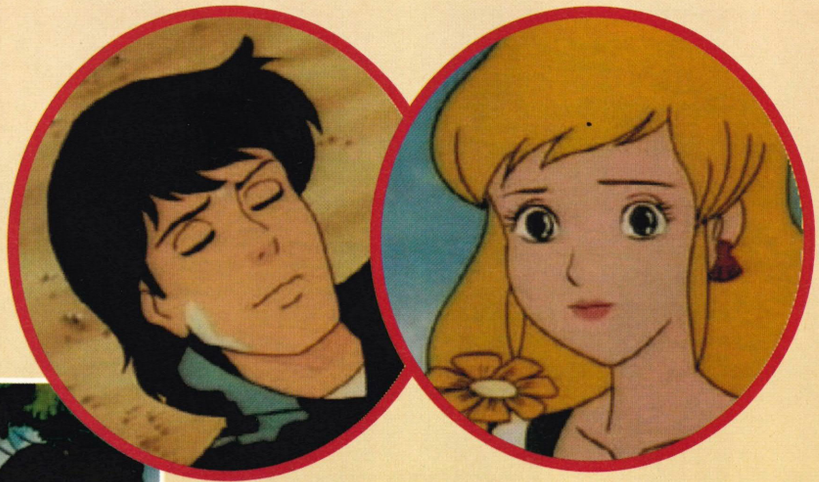
Rating: ✔✔✔✔ Cost: £29.99
Out: November 24
Contact: Philips Media

TIM AND BEAR AT THE HARBOUR

Our old friends Tim and Bear are back getting up to their usual mischief, this time down at the harbour.

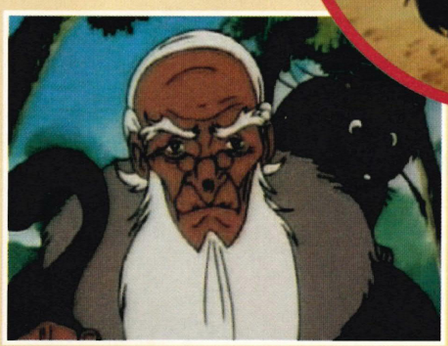
The duo meet up with Uncle Bob and Tim's cousin Tina to help Bob refurbish his old boat. There's only one problem though. It hasn't got a propeller, so they have to find a new one. Bob and Bear set off on someone else's boat to search for one, while Tim and Tina go sail-

The Little Mermaid



Marina, the Little Mermaid, has left her home under the sea and fallen in love with Prince Justin after saving his life. But love and happiness are not easy for the Little Mermaid and her Prince — not with the wicked witch Hedgwig around.

Hedgwig is ready to use any evil trick in her power to destroy Marina — even shipwrecking and kidnapping!



Prince Justin awakes from his shipwreck thinking that Cecile has saved him, so he decides to marry her. Marina is distraught, and turns to the wicked Hedwig to ask if she can be made human. Hedgwick agrees, only on condition that Marina has just one month to marry her Prince, otherwise she will die. But Prince Justin is already engaged to Cecile. Will Justin remember who really saved him before it is too late?



This two disc, 85 minute Video CD contains four action-packed and fun-filled adventures as Marina and the Prince, with their friends Winnie and Chauncey, take on the evil Hedgwig in their search for happiness.



Rating: ✓✓✓
Cost: £9.99
Out: now

Contact: CD Vision on 0171 240 7764

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

THUMBELINA INTERACTIVE

If you have already bought the Video CD of "Thumbelina" the film, now you can go one step further and get the interactive version as well.

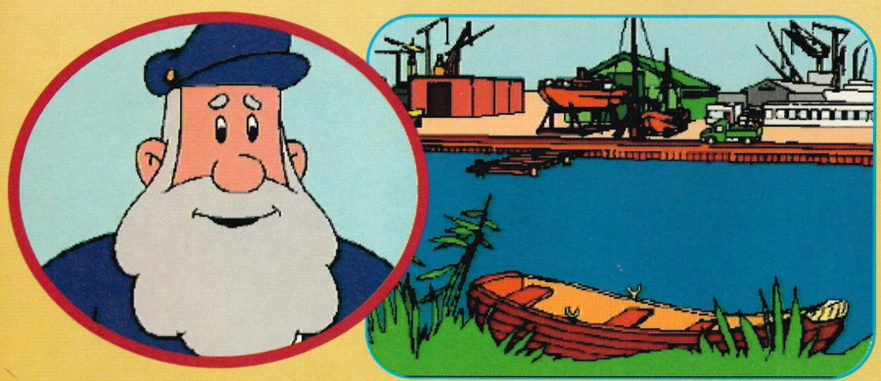
American animation specialist Don Bluth, who created the original film based on Hans Christian Andersen's classic fairytale, has teamed up with British software house Epic Interactive Media to create the CDi game version.



Essentially, the film is divided into seven stories, all of which contain interactive elements. So you can read the story yourself, or read along with the narrator, solve picture puzzles, sing along to the songs, paint scenes from the film or identify animals. If you complete a puzzle correctly, a clip from the film will play in full Digital Video. The soundtrack comes courtesy of Barry Manilow, and while the animation is not quite in the same league as Disney, kids who enjoyed the linear Video CD will delight in playing with this interactive version.

Rating: ✓✓✓
Cost: £29.99
Out: October 23

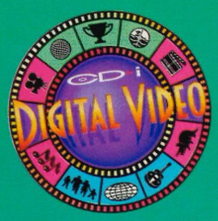
Produced by Epic Interactive, published by Spice Multimedia. Available from Philips Media



ing. Along the way, there are lots of places to explore: the old fish auction, the freight terminal and the sea bed.
The format is the same as the other discs in this series, so as usual you can watch the story unfold and decide which characters to follow, or engage in a spot of painting or solve jigsaw puzzles. Young children will find this disc easy to use and there is a simple help guide which tells you how everything works.

Produced by Valkieser

Rating: ✓✓✓
Cost: £19.99
Out: now
Contact Philips Media on 0171 911 3000





After dodging giant spiders and bats you ward off the evil Mordroc to rescue Princess Daphne in the final part of our player's guide

DRAGON'S LAIR II

PLAYER'S GUIDE

LEVEL 7: THE VOYAGE TO EGYPT

Your time machine flies between sphinxes and pyramids when suddenly lights flash on your right. Push right; then push left. The entrance of a pyramid lightens on your left, so push left. You put down the time machine. Push left again to prevent the fumes from spreading all over the place and poisoning you. Push right twice. Then push right again to jump the chasm. Suddenly a whole army of spiders attacks you. Press a button to beat them, then move right to jump a chasm again. The rocks are crumbling and you risk falling down. Press a button. You use your sword to pull yourself up. Push the joystick right three times. You take the rope and reach the jar. Press a button to use your sword again. Push right. You roll down in the jar; it dashes against the floor. Push right again. You jump on a stone and continue. (Alternative: Push up instead of right. You take the sword, jump on the stone and continue.) Again the spiders attack. Press a button three times. You reach the top of a monumental statue of Cleopatra. Push right to regain the top of the head. Press a button to defend yourself against the beetles. Press a button to kill the flying monsters. Meanwhile, you have discovered a mummy and decide to take it with you. Lava comes out of the coffin in which you found the mummy. Lights flash below you, so push down. Push left and down to continue. The rope on your right lights up, push right. Press a button to use your sword against a giant spider. You smash against a sarcophagus. When the spider comes down, lights flash on your left. Push left. The sarcophagus finally comes down and lights flash on your right. Push right. Another mummy comes out of the sarcophagus and wants to kidnap your mummy. Press a button twice. Lights flash on your left, so push the joystick left. Suddenly a green bat appears on your left. Press a button to use your sword (you may also push right to take the lantern). A giant red bat appears on your right; push right to catch it. The red bat flies away and you go with it. Press a button twice to knock off the green bat and the mummy. Push up and then push left. The green bat attacks again, press a button. Lights flash below you. Push down. You land near your time machine. Push right and then push left. The mummy you took with you unwinds its bandages. Daphne's body appears, but once you have seen the head, it is clear that you made a great mistake. Instead of Daphne you face Mordroc. The wizard wants to kiss you. Press a button twice to use your sword. Mordroc spits a deadly fluid on the ground; it spreads all over the place. Push left and then right. Finally push up to reach the time machine. Lava surrounds the machine. Press a button to burst a lava bell. The time machine starter lights up on your right, so push right. Finally, press a button to take off.

LEVEL 8: THE WEDDING (VERSION 1)

Daphne and Mordroc are standing on a magic book. The wizard wants to put a ring on Daphne's finger, but the ground is crumbling below your feet. Press a button. You jump to safety and throw your sword towards the witch. The sword goes through her hands. The ring falls down. Meanwhile, Daphne has disappeared. Lights flash on your left, so push left. Then push right to reach the magic book. Push right again. As you have no time to pick up the ring, you kick it away. Push right to continue. The ring lights up on your left, so push left. You take the ring and jump the chasm. The ceiling flashes, so push up, then push down. You throw the ring; it lands around Mordroc's finger. The ground gives way again. Push down. Your sword flashes on your left, so push left. You take your sword. Daphne is sleeping on your right, push right. Press an action button to beat the bats.

LEVEL 9: THE WEDDING (VERSION 2)

Daphne and Mordroc are standing on a magic book. The wizard puts a ring on Daphne's finger. The

ground is crumbling below your feet. Press a button. You jump to safety and throw your sword towards the wizard. The sword goes through her hands. Lights flash on your left, so push left. Then push right to reach the magic book. You take Daphne into your hands. The book lightens on your right, so push right. Daphne grows and turns into a pig monster (she looks like a green coloured Miss Piggy). Her hair flashes. Push right. Then her tongue flashes. Push left. An iron gate lightens up. First push right, then push south and finally push to the right again. Mordroc appears on your right while he is swinging his sword. Push down. You are threatened by Miss Piggy again. Her left ear flashes, so push left. Then press a button. You try to grab the ring from the pig's finger. The left ear of the pig flashes again, so push to the left. Lights flash above you, so push up. Push up another time to throw the ring away. The ring ends up around Mordroc's finger. He turns into a monster. Lights flash below your feet. Push down. Then the tail of the monster lightens on your left. Push left. Push right, left, right, down and finally push to the right. Miss Piggy smashes down on a stone. She turns into Daphne again. Suddenly you see your sword which flashes below you. Push down. Press a button to beat the dying monster. Then push left and right to avoid being smashed between the rocks. You run towards Daphne. Finally press a button to deter all the bats.

LEVEL 10: THE SLEEPING BEAUTY

You are leaning over Daphne who doesn't give any sign of life. Little monsters attack. Press a button four times. In the meantime, Daphne has opened her eyes, but you are too busy to notice this. Then the floor starts crumbling. Push right. Push left to leap the chasm. Press a button twice to defend yourself. Lights flash on your right, so push right. Press a button twice to defeat the little monsters. Push up and then push down. Daphne runs towards you. Push right to reach her. You get a kiss, but then the floor crumbles again. Your time machine flashes on your right, so push right. Lights flash again. Push right. Press a button twice to take off the time machine. Push right a last time to avoid a last obstacle. You bring Daphne back safely to her family.

Congratulations! You are a winner!

GAME ENDS







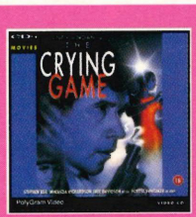


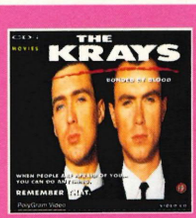
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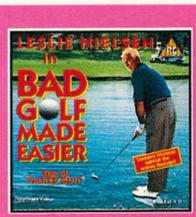
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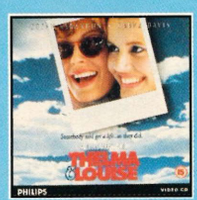




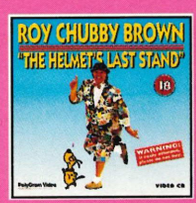


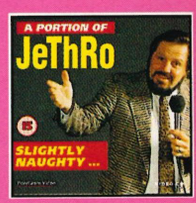


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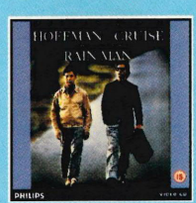




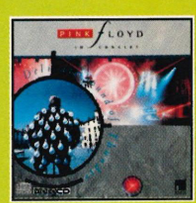




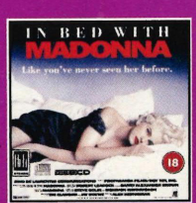


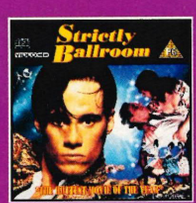


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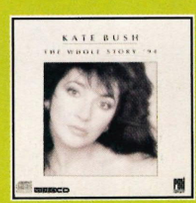


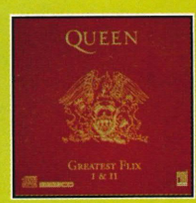
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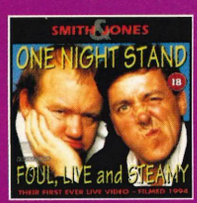


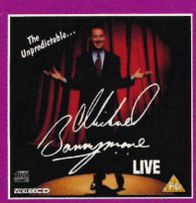


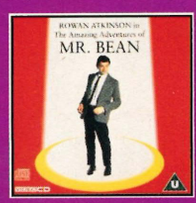


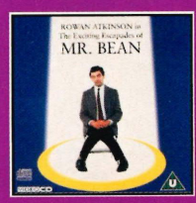
















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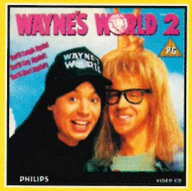
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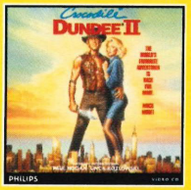
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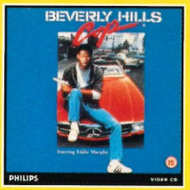


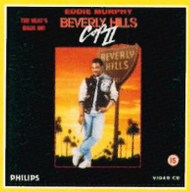


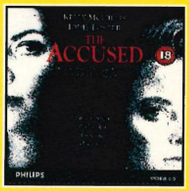


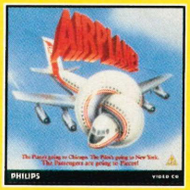


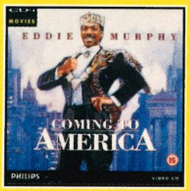


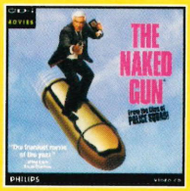






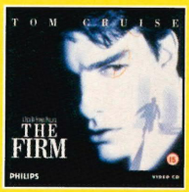






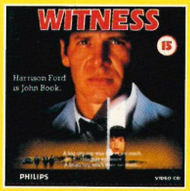


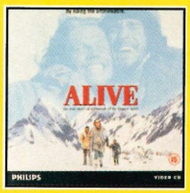






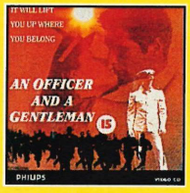






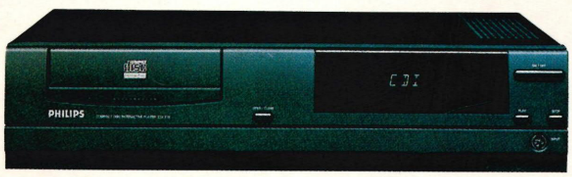








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letters

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in graphic detail

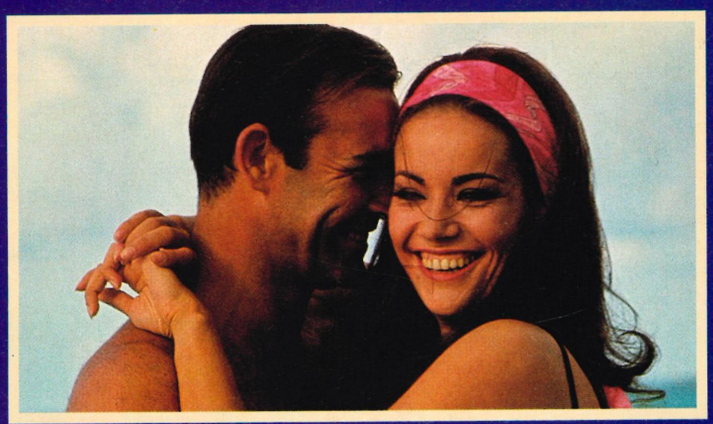
I like your magazine and am sorry that there is not enough information available for you to publish monthly. I had given up on my CDi until I bought issue 12 with its brilliant games CD. I have a few questions.
1) Will your magazine go up in price every time there is a free CD?
2) Will CDi become obsolete in a few years or will I need another upgrade?
3) Why do the best games on CDi have standard graphics while the mind blowing graphics are on boring and dull games?
4) Why can't CDi have games such as Killer Instincts, Sim City and Dark Forces instead of cheap substitutes such as Mutant Rampage, Earth Command and Inca?
5) How powerful is the CDi if it can't handle games such as these?
6) Is Philips continuing to invest in CDi?

Christopher Newton
Newton Abbott

1) Yes, there will be a price increase to £3.25 if there is a cover disc. Without a disc, the price will return to £2.25.
2) We know of no plans for an upgrade at this stage.
3) Many of the better-looking games use an enormous amount of memory for the graphics, so there is less available for gameplay.
4) I don't know: ask Philips!
5) CDi has a 16-bit processor and 1MB of RAM (2.5 with the optional DV cartridge).
6) Yes, Philips says it will continue to invest in CDi with new hardware and software.

ED





Oh no, not 007 and another beautiful woman on Video CD

the right choice

I have had my CDi 210 player for a year now and have become increasingly frustrated by the poor choice of discs available.
How can Philips justify releasing several films from the same series (ie Star Trek, Naked Gun and James Bond) when there is so much else available. I realise Star Trek and James Bond movies are popular worldwide, but surely that should not mean all the titles in the series are released.
Wouldn't it better to create a broader spectrum of films for people to choose from?
I am also annoyed at the choice of music titles available. How can Philips, PolyGram and PMI justify releasing three Tina Turner and three Pink Floyd titles when there is a huge back-catalogue of work suited to a broader audience?
I am certain I am not the only person sick to death of all the Star Trek and Pink Floyd releases, much as I admire their work, so why not give the public more choice from a more diverse range of titles?

Peter Daniels
Wallsend

The choice of film and music releases is to some extent determined by the film studios and record companies — they decide which titles they want to licence for CDi/Video CD. Obviously, Philips, PolyGram and PMI are likely to choose the most popular series because they want to sell as many discs as possible. But I agree a more diverse choice would be welcome.

ED

games galore?



Just recently I bought a Philips CDi and I am disappointed in the range of software available. Are any arcade-style games coming out on CDi?
I've noticed there are now far more videos than games being released, so is CDi a video machine or games system? I think most owners would prefer it to be a games machine. Just look at the Sega Saturn and what it can do. Come on, Philips, get some games software on the shelves before it is too late.

Wayne Brewer
Shildon

It is true that there are increasingly more Video CD titles being released than games, and this trend is likely to continue. But top games such as Creature Shock, Micro Machines and World Cup Golf are planned for release this year and next.

ED



Cluedo: only works on CDi

CD-ROM confusion

I bought a CDi player recently and went to my local games store to see what was available. Not a huge selection, but you have heard all that before. The sales assistant pointed out to me that some CD-ROM games can run on CDi, providing it was MPEG software. He could not tell me which ones would work, as it was a hit and miss affair. Is this true? If so, perhaps you could give a list of which titles would work on CDi from other platforms?
Also, in the catalogue in the back of the magazine, why not add a couple of lines from the original review or, better still, a screen shot?

Steve Coulthard
Chester-le-Street

You have been misinformed. Interactive CD-ROM games software will NOT run on a CDi player. However, any linear, non-interactive Video CD compatible MPEG discs (such as films and music videos) will work on a CDi player with DV cartridge. On the second point, we are limited to six pages for the catalogue so space is very tight, particularly as we add new titles. We keep having to cut rather than add extra copy.

ED

Kombatting the rivals

I have had my CDi player for about a year now and I think it has great power. The graphics are good, the sound is good — but where's the rest? Where are all those famous games, such as Mortal Kombat III and Street Fighter II?
I have been to a lot of electronic shops and it is the same story each time — long aisles for CD-ROM, Super NES and Sega CD software and a tiny space for CDi. After a while it gets boring looking at and hearing about the same titles.
CDi is high tech and Philips should take advantage of this by producing more games and more films. It would be magnificent if Philips could bring out Mortal Kombat III. It is widely known that 3DO will have it. I expect Super NES, Sega and Sony Saturn will do so as well.
I am sure if Philips produced these super titles the graphics and sound would be so excellent it would beat all the other systems.
Don't disappoint us CDi owners! Make more use of this high tech machine.

Brenda Gonzalez
Los Angeles, USA

escape route



Now look, if you don't get the hang of this soon, I'll press the trigger

Having played Voyeur over a hundred times I have become curious about one potential conclusion to the game. I have had little difficulty in nailing Reed Hawke for four different murders and I have also been shot several times myself.
However, the intro and instructions seem to indicate that it is possible to get someone who might potentially have been murdered to escape from Hawke Manor by sending them the video tape.
So far, no matter what I do, Reed Hawke intercepts the tape, and Chantal shoots me. My query is, can I actually save someone by sending them the tape and getting them to flee?
At the moment I do not have a DV cartridge, but I wonder whether that makes any difference to this game.

Don Jester
Virginia, USA

Yes, you can save someone by sending them the tape and getting them to flee, but this has nothing to do with using the DV cartridge.
Voyeur is a non-DV game.
Keep trying!

ED

racing demon

I have just bought a CDi 450 player and thoroughly enjoy CDi Magazine. Could you answer a few questions please?
1) Do you know if Philips will be releasing any racing sims in future, such as Ridge Racer?
2) Why is it that the films which are released on CDi appear to be old compared with video releases?
3) Do you know if there will be more British-made games, such as Sensible Soccer?

Andrew Jarvie
Edinburgh

1) Micro Machines will be released this month and other racing games are due out next year.
2) It depends which titles Philips has licensed from the Hollywood film studios — many of them are back catalogue material, although they do strive for day and date releases with VHS.
3) Sensible Soccer is not on my current release schedule, but Philips will continue to work with British software developers on games such as Micro Machines, Rise of the Robots and Creature Shock.



Micro Machines: see cover disc

ED

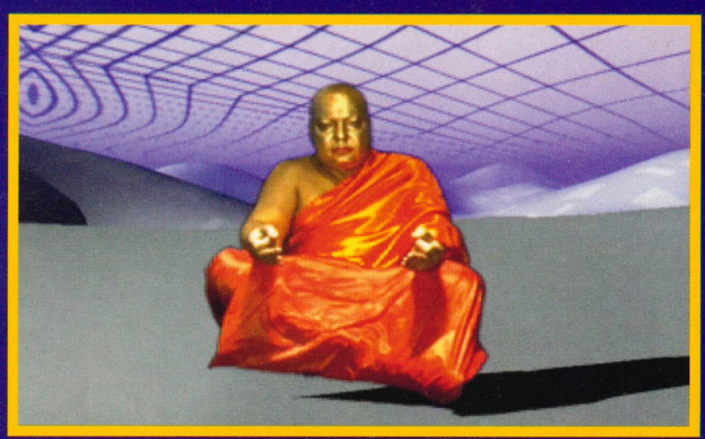
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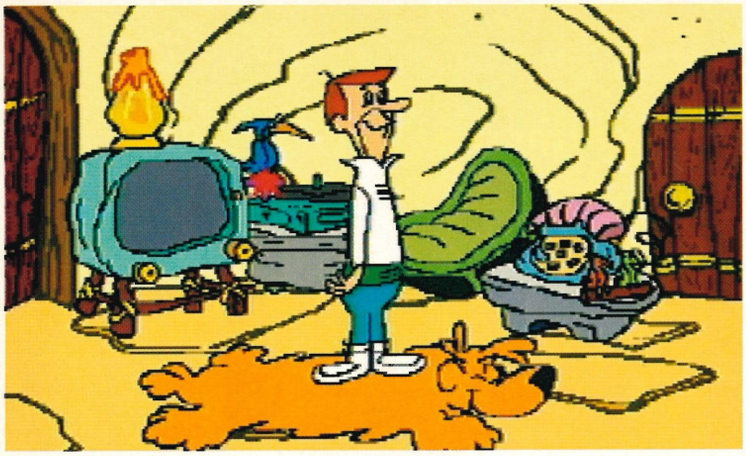
I am a proud owner of a Philips CDi machine and I think it is great. Could you please answer the following questions?
1) On Burn:Cycle I am stuck at the part where you are in the Televerse and have to sort out some weights on a tree in Nirvana. (A big gold Buddha is holding the tree in his hand.) The Hot Tips section in issue 12 says that you have to find a configuration on the tree that plays dialogue which goes like this: "the corporation authorised it". However, I cannot find the sound. Please help.
2) Will there be any upgrade for the CDi player to allow it to go faster and/or make the sound and graphics better? For example, the M2 accelerator that is coming out for the 3DO. If there is, CDi would be even better and able to fend off the Sony PlayStation, Sega Saturn and other new machines.

Michael Morrow
Manchester

1) For further advice on Burn:Cycle, phone the Philips hotline on 0891 244424.
2) I know of no current plans for a CDi upgrade.

ED





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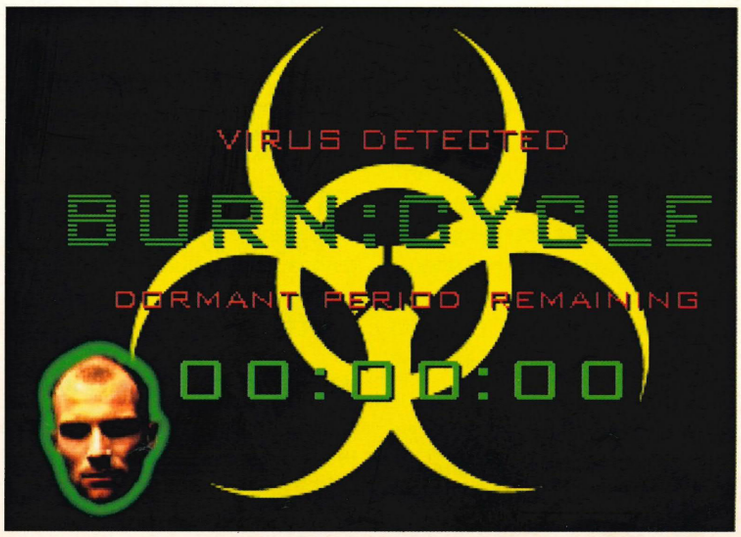
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Price £29.99 Cat. No. 819 100 7

KETHER
Stunning graphics in this mix of arcade action and puzzle solving.
Price £34.99 Cat. No. 810 012 8

KINGDOM (DV)
Role playing/fantasy adventure game including 30 minutes of video.
Price £39.99 Cat. No. 810 025 2

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

LEMMINGS
The classic game! Prevent these furry little creatures from killing themselves in over 100 dangerous and puzzling scenes.
Price £29.99 Cat. No. 810 011 1

LINK: FACES OF EVIL
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. A game of exploration, fighting and puzzle solving.
Price £39.99 Cat. No. 810 016 9

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

LOST EDEN (DV)
Defeat the evil Morkus Rex so dinosaurs and humans can live together in peace.
Price £34.99 Cat. No. 810 029 2

MAD DOG McCREE (with gun) (DV)
A quality shoot-'em-up set in a ramshackle Western Released with the Peacekeeper revolver.
Price £69.99 Cat. No. 810 008 9

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

MERLIN'S APPRENTICE
A mysterious, magical tale of medieval sorcery with over 30 different puzzles for all the family.
Price £29.99 Cat. No. 810 019 2

MICRO MACHINES
One of the most playable games ever created — the racing classic, now re-issued for CDi with two unique extra levels. **(October)**
Price £34.99 Cat. No. 811 029 1

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, and ten game levels.
Price £34.99 Cat. No. 690 152 2

MYSTIC MIDWAY: PHANTOM EXPRESS
Join Dr Dearth, the master of cemeteries, on a roller coaster ride in the sequel to Mystic Midway.
Price £29.99 Cat. No. 810 017 8

NFL ULTIMATE AMERICAN FOOTBALL COLLECTION
This 3-title pack includes 100 Greatest Touchdowns, Hall of Fame and Trivia Challenge.
Price: £39.99 Cat. No. 811 011 5

OTHELLO
The 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

POWER HITTER
Baseball challenge which puts you up against the game's great pitchers.
Price £34.99 Cat. No. 811 001 7

RISE OF THE ROBOTS
Mirage Technologies' stunning beat-'em-up makes its debut on CDi, with graphics to die for.
(November)
Price £34.99 Cat.No. 819 101 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.
Price £49.99 Cat. No. 810 007 3

STEEL MACHINE
A fast and furious shoot-em-'up with a hard core soundtrack.
Price £19.99 Cat. No. 810 016 0

STRIKER
Striker Pro is a based on the successful Ultimate Soccer.
Price £29.99 Cat. No. 811 004 4

TETRIS
The classic Russian puzzle game featuring ten levels.
Price £29.99 Cat. No. 690 188 2

TEXT TILES
A word spelling strategy game for all ages.
Price £19.99 Cat. No. 690 043 2

THE 7TH GUEST (DV)
Virgin's fabulous mystery adventure game. With stunning sound and graphics, the CDi version comes with CD soundtrack.
Price £49.99 Cat. No. 811 004 0

THE APPRENTICE (DV)
A jump and run style platform game for all ages
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.
Price £24.99 Cat. No. 811 003 1

THUNDER IN PARADISE (DV)
Join Terry "Hulk" Hogan and Chris Lemmon in this exciting interactive TV adventure. Plus free Video CD.
Price £39.99 Cat. No. 810 019 8

VIDEO SPEEDWAY
Motor racing game with ten tracks to choose from.
Price £29.99 Cat. No. 819 001 1

VOYEUR (18)
An adult political whodunnit.
Price £39.99 Cat. No. 810 016 2

THE WACKY WORLD OF MINIATURE GOLF
18 hole crazy golf game.
Price £19.99 Cat. No. 810 013 5

WHO SHOT JOHNNY ROCK? (DV)
Gangster shoot-'em-up.
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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.
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ZELDA: WAND OF GAMELON
Rescue Link and save the world in this gripping adventure.
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MUSIC

ABBA: ABBA GOLD (VCD) (October)
Price £19.99 Cat. No. 085 548 4

ABBA: MORE ABBA GOLD (VCD)
Price £19.99 Cat. No. 087 380 4

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ANTISTATIC
More psychedelic music from Hex – rave visuals and groovy music.
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BEASTIE BOYS: SABOTAGE (VCD)
Promo videos and tracks from the Beastie Boys' albums *III Communication, Check Your Head* and *Paul's Boutique*.
Price £17.99 Cat. No. TBA

BON JOVI (DV)
Bon Jovi's *Keep the Faith* album with full Digital Video to accompany every track.
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BON JOVI: CROSSROAD (VCD)(Oct)
Price £19.99 Cat. No. 632 776 4

BON JOVI: LIVE (VCD) (November)
Price £19.99 Cat. No. 636 218 4

BRYAN ADAMS (DV)
The *Waking Up the Neighbours* video from Canadian Bryan Adams.
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A host of hits from one of the country's most popular singers. **(November)**
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CREAM OF CLAPTON (DV)
The best of Eric Clapton in full Digital Video for fans and casual listeners alike.
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DAVID BOWIE: THE VIDEO COLLECTION (VCD)
A treat for Bowie fans – 26 stunning tracks.
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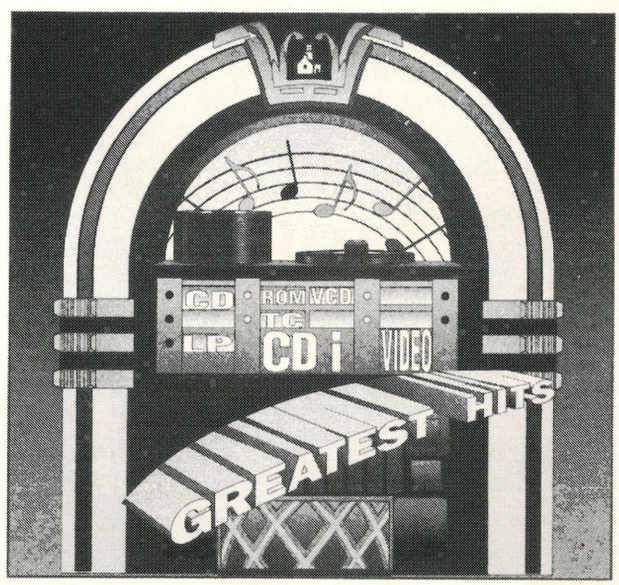
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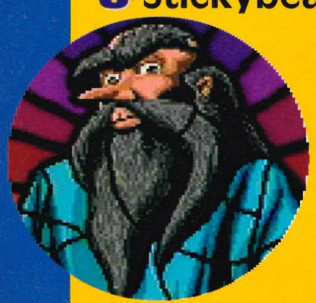


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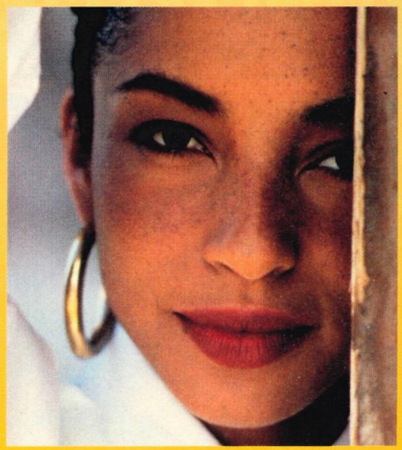
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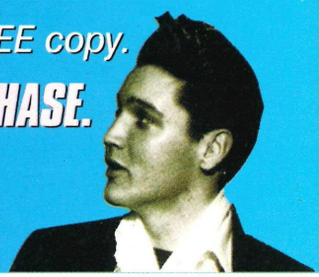
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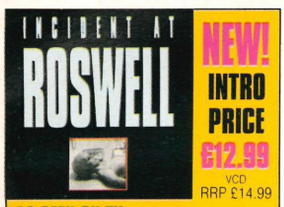
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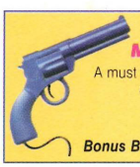
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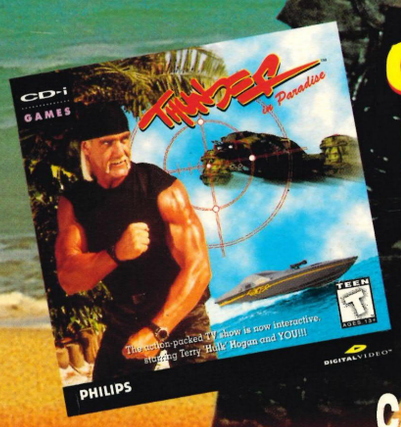
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