APRIL 1996 • ISSUE 17 • £3.50

Films • Music • Games • Video CD • Kids

CDi

LIMITED EDITION PMI MUSIC DISC GIVEAWAY



COVER DISC SPECIAL
INCLUDING FULLY PLAYABLE
REALTIME 3D GAME

THE BEST ADVENTURE YET?

SECRET MISSION

Disc not available in The Netherlands

to find out how to get your CD-i onto the

Internet

ring us on .....

0171 436 8677

●●● Make contact with almost anyone – your favourite band, your local football team – or President Clinton in the White House!

●●● Send a message to other CD-i owners, your girlfriend, your mates at work, or millions of other switched-on people all over the world!

●●● Search the World Wide Web for information on any subject you can think of – from Blur to Beethoven, from Arsenal to Agassi, and from sex to space travel – it's all out there!

●●● It's easy to use (just like CD-i), it's cheap, and it's fun! So join the wired generation – call us now, and go surfing in cyberspace with CD-Online!

NEW CD-Online disc – NEW features, NEW Website, and RAM RAID – the first ever Internet game for CD-i!

CD-Online

The Net on Your Set

CD-Online is a Philips Media company

inside

all the latest news, reviews and scoops for CD INTERACTIVE



A beardy weirdy Zelda elder

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The hat stays. Despite pressure to the contrary, we've been innundated by a letter from a Mrs Trellis of Cambridge who said that she rather liked it, so there.

On a slightly different note though, as you read this the videogames industry will be limbering up for the London ECTS in a couple of weeks. Though inevitably it will be the next gen machines that grab the headlines, CD-i can now hold its head up high with the best of them. This issue alone sees some of the best software in the platform's history being reviewed, particularly the wonderful Secret Mission. It's a well-known rule of thumb in the industry that it takes up to two years for quality software to come through for a platform and while it might be a touch later than that with CD-i, at least it's starting to dribble out. The next couple of months alone will see ports of Myst and Discworld, and the release of The Dame Was Loaded. Add to that, the development of a 3D Engine and things, belatedly admittedly, are at last starting to look really good.

Oh, and the first person to write in stating where the Mrs Trellis reference comes from gets a free disc from my drawer. Till the next time.

Andy Stout,
Editor



Kate Bush, one of the artistes on our most excellent PMI giveaway disc (sigh).

COVER

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RAIDING THE RAM

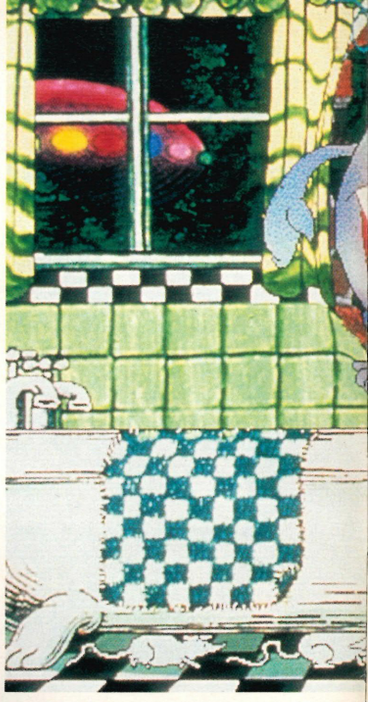


It's here and a lot earlier than any of us expected. When a Philips person casually dropped in the fact that there was going to be a game on our cover disc we were happy. When he booted it up and we realised that we were seeing the first appearence of realtime 3D on CD-i we were simply gobsmacked. The game's called *Ram Raid* and it's truly something else (more details on page 8).

The 3D engine is a byproduct of a powerful debugging system developed by Philips at Redhill. The system allows developers to analyse what the machine is doing in realtime while playing a disc and during the development the team stumbled across the fact that part of the architecture could be used in a previously unforeseen way — to generate realtime 3D.

Considering that CD-i is simply not meant to be able to do this (it has no custom graphics chips whatsoever for instance) it's quite an achievement. According to our sources, early attempts to exploit this capability were disappointing, and common algorithims produced jerky results in necessarily simple worlds. A year of constant development though and the optimising of the code for CD-i has produced much smoother motion (up to 30 frames per second) and allowed an increasing amount of graphical complexity.

But how does it work? Well, Philips are being a bit tight-lipped about this at the moment but as soon as we can prise it out of them we'll let you know.



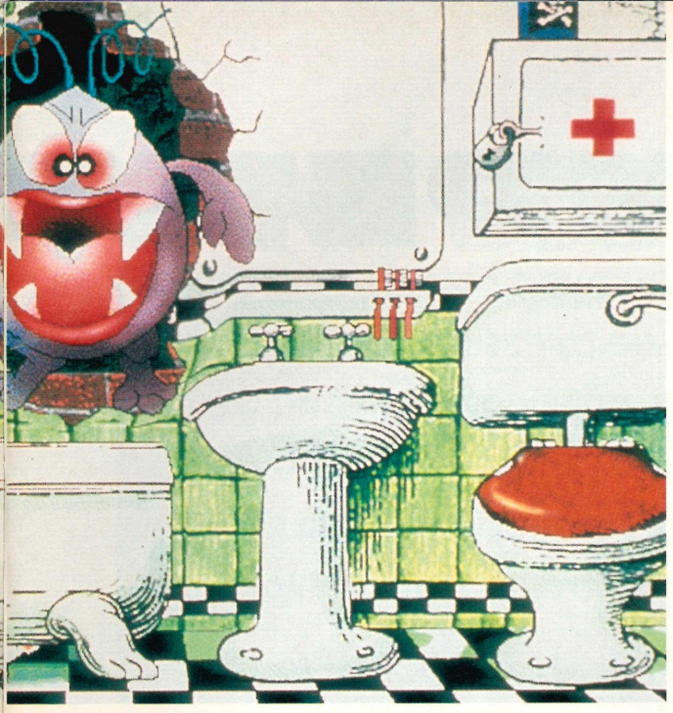
GHOSTIES

One of the biggest releases, if not the biggest, in the kids field this year is going to be *Haunted House*, currently pencilled in for September. It's an interactive version of the multi-million selling pop-up book by Jan

THE GEN

By now you've probably already loaded our cover disc into your player and seen* Ram Raid, *CD-i's first ever realtime 3D game. Enjoyable and well-executed though it is, the main question has got to be: how does this first outing for CD-i's 3D engine bode for* Atlantis, *Philips' proposed 3D super game?

All in all, pretty well. The world of computer games crams as much technical development into a handful of months as most



AND GHOULIES

Pienkowski, also the co-creater of the *Meg And Mog* books. Will it be as succesful in multimedia though? Well, it's just been released on CD-ROM to ecstatic reviews in the specialist press. Aimed at children of four and upwards, *Haunted House* has 10 rooms to explore. Here, children will stumble across hilarious unexpected traps, puzzles of a creepy nature, unexplained spooky sounds and suchlike. The press release also talks about green slime oozing and bats flapping. Yech.

FROM ATLANTIS

industries into a decade, and if this is the first evolution of the engine, by the time* Atlantis *comes out things will have moved on even more. But all that aside, some sketchy details of the game have emerged from under wraps.

For a start it's going to be big, the actual word being used is 'sprawling'. It's also going to feature most of the elements that combine to make a good 3D blaster: multiple weapons and, crucially, intelligent enemies.

The plotline seems to be centred around a Virtual Holiday location that becomes horribly infected with some form of virus that mutates all their benign marine life into something a bit nasty. As someone languishing in prison serving a life sentence, you seem to be the ideal person to go in and clear it all up. It sounds good so far, and if Philips are prepared to let people see the engine working now, they must be confident that the final product is going to be pretty damn good. More info as we get it.

MORE FROM MICROIDS

French developer Microids seem to have a bit of a hit with Secret Mission, *so we are inordinately pleased to let you know that three more CD-i games are in the pipeline.* Evidence, *a murder mystery, albeit with a rather cutting edge, is going to be a similar fully-rendered Gallic adventure experience while* The Legend Of The Fort *is more of a live action sort of thingy. Work is also going on with* Fort Boyard The Challenge *which is apparently a French TV show. Details on what it's about are a bit muddy at the moment (probably due to our suspect French), but it all sounds suspiciously like the* Crystal Maze *to us.*



DAME DELAYED

Beam Software's interactive *film noir, The Dame Was Loaded,* has slipped down the release schedules. Though the English language version is virtually finished there are a few teething problems sorting out all the languages necessary to allow the game a pan-European roll-out. Still, it's only a minor difficulty and it shouldn't delay the game more than a couple of months or so. Look out for a review soon.



help! help!

Philips' Help and Order Desk numbers have changed. Those looking for assistance and moral sustenance from either place should now phone one of the following numbers: 0171 911 3081/3086/3030.

KID'S COMPETIT

We would like to say a big "Thank you" to all our young readers who took part in the Kid's Competition in the February issue to design a game that could be transformed to CD-i. The standard was amazingly high and we'd like to give all of you a prize. Unfortunately, there can be only one overall winner, but we do have winners from every age category who will each be sent 10 fantastic kids titles on CD-i plus a roller controller from Philips

WHOOPS!

As some of the astute amongst you may have noticed, we goofed with the February issue's competition winners and printed the Crayon Factory winners with the Christmas Competition answers. This is, as usual, Jason Alesi's fault. Mr Alesi reckons that the original copy must have been abducted by aliens who are in cahoots with the FBI. *We* reckon he's been watching far too many *X-Files* episodes than are good for him. Anyway, the winners of the Christmas Competition were (drum roll please):

1. Stephen Corina, Bradford — won the Philips Routefinder.
2. Edward Potts, Surrey — won the Goldstar combined colour TV and video.
3. Ian Cable, North Humberside — won PolyGram's 13 autumn releases.

Ten Runners Up won *Thumbelina* Movie Cast Gift Sets. They were:

S. Ella, Hertfordshire
J. Lamb, Lancashire
Nigel Ellis, Northamptonshire
A.P. Jennings, Manchester
Nandan Mallick, West Yorkshire
Peter Coates, Suffolk
Steve Rutherford, Buckinghamshire
Roger Mason, London
Hilary Woof, West Yorkshire
A. Bancroft, Lancashire

THE WINNERS ARE:

a) Ages 5 and under:

WINNER: "Dolphins Are Friendly" by Bobby Pringle of Thirsk in North Yorkshire.

b) Ages 6 to 9:

WINNER: "Tutankhamen's Treasure" by Alan Costello of Falkirk in Scotland.

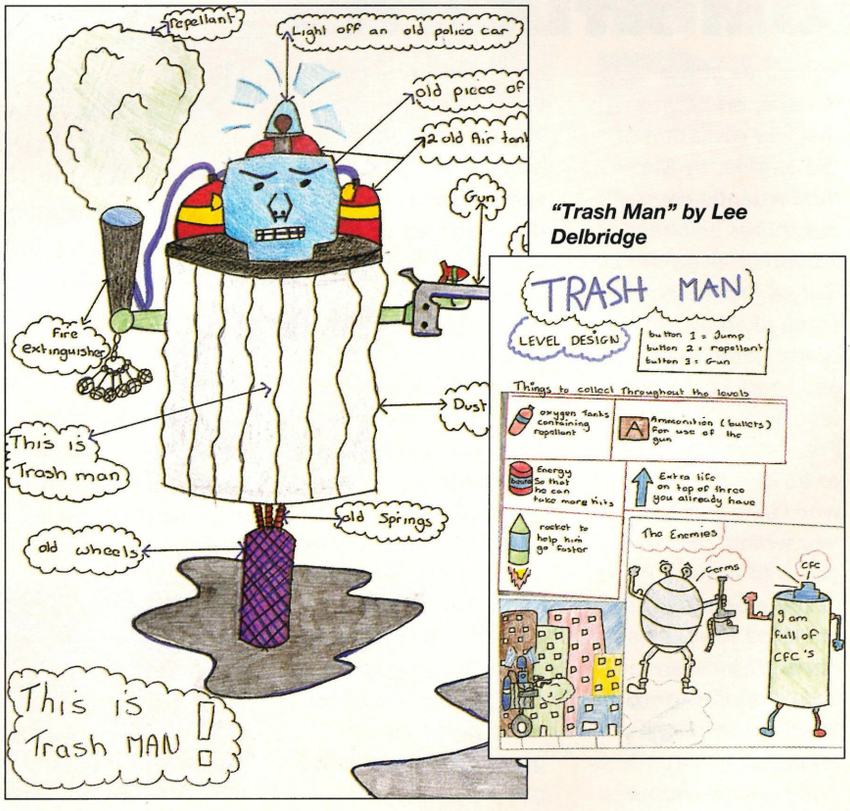
c) Ages 10 to 13:

WINNER: "Trash Man" by Lee Delbridge of Bridgend in Mid-Glamorgan.

d) Ages 14 to 17:

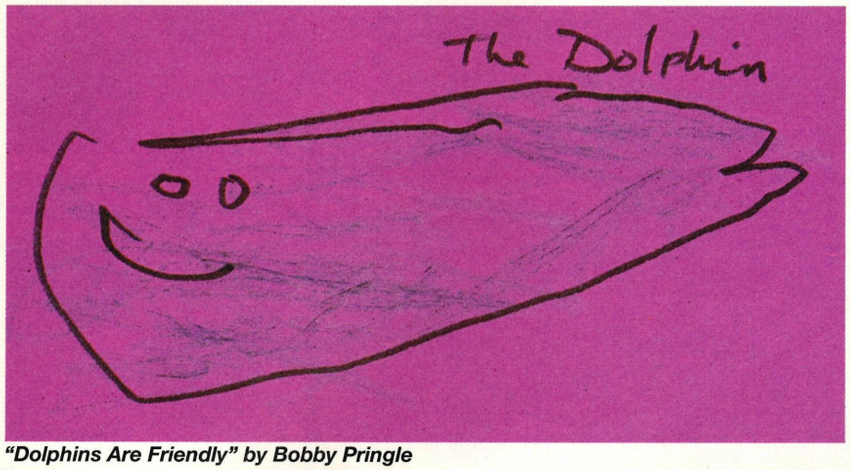
WINNER: "Puzzles" by Danny Nelson of Catford in London.

After serious consideration by none other than Dave McElhatten, head of Philips Games in Los Angeles, the overall winner, who will also receive a fantastic Philips colour portable television for his bedroom is Danny Nelson. Congratulations Danny.

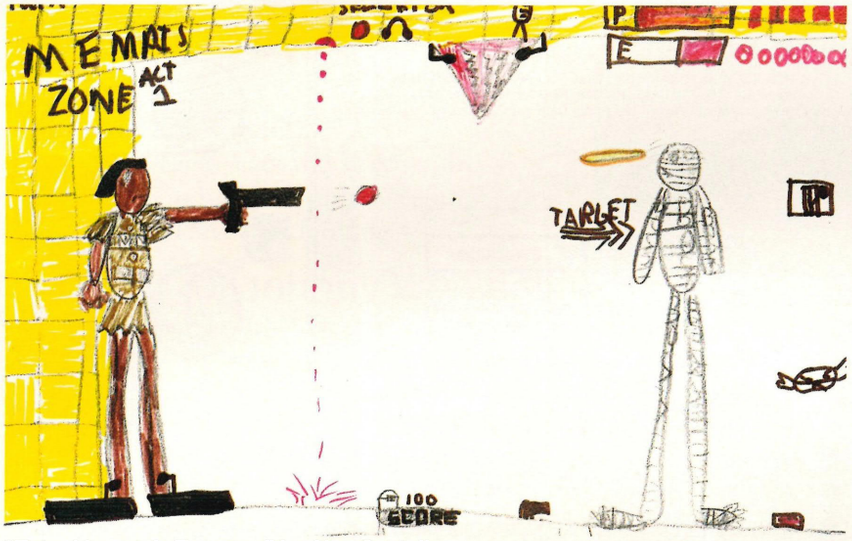


"Trash Man" by Lee Delbridge

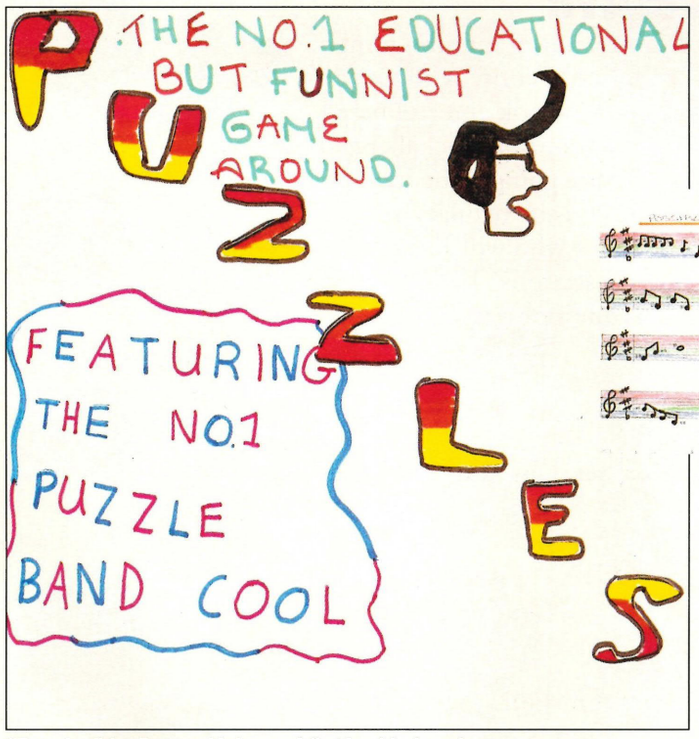
ION WINNERS



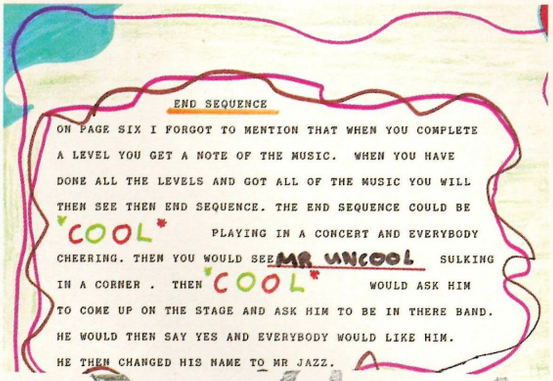
"Dolphins Are Friendly" by Bobby Pringle



"Tutankhamen's Treasure" by Alan Costello



"Puzzles" by Danny Nelson of Catford in London


END SEQUENCE

ON PAGE SIX I FORGOT TO MENTION THAT WHEN YOU COMPLETE A LEVEL YOU GET A NOTE OF THE MUSIC. WHEN YOU HAVE DONE ALL THE LEVELS AND GOT ALL OF THE MUSIC YOU WILL THEN SEE THEN END SEQUENCE. THE END SEQUENCE COULD BE 'COOL' PLAYING IN A CONCERT AND EVERYBODY CHEERING. THEN YOU WOULD SEE MR UNCOOL SULKING IN A CORNER . THEN 'COOL' WOULD ASK HIM TO COME UP ON THE STAGE AND ASK HIM TO BE IN THERE BAND. HE WOULD THEN SAY YES AND EVERYBODY WOULD LIKE HIM. HE THEN CHANGED HIS NAME TO MR JAZZ.



1st PRIZE

DANNY'S GAME

Puzzles is an excellent mix of an educational game and sheer platform fun which Danny has designed for children aged 4-8. It centres around a rock band called Cool and their enemy (possibly the only person in the world who doesn't like them) the solo singer Mr Uncool.

Mr Uncool steals Cool's music and hides it in different levels of his hideout. The notes have been seperated and each level is full of fiendish traps. The four members of the band, though, (Mr Cool, Mr Vocal, Mr Snare and Mr B Flat) all have different skills that help them overcome certain traps and obstacles and they race into the hideout to try to get their music back.

The end of each level features a puzzle, (either number or word puzzles) which must be completed before progressing to the next level. On solving the puzzle, you also get a note of music. At the end of the game all the notes are assembled and Cool get their music back.

Okay, so calling the second edition of the CD-Online disc Disc 02 probably isn't the most imaginative use of the English language in the world but the contents are something else. Don't judge a disc by its cover (or something like that)

GENERAL

First off are the overall modifications. Access to the Net is now much faster and you can select online options straight from the main menu. The fonts have also been enlarged, allowing for more legible text display. Sites selected offline will be remembered when the "Ok to log on now?" dialogue is selected. More local dial-up numbers have also been added to the network.

THE BROWSER

The browser software has been greatly improved. Overall stability should be a lot better and there's improved support for forms (which seem to be taking over the Net at the moment). Memory-intensive operations should also throw up a lot fewer "dirty disc" messages than version 01 did.

The interface has been simplified, too. More space has been created for reading pages by ditching the upper banner apart from the online indicator and prefs token.

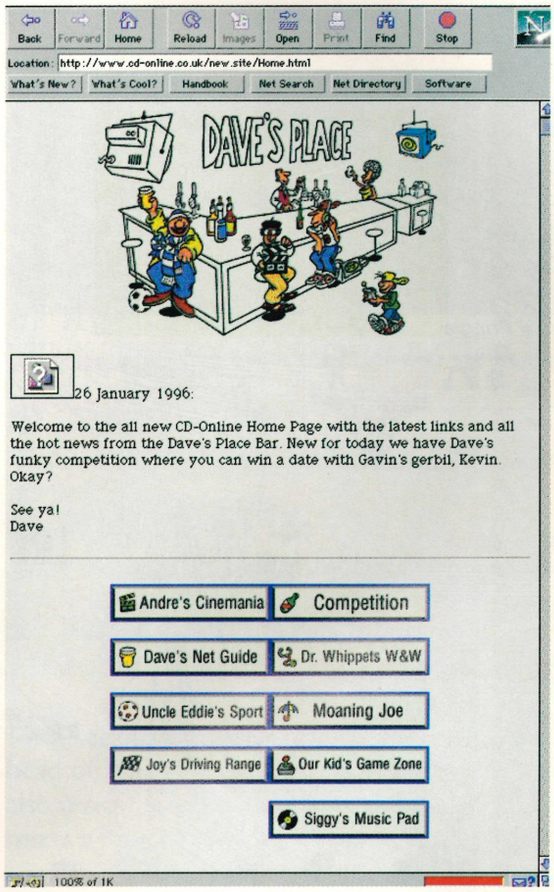
But that's not all, the graphics capabilities have been overhauled as well. Cached graphics have been added to the disc for popular sites to decrease loading times, while images stored on the Web in JPEG format are now decoded into DYUV format by the player (a huge improvement on the previous CLUT display). The results are apparently stunning.

EMAIL

Egad, there are improvements here as well. The number of possible characters in a mail has quadrupled to 4000 and a more stable operation should largely eliminate lost messages. You can still save five email addresses but they can now be edited and deleted as well. The email interface has been rejigged, too, making sending and receiving mail less confusing.

NEWSGROUPS

There's also an updated list of newsgroups, including some requested by subscribers, now in the on-disc index. A few cosmetic improvements have been made to the interface (such as providing smaller buttons) and 10 articles can be collected at a time as opposed to the previous nine. Oh, and there's a new group devoted to *Ram Raid.*



THE WEBSITE

But enough of this technical mumbo jumbo. The actual CD-Online Website is about to aquire a completely new look and feel based, as ever, around the responsibility-challenged Dave. New graphics are going to be incorporated around the regulars of Dave's place who will also edit their own sections. The reprobates in question are:



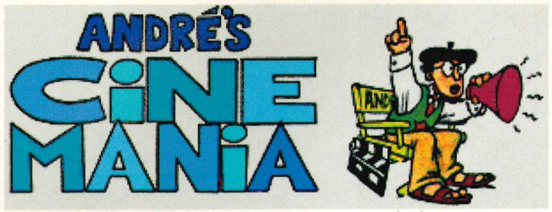
Rose:

Dave's sister. Less said the better.



Siggy:

Music nut. Edits the music pages, funnily enough.



André:

Actual name Andy. However, after doing an 'A' level in Media Studies changed his name to André and grew a goatee beard. Prat. He's responsible for the film pages.



Uncle Eddy:

Possibly the original sports nut. Has too many opinions for his own good, most of which creep into his sports pages.



Our Kid:

Lives, eats and sleeps video games. Also indulges in minesweeping drinks when Dave isn't looking.



Dr Johnny Whippet:

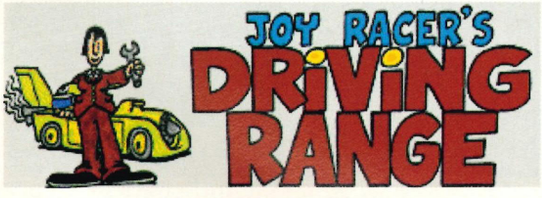
Slightly unsavoury character. A lecherous member of the medical profession who edits the Weird & Wonderful section. Constant speculation on whether the alcohol or the BMA will get him first.

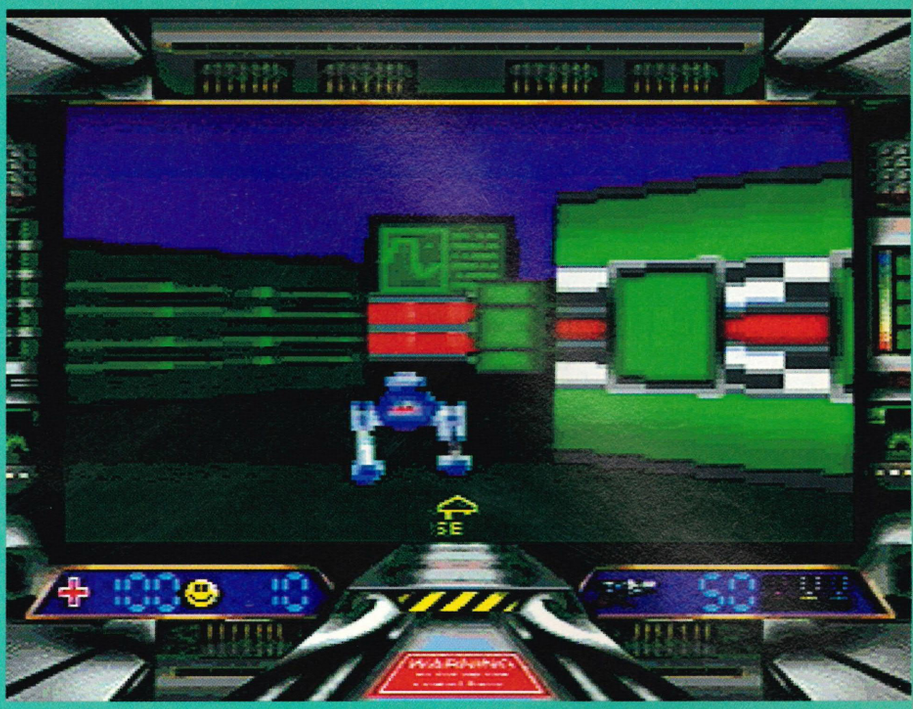




The supporting cast includes Dave's ex-girlfriend Roxanne with whom he is still passionately smitten; Moaning Joe who speaks for himself really; a good old insane scientist stereotype called simply The Professor and Dave's boss Mr Apple (to be avoided at all costs). Dotted around the Website are hidden triggers which set off various things on the disc, such as music files, sound FX and topical photos.







RAM RAID

Large, fast and playing a teensy weensy bit like *Doom*... Yes, this is the game that CD-i owners have been waiting for. On our cover disc are the practice levels for Philips' 3D blaster *Ram Raid*, but this is in no way a normal game. This is just the start. Reckon you can find your way round the two mazes with your eyes shut destroying all before you in a wave of carnage? Well, maybe you're ready for the real thing.

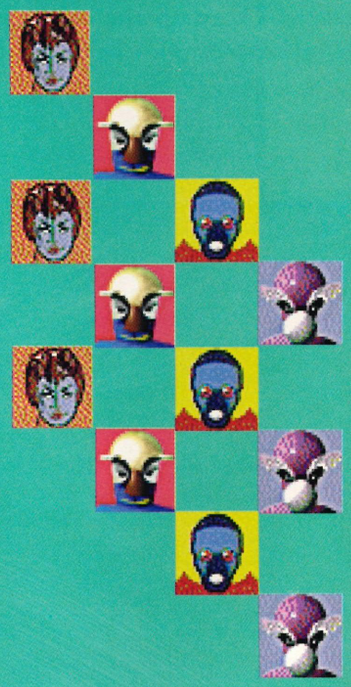
***Ram Raid*, y'see, really comes into its own on-line. Once you register at the Web site, you can play against any other subscriber in the *Ram Raid* league. It's not head-to-head play over a network — data rates just don't allow that sort of thing over the Internet yet — but it's definitely the next best thing.**

First, you chose your opponent and battleground, and then you download them to your machine (which should take under two minutes). This will give you a CD-i player crammed with death and destruction, but the baddies will only be as powerful as your opponent's league position.

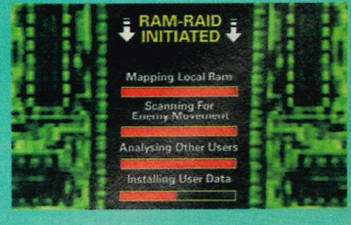
The horribly clever bit about this is that the game can evolve constantly. A lot of the basic data is included in the disc, but the maze design, the power, behaviour, quantity of baddies and suchlike is infinitely variable. Naturally this means that as soon as you think you've got the whole thing sussed, the sadists at the other end will mutate it into something else.

When you win an opponent's maze, register your score and you'll see yourself move up the league table. If you really want to rub their nose in it you can leave a photo of yourself in the maze you've won. But beware, they'll be back with a tougher maze and leaner, meaner baddies.

It's fast, it's vicious — and we're totally addicted. See you in Cyberspace. Come and take us on if you think you're hard enough.







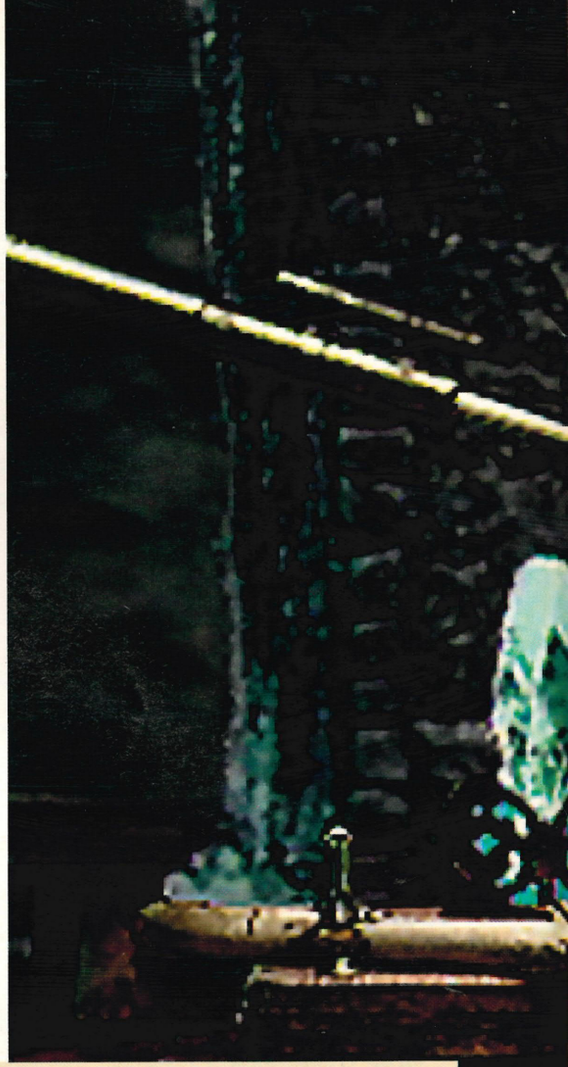
ZELDA'S ADVENTURE

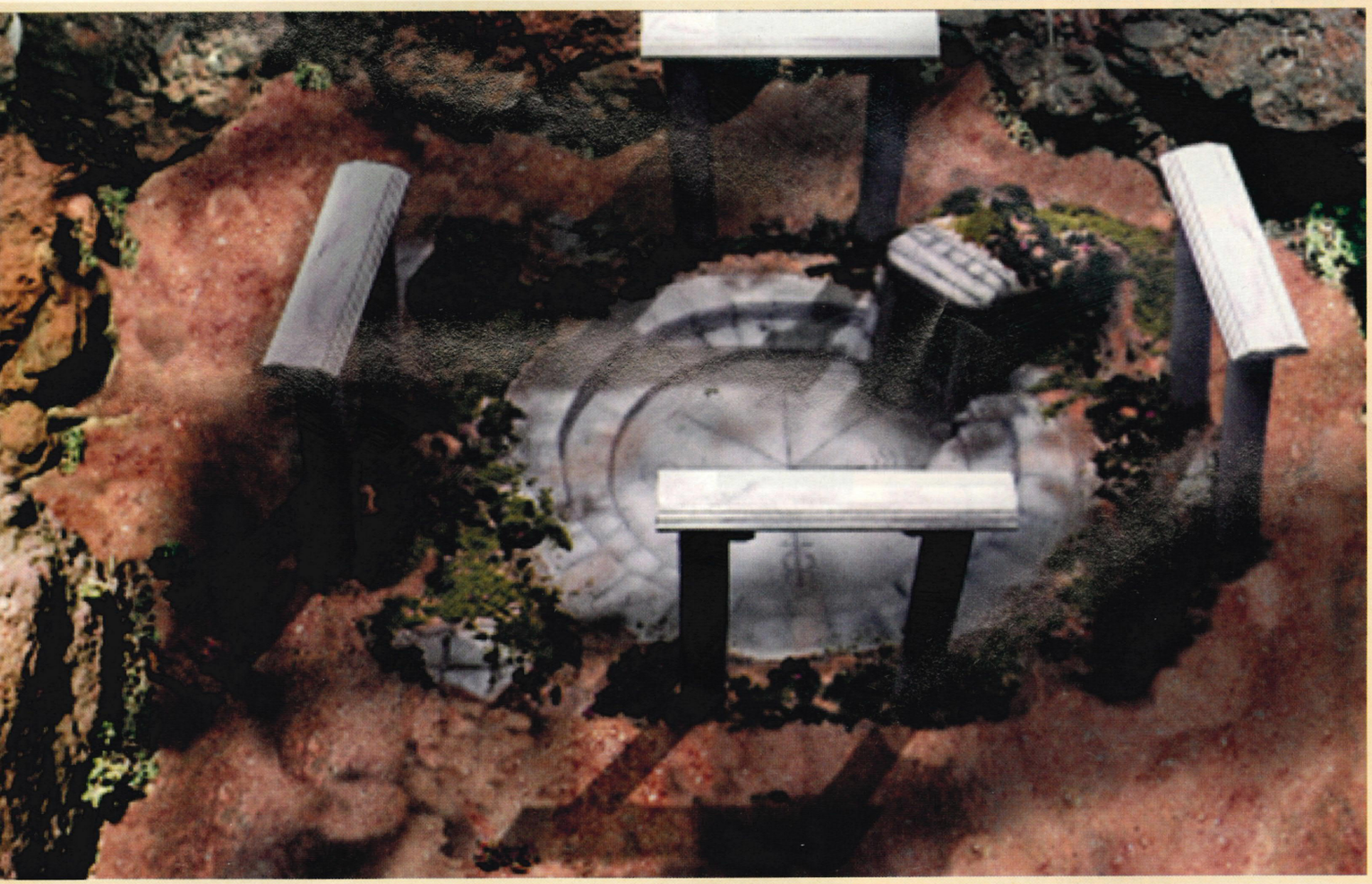
For those labouring under the illusion that RPG actually stands for Really Poor Game, Zelda's Adventure should be a bit of an eye opener

Ah Zelda, mainstay of many an 8 and 16 bit game on the Nintendo. It's been quite a few years since her first outing and the lady's becoming rather long in the tooth, but she's still one of the doyens of console-based RPG's.

RPG's are one of the most successful genres in computer games ever. Okay, so the shifting sands of fashion make sure that they're never quite firmly centred in the spotlight (apart from in Germany apparently where they go gaga over the things) but they're pretty much a constant — selling steady numbers year in and year out on whatever platform they appear on. And there's no reason to believe that this release won't do the same on CD-i.

First off, it's a bit different from the last Zelda game that appeared on this machine. That (if memory serves correctly) was a platformer, Zelda putting in an appearence as a rather cute sprite amid the usual platform antics. There were some touches, though, that lifted it apart from the usual run of the mill releas-









es in the genre, such as animated cutaways, having to use your brain and the like.

Such touches have been left in this re-telling of the Zelda legend — apart from the cutaways — but that's rather a good thing really as they usually get in the way of the actual gameplay. But the view has changed dramatically. Sprites are still used but the side-on platformer has been replaced by the sort of top-down view popularised by games such as *Gauntlet*. Well almost top-down, as the camera seems to have scuttled off to the side a bit leaving you with an angle that's as near to an isometric 3D view as anything.

Plotwise it goes like this. Basically, Gannon, Lord of Darkness has taken over the Kingdom of Tolemac. Not only that, but he's also nicked the seven Celestial Signs and captured Link. Funnily enough, your task is to regain the Signs, free Link and restore peace and tranquility to the Kingdom. Easy, huh? Not a chance.

Tolemac consists of the Overworld (i.e. forests, mountains and a lot of other geographical bits) and the Shrines. Each Shrine contains one of the stolen Signs which must be retrieved in a given order and each subsequent Shrine can only be entered if the previous Shrine has been completed. Got all that? Basically it means that you can't start



RATINGS

Graphics: 77%

Sound: 88%

Longevity: 85%

Overall: 84%

Price: £24.99 Out: 10/05

jumping ahead of yourself if you're having problems with one section. The game's got a linear pattern written into its code and you've no choice but to follow it.

Naturally this teases the difficulty level up a bit, but nothing was ever going to be easy in Tolemac. The place is teeming with habitants, most of whom seem worringly eager to take a swipe at you. As you traipse through the landscape, each screen seems to contain the odd nasty making a beeline for you. One is okay, you just swipe at it with your Wand (located to the East of your start point). Two is tricky, but by the time it reaches three of the blighters and they're trying to outflank you and get you from behind, things become a bit hectic. Kill the creatures, though, and you either gain money or life-points, all of which proves jolly handy.

But monsters are only part of it. There's lots of to-ing and fro-ing in this game to pick up the artifacts you need to complete specific parts of your quest and you soon find that Tolemac also contains inhabitants who're more than willing to strike up a quick conversation with you (streamed in audio off the cd). Unfortunately, though, a lot of them turn out to be just as inhospitable as the monsters and you usually end up having to fight your way out of a sticky situation once again. Some are incredibly helpful, most are not.

Button 1 makes Zelda use her currently selected weapon while button 2 takes you to the Map/Inventory screen. The objects you've found in your travels — weapons, scrolls and spells — can be scrolled through and selected here or you can have a look at the map to see where you are, where you've been and (more importantly) where you want to go. This screen is also the location of the save game function.

And that's jolly handy, as is the map. Zelda's Adventure is simply huge, encompassing an enormous gameworld that it's horribly easy to get lost in.

Sounds fine so far? Well it is, but there are problems and the main one is with the graphics. The landscape scenes may be bitmapped, but the actual sprites are basic, seeming more at home in the era of Zelda's 8 bit incarnation than for a CD in the mid 1990s.

Collision detection is a bit wayward at times, too. You know you hit the monster, your friends watching all agree they saw you hit the monster, but the game thinks you're well and truly dead and has deposited you way back at the start. And while we're having a good whinge, the screen refresh rate is a tad slow, meaning that there's a small but annoying lag time between moving to a new screen and it actually appearing.

But don't let that put you off. It is an involving game despite its handicaps and the sheer size counts very heavily in its favour as does the quality of its audio. There's nothing quite as vexing as forking out for a game and then completing it in one sitting, but you're not likely to come across that problem here. All in all, a fine, if basic, RPG.

JASON ALESI



The truly Portable CD-i Player...

...compatible with VideoCD, CD+G, CD-Audio and PhotoCD - now available from Xdra.











What is CD-i?

Compact Disc Interactive (CD-i) is a simple-to-use multi-platform system which connects directly to your TV (and Hi-Fi if you wish). With CD-i you can play Audio CDs, plus VideoCD and CD-i titles. These include top films, music videos and games, and reference titles. You can even surf the internet with CD-i.

Portable CD-i from Goldstar...

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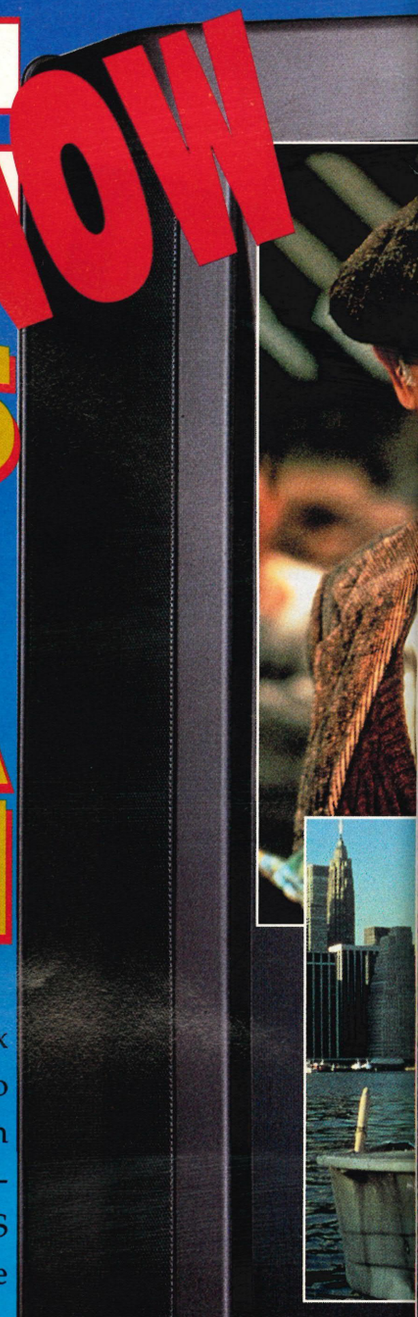
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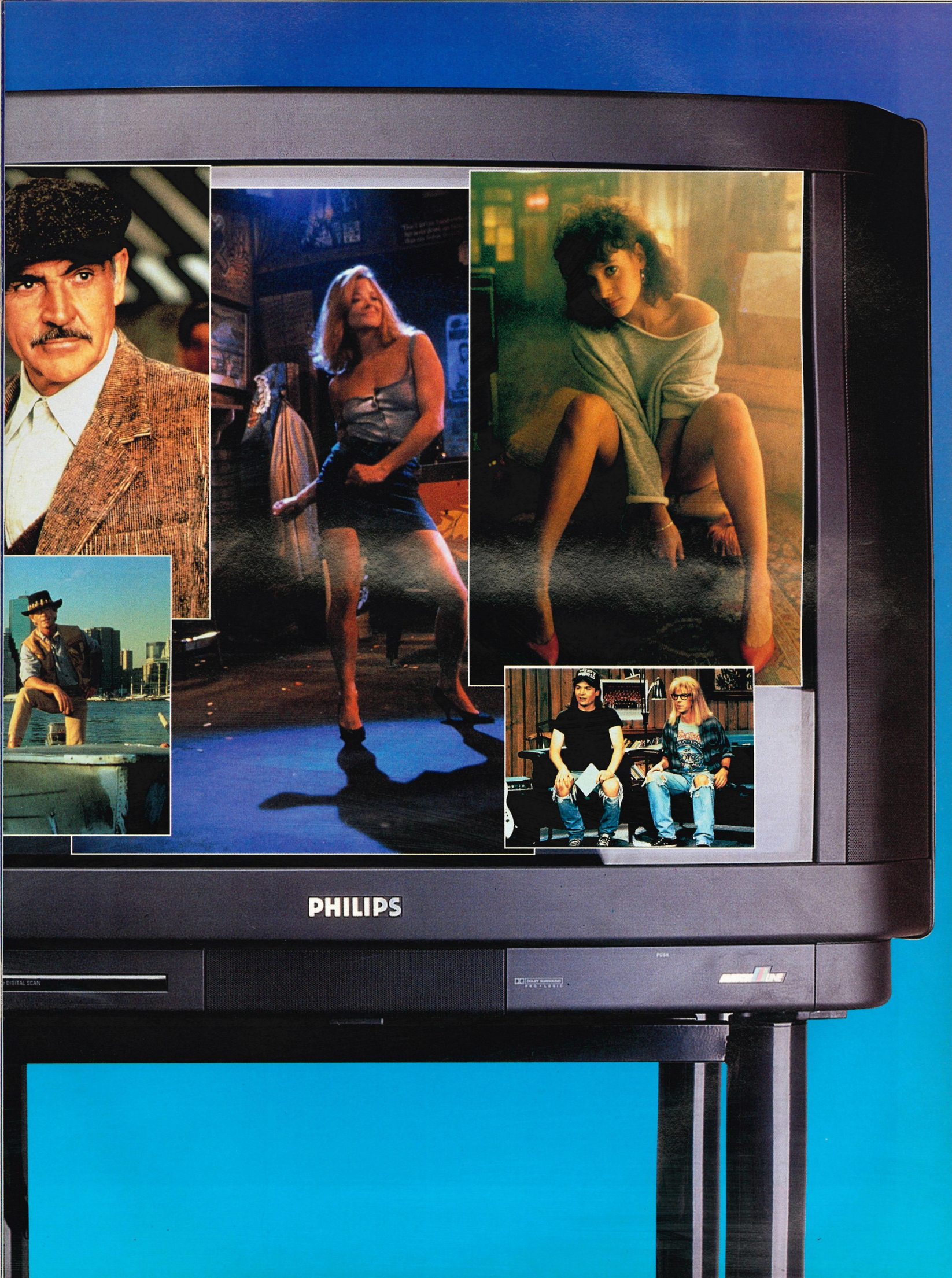
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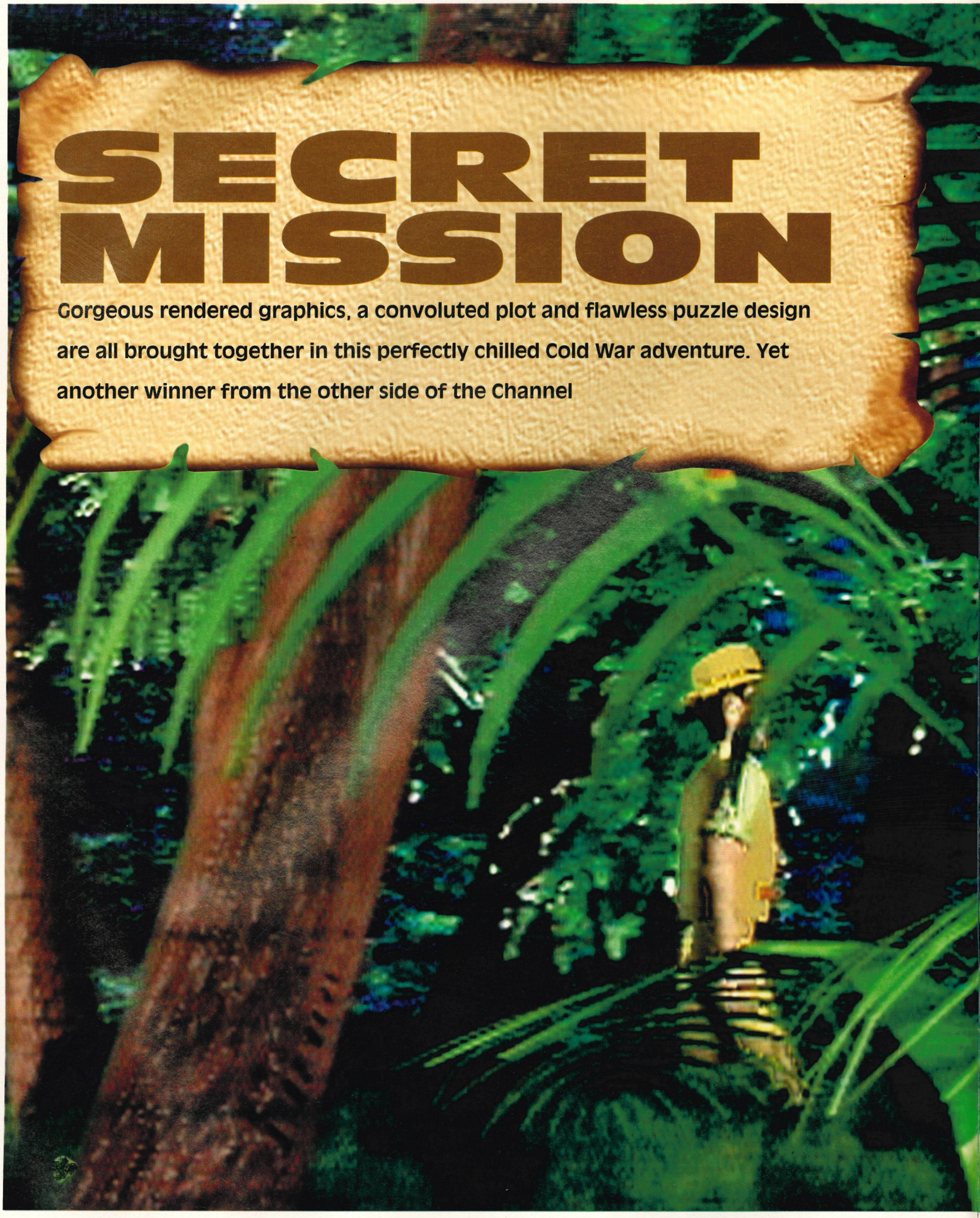
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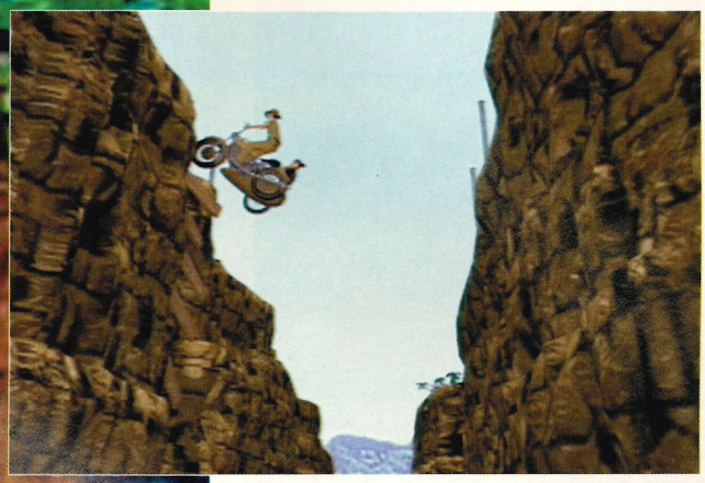

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SECRET MISSION

Gorgeous rendered graphics, a convoluted plot and flawless puzzle design are all brought together in this perfectly chilled Cold War adventure. Yet another winner from the other side of the Channel





Picture a Hollywood blockbuster, a spy thriller centered on the American-Soviet struggle in the IndoChina-tinged land of Opalia, 1952. As the camera fixes on an airstrip, a prop plane eases to a halt. Our Hero steps out, resplendent in a well-cut, slim, grey suit and matching hat. But wait! Somebody sneaks up behind our suave dangerman, delivering a crushing blow to the skull which immediately knocks him unconscious. The assailant is shot, but not before the damage has been done.

When our man finally comes round in a hotel room he can't remember a thing — where he is, who he is, and what he's supposed to be doing. Then, just when he's wondering about the bottle of chloroform by the bed, a glamorous Soviet spy whisks him off to a restaurant, explaining that he's a double agent — an American spy secretly working for Eastern powers. All this dealing and double-dealing is tied in with Opalia's leader, Colonel Vishaka, and his mysterious past as a member of the fierce Thugnot tribe. But who to believe? What to do? And how to go about it? The adventure has only just begun.

It's thrilling stuff. But this is no movie, this is the premise of *Secret Mission*, a superbly-realised graphic adventure from French developer Microids. But such a lavish storyline is only the first of many delights to be found within this cinematic

RATINGS

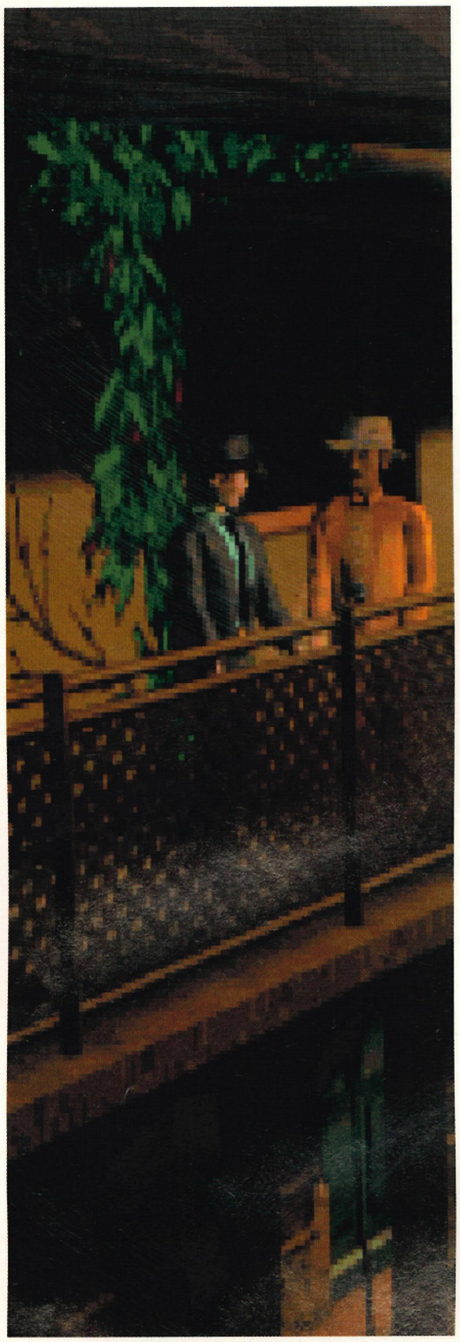
Graphics: 89%

Sound: 85%

Longevity: 80%

Overall: 88%

Price: £29.99 **Out: now**



styled experience.

For, not content with adhering to standard adventure game formula the developers have worked hard to push the quality of the graphics, the control system and even the smooth flow of the story. The result is a near seamless blend of gorgeous pre-rendered cut-scenes and classic graphic adventure exploration and puzzle-solving elements.

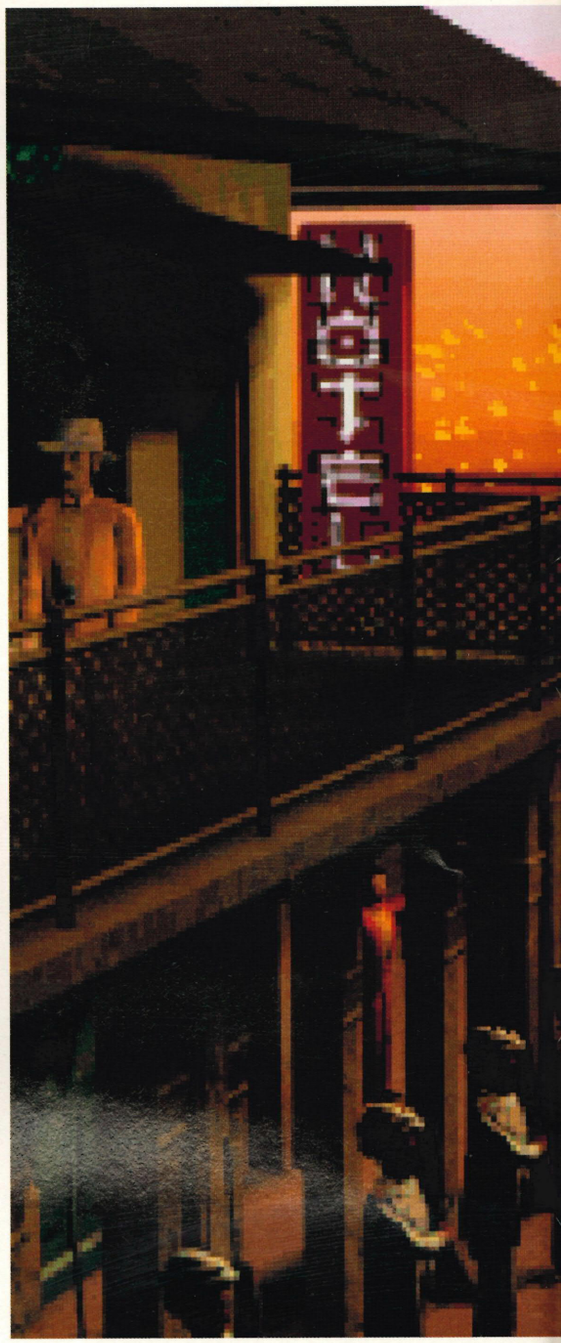
While all too many games focus lavish attention on the pre-rendered scenes only to highlight the graphical shortcomings of the game proper, *Secret Mission* ties the two together brilliantly. To this end, the in-game characters are complex polygonal shapes rather than pre-drawn images, not unlike the ones found in the *Alone In the Dark* games. Granted, this makes things look less than realistic, but it also adds an individual style to the game, and makes for more naturalistic, believable animation. Our hero has limbs which actually move fluidly, and that natty suit even gets shaded properly. The backdrops are similarly impressive, usually viewed either isometrically, from the front or directly from above, but always so as to offer the best view of a situation.

The real magic lies with the rendered sequences, however. Microids has opted for a more cartoon style that's in keeping with the in-game graphics. In play the two work together brilliantly, ensuring that the transition between them is smooth and filmic. At the same time, care has been taken to keep these cut scenes to a minimum. It's even possible for players to stop them short, ensuring that the interactive elements always get top billing. Quite right too.

Sound and music further heighten the cinematic feel of the game. Different locations and events carry their own signature tunes, ranging from typical Asian motifs to more sinister or moody arrangements and melodies.

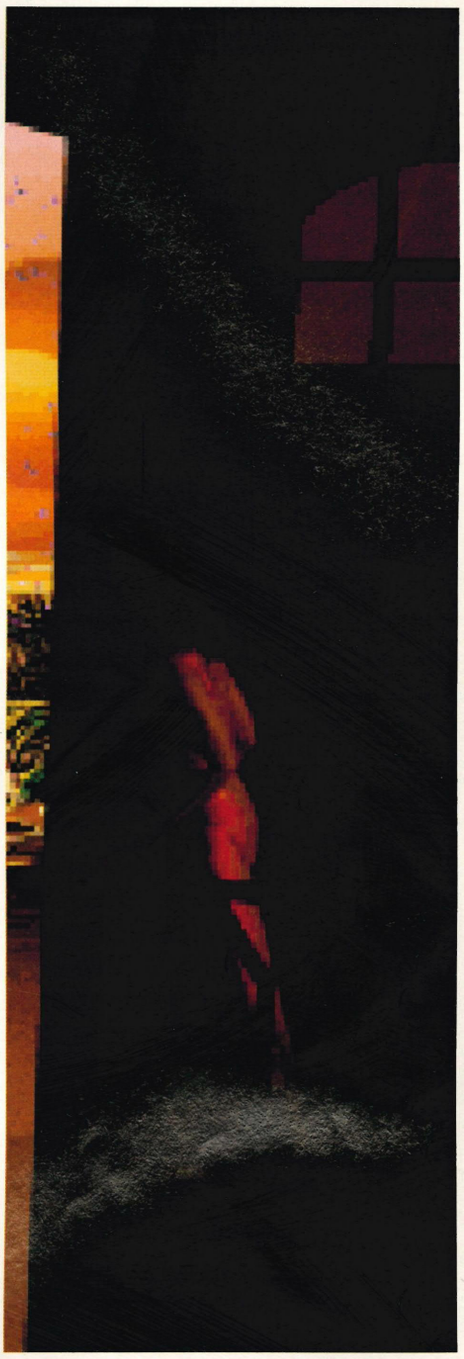
Speech is an integral part of the action, too. Indeed, characters encountered will usually have plenty to say, and the range of accents is enjoyable, if a little strange for a game set in an Asian country. (Quite what an Australian doctor with an English rose of a secretary are doing here is anybody's guess.) Gamers with hearing difficulties are catered for too, thanks to a subtitle option — a thoughtful touch.

But all the neat graphical and sonic effects in the world can't save a dodo of a game, so it's with some relief that *Secret Mission* shows just as much attention to detail in the actual game structure. Even the control system has been devised to work as simply as possible, and get round any shortcomings posed by the CD-i controller. No point and click actions are necessary, our amnesiac hero's movement is under direct control, and novices can master the art of using, combining, giving and examining objects in no time. It's hard to imagine a better system in a CD-i adventure game.



It's the actual structure of puzzles, objects and locations which clinches it for *Secret Mission*, however. Problems posed are often just as inspired by spy movies or the





exploits of Indiana Jones as they are by other adventure games. Using a towel and chloroform to thwart a snake is excellent stuff, while the process by which entry to a secret chamber to the palace is gained is brilliantly convoluted without ever being tiresome.

You know you're playing a good adventure when the number of visitable locations appears limited. *Secret Mission* not only reins things in to a few key places, initially, but it also provides very few objects to play around with. Progress is, therefore, more often than not, a matter of logically sussing things out, rather than blindly trying out every object in every possible way. Solve one thing, and invariably two other events result. In this way the game unfolds like the very best puzzles, revealing itself just a little at first, then unfolding into a surprisingly convoluted story. And just when you think that a location has exhausted all its uses, it becomes necessary to visit it just one more time. In this way, an average-sized adventure promises quite a substantial amount of game time.

That said, this isn't exactly the most expansive adventure game ever. Maybe it's because French developers see things differently to UK and US programmers, or perhaps it's just down to the rich subject matter, but *Secret Mission* is awash with clever little touches and pleasant surprises.

Without giving too much away, a little into the game there's a sequence which gives the player control of a different character, while a later scene transforms into an interactive gunfight. Even the normal illogical actions which usually display the shortcomings of adventure games are attended to. Ask the receptionist to look for your keys and he begins searching. Ask again and he'll complain that he's already trying. Most games wouldn't have a pre-programmed response for such an action, but here such bases are almost always covered.

Criticisms of the game are few. The depiction of Opalia is somewhat muddled — a strange mix of different Asian countries — but this is nothing serious. The linearity is a little more worrying, but with such a well-plotted game it's hard to see how it could be devised in any other way. The dialogue, however, does betray one or two sloppy moments. Some conversations are just plain dull, while others lack the necessary flow. It sounds as if several of the voices were provided by the same actor, too.

But such complaints are minor, particularly when dealing with a game as fresh and pleasurable as this. Because the graphic adventure has been around in one form or another for over 10 years, it's all too easy to stick the same old puzzles in the same old scenarios. Full marks to Microids, then, for daring to try something a little different. *Secret Mission* not only possesses a story that's refreshing, but it carries it off using a finely-honed user interface and some brilliantly individual graphics. This is one spy story that's definitely worth investigating.

MARK RAMSHAW





It's been a long time coming but has it been worth waiting for Argonaut's alien blaster? Looks like it

CREATURE SHOCK

Games involving inflicting extreme violence on other life forms have been few and far between on CD-i. Okay, there was *Mutant Rampage* which was a fair stab at the scrolling hack 'n' slash genre, but when it comes to satisfying those urges for sheer, blood-crazed barbarianism, CD-i owners have had to rely on simply teeing off on *Palm Springs Open* with a bit more savagery than normal. Not any more though. Prepare to load your weapons and glue your thumbs to the fire button of your controller — *Creature Shock* is finally here.

We previewed this extensively last autumn when it was hoped that the game would compete for shelf space in the Christmas market. Unfortunately, as Dave McElhatten stated in the February issue, third party developers have run into a few problems porting games over to the CD-i platform. Hence the delay. But rest assured, it has been worth the wait.

Just in case you missed the preview, here's a brief recap. First, the background. *Doom* rewrote the rulebook for computer games, simple as that. With its first shareware release, developer Id built on the 3D engine it had developed originally for the Nazi-hunting game *Wolfenstein*, refining and re-modelling it into something rather spectacular. The hype ('Stop This Videogame



RATINGS

Graphics: 95%

Sound: 77%

Longevity: 83%

Overall: 86%

Price: tba Out: June

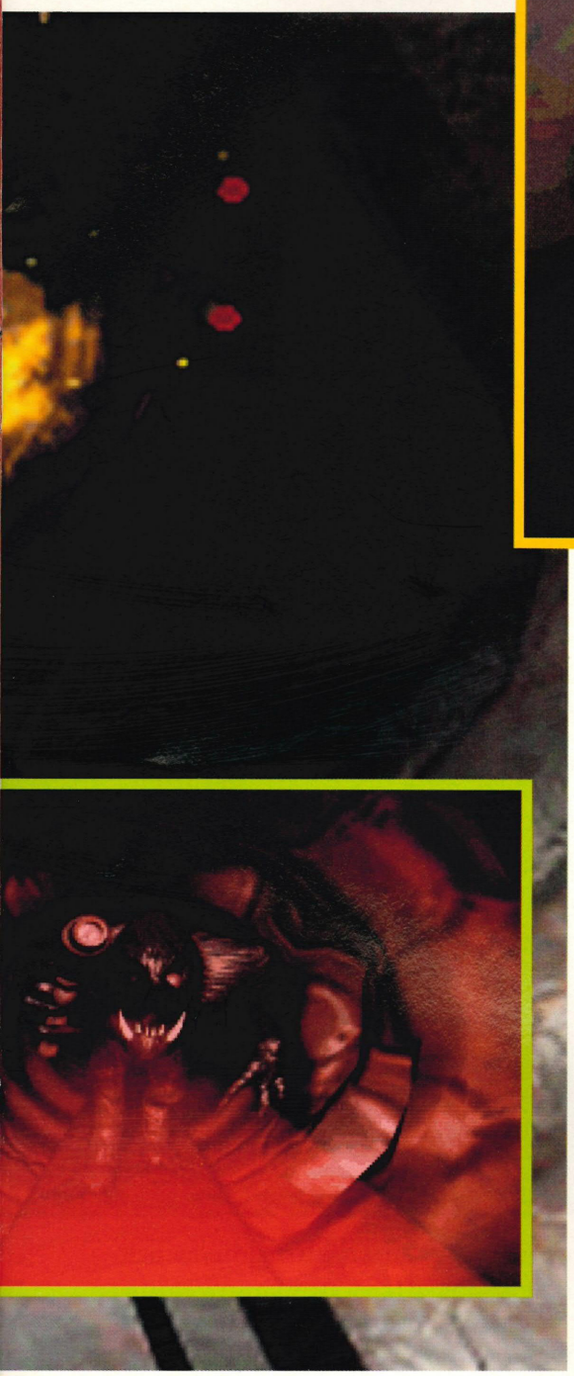
Sickness', 'Our Kids In Peril From Game Nasty' etcetera etcetera) did the rest. Since then, every platform going has had its own 3D blaster jockeying for attention.

CD-i's version has finally arrived, but *Creature Shock* is not wholly a *Doom*-type game. Argonaut has eschewed the 3D real-time engine approach and instead assembled a mammoth collection of MPEG sequences to be streamed off the two discs involved. There's a trade-off involved here obviously and *Creature Shock* has gone the route of valuing graphics over speed. Was that a wise choice? Well, let's put it like this: do bears crap in the woods?

You might not be able to steam through the game at a rate of knots shouting 'Banzai!' at your TV screen and giving the cat a nervous breakdown, but with graphics this good it doesn't really matter. The game looks sumptuous and the succession of glorious pre-rendered sequences that are thrown off the CD generate an atmosphere all of their own.

As you stalk watchfully round the five different levels of the game you can't help but get sucked into the whole thing. Wire the player up to your hi-fi, turn off the lights and suddenly you are completely on your own walking through a luridly biological maze of corridors with only your heartbeat pounding in your ears.

Open an airlock, and suddenly there's some strange and disturbingly-shaped alien machinery of unknown function looming into the distance. It's un-nervingly claustrophobic and when an alien does appear there's quite a significant danger of a minor coronary episode. (During our playtesting at least two cups of tea were spilled and there





were a couple of brief, truncated and high pitched 'eeks'.)

Though the graphics are consistently good — Gourard-shaded and raytraced with what looks like some form of motion capture used to get the human movements correct — the aliens are something else. Alternately chitinous and scuttling or gloopy and squelching, they're an obvious nod to Giger's original Alien (the film) design, while still being original. Revolting too, with a hideous collection of multi-jointed tentacles, scabrous legs, rending claws and the like. Those meeting an Argonaut developer down a dark alley by some chance are advised to turn round and leg it in no uncertain manner.

We've established that it looks rather magnificent, but the big question is, how does it play? Well, not bad at all. After you've gone through the lengthy, scene-setting intros (which you can comfortably just click past after seeing them once) you're into the mazes and shooting. You seem to be wearing some form of Head Mounted Display with an intelligent cursor disguised as part of your ingame equipment hovering in the air in front of you which governs both movement and weaponry. It's similar to the one used in *Burn:Cycle* and though it can mean that the appearance of the foe is telegraphed as it changes over to crosshair mode, that's a relatively minor drawback.

In the bottom left-hand corner of the screen your current health and gun charge is displayed. Various powerups are dotted throughout the levels, providing you with more life (useful), an upgrade in weaponry (very useful) or more smart bombs (incredibly useful). Collision detection is generally good and there is only the occasional incidence of hitting the monster straight between the eyes and the game failing to register the hit. One thing that you must beware of, though, is that your HMD tracks anything in the crosshairs so you have to compensate for that movement when you're firing. It's tricky, but you soon get the hang of it.

One of our big gripes when we previewed the game was the inordinate amount of time it took to load the succession of MPEG sequences. That has now been dealt with, and while a game based on this format is never going to be seamless, the pauses are as brief as any we've seen yet. This allows for some effects to work brilliantly. Let an alien get through your defences, for instance, and a cutaway scene of the attack is swiftly played before you're then shifted back rapidly into the game.

If *Creature Shock* has any problem it's with the sound. Choosing a prerendered format over a 3D engine definitely plays to CD-i's strengths as a market leading audio/visual player, but the audio side is a complete let down. The FX are weedy, more in keeping with a machine with a limited sound chip than one with CD quality audio. The guns should thunder, instead they pop and while some of the alien sounds are disturbingly biological the overall audio impression is a bit flat.

This game would have been the perfect opportunity to do some mucking about with Surround Sound and create FX that would have people leaping through the ceiling. Maybe the next one. In the meantime though, just watch those visuals.

ANDY STOUT



AROUND ATLANTA

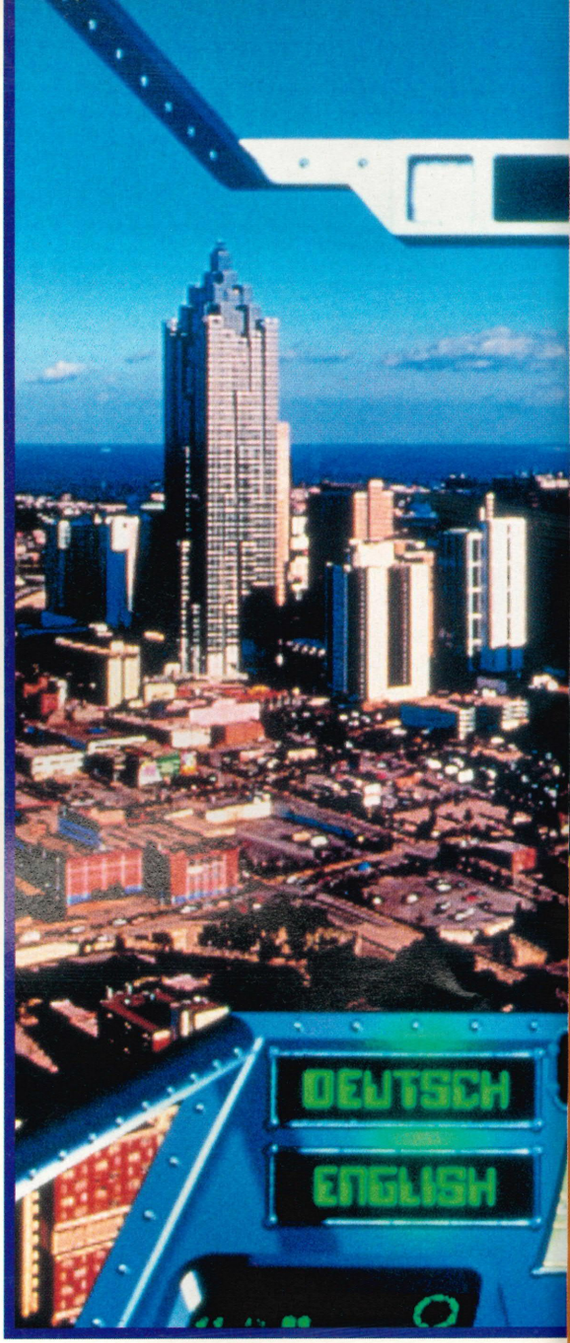
Off to the Olympics this year? Not only have you far too much money, you should also take a look at this

Those of you who have not been hibernating for the past four years will know that Atlanta, Georgia, is hosting this year's Olympic Games. Over the next three or four months the city will be swamped with hundreds of thousands of TV crews, pundits, athletes, spectators, and bog standard tourists. The Olympic organisers expect to sell a staggering 11 million tickets for the hundreds of events that are crammed into the three weeks that follow the opening ceremony. But even that figure looks anaemic alongside the TV audience of two *billion* people who are expected to tune in.

Which brings us to *Around Atlanta*, a PC-CD-ROM and CD-i title that aims to demystify and describe the attractions of a city that, for most Western Europeans, is known only as a flaming backdrop for Clark Gable and Vivian Leigh in *Gone with the Wind*. But the cinematic image disguises the rich and varied reality of a city that has played a central part of American history from the Civil War to CNN.

Icons of Americana litter the city's streets: Martin Luther King's birthplace, Coca Cola's headquarters, the hustings where Jimmy Carter's Bicentennial Presidential campaign was born. The disc attempts to address the vastness of Atlanta's historical hinterland while at the same time embracing the more traditional roles of a City Guide and Olympic Event Planner.

The $64,000 question is, does it work, and would I want to buy it? Well, "sort of" and "maybe", but let's look at the disc's positive points first. Without doubt, the best of these is the disc's main interface: you look out from a helicopter hovering over the centre of Atlanta and you can rotate the view across a 360 degree panorama with a simple click of a button.



Dotted around on the near and far horizons are 50 hot spots. Some are obviously landmarks, such as the Olympic Stadium or the Westin Peachtree Plaza ("the highest hotel in the Western hemisphere"). Others take you to interviews with leading Atlantan figures such as hurdler Ed Moses, Mayor Bill Campbell and the former Eastern Bloc gymnast Olga Korbut.

Marvellous so far, but what all the hot spots have in common is that they are solely video based — there are no interactive Q&A sessions or rendered 3D environments to potter about in. This leaves you with simply a succession of video files that get streamed directly off the



disc which isn't particularly memorable when you realise you are supposed to be watching a "second generation" multimedia product.

The quality of them is a bit disappointing too, wholeheartedly geared to the undemanding American market and having little of the pizzaz that would normally grace a European production.

The other main sections of the disc are divided between a map of the city — crammed with facts about the best shops, night clubs, cinemas and hotels — and a planner containing over 1000 "useful" addresses and details about the timetable and venues of the Olympic events. The presentation is slick and the research appears well informed (if a little skewed towards the needs of a randy male tourist). What's missing, though, is the kind of two-way interaction you need to get people really involved in the disc, such as a way to search the hotel database by price or location.

The final impression of *Around Atlanta* is that it tries to do too many things sketchily without doing one thing brilliantly. There are genuinely innovative and exciting elements — the Quicktime VR-like helicopter pilot interface springs immediately to mind — but too often the presentation raises expectations that the content can't quite meet. The suspicion is that the producers didn't have the will or the money to licence enough relevant and interesting material to make *Around Atlanta* a truly multimedia experience. There's no actual Olympic footage (not even a logo) for instance and how can you produce a disc about Atlanta without showing a single clip from *Gone with the Wind*?

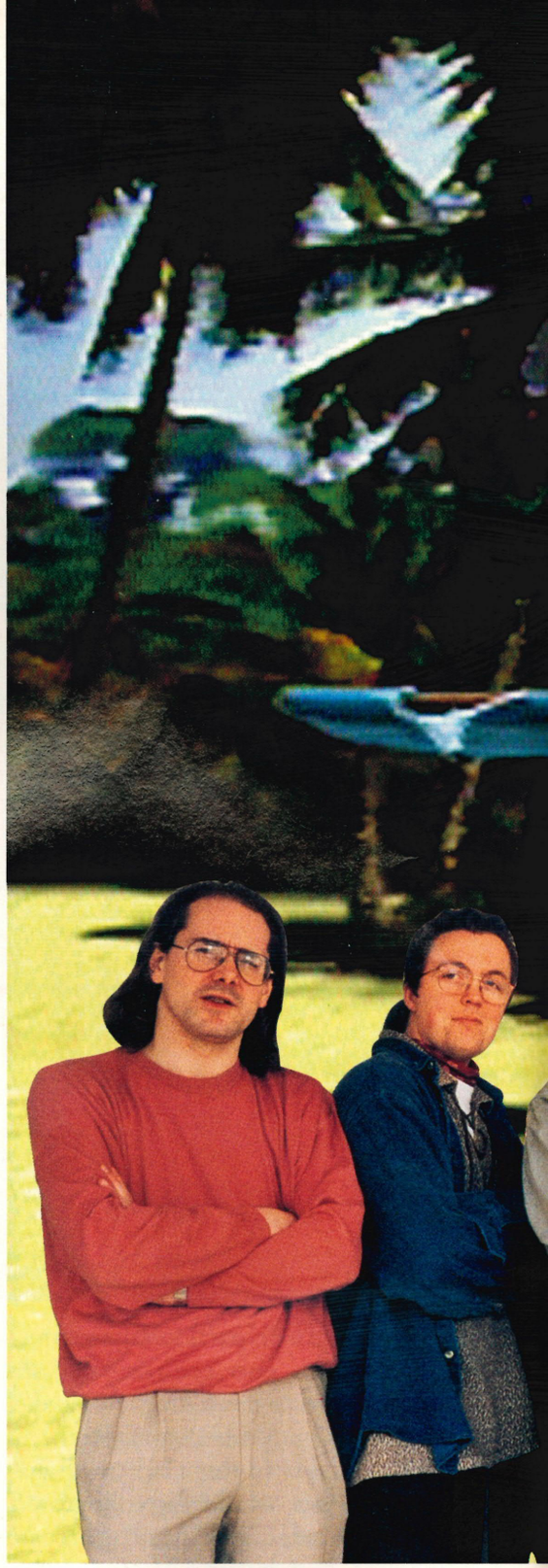
That leaves *Around Atlanta* to stand on its merits as a city guide. It's not bad and certainly it contains visual elements that a guidebook is never going to be able to reproduce. But it certainly doesn't make the Atlanta guidebook an extinct species. Watch one, read the other, and you should achieve a perfect balance.

Rating: ☆☆☆☆
Price: £29.99
Out: May

PATRICK BATEMAN

MISSION IMPOSSIBLE

Secret Mission is the latest example of a French development team pushing back the boundaries of gaming in a peculiarly European style. CD-i investigates the men behind the mission



In the ever-evolving world of the adventure game, some of the greatest advances during the past 10 years have been made across the Channel in France. There's no real reason why British and French developers should produce such radically different games, but developers such as Delphine, Infogrames and Adeline have been adding quirky touches and strange ideas to the graphic adventure format which UK programmers could never have devised.

With *Secret Mission*, Microids is the latest French developer to carve a name for itself in the world of adventures, imbuing its creation with enough graphical flair, classic storytelling touches, and clever user interface ideas to make it an adventure gaming experience quite unlike any other. *Secret Mission*'s lead programmer Franck Quero and producer Olivier Grassiano in particular take up the story.

"Secret Mission is actually the first game we've developed for CD-i," they admit. "Before this our development team was responsible for the PC wargame *Dominium*, and *Genesia*, a strategy game which has sold more than 150,000 copies and received several awards, including France's Tilt d'Or."

No small *pomme de terre*. But it's with Microids' latest creation that the company has really come of age. While everybody else seems to be taking their games into the far flung future or into the depths of fantasy gaming, *Secret Mission* offers a classic espionage scenario of American spies versus Soviet agents, with an amnesiac double agent in the pivotal role.

"The main idea was to do a spy adventure set in the 1950s, which gives us the opportunity to make use of the Cold War," says Franck. "The amnesiac hero element brings the advantage that the player has to discover his own identity, who he should be working for, and what his real mission is. The inspiration came from a few famous comic books and, of course, classic American spy novels."

Given the cinematic nature of the game, it's no surprise to find that Microids looked to the movie world of inspiration when creating their hero. "Inspiration came from the *Indiana Jones* trilogy and also the *James Bond* movies," explain Frack and Olivier. "Essentially we were looking for a cross between Indiana and Bond, but a character who is less heroic, more naive and more human. And so JEF4 was born."

Although the superb storytelling holds the game together, it's the unique visuals which initially are bound to stir players' interests. Olivier says: "The idea was to employ 3D to portray the character so that we had the freedom to change the camera angle to any point of view. Such flexibility gave us the opportunity to create scenes with a more cinematic, realistic edge." And with the various backgrounds, Olivier reveals that "the images were created in 2D, but to add realism to the scenes we used textures which were digitised from various sources. Many were from pictures and documents obtained directly from Indonesia."

Secret Mission features many pre-rendered cut-scenes, but while too many games add them at the expense of gameplay, or feature such shoddy in-game graphics that they stick out a mile, Microids has taken care to tie the two elements together



The men from mission control

as seamlessly as possible.

"The idea was not only to bring some beautiful cinematic scenes to the game, but also to link the different interactive scenes together with logical transitions. Moreover, while the CD-i is loading the next interactive scene, we can play back the rendered scene, so there's no blank screen or any other sign that there's disc loading going on."

It's no surprise, then, to find that each of the rendered scenes took two graphics artists up to two weeks to compose. And then each location required its own stereo music and appropriate sound effects.

"We spent six months alone doing pre-production work developing the scenario, game layout and design and so on," says Franck. "The main game development then took about 18 months, with another six taken up with post-production work — adding the sound and music, tweaking and gameplay testing."

The result is a game which feels markedly different from all other adventure games; one that feels right at home on the CD-i. "The central idea was to make a real adventure specifically-targeted for CD-i players," agrees Olivier. "Consequently we looked for a movie-oriented game. We wanted to create an interactive movie, requiring no on-screen text, no cursor, and including as many cinematic elements and sound enhancements as possible.

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Programming for the CD-i enabled us to present the game in 16 million colours and to make use of the machines' powerful audio capabilities." Microids was also keen to avoid using the Digital Video card, ensuring that all CD-i players can experience the game.

Although interaction is always at the heart of *Secret Mission*, there's a strong cinematic element at work. "If it does appear movie-like, that's because of the various viewing angles, and also the use of lighting and zooming, which were often inspired by famous movies and descriptions in spy books," reckons Franck. "The big adventure movies were a huge influence, particularly those by George Lucas and Steven Spielberg."

Given their admiration of Lucas' films, it's no surprise to find that Microids' most-rated adventure games include LucasArts efforts such as *Monkey Island 2*, *Day Of The Tentacle* and *Indiana Jones*, although more interactive movie-style fare, such as *Under A Killing Moon* also features in their list of favourites. It's not hard to see how *Secret Mission* draws the best elements from both styles, to come up with something cinematic yet always interactive, and pleasingly cartoon-like.

Such keen use of movie-techniques suggest that Microids places a lot of faith in the rise of the Hollywood-tinged games. Olivier agrees: "We think the games will increasingly become more like interactive movies, particularly given the ambience it's possible to generate with graphics and audio these days. The special effects are becoming important. Users need easier control interfaces, too."

Similarly, Microids sees the use of rendered graphics as a positive thing. "Indeed, in adventure gaming in particular, they'll become very important. One of our next projects, called *Evidence*, will have all its graphics rendered using SoftImage on Silicon Graphics machines, giving us the chance to create the most convincing backgrounds and characters possible. The advantage of such rendered images is that our game designers will have no limits — they will be able to create anything."

And what about using real actors on screen? "Real actors and real images can be very important too," says Franck. "They make it possible to create other types of adventure games. For *The Legend of the Fort*, one of our next releases, the adventure is set in a real, famous fort, and so using real actors and backgrounds is necessary to maintain the quality and feel of the product."

Of course, the big question is whether there will be any further escapades for *Secret Mission* hero JEF4. "Yes, he'll be back in a new adventure," reveals Olivier. "But it seems he's become amnesiac for a second time," he adds cryptically, "he just can't remember the title of his new adventure."

Finally then, what about this bizarre style difference between games developers on either side of the Channel? "We don't see many differences between British and French games," they state flatly. Given the wonderfully individual experience that is *Secret Mission*, be thankful they're wrong.

MARK RAMSHAW

WHAT NEXT FROM MICROIDS?

The masterful French development team currently have three more CD-i projects on the boil. Franck and Olivier spill the beans

EVIDENCE

More, er, evidence of Microids' penchant for inventive scenarios and obtuse story-telling, Olivier tells us: "Evidence offers the possibility to participate in a classical adventure, which also features 3D real time action scenes and even shoot-'em-up sequences."

The plot of the cross-genre gameplay is that Channel 7's prime time news reporter has been murdered. Dan Singer, the TV station's investigative journalist has only a few hours to clear his own name, discover the identity of the real murderer and discover the link between the death and the city's drug trafficking. Apparently we'll be "stoned by the beauty of the graphics!"

Er, right.

FORT BOYARD THE CHALLENGE

A more conventional sounding title, Microids' second project focuses on standard computer graphics for the majority of the game, with video images used only for the animated sequences between the interactive moments. Various mental, reflexive and sporting games are promised in this spin-off from a well-known French TV show.

Microids explains: "You have 75 minutes to explore the game's locations and find the seven hidden keys. To achieve this 18 tests must be passed, using individual members of a six-strong team for each test."

THE LEGEND OF THE FORT

Another game set inside the walls of Fort Boyard, this title actually has nothing else in common with *Fort Boyard The Challenge* or its associated TV show. Rather, this is a full adventure game.

"You search for the treasure of Fort Boyard, which was hidden by Napoleon before his exile on Saint Helena island," explains Franck. "Many people have tried to find it — without success — as this treasure, so much desired, holds a terrible secret."

Education and fun with the ever popular Tim and Bear and the excellent interactive reading scheme Pathways

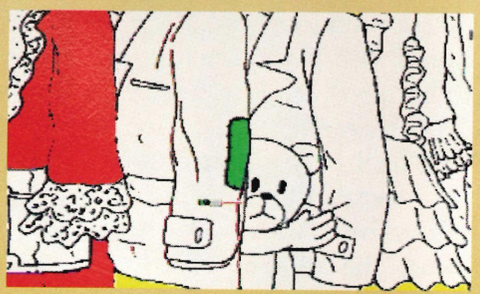


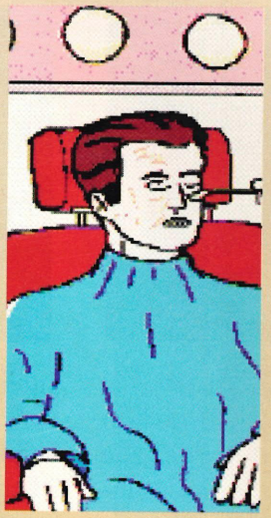
TIM AND BEAR AT THE MOVIES



Tim and Bear at the Movies is the forth interactive disc in the Tim and Bear series. The first title, *Tim and Bear at the Hospital*, is the best selling children's title in Europe and the second, *Tim and Bear in Europe*, won the Gold Award at the New York Festival in 1994. The whole series covers important circumstances which occur in everyday life seen through the eyes of a child and which are explained in a simple and understandable way.

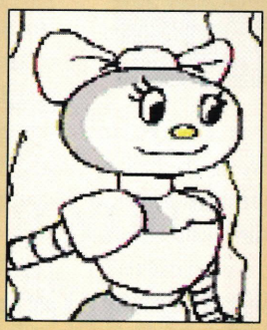
This disc explores the movie industry. Through an unfolding cartoon, Tim and Bear are introduced to the various people that work in the movies. By bringing up a menu, descriptions of different people's jobs can be accessed. There is also a colouring option where various scenes from the cartoon can be coloured in on-screen.







Drawings by (clockwise from top): Rikki, Aiden and Alex Pace from the Victoria School





At regular intervals the cartoon branches so that the child can choose which of the two main characters to follow next. The whole idea is for the disc to be both fun and informative.

We took our copy of *Tim and Bear at the Movies* to a local primary school, Victoria School in Feltham, where the Year 4 children under the supervision of their teacher, Miss Kennedy, reviewed our disc.



Miss Kennedy asked her class what they thought of *Tim and Bear*. They all enjoyed watching it and would watch it again. Aiden and Jamie agreed that if they had a CD-i player at home, they would play with it all the time. They would all recommend it to their friends and Rikki and Lee went so far as to say that they would recommend it to everyone. All the children had favourite bits: Suzanna's best bit was "when they went and did the film"; Aiden and Jamie's favourite was "when Bear got kidnapped"; and Rikki and Lee "the face Bear pulled when he was hungry".

Miss Kennedy's class gave a score of 10/10 for Tim and Bear at the Movies.

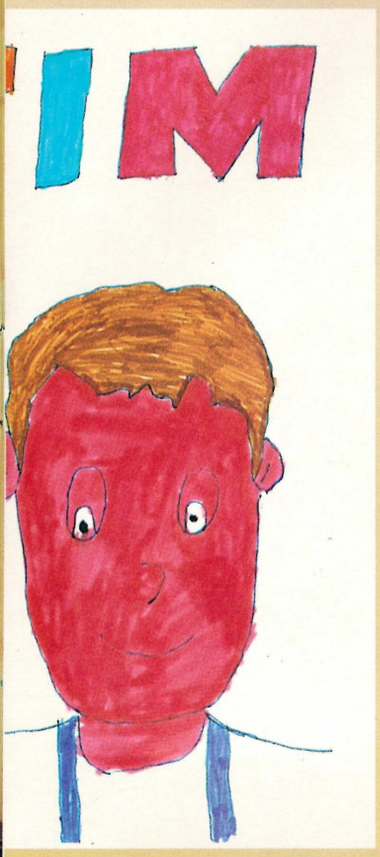
Price: £19.99

Out: 22-04

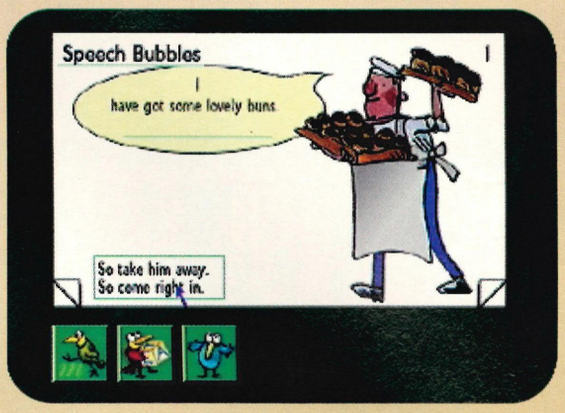
Teacher's Notes:

All 28 of my Year 4 children, who are between 8 and 9 years old, were enthralled with *Tim and Bear at the Movies*, and often laughed. They all enjoyed watching it and couldn't wait to have a go on their own. One child commented: "It's just like your own cartoon". The children were all trying to predict what would happen next.

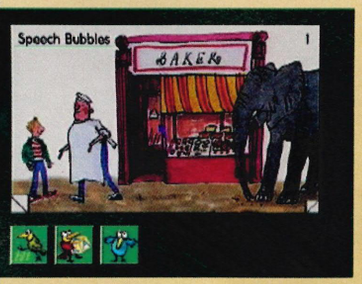
As a teacher, I would say that *Tim and Bear at the Movies* is good for Key Stage 1 children, because in the National Curriculum it states that the children have to "give direct signals or commands that produce a variety of outcomes, and describe the effects of their actions". It would also be valuable to Key Stage 2 children with special needs as it promotes interest in fiction through the many different story-lines.



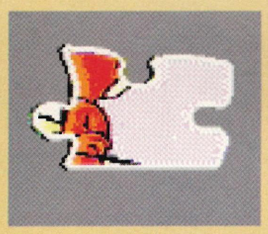


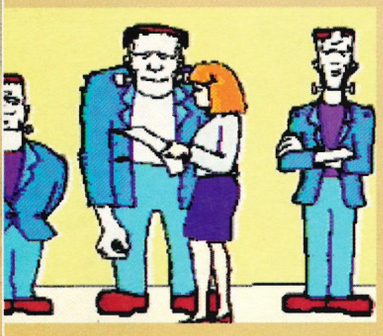














PATHWAYS

Created by Harper Collins, one of the UK's leading educational publishers, the Pathways *reading scheme has been a phenomenal success in book form. To date, 140 books have been published in the series and the scheme is used in 15% of UK primary schools. By the end of the year, a further 110 titles will have been added and it is forecast that the number of participating schools will have risen to 25%.*

The scheme is aimed at children aged 4-7 and the interactive version contains three humorous stories: You Can Eat My Bicycle (4 year olds), Red Bird (5 years) and You Can't Park an Elephant in a Car Park (6 year olds). Visual effects, audio and text are all integrated in the disc and there is also an online help facility.

The disc also has a variety of activities, which include games such as identifying initial letter sounds and rhymes and testing knowledge of alphabetical order. Finally, there is a poetry section where users can animate the illustrations and activate different parts of the poem.

Miss Kennedy's class gave a score of 8/10 for *Pathways* .

Price: £19.99
Out: 22/04

Teacher's Notes:

Pathways is an excellent way of helping to teach children basic reading skills, not only because they don't realise that they are learning, but because the exercises are stimulating and varied.

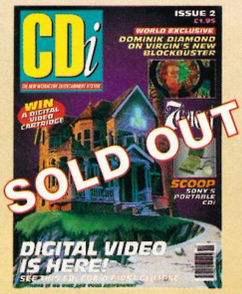
The National Curriculum states that Key Stage 1 children "should be given extensive experience of children's literature. They should read on their own, with others and to the teacher, from a range of genres that includes stories, poetry, plays and picture books. They should read information in print and on the screen". Although ideal for Key Stage 1 children, I think the exercises would also benefit Key Stage 2 children with special needs by reinforcing phonic skills at a junior level. Letter sounds, word patterns, rhymes and spellings are all covered on *Pathways*.

The children found the interface easy to navigate, liked the noises it made and enjoyed learning from *Pathways*.

BACK ISSUES

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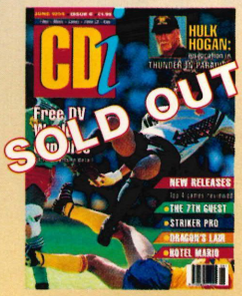




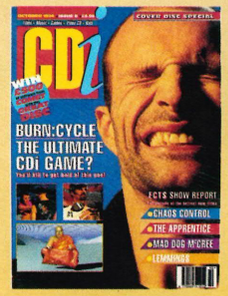




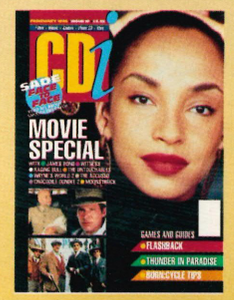




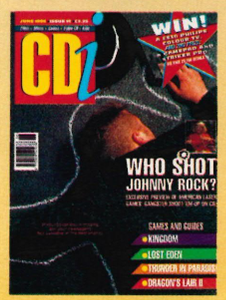




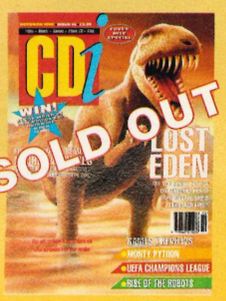


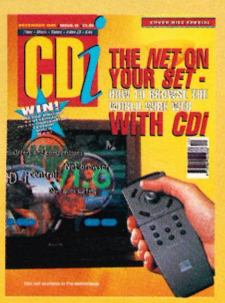






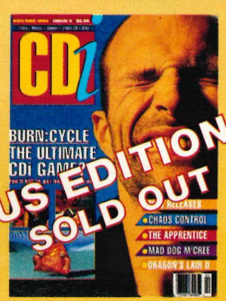






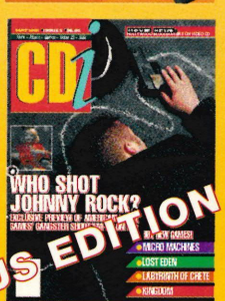












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PG

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PHILIPS

Okay, so there might not be a Glastonbury this year but who needs one? Unlike Glasto, our give-away disc, A costs you nothing, B isn't full of mud, and C is a juggler free zone. So sit back and let PMI bring the music to your door

TOKEN 1

CDi's FREE FESTIVAL

Admittedly we're a little bit early with the Glastonbury allusions but when we found out that we were going to be giving away this free disc we got all moist with excitement. Basically, it's a sampler of PMI's extensive Video CD music catalogue and features 10 of the biggest acts that the company have on their books. Well, 10 of the biggest acts in the world actually.

This is a limited edition disc and we've only got 5,000 of them to give away. You'll need to send us two tokens (the second will be printed in the News section of the June issue) but before you start shredding the magazine in a frenzy of excitement, here's a brief guide to our own free festival.

Queen: Radio Ga Ga

To recreate that authentic festival experience, just pop out into the garden and bring in a couple of tonnes of mud. Dump it onto the carpet and rub it into your hair. You also need to do some choreographed handclapping so watch *Radio Ga Ga* for pointers. Five years after Freddie's sad death, Queen are still one of the world's biggest bands. Magnificent.

Tina Turner: I Don't Wanna Fight

Next up is Aunty Entity herself with *I Don't Wanna Fight* . Turner has made a habit of playing huge gigs in Rio so you might want to slip a 100 watt bulb into the light socket and pretend you're getting severe sunburn.

David Bowie: China Girl

Time to brush up on your heckling skills. *China Girl* is a damn fine song from Bowie's yuppie-icon period, but there's no reason not to shout out for him to play something else. Yell *Life On Mars* or *Space Oddity* at the TV, and Bowie will conspicuously ignore you — in fact just like the real thing.

Pet Shop Boys: Domino Dancing

As these are all promo videos, getting that essential festie atmosphere can be slightly tricky. You could try to recreate the wonderful experience of the chemical toilets, but for reasons of both hygiene and sanity we would recommend otherwise. Sit back and simply mellow out then, to probably the most influential dance acts of the past decade while revelling in the fact that you've got flushable plumbing.

Kate Bush: Hounds Of Love

Because the Ed has had a ginormous crush on Kate Bush for the better part of two decades we had better not put any jokes in here. We would just like to say that she's possibly the most beautiful, talented and wonderful woman on the face of the

















planet (with the possible exception of Jet from The Gladiators) and do we still get our cheques?

Pink Floyd: Take It Back

Why, what's wrong with it? Arf arf. Sorry about that, but it's all too easy to run out of superlatives about Floyd who've been playing festivals since some time in the Cretaceous period. Just light some sandalwood joss sticks, paint your faces and come out with a few jokes that'll reduce a stoned hippy into jelly, like, what do you do with a spaceman? Park in it, man.

Oasis: Some Might Say

Are Oasis geniuses or do the Gallagher brothers just have a damn good record collection? You, the viewer will decide. For fantastic festival frolics, just pretend that the sofa is a group of Blur fans and hurl abuse and empty beer cans at them.

Beastie Boys: Sabotage

Dance around a lot. Jump in the air. Shout at the top of your lungs. Repeat till fade.

Duran Duran: Ordinary World

The big one, the final act of the Saturday night. By now you should be cold, dirty, smelly, have a mild dose of food poisoning and no beer left due to a passing *NME* journalist nabbing it all when you weren't looking. Therefore just watch Duran Duran and enjoy.

Cliff Richard: My Pretty One

For those who don't want the mainstream festival experience, though, there's always the side tents featuring less established or minority acts. Not that we'd ever call Sir Cliff a minority act though, oh no. Someone must have just made a mistake in the booking and swapped his slot with Oasis's.

Barbara Hendricks: Take The A Train

By now you're going home and you'd just be happy to find a train at all. Eventually you'll get home at three in the morning where you'll play some soothing music by...

Nigel Kennedy: Summer Allegro Non Troppo

...and go to bed. After you've cleared up the next morning your festival recreation will be complete. For real authenticity, spend £200 on ethnic clothing that falls apart the moment it sees a washing machine and make sure you have the galloping trots for four days afterwards. We hope you enjoyed your simulated Glastonbury experience. Next year the truly masochistic can do it all for real.

How to claim your free PMI disc

You will need to collect two tokens. Token 1 is shown above. Cut it out and keep it safe because Token 2 will appear in the News section of the June issue.

When you have both tokens, send them to us at the usual address — CDi Magazine, Haymarket Publishing, 38-42 Hampton Road, Teddington, TW11 0JE — and the first 5,000 to reply will be sent their own, Limited Edition, PMI music sampler disc. Sorry folks, but no photocopies will be accepted.



WIRED FOR

Use your CD-i player to bring the excitement of the cinema experience to your home without budging from your armchair. Now's the time to wire up, switch on and get Surrounded



SOUND

So, you've bought a CD-i player and tackled a few games, plugged it into to your hi-fi to play your audio CDs, and maybe even put the family photo album on Photo CD. But what next?

Well, we've got just two words for you: home cinema. Have you seen all those lovely ads on the telly for "Surround Sound" TVs that bring the cinema experience into your living room? Here's a secret: you can create the same effect using your CD-i player with Digital Video cartridge.

Tell me how, you shriek. Easy. Most of the Video CD films on sale have Dolby Surround soundtracks. In practice, this means that you can connect your CD-i player into a special Pro-Logic TV set or amplifier and have true Surround Sound at home.

The Dolby Pro-Logic system "decodes" a Dolby Surround soundtrack to create four channels of sound using five speakers: front right and left stereo, centre front dialogue and mono rear sound effects. This creates a stunning effect with bullets ricocheting around the room, planes screeching overhead and guns going off all over the place. If you have traditionally played your Video CDs through a mono, or even stereo, TV, the difference will amaze you.

The really clever thing is that you don't need masses of speakers, amplifiers and cables to create the desired effect. Many manufacturers now produce "all-in-one" Pro-Logic TVs, which come with the front speakers built into the TV cabinet and two rear effects speakers which simply plug into the back of the TV and can then be placed behind your sofa. Connect your CD-i player to the TV, and away you go.

As an example, Philips produces the superb 29828 Pro-Logic unit tested here. It comes complete with a rear speaker package and costs £1,000. We hooked it up to the latest model CD-i 470 and the results were amazing. Remember the



ambush scene with Harrison Ford and his colleagues in *Clear and Present Danger?* If you don't, you certainly will after hearing it in Surround Sound! Vans explode with a deafening roar, bullets fly all around you and you can feel the vibrations through your seat. The Philips set does a remarkable job of creating a wide dispersion of sound effects from the built-in speakers. Despite all this mayhem, the dialogue remains crystal clear because it is directed through a special centre speaker so it doesn't get drowned out by the other effects.

Music can be great in Surround Sound, too. Take U2's *Rattle & Hum* Video CD for example. You can hear the crowd chanting away all around you and it feels like being at a live concert. The only problem is that the MPEG chip sometimes has a problem with rock concert footage and some picture blocking is evident also.

If you already have a good TV, fear not, as there is no need to throw it away. An alternative solution is to buy a Pro-Logic amplifier to connect to your CD-i player and TV set. Many manufacturers produce these, and typically they range in price from £300 to £600. You will need to buy extra speakers to go with the amp, and obviously you will need two for the front stereo, two for the rear effects, and as an option, a single speaker for the centre dialogue



channel. Complete speaker packages cost from as little as £250.

Those of you with an existing hi-fi system can save money by buying a Pro-Logic processor which hooks into your hi-fi and allows you to use your hi-fi speakers for the front stereo channels, so you only need to add two rear speakers (and optional centre speaker) to complete the package. The front signal is fed through your existing amplifier, which remains connected to the main left and right speakers. The processor uses its own built-in amplifier to drive the centre channel dialogue speaker and the rear effects speaker. Processors typically range in price from £200-£400, so this is a fairly inexpensive way of building a home cinema system.

Once the hardware is in place, all you have to do is pop a suitable Video CD disc in the CD-i player and press play. Clever, isn't it? But a word of warning. Not all Video CDs have Dolby Surround soundtracks on them, so it pays to look closely at the packaging.

Any video released with Surround Sound should have "Dolby Surround" clearly marked on it. If it doesn't, chances are it isn't a proper Dolby soundtrack and you may find that the disc isn't even stereo. For example, PolyGram released *Shallow Grave* and *Malice* on Video CD with mono soundtracks. Why, we don't know, since both have terrific Surround Sound on VHS. Some titles may have the words "Dolby Stereo" on the packaging, which although technically incorrect, may still indicate proper Surround Sound. Again, it's best to check.

To help you, we have compiled a list of Video CDs which do have proper Surround Sound (see panel). The list may not be exhaustive, but it gives an idea of which films to buy if you want the full cinema effect. If you are in any doubt, check with the retailer before you buy. And don't forget that on the games front the superb *7th Guest* also has Surround Sound to add that extra dimension to an already involving experience.

ANDY CLOUGH

DOLBY SURROUND SOUND FILMS ON VIDEO CD

(CIC/PARAMOUNT)
The Accused
Addams Family Values
Airplane
Alive (widescreen)
Apocalypse Now
Beverly Hills Cop 1, 2, 3
Black Rain
The Brady Bunch (widescreen)
Clear and Present Danger
Coming To America
Congo (widescreen)
Crocodile Dundee 2
Dead Again (widescreen)
Drop Zone
Fatal Attraction
The Firm
Flashdance
Forrest Gump
Ghost (widescreen)
The Hunt For Red October
Indecent Proposal
Intersection
IQ
Lassie
Milk Money (widescreen)
The Naked Gun
Naked Gun 2 1/2
Naked Gun 33 1/3
Patriot Games
Planes, Trains and Automobiles
Scrooged
Sliver
Star Trek 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
Star Trek Generations
Top Gun
U2: Rattle & Hum
The Untouchables
Wayne's World
Wayne's World 2
Witness

(MGM/UA)
Baby Boom
Benny & Joon
The Black Stallion
Moonraker
Moonstruck
Octopussy
Of Mice And Men
Overboard
Quigley Down Under
Rain Man
Roadhouse
The Secret of Nimh
Thelma and Louise
A View To A Kill

Surround Sound Games:
7th Guest

System Used:
Philips 29828 Pro-Logic TV
Philips CD-i 470



The Ultimate Video Jukebox Volumes 1 & 2

ARTIST: VARIOUS
DISTRIBUTOR: OMNIMEDIA
RUNTIME: 44 MINS EACH
PRICE: £17.99
(AVAILABLE SEPARATELY)
TEXT: JASON ALESI
RATING: 2/5 (VOL 1) 1/5 (VOL II)
ENCODING: POOR
AUDIO: POOR

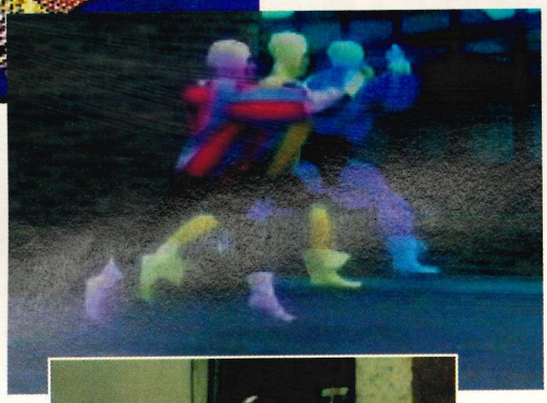
A case of nice idea, poor execution. These are both Video CD Plus discs and although they'll play quite comfortably on a CD-i player, there's a sneaking suspicion that they were designed with the PC market in mind. Why? Well, CD-i owners are used to top quality audio and visual data, while the FMV PC crowd seem to be happy with something that works. *The Ultimate Video Jukebox* discs work all right, just not very well.

This is annoying because there's some fine material, at least on the first one. Volume Two boasts Cameo's magnificent *Word Up* and a quick burst of Barry White, but the rest is second division. New Order's *True Faith* appears, but it's nowhere near their best and the rest of the 10 tracks are contributed by the likes of Mica Paris and Womack & Womack.

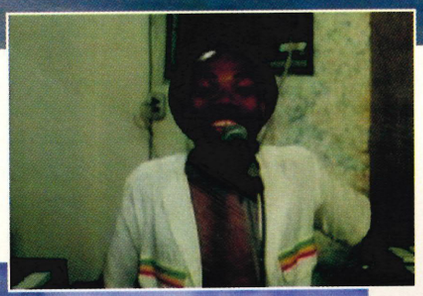
All right thinking people will appreciate Volume One, or the first four tracks at least. There are fillers towards the end of the disc, but before then you get Blondie's *Heart Of Glass*, Ultravox's cinematic masterpiece *Vienna*, *Sweet Dreams*, which launched The Eurythmics, and Joy Division's *Love Will Tear Us Apart*. Serious, quality material.

But if you're going to watch serious, quality material you need it in a serious, quality format which you don't have here.

Admittedly, due to the age of some of the tracks any encoding process is going to be an uphill struggle considering the poor quality of the original source material, but this bad? The picture's fuzzy, distorted and when anything interesting happens we're off into macroblock territory.



This would be forgivable if the audio was good. The videos are old and "iffy" quality is acceptable, but people have been whacking stereo soundtracks on things for a while and to end up with something that sounds this bad isn't on. It's rubbish, sounding as if your hi-fi has suddenly been connected to an AM signal. The soundtrack's been squeezed into the midtones and if that's genuine stereo coming out of the speakers, I'll have a go at eating the Ed's hat.





It probably looks and sounds good on a PC screen hooked up to your average pair of multimedia speakers. Through a TV and a genuine hi-fi, it just doesn't work.

There are interactive features to the discs too, but even these don't cut the mustard. The Internet aspect is only available to PC users and CD-i owners are left with on-screen liner notes and a multi-player quiz.



Both are too sparse. The quiz has a mere 50 questions (which really means you can only play it a couple of times). The notes on the bands and individual tracks are more snippets of information, and the sort of facts that anyone with even just a passing knowledge of the band involved would know already.

There is a market for this sort of thing, and done properly *The Ultimate Video Jukebox* could be successful. But before that happens, a lot of improvements are needed.

A Better Tomorrow

DIRECTOR: JOHN WOO
STARRING: CHOW YUN FAT, TI LUNG, LESLIE CHEUNG
CERT: 18
DISTRIBUTOR: CD VISION
RUNTIME: 95 MINS
PRICE: £17.99
TEXT: BEN SOUTHWELL
RATING: 4/5
ENCODING: POOR
AUDIO: AVERAGE







There may be some of you out there who haven't heard of John Woo. Indeed, there may be quite a lot of you who don't recognise the name of the writer/director of A Better Tomorrow. *Let me tell you — John Woo is rated. How much? Quentin Tarantino. That's how much. John Woo was making gripping, graphic gangster films while Tarantino was still hiring out videotapes. Indeed, there's a school of thought that suggests Woo's films had a HUGE influence on wunderkind Tarantino. But why haven't you heard of him? Because John Woo has been making films in Hong Kong. So, hits such as* The Killer *and* Hard Boiled *have probably passed you by. Woo has finally made it to Hollywood and although his first American film (*Hard Target *with Jean Claude Van Damme) was a disappointment, this summer's blockbuster* Broken Arrow, *starring John Travolta, promises great things. John Woo has a reputation for staging elaborate, stylised and graphic violence in films about gangland rivalry, loyalty and personal dilemmas.* A Better Tomorrow *is the film that established that reputation and put Woo on the map. He takes clichés and conventions and works them to his advantage, twisting the plot, tightening the tension and grabbing your attention in a way few other directors match.*

This is the story of two brothers. One (Ho) works for the mob, the other (Kit) is an ambitious policeman. Ho decides he must go straight for the sake of his little brother. But Kit's career has already been compromised by Ho's criminal record. Add in an ultra cool mobster (Mark, played with supreme style by Chow Yun Fat) to whom Ho owes a debt of loyalty, and the refusal of the mob to leave Ho alone, and you've got all the makings of a great story.

It may take 18 minutes for the first shoot-out to arrive, but when it does, it lasts about four minutes. The rest of the film is compelling viewing, and this is despite the dubbed voices and below average encoding (there's a lot of blocking and shifting images, but you don't care once the action starts). It's not in stereo, but it doesn't matter, even the lousy music starts to feel better once the plot kicks in.

Believe me, John Woo knows how to stage a shoot out, and A Better Tomorrow *has more than it's fair share of action.*

They might be re-releases, but these two bumper movie packs allow you to buy three movies for just £29.99. A bargain in anyone's language

MOVIE PACK 1



Overboard

DIRECTOR: GARRY MARSHALL
STARRING: GOLDIE HAWN, KURT RUSSELL
CERT: 15
DISTRIBUTOR: PHILIPS
RUNTIME: 112 MINS
PRICE: £12.99 (INDIVIDUALLY)
TEXT: BEN SOUTHWELL
RATING: 3/5
ENCODING: ADEQUATE
AUDIO: GOOD

A lot of people like Goldie Hawn, so it's a shame that this riches to rags comedy never really caught on. Hawn plays Joanna Stayton, a rich socialite who refuses to pay for work done by carpenter Dean Profitt (Kurt Russell). When she loses her memory after falling overboard he sees his chance for revenge, convincing her that she is his wife...

Offscreen Goldie Hawn and Kurt Russell actually are a couple, so the outcome of their struggle is never really in doubt. However, there are more than enough laughs to be had along the way and it's good to see the two of them enjoying the "odd couple" pairing.

The encoding is adequate, and the sound is Surround, although with a film like this it's the quality of the jokes that matters and they pass the rainy day test.

Watch out for director Garry Marshall (who directed *Pretty Woman*) in a cameo on drums (he used to be in a jazz band).



Of Mice And Men

DIRECTOR: GARY SINISE
STARRING: JOHN MALKOVICH, GARY SINISE
CERT: PG
DISTRIBUTOR: PHILIPS
RUNTIME: 110 MINS
PRICE: £12.99 (INDIVIDUALLY)
TEXT: BEN SOUTHWELL
RATING: 3/5
ENCODING: GOOD
AUDIO: GOOD

This film of John Steinbeck's novel is worth seeing for three reasons. The first is the obvious one - John Steinbeck was an excellent writer and storyteller, and this tale of two friends, George and the simpleton Lennie, struggling from job to job during the Depression is no exception. Their journey towards a seemingly unavoidable disaster is compelling, touching and powerful.

Second, John Malkovich is in it and he's as good as he always is. He plays Lennie with such charm and conviction that it's easy to see why George (played by Gary Sinise) sticks by him, even though Lennie keeps costing them their jobs.

The other reason to see this film is Gary Sinise. Now most of you are probably saying Gary who? But actually what with appearances in Forrest Gump *(he was the one who lost his legs) and* Apollo 13 *he's quietly becoming a bit of a star. Here, he not only acts but directs as well. And directs with a great deal of style and sensitivity. Sinise gives us a good looking film which, on the whole, is pretty well encoded. The sound is Dolby Surround to complete a very polished adaptation of a classic story that still feels relevant today.*

Benny & Joon

DIRECTOR: JEREMIAH CHECHIK
STARRING: JOHNNY DEPP, MARY STUART MASTERSON, AIDAN QUINN
CERT: 15
DISTRIBUTOR: PHILIPS
RUNTIME: 94 MINS
PRICE: £12.99 (INDIVIDUALLY)
TEXT: BEN SOUTHWELL
RATING: 4/5
ENCODING: GOOD
AUDIO: GOOD

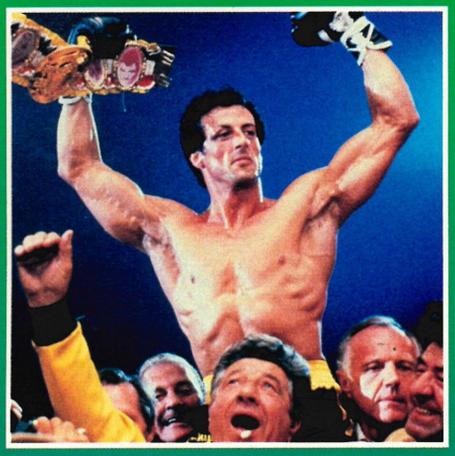
Why this film was not a huge hit is beyond me. It's got everything: Johnny Depp (arguably one of the hottest actors in Hollywood and certainly one of the most fancied), a story that is touching, romantic and amusing all at the same time, and, well... it's just a very good film.

Depp stars as Sam, a Buster Keaton wannabee, who is won by Benny (Aidan Quinn) in a poker game. Benny has, up till now, devoted his life to looking after his disturbed sister, Joon (Mary Stuart Masterson). Sam falls for Joon, Joon falls for Sam, Benny falls for.... Well it's not actually as simple as that because along the way there are Joon's traumas, Sam's Buster Keaton impersonations, a great way to make toast...

It's funny, gentle and entertaining. The encoding is good and the Surround Sound completes the picture.



MOVIE PACK 2



Rocky

DIRECTOR: JOHN G. AVILDSEN
STARRING: SYLVESTER STALLONE
CERT: PG
DISTRIBUTOR: PHILIPS
RUNTIME: 115 MINS
PRICE: £12.99 (INDIVIDUALLY)
TEXT: JASON ALESI
RATING: 2/5
ENCODING: AVERAGE
AUDIO: AVERAGE

Fact: Stallone's original ending for the *Rocky* series (*Rocky V*) had the boxer dying in his moment of final triumph. Fact: By then Rocky was unsurprisingly suffering from brain damage. Fact: The 1976 original (and Oscar winner) is the best of a bad lot when it comes down to it. Stallone was a complete unknown when Rocky came out, but by the time the series ended about a decade later he was one of the most bankable stars in modern movies. He is a talented chap, even his detractors grudgingly admit that, but for foisting the characters of both Rocky Balboa and Rambo on us all there can be no forgiveness.

The film you know about, but how does it look on VCD? Er, not too good actually. The problem is that it was made almost 20 years ago on a minuscule budget and although it's still a digitally sourced disc it's impossible to build in more quality than was originally there. The audio has been tweaked mightily and while it sounds good for what it is, you're not exactly going to be amazed by snazzy effects. The verdict? Counted out in the second.

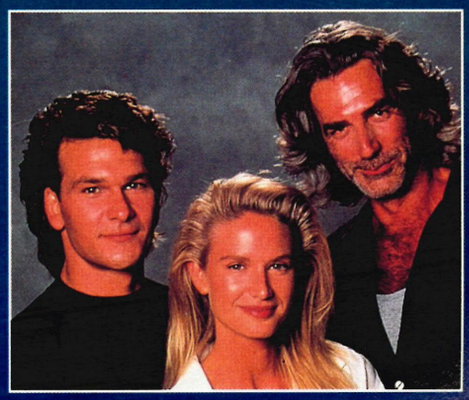
Roadhouse

DIRECTOR: ROWDY HERRINGTON (HONESTLY)
STARRING: PATRICK SWAYZE
CERT: 18
DISTRIBUTOR: PHILIPS
RUNTIME: 109 MINS
PRICE: £12.99 (INDIVIDUALLY)
TEXT: ANDY STOUT
RATING: 3/5
ENCODING: GOOD
AUDIO: GOOD

Loud, raucous and braindead, *Roadhouse* is a fairly enjoyable action movie for those nights when you want entertainment without having to engage more than a handful of braincells. The chief attraction, apart from watching some very niftily choreographed fight sequences, is probably a blistering blues/rock soundtrack provided by the Jeff Healey Band. Fans of the incontrovertibly naff, though, will also enjoy giggling at Swayze's haircut and shouting "Eighties fashion victim" enthusiastically at the telly.

Picture encoding is rather good considering the amount of flying bodies and limbs in some of the more spectacular punch-ups. The audio track is also not bad at all, really coming alive and contributing mightily to the general atmosphere in some of the bar scenes.

However our review copy froze in a couple of places, producing some ugly green stripes before booting us back to the contents screen. Hopefully it's an isolated problem but you might want to keep a tight grip on those receipts just in case.





Quigley Down Under

DIRECTOR: SIMON WINCER
STARRING: TOM SELLECK, LAURA SAN GIACOMO, ALAN RICKMAN
CERT: 15
DISTRIBUTOR: PHILIPS
RUNTIME: 115 MINS
PRICE: £12.99 (INDIVIDUALLY)
TEXT: ANDY STOUT
RATING: 3/5
ENCODING: EXCELLENT
AUDIO: BRILLIANT

One of the first of a list of Hollywood films where Alan Rickman effortlessly outacts everyone else involved. He doesn't go for subtlety (these are American films after all) but his sneering, genocidal and slightly unhinged baddie is easily the best part of this Western pastiche. And Western is exactly what it is. *Quigley Down Under* might be set in Australia, but that's just changing the location. The scenes, the plots, the shoot-outs are straight from the Bumper Book of Wild West Clichés. It's entertaining enough in a resolutely undemanding way but nowhere near a classic.

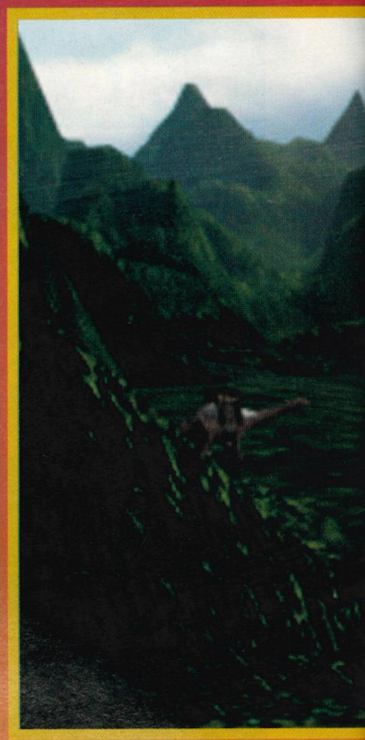
That said, the encoding is excellent with even fast-paced action scenes retaining impressive clarity. But the Surround sound is *Quigley*'s main strength. This is the sort of film where the sound engineer gets a ludicrously high budget and starts having serious fun. Bullets fly across your room, gunshots echo against cliff faces in the distance, assorted wildlife buzzes happily behind your head...

The movie might be bubblegum, but as an illustration of what VCD can achieve, at this price it's worth it.



LOST EDEN
PLAYER'S GUIDE

It's large, it looks wonderful and it's got dinosaurs in it. Welcome to Part One of our complete Lost Eden solution



Walk straight forward and question the guard. His name's Thugg which shows that the developers have a well-rounded and adult sense of humour. Anyway, he won't let you leave the citadel ('Not leave. King's orders.' is what he says. You might have guessed that he's not being paid for his brainpower), so you had better see the King himself.

Take the elevator on the left and once in the large chamber go through the middle gate. Next, turn left into the Elder's Chamber and question Monk. Monk will tell you that the King wants to see you but before you go, try reading the plate on Monk's desk. It doesn't seem to do anything and as Monk hasn't got a clue what it's for either return to the hallway, go straight forward and you'll find yourself in the throne room.

Listen to the dialogue between the King and Eloi (it goes on a bit) and then examine the frescoes behind the throne. After you've had a good squint at them, go back into the hallway. Opposite the room where you found Monk is your own abode, so pop in there and you'll find Eloi waiting for you. Keep prompting him until he gives you a thing called a Path Stone. He'll also tell you that Dina has unlocked a gate and is waiting to take you somewhere, but before you trot off to join her, pop in to see Monk again. He should give you a Talisman as a coming of age gift. After that, return into the large chamber and head towards the gate on the right.

There you'll meet Dina and journey off to her grandfather Tau's cave.

ELDER'S CHAMBER

Tau and Dina will then fill you in on lots of stuff before Tau gives you a shell — an Object of Power apparently — then dies and goes off to join his ancestors. It's here that you learn that Dina has a gift for languages and isn't just good at talking to you in a slighly patronising voice.

Before you go back to the Citadel, pick up the knife lying on the couch.

Back at the Citadel, return to the large chamber and, using the mirror mode (button 2), give the Talisman to Dina. Then pop in to see the Executioner. Always good for a giggle, he'll also give you a coming of age present. Okay, so it's only a tooth, but think of it as symbolic and a present that's about to be jolly useful. To use it, go to the Elder's chamber, walk past Monk to the middle one of your embalmed ancestors and give the tooth to the mummy. Follow the hidden passage revealed downwards. Click the door to open and enter into the crypt without Dina who's suddenly come over all squeamish. Ignore her. Give the tooth to the skeleton and after it disintegrates go through the hidden door.

Dina will rejoin you here and give you an invaluable history lesson as you look at yet more frescoes (these ones are a bit more ghoulish) on the walls. She'll give you a flute which is essential to the completion of the entire game, so don't lose it. Before you leave the chamber, pick up the Prism lying on the floor.

Back in the Elder's chamber, show the Prism to Monk who'll



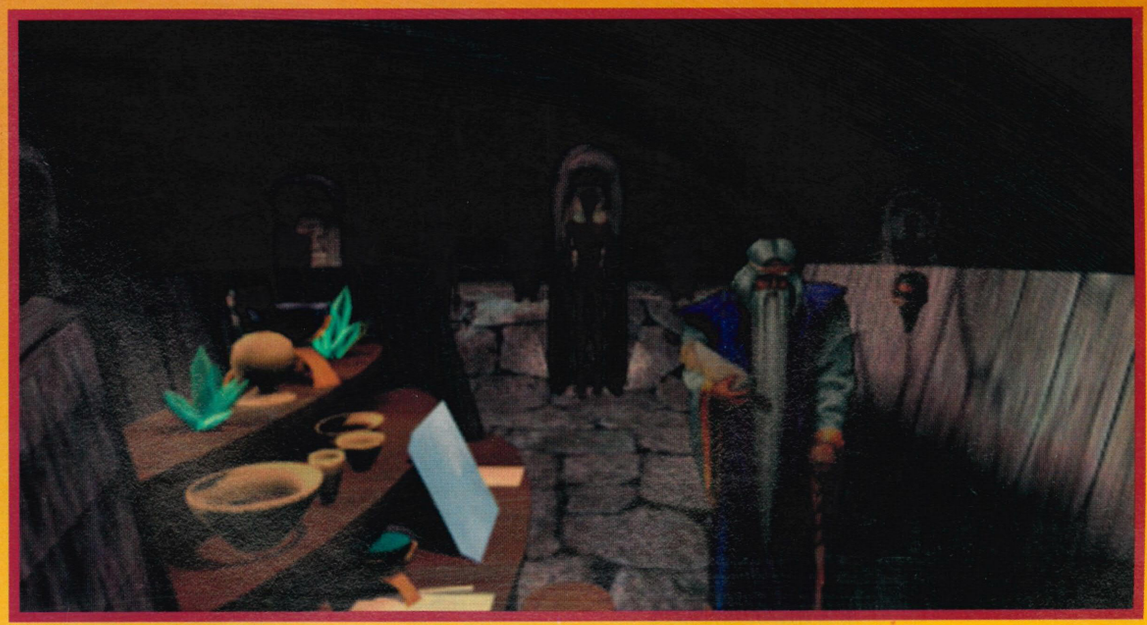
be suitably impressed, then place it on the functionless plate on the left and hey presto, the plate begins to function. Marvellous. Spend ages listening to Monk and Dina, then go to the Throne Room and spend ages listening to everyone else. The King does concede that it'd be a good idea for you to leave Monk so it's worth sitting through. Use the elevator and return to Thugg. Rejoice that such a gifted conversationalist is going to be coming with you on your quest and make for the exit. Leave the Citadel and head for the Chamaar Valley.

IN THE CHAMAAR VALLEY

At the valley, meet Mungo (people asking for Mary and Midge will be deducted 1000 credibility points). Mungo is Dina's intended and dispenses handy hints in a patronising manner as well as acting as translator. Wander around the foresty bits of the map and you'll meet Chong of the Chorrians who'll join you with a bit of prompting.
Further wandering around will enable Thugg to find an apple which seems bloody useless, but is of course invaluable later on. You're after some wild mushrooms which again you'll find somewhere in the forest. Still in the forest, locate the Brontosauruses and offer them the mushrooms. They'll refer to you as the Bringer of Hope when you start to play your flute and build a Citadel, thoughtfully letting you know that for it to be a really cool one they'll need the help of the Triceratops. Transfer to mirror mode and question Chong. In gratitude for you helping set up his people's defences he'll present you with a Moonstone.
Go back to the main map and head for the lake. Throw Thugg's apple in (it's okay, he won't mind, he probably can't eat food with two syllables) and a Mosasaur will turn up and say something really cryptic. Next, take yourself back to the forest, find the Apatosaurs and play them the flute. Head back to the main map, click on the horizon and leave for the next location, Uluru.

ULURU VALLEY

Uluru (the valley, not the Liuetenant with the nice legs from Star Trek) is populated by the Ulele whom you'll find on the right hand edge of the map. Pop in and have





a chat with their leader, Ulan and a chappie called the Protector of Traditions. The PoT is going to be rather busy later on in the game so it's worth keeping on the right side of him.

Next, you've got to repeat what you did in Chamaar; namely wonder about a lot, find some mushrooms, let Thugg find his apple... (By the way, in the original French version of the game, Thugg is called Cecil. Whether people in France talk about being attacked by a gang of Cecils is open to question). Next locate the brontoes and pull the same mushroom/flute trick with them. Also find the Mosasaur, chuck him the apple and listen to a bit more cryptic gibberish.

It's worth having a look in the water first though to make sure that the Mesosaur is actually there. But you can't just throw your apple into any old bit of water as he might be down the other end of the lake having a quck shindig with the trilobites and there's nothing more annoying than havng to wander about aimlessly waiting for Thugg to pick up another Golden Delicious.

Oh yes, Ulan will give you another plate thingy similar to the one in Monk's room. To use it, make it active then click it on yourself. Odd eh? All will be revealed later.

It's about this time that things go a bit pear-shaped and the Tyrann's start making inroads into the landscape. When you hear that the Citadel in Chamaar is threatened pop back and have a natter with Chong again. He'll point out that there is another herd of Brontoes in the valley and using the same old routine you can get them to build another Citadel, this time in the mountains. If by any chance you do stumble on the Tyranns while you're wandering round the various maps, leg it sharpish. Hanging round too often leads to you becoming snack-food and the end of the game. Saving often can avoid lots of frustration and is also much more economical than putting your boot through the TV.

Back in Uluru, go to the Citadel there and talk to Ulan. A discussion will then ensue (long-winded as ever) about strengthening the Northern border.

After this, on the world map, a new location should have popped into view.

KOTO VALLEY

The location in question is another valley, this time called Koto. Let the Apatosaurs transport you over there and go to the right hand edge of the map again. Here you'll find another tribe, the Kobus, who seem to specialise in carrying swords while wearing long boots and chainmail bikinis. You might have noticed by now that most games programmers are men. 'These people look like brave warriors,' says Dina. Cobblers, they look like refugees from a Benidorm hotel swimming pool.

Anyway, talk to their Chief Kommala and head off to find the obligatory mush-

rooms. Give them to the obligatory Brontoes and then head back to Kommala. After talking to her give Mungo a good grilling, then go to the top left-hand corner of the valley and plunge deep into a cave. Here you'll find some frescoes which you should read (after all someone's gone to a lot of trouble to put them there) and a yellow splodge. Pick up this splodge — mysteriously refferred to by all the other characters as a 'sun' — and let Thugg pull off his old apple and the lake trick.

PROTECTOR OF TRADITIONS

There now follows rather a lot of to-ing and fro-ing across the gamescape. You have been warned. Take yourself back to Uluru and question the Protector of Traditions closely. He's a bit of an expert on the Velociraptors who (contrary to the Jurrasic Park propaganda) are actually good guys though a bit on the mercenary side. Give them some gold and they'll fight your case. Further badgering will eventually lead him to give you the Eye of Storm — an Object of Power apparently that's going to give the Tyranns rather a nasty surprise. He'll also inform you that to get the full weight of the Ulele on your side you need to recover the three ancestral masks that seem to have gone walkabout from the tribe. Pondering how to do this, return to Chamaar.

It's hunt the bloomin' thimble time again, so wander round the valley looking for some gold. Grab the gold (Dina will point it out to you as soon as it appears on screen, you don't have to squint) then look for the Velociraptors. Give them both the gold and the Eye of Storm and head back to Koto again.

WARRIOR WOMEN CAMP

Go the the camp of the Bikini Warrior Women and question Kommala. After that, find that valley's Bronto herd again, give them some mushies and play the flute. While they start building the new Citadel, the good news arrives that the Velociraptors have just give the Tyrran a damn good thrashing



in Chamaar and that Triceratops have been seen in the valley. Rejoice! Question Kommala again and she'll give you one of the Ulele's ancestral thingies.

Hot foot it back to them and present them with the mask. So delighted will they be that the PoT will give you the choice of a couple more Objects of Power to take with you. Take the Sky Hammer (the one that looks like a giant finger pointing down and saying 'It's you') and trot off to find some gold. As in the first location, the gold seems to occur by the side of the lakes (logical really) so once you've found it, locate the Velociraptors and hand it all over. They'll also find the Sky Hammer a bit useful too. Go to PoT again (sorry, couldn't resist it), take the Divine Lightning, listen to Dina waffle on a bit more (but it's all important stuff) and it's Koto-bound again.

CITADEL

Kommala is waiting at the Citadel so pick her up for starters. Do the old gold prospecting trick one more time and then search for the Velociraptors. Give both items over to them (and there's some really nice graphics around that part) and then return to the map. Next stop is Narrim's Cave.

You could do this location in your sleep. Listen to Narrim and Dina and then give the knife (you did remember to pick it up didn't you) to Narrim. Easy, huh?

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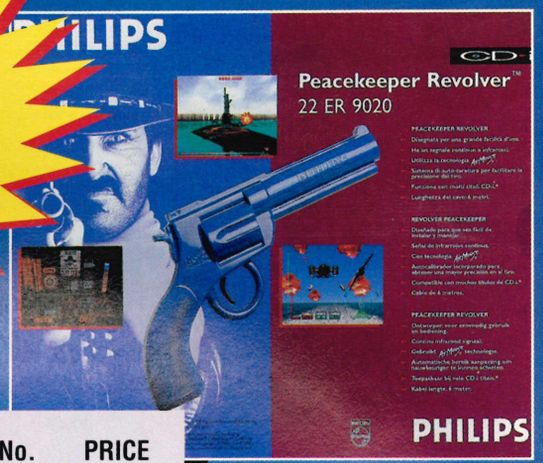
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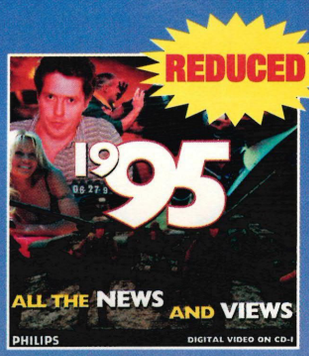
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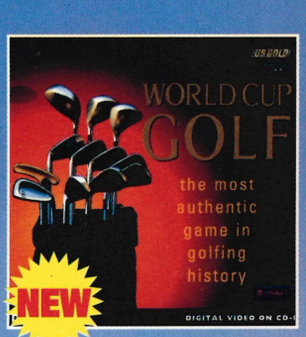
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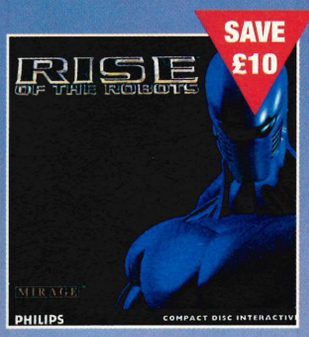












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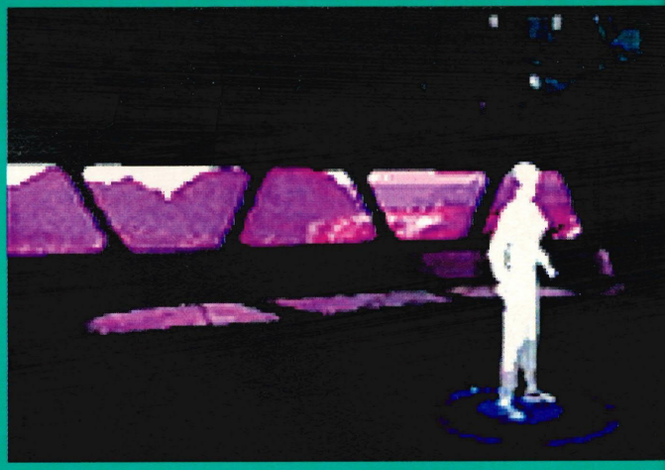
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FLASHBACK

PLAYER'S GUIDE

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LEVEL 5: STILL ON EARTH

PRISON CELL TO FINDING TELE-RECEIVER

Unfortunately you will start off in a prison. As the door opens a guard will appear and shoot at you. At this moment, you haven't got your gun so to avoid the guard's shots, wait for the door to open and keep rolling right until you fall off the edge of the platform. Walk left, pick up your gun, then turn round and kill the guard.
Pick up the key, save your game, go right and jump up on the ledge. Next, press the switch to open the door by the lift on the far right of the screen. Drop down and open the door with the key you just picked up, then walk through the door and climb up until you enter the top screen.
To get past the green haze you need to be very quick. Run to the right as the haze on the bottom level disappears, then wait just to the right of the next platform above you until the haze appears on the platform. As it moves, jump up and pull yourself on to the ledge. Repeat the procedure until you are at the top then quickly run left and exit the screen.
On the next screen jump on to the platform above you, wait until the green haze disappears then move left, drop off the platform, draw your gun and quickly kill the guard, which will cause the door at the top to open. Collect the tele-receiver and tele-control.

TELE-RECEIVER COLLECTION TO POLYMORPH ALIENS

Wait until the haze above you vanishes, then quickly move up and right to avoid being zapped. Make your way up and through the door which has opened and kill the guard who is standing in your way. Pick up the key and proceed back to the right until you are on the screen with the moving haze again.
Throw the tele-receiver past the haze and teleport after it using the control.
Pick up the receiver (don't forget to do this) and use the key in the door lock.
Throw the receiver down the hole and teleport to it, quickly drawing your gun and shooting the Hovering Bug. Go left on to the next screen, drop down, roll under the gap to the left and drop off the ledge.
The door will now open and you will be confronted by a polymorph alien.



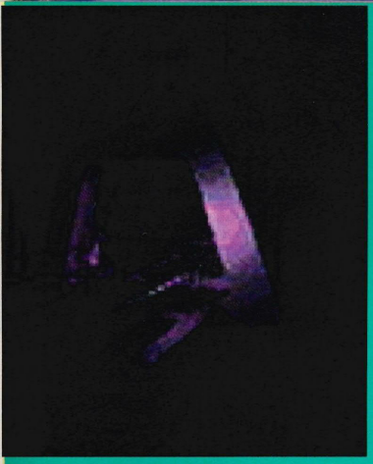
POLYMORPH ALIENS TO END OF LEVEL

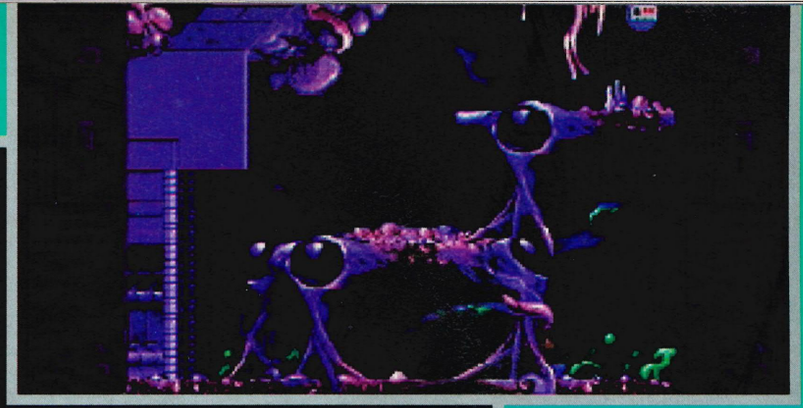
To kill the polymorph, wait until it approaches, duck and shoot, then roll through it. Then wait until it stands up, shoot, then roll again. Keep repeating this procedure until the creature (the vile alien spawn, that is) is dead.
Press the switch and walk right off the edge of the platform where you will come across the next alien. Dispose of it using the same method then move left and save your game.
Climb up on to the ledge to the left, walk through the door into the next screen and you should notice yet another of those haze blighters coming towards you. Go back to the right and stand by the door to avoid the haze. When it moves back, follow it and jump over the gap on to the next platform.
Throw the tele-receiver to the left so that it clears all the gaps, then go back to the right and stand by the door to avoid the haze again. Wait until the haze comes back and teleport yourself to the receiver. Now throw the receiver down the hole, teleport to it then walk into the trans-porter to level six.

LEVEL 6: THE ALIEN PLANET

FINDING THE ATOMIC CHARGE

Throughout this level you will find numerous Polymorph Aliens. The only way to destroy them is to use the rolling and shooting technique described above. You have been warned.
Make your way right and activate the switch to open the locked door on the previous screen. Go through the door and down the lift. Avoid the lasers by ducking and roll right into the gap. Kill the aliens and pick up the stone.







Go left, roll through the gap and throw the stone on to the right hand sensor which will open the door above you. Go through the door. Activate the switch at the top of the screen and go down the hatch. Shoot open the door in the bottom left of the screen and activate the switch behind it. Kill the alien and collect the diary and atomic charge off the dying man.
Go down the lift and activate the switch to open the hatch. Go through the hatch and recharge your shield. Move right, jump on to the ledge and take the lift which appears.
Kill the aliens at the bottom of the lift-shaft and save your position. Work your way through the screens to the left until you find a key. Walk back the way you came and look for the locked door which the key opens.

FINDING THE AUXILIARY CHARGE

Now that you've got the atomic charge in your possession, you need to destroy the two brains that control the planet. The auxiliary brain needs to be destroyed first. Jump over the gap and save your position then get up on to the ledge and go up on the lift. Kill the alien and work your way up until you are at the top then run right and jump across the gap to the platform below you.
Throw your tele-receiver anywhere on this screen so you can teleport back later on. Go up the lift and flick the switch to turn off the laser then climb up and move left. Carefully climb down the ledges and flick the switch at the bottom. Move back up to the top and across to the left as far as possible. The polymorph alien will follow you but wait until you get on to the long ledge before you kill it.
Teleport to the tele-receiver and kill the alien which has appeared and pick up the key it drops. Go through the door at the bottom of the screen and use the key to open the hatch above.
Climb up through the hatch, go up the lift and save the position. To get past the green hazes on the screen to the right, you can either run through them quickly or use your tele-receiver.
Go down the lift and use the key to open the door. To avoid the rat creature and get rid of the land mines, drop down on to the same ledge as the creature and roll to the right, into the gap.
Now stand on the left-hand side of the lift and go up so that the mines to your right explode. Go to the right, shoot the rat creature, then throw your tele-receiver down the hole to the right and teleport to it.
Now kill the polymorph alien and you will be faced with the auxiliary brain.

DESTROYING THE AUXILIARY BRAIN

Stand to the far right of the screen and shoot at the brain, ducking down to avoid its return fire. Continue until it dies.
Throw your tele-receiver down the hole and teleport after it. Pick up the tele-receiver and walk left until you find a lift and a generator. Recharge your shield and go down the hole. Save your game at this point.

DESTROYING THE MASTER BRAIN

Alternate between shooting at the right and left sides of the brain, while killing the polymorph aliens which attack you.
The best technique is to wait at the bottom of the screen and kill the aliens. Once you have cleared them, climb on to the first ledge on the left and shoot the brain.
Return to the bottom of the screen, kill more aliens and climb up the right-hand side of the screen to shoot the brain.
Repeat this until the brain dies.

LAYING THE CHARGE AND ESCAPING

From the master brain go right, activate the switch and go up the lift. Move right into the next screen and then up the lift to the far right.
Walk over the sensor, activate it and kill the alien that appears. Pick up the key it drops and open the door with it.
Walk through the door, go down the lift, kill the aliens you find and walk to the far right of the screen.
The haze on the next screen can be passed through using the tele-receiver. Pick the receiver up and throw it back through the haze.
Walk right until you receive a message, drop the atomic charge and activate the switch to begin the countdown. You now need to leg it off planet pretty damn quickly. Teleport back and then run through all the underground screens to the hanger on the surface. If you make it in time go through the door to the end of the platform, press fire, get up on the pad and take the lift into the spaceship.
And that, as they say, is that. Nice one!

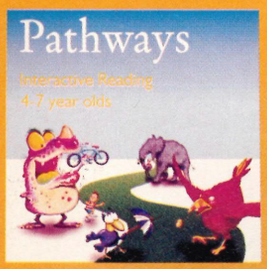
GAME ENDS



AROUND ATLANTA

RELEASE DATE: 24TH JUNE.
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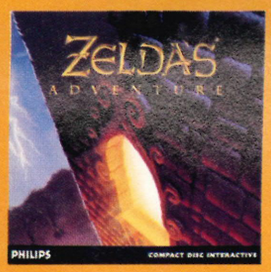
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letters

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Mono in Portugal

After reading your review of *Akira* I faxed Xdra and ordered it but the result was not what I expected. The story of *Akira* is wonderful, the encoding, however, was not excellent ("very good" I suppose) because some of the scrolling scenes jumped a little, but the worst part was the sound. At the end of the movie I was surprised to see the Dolby Surround logo and as the proud owner of a Sony NHC 7900 with Dolby Suround Pro-Logic (with the five speakers) I heard *Akira* in — mono sound!
This was a great rip off for me and all the people who bought *Akira*. Just imagine *Akira* with Dolby Surround encoding and no scratchy noises to ruin our ears. Could you give me an explanation for this?
I have a request. In your future reviews of films/games could you please add a reference to sound because the image is only 50% of the movie (imagine *Top Gun* or *Star Trek V* in mono!) Please mention if the movies/games are encoded in Dolby Surround or not because a lot of people have decoders for the above sound system. I love CD-i. I bought mine in England and I love to listen to the movies' soundtracks properly. Who is to blame? CD Vision? Someone else? I don't know, but please don't put the sound in the trash.

João Luis Traquino
Portugal

As you'll have noticed, we're paying a lot more attention to sound quality now than we've done in the past. It really does make all the difference, and is capable of transforming a mediocre film into a thoroughly enjoyable experience (as in the case of *Quigley Down Under*).
As to your problems with *Akira*, there's been a bit of a muddle over all this. Apparently, all the manga released by CD Vision is in Dolby Surround (though even they didn't know it until it was pointed out to them) and no one can work out why you've been lumbered with a mono copy. If you send it back to them they'll provide you with a new one. The address is CD Vision, Bedford Chambers, The Piazza, Covent Garden, London, England. WC2E 8HA. Good luck (and it really does sound fantastic).



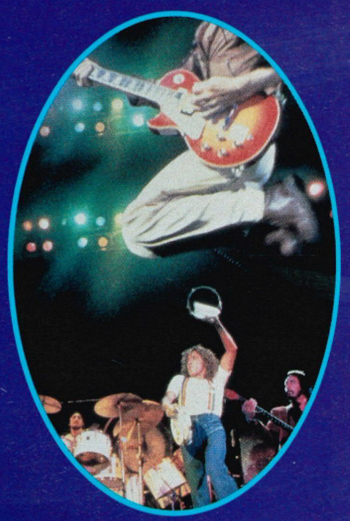
Sounding Off

I seem to be one of the few people, judging by some of your letters, who still think that CD-i is an excellent value machine. I have mine connected up to my hi-fi and Dolby Surround system and use it for playing games, films and audio CDs.
The only way to view this machine is as an all round entertainment system and not just a game player. I think if I had just wanted a games machine I would probably have chosen something else.
I do have one query, though. On some of the music VCDs the soundtrack comes out mono. This happens on *Opera Imaginaire* and with my copy of Wet Wet Wet. Is this my machine or is it the disc? My other music VCDs all have normal stereo soundtracks.

J. Rivers
Eastbourne

It's the disc. In the case of *Opera Imaginaire* not all the source material was supplied in stereo and there's not much that can be done. The Wetties disc though should be in stereo and has been encoded wrongly. Take it back to the dealer you bought it from and ask for a replacement.





Who?

I had to write after reading the review of The Who three CD box set. I cannot believe the ignorance of the reviewer. As a Who fan (along with millions of others) this is a gem with early film never available before. In their early days, The Who were the most exciting live act ever and the live performances are incredible and certainly not "poor quality". You obviously know very little about music so don't put down one of the most interesting VCDs yet. I suppose you would rather see yet another Tina Turner disc! Sad!
Get a life or get a reviewer who appreciates ground breaking bands. More music and less games will give CD-i credibility.

Ray Smedley
Brentford

Personally I'd rather watch a particularly dull colour of paint dry than Tina Turner, but there you go. Granted, The Who were groundbreaking three decades ago but things have moved on apace since then. We'd love to feature contemporary groundbreaking bands, but until people like FSOL, Sepultura and The Prodigy release discs we're stuck with the back catalogue. Anyway, the reviewer actually quite liked the disc, the "poor quality" remark being made in reference to the audio/visual quality.

VCD 3.1 software?

I recently bought two Video CDs, *Four Weddings and a Funeral* and *Shallow Grave*, both published by Polygram. *Four Weddings...* used version 3.1 menu software which at the end of the first disc opened the drive and awaited the second disc. This made the disc changes quicker and prevented the CD-i from replaying the copyright message. However the newer release *Shallow Grave* reverted back to version 3.0 and therefore back to the replaying of the copyright message and thus a large interruption to the viewing.

Will all future film releases start to use version 3.1?

D.B. Jackson
Southend on Sea

The problem here is that a certain amount of titles were pressed in a non-Philips plant and encoded wrongly. As you can imagine, much wailing and gnashing of teeth ensued, heads rolled and people were poked in the eye with a very sharp stick. Great effort is apparently being taken to make sure it doesn't happen again and the much improved version 3.1 should grace all future discs.

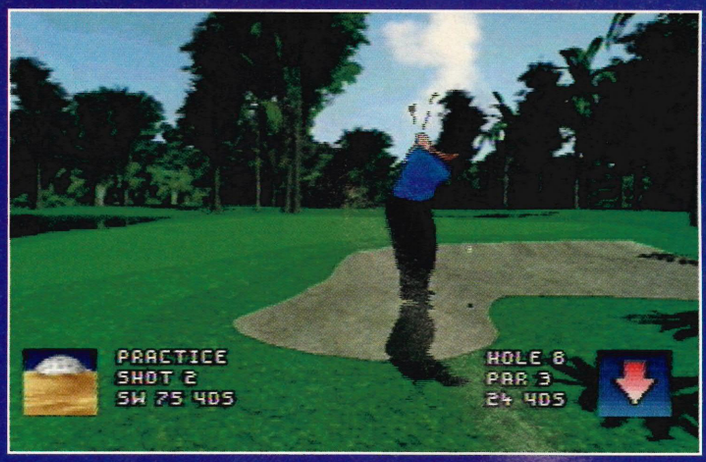


Discs In Hand

I notice that you had a copy of every VCD/DV that was reviewed in February's CD-i magazine and I hope this will continue to be the case with all future issues. What's the point of reviewing a movie without having seen it on VCD? It may be a great movie but if the encoding is poor then it's not worth buying. Also, is there any chance of including your ratings and encoding info in the CD-i catalogue at the back of the magazine and maybe adding something to indicate a movie available in widescreen?

Bill Ferguson
Cyberspace

From now on, where at all possible, we will not be reviewing VCDs without having the actual disc for all the reasons you state. As for including info in the catalogue we're not making promises yet but to gratuitously quote Oasis it's a definitely (maybe).



Icon tact

I am a regular reader of CD-i Magazine and following your leader story on the release of *World Cup Golf* I promptly ordered a copy. However I was surprised to find that the icons are completely different from those illustrated. I think you owe your readers an explanation. Are there different versions available?

N Perry
Wirral

It goes like this. Wherever possible we use high resolution graphics supplied to us by Philips in various formats. We contacted Philips and a suitable chastened spokesperson explained that we'd simply been supplied with the wrong graphics (though whether this was from an early version of the game or a different platform isn't clear yet). Hope it didn't spoil the game for you.

Lonely hearts club banned!

This is my first email so I hope it works. What a brilliant mag and positive hardware but I cannot find the URLs for lucy gossip [sic] or lonely hearts as seen on Dave's Demo on the disc. Can you help?

Voyeur
Cyberspace

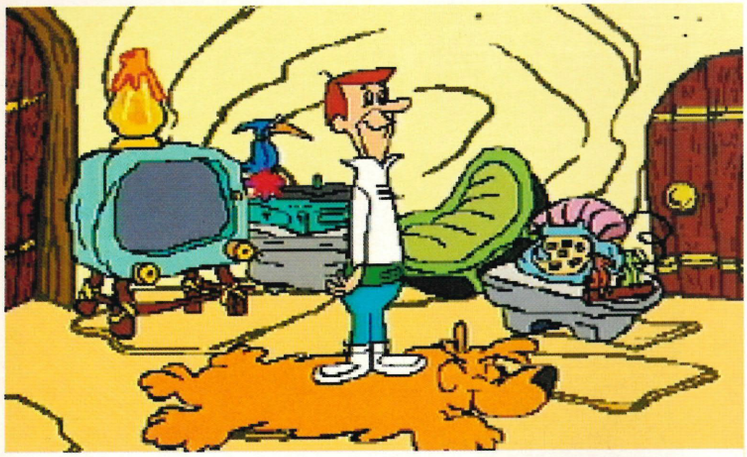
Lucy gossip? Are you sure about that? Anyway, the best thing to do is head over to a search engine like Lycos which should provide enough hits to at least point you in the right direction. Funnily enough, I used to know a girl called Lucy who was very friendly with the local rugby team. One night... *(snip)*

Net set reject

I have just bought a CD-i 450 and Internet starter kit and I am experiencing a few problems with it. For example, I would be halfway through reading something and the logging on screen would come up with "call interrupted" and then I would have to start all over again. Then at other times it would crash telling me that I had a dirty disc. I have three copies of issue one and they all do the same.
Finally, another problem is that the modem will not always boot up when I try to log on. The message displayed says that the modem is not connected or switched off. I retry after checking all connections to find that it still won't work. After resetting everything a few times eventually it does. Please could you let me know if there are to be any revisions to the software soon as I am pulling my hair out with this issue.

napr
Cyberspace

CD-Online is aware that some subscribers have experienced problems with the issue 01 disc and suggest that you phone its Customer Support line to start with on 0171 436 8677. They also go on to point out that though some difficulties are probably due to the inherently unstable nature of the Internet, there are some known problems with the software. The good news is that disc 02 will rectify many of them and CD-O expect overall stability to be greatly improved.



CHILDREN'S TITLES

ASTERIX: CAESAR'S CHALLENGE
Fun and games with Asterix the Gaul and friends.
Price £29.99 **Cat. No. 810 019 8**

A VISIT TO SESAME STREET – LETTERS
Meet the characters from the TV series and explore the world of Sesame Street.
Price £29.99 **Cat. No. 690 018 2**

A VISIT TO SESAME STREET – NUMBERS
Visit Bert and Ernie's place, Big Bird's House and the Count's Castle.
Price £29.99 **Cat. No. 690 019 2**

BERENSTAIN BEARS
Meet the Berenstain Bears and follow the young bears trying to persuade their parents to let them go to the fair.
Price £24.99 **Cat. No. 810 007 6**

BRER RABBIT AND THE WONDERFUL TAR BABY
The story of Brer Rabbit and Brer Fox told by Danny Glover.
Price £9.99 **Cat. No. 690 045 2**

CARTOON CARNIVAL (DV)
Classic cartoons from Hanna Barbera. Each time you win a game, collect a letter. Spell Cartoon Carnival, and you are rewarded with a cartoon.
Price £19.99 **Cat. No. 810 016 5**

CARTOON JUKEBOX
Favourite tunes such as Pop Goes the Weasel and Row, Row, Row Your Boat.
Price £24.99 **Cat. No. 690 001 2**

CHILDREN'S MUSICAL THEATRE
Customise your own songs and watch as they are performed by musical animals.
Price £24.99 **Cat. No. 690 008 2**

CRAYON FACTORY
Join Saturday (narrated by Julie Walters) and friends in the crayon factory.
Price £29.99 **Cat. No. 810 020 6**

DARK FABLES OF AESOP
Twelve moral tales narrated by Danny Glover.
Price £24.99 **Cat. No. 690 085 2**

FACE KITCHEN
French chef Uby cooks up some very funny faces. Choose a combination of lips, eyes and hair and bring the results to life.
Price £29.99 **Cat. No. 811 000 2**

FLINTSTONES / JETSONS TIMEWARP
In this original animated adventure, a time machine warps George Jetson back to prehistoric times and Fred Flintstone into the future.
Price £15.99 **Cat. No. 810 010 4**

HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN'S THUMBELINA (DV)
Read, sing, colour and count with all the delightful characters from Thumbelina's tiny world.
Price £29.99 **Cat. No. 819 101 4**

HOW THE CAMEL GOT HIS HUMP
Rudyard Kipling's popular tale of the lazy camel.
Price £9.99 **Cat. No. 690 021 2**

KISS
An electronic magazine for teenage girls with tips on fashion, make-up and health.
Price £19.99 **Cat. No. 811 004 7**

LITTLE MONSTER AT SCHOOL
The interactive version of the popular children's book.
Price £24.99 **Cat. No. 810 017 1**

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

MORE DARK FABLES FROM AESOP
Twelve more tales narrated by Danny Glover.
Price £24.99 **Cat. No. 690 086 2**

MOTHER GOOSE HIDDEN PICTURES
An animated activity book combining hearing and seeing nursery rhymes.
Price £7.99 **Cat. No. 690 015 2**

MOTHER GOOSE RHYMES TO COLOUR
Mother Goose escorts your children as they wander through their favourite nursery rhymes.
Price £7.99 **Cat. No. 690 016 2**

MUZZY (DV)
A hugely popular BBC TV series debuts on CDi. A simple and fun way for young children to learn French.
Price £39.99 **Cat. No. 810 008 4**

PAINT SCHOOL 1
Choose from several hundred scenes to paint.
Price £19.99 **Cat. No. 690 009 2**

PAINT SCHOOL 2
More pictures to paint using the CDi's huge colour palette.
Price £19.99 **Cat. No. 690 002 2**

PATHWAYS
Interactive reading scheme conforming to National Curriculum guidelines.
Price £19.99 **Cat. No. 811 006 4**

PEANUTS: YEARN TO LEARN
Learning made fun and easy with one of the world's most famous cartoon characters.
Price £19.99 **Cat. No. 819 101 3**

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

RICHARD SCARRY'S BUSIEST NEIGHBOURHOOD DISC EVER
Explore the wonderful world of Busytown.
Price £24.99 **Cat. No. 690 038 2**

RICHARD SCARRY'S BEST NEIGHBOURHOOD DISC EVER
The second in the series. Visit the library, the fire station or your home.
Price £24.99 **Cat. No. 690 037 2**

ROUTES TO READING
Interactive learning for young readers. Contains five popular story books from Collins' Bookbus series.
Price £24.99 **Cat. No. 811 005 0**

SANDY'S CIRCUS ADVENTURE
Sandy, the cuddly sea lion, is lost in the circus and your child is invited along.
Price £24.99 **Cat. No. 690 022 2**

SANTA CLAUS'S MICE
A Christmas fairy story.
Price £15.99 **Cat. No. 811 001 2**

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

SOUNDTRAP
Second in the series of interactive discs, this explores the creation of sound waves.
Price £24.99 **Cat. No. 811 003 2**

STICKYBEAR FAMILY FUN
Hours of enjoyment as Stickybear helps you play a number of simple but rewarding games.
Price £19.99 **Cat.No. 810 023 7**

STICKYBEAR MATHS
Children help the Stickybear

family succeed in this animated adventure by solving problems using addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.
Price £24.99 Cat. No. 810 006 4

STICKYBEAR PRE-SCHOOL
Encourage your pre-schooler's natural inquisitiveness and budding independence with this great learning title.
Price £24.99 Cat.No. 810 021 8

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

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

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

THE EMPEROR'S NEW CLOTHES
This version of one of Hans Christian Andersen's best-loved tales is told by Sir John Gielgud.
Price £9.99 Cat. No. 690 042 2

TIM & BEAR AT THE AIRPORT
Learning adventures with Tim and his cuddly toy bear on their first journey to an airport.
Price £24.99 Cat. No. 810 019 3

TIM & BEAR AT THE HARBOUR
Tim and Bear experience business and have fun down at the waterfront.
Price £19.99 Cat.No. 811 005 4

TIM & BEAR AT THE MOVIES
The inseperable couple learn about the film industry.
Price £19.99 Cat. No. 811 005 5

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

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

CHILDREN'S VIDEO CD

CHITTY CHITTY BANG BANG (VCD)
Classic film about a mad inventor who creates a magical flying car.
Price £17.99 Cat.No. 811 203 9

LEARN WITH SOOTY (VCD)
A Start to Read disc devised in consultation with educational specialists.
Price £12.99 Cat. No. 380 900 7

PADDINGTON BEAR (VCD)
Four episodes of the loveable Paddington Bear feature on this two disc set.
Price £17.99 Cat. No. 811 250 7

THE BFG (VCD)
A full length animated film based on the best-selling novel by Roald Dahl.
Price £12.99 Cat. No. 380 900 6

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

THE SECRET OF NIMH (VCD)
The story of a widowed field mouse, who must summon the courage to defy man, beast and nature.
Price £17.99 Cat. No. 811 204 0

THE BLACK STALLION (VCD)
The adventures of a young boy and his friendship with an Arabian horse.
Price £17.99 Cat. No. 811 203 7

THUMBELINA (VCD)
The classic Hans Christian Andersen animated by Don Bluth.
Price £17.99 Cat. No. 811 2078

GAMES

ALICE IN WONDERLAND
Roam around Wonderland trying to solve the rhymes and puzzles.
Price £29.99 Cat. No. 690 065 2

ALIEN GATE
Hordes of nasty monsters are advancing through the Alien Gate with one objective – the destruction of your world.
Price £19.99 Cat. No. 810 004 9

BACKGAMMON
Interactive backgammon, including three animated opponents each with a different skill level, from beginner to expert.
Price £9.99 Cat. No. 690 039 2

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

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

CAESARS WORLD OF BOXING (DV)
Join the boxers, promoters, managers and reporters at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas.
Price £49.99 Cat. No. 810 014 3

CAESARS WORLD OF GAMBLING
Experience the sights and sounds of the Caesars Palace casinos.
Price £24.99 Cat. No. 690 027 2

CD SHOOT
Practise your clay shooting skills.
Price £29.99 Cat. No. 811 001 4

CHAOS CONTROL (DV)
A gorgeously rendered shoot-'em-up where the aim is to defeat an alien fleet which is invading the solar system.
Price £39.99 Cat. No. 810 020 0

CHRISTMAS CRISIS (DV)
Help Father Christmas find his festive cheer in this amusing platform game.
Price £15.99 Cat. No. 810 031 3

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

CLUEDO: THE MYSTERIES CONTINUE (DV)
The second series of interactive murder mysteries filmed at Arlington Hall in Cheshire. Plenty more fun with Professor Plum, Miss Scarlet and co.
Price £29.99 Cat. No. 819 103 8

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

DEFENDER OF THE CROWN
The Saxon lords have chosen you to lead them in the fight against the hated Normans.
Price £9.99 Cat. No. 690 069 2

DIMO'S QUEST
Dimo takes you on a "candy quest" as you battle your way through an increasingly difficult series of mazes.
Price £19.99 Cat. No. 810 016 6

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

DRAGON'S LAIR 2 (DV)
Dirk the Daring is back in this madcap sequel to the original Dragon's Lair.
Price £49.99 Cat. No. 810 012 5

EARTH COMMAND
Your task is to save the world from impending environmental disaster.
Price £34.99 Cat. No. 810 007 2

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

FLASHBACK
2142 AD. Battle your way back to Earth to stop the invading mutant forces... FlashBack: the ultimate test in survival – the ultimate platform game.
Price: £34.99 Cat. No. 810 020 2

HOTEL MARIO
The world's most popular plumber makes his debut on CDi. Seven different locations and 80 levels to explore.
Price £34.99 Cat. No. 810 009 0

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

INTERNATIONAL TENNIS OPEN
The popular tennis simulation game is in a two-player version so you can fight to match point against your friends and family.
Price £39.99 Cat. No. 810 008 2

INVASION FROM THE PLANET SKYRON (DV)
Interactive adventures with the Monty Python team.
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. 811 012 6

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 Moorkus 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

MAD DOG McCREE II (DV)
The return of the gun totin' villan in this action-packed sequel to a CD-i classic..
Price £29.99 Cat. No. 810 027 8

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 extra levels.
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

PAC-PANIC
Pac-Man, the original video game superstar, makes his debut on CDi. Munch your way through the monsters in three challenging courses.
Price £24.99 Cat. No. 810 031 5

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' beat-'em-up makes its debut on CDi, with graphics to die for.
Price £34.99 Cat.No. 819 101 2

SECRET MISSION
A complex and involving espionage thriller set in IndoChina. Another pre-rendered classic from a French development team.
Price £29.99 Cat. No. 810 027 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 free 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.
Price £39.99 Cat. No. 810 900 1

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.
Price £19.99 Cat. No. 819 100 4

WORLD CUP GOLF
Golfing game with exquisite graphics and multiplayer options.
Price £29.99 Cat. No. 819 102 7

ZELDA: WAND OF GAMELON
Rescue Link and save the world in this gripping adventure.
Price £29.99 Cat. No. 810 009 6

MUSIC

ABBA: ABBA GOLD (VCD)
Classic hits and videos from Sweden's most successful band. Includes all nine singles which topped the UK chart.
Price £19.99 Cat. No. 085 548 4

ABBA: MORE ABBA GOLD (VCD)
More hits from the Scandanavian quartet that brought you *I Do I Do I Do* and *Summer Night City.*
Price £19.99 Cat. No. 087 380 4

ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER (DV)
The Premiere Collection from the Lloyd Webber stable.
Price £15.99 Cat. No. 810 200 1

ANTISTATIC
More psychedelic music from Hex – rave visuals and groovy music.
Price £15.99 Cat. No. 810 017 0

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

BON JOVI: CROSSROAD (VCD)
A collection of the band's greatest hits including Keep The Faith and Blaze of Glory.
Price £19.99 Cat. No. 632 776 4

BRYAN ADAMS (DV)
The *Waking Up the Neighbours* video from Canadian Bryan Adams.
Price £15.99 Cat. No. 810 200 2

CLASSICAL JUKEBOX
Study the lives of 15 of the world's classical composers and listen to their music.
Price £15.99 Cat. No. 690 005 2

CLIFF RICHARD
The indefatigable and remarkably well preserved Sir Cliff just keeps on rocking.
Price £17.99 Cat. No. 491 443 2

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

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

DAVID BOWIE: THE VIDEO COLLECTION (VCD)
A treat for Bowie fans – 26 stunning tracks.
Price £19.99 Cat. No. 491 186 2

DIRE STRAITS: LIVE ON THE NIGHT (VCD)
Fabulous tracks and video footage of Dire Straits.
Price £19.99 Cat. No. 086 502 4

e-SCAPE
Club music and psychedelic visuals brought to you by Hex.
Price £15.99 Cat. No. 810 011 7

GOLDEN OLDIES JUKEBOX
Jump and jam to the tunes of the 1950s and 1960s. Lyrics appear with the music.
Price £15.99 Cat. No. 690 006 2

HEADCRASH
A three-disc pack including a brand new disc from Hex and two CDi best sellers, Antistatic and e-Scape.
Price £29.99 Cat.No. 811 005 6

JAMES BROWN
Soul singer Brown performs 13 songs on this CDi disc.
Price £15.99 Cat. No. 811 000 6

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

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

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

OPERA IMAGINAIRE (VCD)
This title celebrates 400 years of opera through beautifully animated 'live-action' cartoon-like video.
Price £19.99 Cat. No. 819 101 1

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

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

PINK FLOYD: THE WALL (DV)
Pink Floyd's mid-80's concept album nightmare converted to celluloid and directed by Alan Parker. Stupendous soundtrack.
Price £19.99 Cat. No. 812 542 2

PRELUDE
Study the art and music of the era of Post-Impressionism.
Price £15.99 Cat. No. 690 107 2

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

ROLLING STONES : GIMME SHELTER (VCD)
One of the best "rockumentaries" ever, following the band on its infamous 1969 US tour.
Price £19.99 Cat. No. 086 500 4

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

SADE: LIFE, PROMISE, PRIDE, LOVE (VCD)
14 track collection from this fabulous soul singer including *Your Love is King* and *Smooth Operator.*
Price: £17.99 Cat. No. OMN102

THE CRANBERRIES
The newest stars of Irish rock unveil new material on a ground-breaking interactive disc.
Price: £19.99 Cat. No. 810 900 1

THE POLICE: FROM OUTLANDOS TO SYNCHRONICITIES (VCD)
This Video CD contains exciting and previously unavailable live footage spanning the band's entire career, as well as the band's own Super 8 material.
Price: £19.99 Cat. No. 634 826 4

THE THE: INFECTED - THE MOVIE (VCD)
The movie of the 1980s album *Infected* by The The.
Price: £17.99 Cat. No. OMNI 104

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

THE WHO: 30 YEARS MAXIMUM OF R&B LIVE (VCD)
A visual and aural treat for fans of The Who.
Price £24.99 Cat. No. 631 012 4

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

TINA TURNER: LIVE IN BARCELONA (VCD)
Features many of the songs that have brought Tina solo success.
Price £19.99 Cat. No. 082 842 4

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



TINA TURNER: RIO '88 (DV)
Tina Turner at her sell-out concert in Rio '88, plus full DV footage of Tina on stage.
Price £15.99 Cat. No: 083 340 4

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

TOMMY : THE MOVIE (VCD)
Classic film with music by Pete Townshend and The Who.
Price £19.99 Cat. No. 087 944 4

2 UNLIMITED: BEYOND LIMITS (DV)
One of the most successful acts of the international house scene, with eight audio tracks and five videos, plus interviews, picture book and discography.
Price £17.99 Cat. No.819 102 1

U2: RATTLE AND HUM (VCD)
U2 on their Joshua Tree tour.
Price £19.99 Cat. No. 811 202 3

U2: LIVE FROM SYDNEY (VCD)
Join the irrepressible Bono and the band live on their Zoo TV multimedia extravaganza tour, in glorious Video CD.
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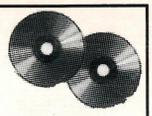
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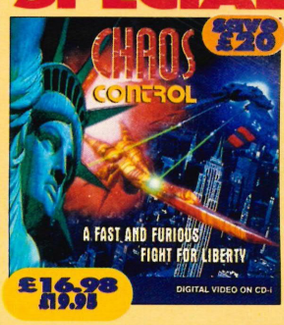
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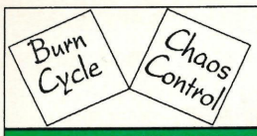
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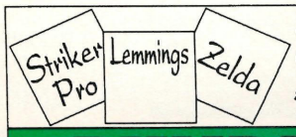


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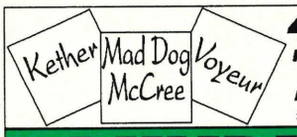
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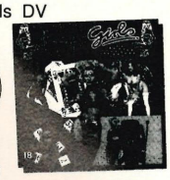
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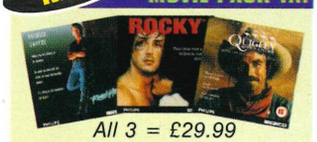
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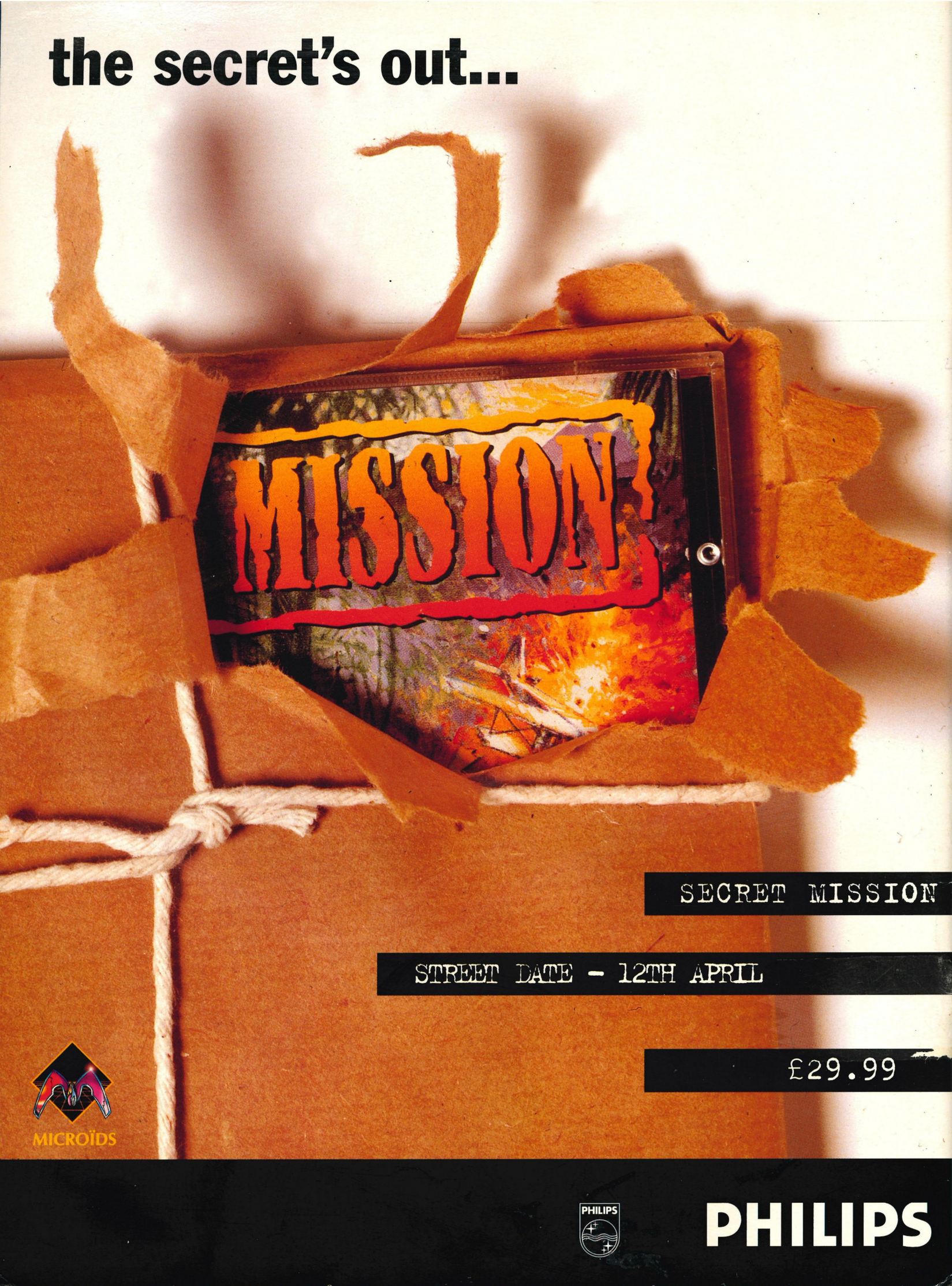


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