



INFORMER

CRISIS

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FILMS

What to see . . .

- Mon 1 Dec. **THE CONVERSATION**. This chilling insight into the conscience of an electronics expert whose speciality is bugging found its way into the 'Ten Best' lists of several critics last year. —MFIS
- Tues 2 Dec. **THE CONVERSATION** (see Monday) —MFIS.
- Wed 3 Dec. **WOYZECK**. Film version of Buchner's play with music by Alan Berg. —Shakespeare Film Society.
- Thurs 4 Dec. **VRIDIANA**. Life in Spain under Franco. —Halton.
- Thurs 4 Dec. **SHE DONE HIM WRONG**. Mae West making the most of her script. The film provoked the National League of Decency but it saved Paramount from bankruptcy. (USA 1933). —Deeside.
- Thurs 4 Dec. **THE WOMEN**. Joan Crawford, Paulette Goddard, Rosalind Russell and Norma Shearer head an all-female cast in this sharp, polished comedy (USA, 1939). —University.
- Thurs 4 Dec. **ANIMAL FARM**. Cartoon based on Orwell's classic. —Birkenhead.
- Fri 5 Dec. **OCCASIONAL WORK OF A FEMALE SLAVE**. (W.Germ., 1974). Dir: Alexander Kluge. "Herr Kluge with refined iron has made out a case for the fair play for women which nature so reluctantly affords them" (Sunday Times). —MFIS.
- Mon 6 Dec. **AGUIRRE—WRATH OF GOD**. (W.Germ., 1972). Dir: Werner Herzog. It's 1560 and an expedition of Spanish conquistadores is making an attempt to plumb the depths of the dangerous forests at the source of the Amazon. —MFIS.
- Tues 9 Dec. **AGUIRRE—WRATH OF GOD**. (See Monday). —MFIS.
- Wed 10 Dec. **THE TEMPEST**. Outstanding and unknown American silent. —Shakespeare Film Society.
- Thurs 11 Dec. **GERTRUD**. About a woman whose love is finer than the men on whom she bestow it. (Denmark, 1964) with sub-titles. —University.
- Fri 12 Dec. **SILENT RUNNING**. Science fiction story of a man's struggle to preserve in a space station, a forest for the day when a defoliated earth comes to its senses. —MFIS.
- Sat 13 Dec. **SWALLOWS & AMAZONS**. Featuring Ronald Fraser, Virginia McKenna. Delightful children's adventure set in Lakeland in the 1920s. A chance for members and their families to attend a show together. —MFIS.
- Mon 15 Dec. **HAROLD & MAUDE**. Bud Cort, Ruth Gordon. Harold and Maude are in every sense an "odd couple". Their mutual interest lies in attending funerals. "One of the funniest American films for years" (Film). —MFIS.
- Tues 16 Dec. **HAROLD & MAUDE**. (See Monday). —MFIS.
- Thurs 18 Dec. **EVERYTHING YOU WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT SEX**. Hilarious comedy with Woody Allen. Christmas get-together. —Halton.
- Thurs 18 Dec. **TRUE GRIT**. Award-winning Western with John Wayne. USA, 1969. —Birkenhead.

where to see it

- BIRKENHEAD LIBRARY FILM SOC**
Alternate Thurs, 8 p.m. at Williamson Art Gallery, Slaty Rd, Birkenhead. Membership details: Music Dept, Central Library, Borough Rd, B'head. Tel: 652 6106.
- DEESIDE FILM SOCIETY**: Alternate Thurs, 8 p.m. at MANWEB Training Hall, Carr Lane, Hoylake (5 mins from Hoylake Station). Membership details: D. Henshilwood, 130 Frankby Rd, Newton, West Kirby.
- HALTON FILM SOCIETY**: Irregularly on Thurs at 7.45 p.m. Membership details: Bill Gallan, 4 Tarvin Close, Runcorn. Runcorn 75628.
- LIVERPOOL UNIVERSITY CINEMA CLUB**: Theme this term: Images of Women. Thursdays 8 p.m. in University Lecture Rooms Building, Crown St (off Brownlow Hill). Membership NOT restricted to people at university. Details: Dr Ann Thompson, English Dept, The University, PO Box 147, Liverpool L69 3BX. Tel: 709 6022.
- MERSEYSIDE FILM INSTITUTE SOCIETY**: Mon, Tues, Fri and sometimes Sat., in Merseyside Film Theatre, Bluecoat Chambers, School Lane, Liverpool. Showings at 6 p.m. and 8.15 unless otherwise stated. Membership details: Hon. Sec., MFIS, 45 Bluecoat Chambers, School Lane, Liverpool, L1 3BX.
- NEW SHAKESPEARE FILM SOCIETY**: Weds at 7 p.m. at Royal Institution, Colquitt Street, Liverpool. Films are part of a course run by University Institute of Extension Studies and are followed by discussion. Tickets for individual sessions: 40p (students 20p). Details: Royal Institution, Colquitt Street. Tel: 709 1579.

ROCKNOTES

Mike Evans

NOW I'M not playing with Deaf School any more — I left a few weeks ago to concentrate on various writing projects — I'm free to rave about them journalistically as it were. When I first heard them nearly a year ago I thought then they were the most exciting thing I'd heard out of Liverpool in a long time, and although some of the attractive rough edges have been rubbed off, a more professional reliability has been achieved gig by gig, tune by tune, and there's still nothing that makes me alter that first opinion of them. Anyway, the promise looks like fulfilling itself — the Deafs have just signed a recording contract with Warner Brothers that is apparently as good a deal as any band is likely to get at the moment, better than most.

The next time you can hear Deaf School in Liverpool is on December 5 at the cavern — I deliberately use a small 'c' in cavern as the club with a capital 'C' was knocked down some time ago... the place still utilising the name presumably hopes to squeeze the last out of the once immense tourist potential of Mathew Street, what with Arthur Dooley's 'Lady Madonna' Beatles statue and all — oh dear.

Talking of Mathew Street (and Deaf School) the last time I sat in with the band was at an amazing party held in O'Halligan's Parlour, above Aunt Twacky's Bazaar. The Parlour serves that once essential function in the daytime, of the coffee bar where one can sit and talk, sit and read or just sit, without fear of being moved as one's lips leave the cup. The title 'coffee bar' sounds a joke

now, all 'fifties youth clubs and rock-in'vicars out of Cliff Richard movies, but in fact it was in such places in Liverpool that the rock and poetry explosions of the 'sixties were ignited, .. the Jacaranda, Streates, ... the trio of Mad Hatters who run the Parlour with Gallic flair are part of an honourable (although some would say infamous) tradition.

Quickies... what's happening at O'Connors these days? ... nice to see local band Nasty Pop getting airplay with their first single, 'Crow' ... a disappointing turn out for top jazz sax player Johnny Griffin at the Banyan recently ... the Pentagon seems to be dropping its rock policy bit by bit ... will Father Christmas be wearing round glasses and carrying a green card when he visits Liverpool this year? ... the Everyman closing concert promises to be a grand line-up of artists who've hardly set foot in the place before, Ken Dodd, the Spinners etc, what about the Roadrunners, Scaffold, Liverpool Scene, Barbara Dickson? ... Clive Burrows' jazz programme on Radio City well worth a listen ... rock bookings at the university not as imaginative as they used to be ... so see ya' ... with more hot licks in 'seventy-six.

WHAT'S ON

- Fri 5 Dec. **DEAF SCHOOL**. Cavern.
- Fri 5 Dec. **Cheap (20p) disco**. Mountford Hall, University Students' Union.
- Sat 6 Dec. **JUDAS PRIEST**. Stadium.
- Tues 9 Dec. **MUD**. Southport Theatre.
- Tues 9 Dec. **URIAH HEEP**. Empire.
- Wed 10 Dec. **GLITTER BAND**. Mountford Hall, University Students' Union.
- Thurs 11 Dec. **CAT STEVENS**. Empire.
- Fri 12 Dec. **SUPERTRAMP**. Empire.
- Sat 13 Dec. **GENTLE GIANT**. Stadium.
- Sat 20 Dec. **STRIFE**. Stadium.

FOLK

THERE IS at the moment bitter controversy surrounding the commercialisation of the folk scene. Many artists claim they cannot make a decent living without increasing their fees and yet some club organisers on Merseyside say that increased fees will kill off the scene altogether.

In the last issue of the Free Press we talked to local professional folk artists on Merseyside and examined their problems. Now the club organisers have their say.

One of Merseyside's long standing clubs is held at the Atlantic Ocean seamen's mission in Hardman Street every Friday. It is run mainly by committee but at the forefront of the club for many years have been Brendan Doyle, himself a singer and one-time folk artist.

Brendan is firmly convinced that the financial situation on the folk club circuit is chronic. It is the little folk clubs who keep folk music alive and he says he cannot see how they can afford fees of £50 and more and still keep in business.

He cites artists such as Jasper Carrot and Mike Harding, two who are currently making a national name, and bemoans the fees that they are now demanding — and getting. At the same time Brendan can also list artists who have remained faithful and kept their fees down.

"Garry and Vera, Therapy, Wesley, Park and Smith, to name but three, have not put up their fees out of all proportion, and I think you will find that their work load is very high," he said.

Many club organisers say one of the most annoying things is that new groups and artists are really trying it on. Many with little or no experience think they can command fees as high as artists of many years' standing.

As Brendan Doyle points out, in the end it is the people who visit the folk clubs who lose out. Entrance fees must rise and yet as they do so audiences drop away.

"We have only increased our entrance fee slightly over the past twelve months and charge between 35 and 40p for what I consider is a really good night's entertainment," said Brendan.

He laments the earlier days of the folk club scene when many artists such as Jacqui and Bridie and the Spinners charged only nominal entrance fees and

attracted people by the hundreds for the love of folk.

The old 'Wash House' in London Road was a prime example of this. A club where established artists such as Pete McGovern (he of 'In My Liverpool Home' fame) ran magnificent singarounds.

But Brendan admits that today it is economically impossible for this type of club to survive. "And yet it seems that the ideals of folk music have been lost in the meantime," he said.

"The scene is becoming too commercial with non-commercial people trying to ask too high fees. It has developed into a rat race with folk artists asking cabaret type fees."

A completely opposite point of view is expressed by folk club organiser Bill Jones from the Wirral.

"Let's face it, in these harsh economic days their fees are not too unreasonable," said Bill, who runs the Wednesday Folk Club at Parkgate Hotel.

"I can quite understand Mike Harding and Jasper Carrot and the like trying to make a good living out of their commercial success. I doubt if they will be able to do it for very long and they have worked hard over the years and I believe deserve some reward."

Bill says a lot of people on the folk scene are still very genuine and play fair with audiences and organisers. "Look," he explained, "we've even had people play the club for nothing or at a reduced fee when audiences have not been particularly big."

The time that folk artists need to spend on the road, with its disruptive effect on home and social life, justifies their fees according to Bill.

Another organiser who claims to understand the reason behind the recent high fees is Golden Lion Club organiser Bob Leeming.

The club, in Rainford, has been running for a number of years and Bob is fully qualified to interpret the changing economic climate of the folk scene.

Although he says he does understand why high fees are now being asked by professional artists he is dismayed at the number of amateurs creeping up and wanting the same figures.

The economics of running a three or four man group are high and Bob sees no extortion in £40 or £50 fees for a night's work.

"IF YOU live on Merseyside you have a better than average chance of being made redundant, on the dole, of being evicted, robbed, and of dying of boredom apart from anything else in the hospital queue. Chances are also good of your marriage falling apart and your kids running wild to be picked up by the law."

So runs the concluding paragraph on Merseyside in "Cutting the Welfare State", the first of a series of reports under the general title "Crisis", published jointly by Counter Information Services and the Community Development Project.

Hardly news; and will at most confirm your worst fears. The report paints a particularly depressing picture of Merseyside, an area given special attention as one of those in the most need and also the worst hit by cuts in public spending.

It's all backed up by facts and figures that leave little room for argument and it does tell you just how many other people are queuing for Social Security, council houses, and National Health treatment in the city if you really want to know.

But it's on the lucid descriptions of the crisis on the national and international scene that the report excels itself. It demonstrates how for years private companies have creamed off vast sums of money at the expense of the public services and

their employees.

Most important of all, it explains how the government, in its desperation to save the day via private investment, is borrowing more and more money with strings attached.

About half of the national deficit, £5½ billion, is paid out to private finance in interest charges on existing loans. Further, the government is helping private capital under its programme for the "regeneration" of industry. It has reduced company taxation and so increased the deficit by £1.3 billion.

In addition, many areas of public spending that are important to private capital will not be substantially cut. These include direct aid to industry, currently at £2 billion, and defence and basic services to industry.

In the past few years Counter Information Services have built up a reputation for providing facts and figures on the role of multinational corporations.

"Cutting the Welfare State" will be of great use for all those active in the labour movement in providing a clear insight to our present economic plight.

The report is available from CIS, 9 Poland St, London W 1; tel. 01-439 3764. Price 45p. Or from good bookshops.

COMMUNITY

OLD SWAN: Dec 3—Cabaret Night. Rugby Club, Derby Lane. To raise funds for next year's Old Swan Festival.

LODGE LANE: Sun Dec 7. Parade through the streets on the local coalman's wagon (at mid-day) followed by a Christmas party for the "little 'uns" in Dove Street Community Centre.

Organisers have found it impossible to book a kids' entertainer for the party. So anybody who fancies entertaining infants should phone 708 0636 — they'd be glad to hear from you.

SATURDAY Dec 20—Christmas Party Disco for 8—16 year olds at the Unity Boys' Club.

SPARROW HALL Community Centre. OAP's outing Dec 9; youth club outing Dec 10; kids' Christmas party Dec 17. Christmas disco to be arranged.

RIALTO Community Centre, Upper Parliament Street are presently catering for:

Children aged 2—5: Day nursery 1.30 to 4.30 afternoons.
Children 4—13: After school activities (4 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.)

Teenagers aged 13—18: Disco (7.30—10 p.m.); films (7.30—10 p.m.)

Over 16s: Black studies, Thurs 7.30. Karate Tues 7.30 and Sunday 2—4 p.m. 11—13 years: Woodwork and making go-karts. Tues, 7.30—9 p.m.

Girls aged 11—13: sewing class Tues and Thurs 7.30—10 p.m.

Adults: Thurs—Food co-operative and social and welfare problems, residents' association.
FOR SCHOOL LEAVERS: Daytime activities— for the unemployed... library, music practice, sport (football, basketball, billiards). Girls aged 14—16: Girls' Association... organisational work, office work, letter writing.

Low Baxter

"Although we find it difficult to cover this sort of cost we have to accept that it is necessary. We, in fact, cater for this in our entrance fee." The club normally charges around 40p but this all depends on the artists book. "We aim to break even every week and vary our admission fees accordingly," Bob added. "I get all sort of artists and group I have never even heard of ringing me up and asking all sorts of ridiculous fees. Quite frankly they're just not on," he said. "It is the solo artists, and the newer ones at that, who are the people jumping on to the bandwagon."

But he added: "Providing we are all realistic and only pay the money when we think it is fair, and necessary, then the problem is easily manageable."

FOLK EVENTS

Thurs 4 Dec. **THERAPY** at Liverpool Polytechnic Vaults Folk Club, Commerce Bar (behind Faculty Building, Tithelbarn Street). 8.15.

Mon 8 Dec. **FOLK EVENING**. Octopus Club. Upstairs, Brook House Hotel, Smithdown Road. Local singers. [Entrance fee] . 8.30.

Thurs 11 Dec. **CELIDH BAND**. Liverpool Polytechnic Vaults Folk Club, Commerce Bar (behind faculty building, Tithelbarn Street). 8.15.

Thurs 18 Dec. **FOLK CONCERT** in the Christmas spirit with poet Spencer Leigh, Dave Boardman (one of the founder members of the local Bothy Club), Johnny Handle the Northumbrian folk singer and the Southport Mimmers. Southport Arts Centre, 7.45. Admission 75p (pensioners, students 60p).

ADRIAN HOUSE Folk Club, 15 Sandringham Drive, Liverpool 17:
Dec 2 Singers; Dec 9 Pete McGovern; Dec 16 open; Dec 23 Muckram Wakes.

CENTRE HOTEL, Lord Nelson Street (off Lime Street). Sundays at 7.30:
Dec 7 Harvey Andrews and Graham Cooper; Dec 14 Gary and Vera; Dec 21 Christmas Panto with Brian Jacques; Dec 28 Goodbye '75 with Brian Jacques Brigantine, Windmill Folk etc.

FOR CHILDREN

CHILDREN'S THEATRE PLAYHOUSE 709 8363

Dec. 20. Matinee of hit musical **CABARET** (4.45 p.m.)

Dec 23—Jan 17 **KIDNAPPED AT CHRISTMAS**. Northern premiere of Willis Hall's original play for children. Matinees only (2.30).

EVERYMAN 709 4774

Dec 3—13. **ANDROCLES AND THE LION** by G.B. Shaw. Pre-Christmas treat for fun-loving adults and kids. (Matinees for schools Dec 2—5 and 9—12).

ROYAL COURT 709 5163

Wed Dec 3 and 10, Sat Dec 6 and 13. Matinees of D'Oyly Carte's **IOLANTHE** (2.30).

THEATRE ROYAL St Helens 28467
Dec 15—20. **THE OLD WOMAN WHO LIVED IN A SHOE**. Pantomime version of the traditional children's story. Nightly at 7.15, matinee Sat at 2.15.

NEPTUNE (Amateur) 709 7844

THE SNOW QUEEN. Matinees at 2.30 from Dec 16. Details from theatre.

TRANSPORT

MERSEYSIDE Passenger Transport hire out single and double-deck buses for tours, outings and functions. —MPTE, Hatton Garden, Liverpool. 236 7411.

SPEKE Community Transport. Community Centre, off North Parade.

LIVERPOOL Community Transport. 37 Leeds Street, Liverpool 3. 236 9763. "To assist groups of residents in deprived areas to set up their own transport and linked activities in order to tackle the problems of urban living." [Transport goes a long way these days!]

DOVE STREET Community Centre. Old Cuckoo pub, 86 Lodge Lane. 708 0636. Two transit vans and 41-seater coach for use of local residents.

WHEELS Transport Co-op.. Double decker bus for hire. 727 5039.