INSIDE THE DISASTER COMET: MALTAGEDDON

3D TOURS OF CINEMAS  SHOPPING FOR CINEASTES

www.CinemaHeritageGroup.org
EDITORIAL

This issue presents talented indie filmmakers' first projects ranging from a 'no-budget' British zombie horror to a Maltese disaster/comedy movie. ■ A new publication gives insights into socio-architectural history (although non-cinematic), while representing an excellent template for cinematic heritage publications. ■ Hey, would you like to own a 1930s Dublin cinema? Check out the RIALTO...

Starting from Rome, the first entry of a recurring feature (Cinema Shopping) will reveal the locations of specialist places to buy movie books, arthouse DVDs, posters and more. ■ Enhanced back issues of The Cinematograph are now available in a special package on CD, including several added goodies.

If you would like to submit an item to this magazine, alert us to cinematic events, publications or developments, or if you have comments/suggestions regarding the contents or style of The Cinematograph, I will be glad to hear from you. Contact {editor@cinemaheritagegroup.org}

Happy summer holidays!

Marc Zimmermann

CINEMA HERITAGE GROUP (CHG)

[Magazine Back Issues] All back issues of The Cinematograph have been reworked in order to make them available to you in an improved version. [1] The direct link problem some online readers previously encountered (hyperlinks would not open or stall) has been fixed. [2] The magazine layout has been improved from previous PDF conversions, which had 'squashed' the result. [3] Images have been tidied up (some had previously become blurred in their conversion to PDF).

The first thirty improved issues (#001-030) are now available on CD, including special extras: [A] a separate, detailed Index to all issues for quick reference, [B] a Review of all 10 books on Irish cinemas, [C] an Article Series on The History of Dublin Cinemas (previously featured in Film Ireland magazine), and [D] 10 hi-res cinema photographs.

The CD is available for just €15 (including postage) to all subscribers. For orders, queries and payment options, please contact {editor@cinemaheritagegroup.org}

EVENTS NEWS

[Malta] The 5th annual Kinemastik Short Film Festival will present screenings, workshops and talks in Valletta (at Gnien il-Gardjola) on 1-2 August. See {www.kinemastik.org}

[Malta] Movie Nights with food and drink at Answers Bakery & Restaurant in Paceville (23 Wilga Street) every Wednesday until 28 October. Contact {eva2008@onvol.net}

[USA] The 4th Independent Television Festival will run in Los Angeles (CA) from 31 July to 6 August. For details check out {http://itvfest.org}

[USA] The Bare Bones SciFi-Fantasy-Horror Film Festival will thrill and scare audiences with Science Fiction, horror, fantasy, animation and 'weird' movies in Oklahoma City (OK) on 1 August. For details, check out {www.myspace.com/barebones_scifihorror}
[USA] The **Feel Good Film Festival** showcases short and feature films with happy endings, that are heart-warming and that make audiences laugh, at the **Egyptian Theatre** in Hollywood (CA) on 7-9 August. {www.fgff.org}

[Germany] The 5th **Globians Doc Fest** presents world cultures, rural life, ethnic studies, social conflict, history, gender and environmental issues in Berlin on 12-17 Aug. {www.globians.com}

[Germany] The **Fantasy Filmfest** will travel München, Stuttgart, Nürnberg, Frankfurt, Köln, Hamburg and Berlin between 18 August and 9 September. {www.fantasyfilmfest.com}

[Italy] The **Angels & Demons Experience** tours several of the book's and film's sites around Rome. Discover the Eternal City through an incredible journey, following the Path of Illumination, solving puzzles and enigmas hidden in ancient sculptures and texts. {www.starwoodeurope.com/angelsanddemons}

[Hungary] The **Slow Film International Festival** will present new filmmakers' documentary and fiction in Eger from 25 July to 1 August. {www.slowfilmfest.hu}

[Croatia] The **APOX Film Festival** will entertain audiences in Veli Lošinj on 17-22 August. {www.apoxfilmfestival.com}

If you would like to promote your own event through *The Cinematograph* (screening, conference, tour etc.), please contact {editor@cinemaheritagegroup.org}

**PUBLICATION NEWS**

[UK* Cinemas] **Cinemas of North Tyneside** [book by Frank Manders, out now] details all 35 picture houses of this region in a comprehensive history illustrated with archive photographs and drawings, presenting the buildings, past cinema events and patrons’ recollections. Available through {www.merciacinema.org}

[UK* Theatre] **The Theatre Royal: Entertaining a Nation** [book by Graeme Smith, recently published] chronicles the history of this important Glasgow venue (opened 1867), which also presented films during the first half of the 1900s before serving as the Scottish Television Theatre. For additional details on both book and venue, go to {www.glasgowtheatreroyal.co.uk}

For another new (but non-cinematic) publication on architectural heritage check out the **Review** below.

If you have written or come across a cinema- or film-related article/book, do let me know; I will be happy to make readers aware of it. Contact {editor@cinemaheritagegroup.org}

**REVIEW**

While this section is typically reserved for cinema-related publications, for this issue we have chosen a new, non-cinematic title that is remarkable in its many evident similarities to the preservation of historic cinemas.
GREAT LENGTHS [UK] [£19.99] {http://playedinbritain.co.uk/books/great-lengths.php}

Stats: Historic British Indoor Pools [book by Dr. Ian Gordon & Simon Inglis, pb, 292 pages, numerous colour photographs, publ. 2009]

Review: Covering both architectural and social aspects, this comprehensive history of historic indoor pools across the UK offers a fascinating look at an important part of Britain's leisure and built heritage. What makes this book particularly interesting also from a cinematic point of view are the numerous parallels that can be found between the covered subject and that of historic cinemas and their preservation: as a building category, historic indoor pools have been largely underappreciated. They feature significant and rare examples from different architectural periods; their Golden Age roughly overlaps with that of cinemas: 1880s-1930s (pools) and 1910s-40s (cinemas). Furthermore, several of their architectural particulars and features correspond to movie theatres: large open-plan interiors with open-span roofs, representative façades, central ticket offices, ornaments, etc. Throughout recent decades pressure to redevelop the sites they occupy has often trumped the public's desire to restore them, as too few significant examples are protected structures. Whether this insightfully written, well-photographed and professionally laid out book is read by the sporting history enthusiast, architecture lover, writer of built heritage records, or even cinema fan, it delivers on all fronts. There are few faults to be found with this thoroughly recommended book.

Verdict: ***** © Insightful, comprehensive & generously-illustrated © In parts too brief on human interest {reviewed by Marc Zimmermann}

HISTORIC CINEMA NEWS

[Ireland] Dublin's former RIALTO cinema (1936-70) at Dolphin's Barn (355-7 South Circular Rd.) is currently for sale subject to planning permission being obtained. After its closure the former grand 'suburban' cinema was converted (gutted) to a car dealership with a showroom in the former auditorium and offices on the balcony level. Since then Windsor Motors had traded here for 35 years, closing down recently. The cinema site has been described as being "ideal for a developer to provide a high-density residential and commercial scheme in an area which is developing rapidly." As usual, the interest of redeveloping the site by far exceeds any notions of retaining an historic 1930s cinema and accordingly a feasibility study prepared by John Fleming Architects cites "a potential for up to 79 apartments and a large retail unit of 1,230m² on the ground floor." It is being sold by Ganly Walters by public tender at an advised min. value of €7.5m. {Byron Smith}

MOVIE & DOCU NEWS

[Malta] Maltageddon is a new Maltese independent movie production currently in the late stages of shooting. A satire based on the Bruce Willis vehicle Armageddon (US 1998), it is set in Malta, where mankind's only hope to launch a space mission lies, sending a daring crew
towards the gigantic comet hurtling towards Earth, attempting to deflect it and to save the planet. While principal shooting has already finished, filming of the final green-screen scenes is set to wrap by mid-August.

*Maltageddon* attracted a large local crew (close to 300) and a cast of 250 Maltese actors and extras, including 50 speaking roles (see also cover image). The actors include several Maltese personalities (entertainers, presenters, DJs etc.), stage actors and amateurs.

Square Wheel Entertainment, a production company established in 2007, grew out of a talent group that had been producing successful comedy theatre plays and musicals throughout the previous decade. This local production is supported by the Cinema Heritage Group, which has been on set to observe production. Featuring several foreign language roles in addition to the mainly Maltese dialogue, this movie is growing into an entertaining, droll and topical take on disaster movies.

It will be released across Malta in late November (through KRS Distributors) with the subsequent DVD release planned for the second quarter of 2010. The movie's website, which will feature photos, interviews, a teaser trailer and more, will be launched in early August. Keep an eye out for the upcoming {www.squarewheelent.com}

**[UK] Colin**, the indie 'no-budget' zombie movie by young British amateur filmmaker Marc Price, recently took Cannes by storm, generating a great deal of buzz due to its original story and its miniscule cost of £45 (for a crowbar, video tapes and tea). It took Price's Nowhere Fast Productions eighteen months to shoot the film on a handheld camcorder in Swansea and London, using around 100 volunteer actors recruited through Facebook, as well as equipment, lighting and make-up provided for free by cast and crew. The movie's novel approach of telling the story from the zombie's perspective (combined with its micro budget) has caught the eye of several large international studios; a Japanese distribution deal has already been signed and a lucrative deal over the rights for a Hollywood remake is anticipated soon. The film has been praised as a zombie film "with a heart" and as being "compelling and thought provoking". Check out the trailer (Caution: Not for the fainthearted!), clips and further details on {www.nowherefast.tv}

**[UK] Cataclysm: Nuclear Armageddon** is set in the near future, at a time of crisis when an asteroid collision looms, a potentially disastrous nuclear weapon is set up to deflect this treat,
and unreliable military robots roam the cities. It is a dialogue-free Machinima movie (animated, using real-time 3D rendering engines from video games) presented in point-of-view mode. Having travelled to Melbourne (Australia) the protagonist gets knocked unconscious by a fleeing crowd on the underground to wake hours later in a deserted city. Will a glimmer of hope survive through the challenges the protagonist (i.e. you) faces? A subway derailment, a nuclear strike, and the search for 'The Sanctuary' paint an apocalyptic picture.

The movie was created by Robert Barrett-Sprot (17). It is his first attempt to prove that films created with Garry's Mod (a graphics engine that allows game players to manipulate objects) can yield superior results to what's usually expected. Props and sets were also designed by recording in-game footage, and filmed using the We-Game recorder. Post-production was carried out with a combination of Adobe Premier, Sound Booth, On Location and Photoshop. Machinima animation has appeared outside the gaming world in mainstream media, including television series and advertisements. This 30-minute amateur production took around four months to create. Check out its three parts, starting at {www.youtube.com/watch?v=_lbfzKdiqV8}

WEB TIPS

[3D Tours] Cinematreasures.org, the detailed website dedicated to historic American and international cinemas, also presents two ornate movie palaces in virtual 3D tours. Check out the CAPITOL THEATRE in Sidney (NSW, AU) on {http://cinematreasures.org/vr/capitol_1.php} and the PLAZA THEATRE in El Paso (TX, US) on {http://cinematreasures.org/vr/plaza.php}

SPOTLIGHT

[Short Films] The well-received Malta International Television Short Film Festival has recently ended with a round of acclaim. The festival has attracted praise -both nationally and internationally- for its innovative formatting. The success of this televised festival lies in the joint effort of skilled professionals in Malta and abroad, who could see the value of the event while still in its conceptual stage, and provided support all the way through. The festival introduced interactive voting to Maltese audiences, allowing full participation. Winners included accomplished entrants from Zambia, Spain, Germany and the Netherlands, in addition to local talent. Among more than 120 official entries, several stood out for their cinematic calibre. The producers of this festival believe in the value of circulating it internationally and in collaboration with TV stations. Part of the festival's organising committee's remit is to establish collaborative agreements with other international festivals to generate well-deserved exposure. One such endorsement has already been secured with the Manhattan Short Film Festival. The principal winner of this Maltese festival was the tense, poignant WWII short .303 by The Bigger Picture Productions (Malta), with three trophies, including Best Picture. Watch the ten-minute movie (shot mainly in Valletta [MT], doubling for Sicily) on YouTube at
MOVIE Cliché NO.3

[Blazing Miracle Beam Rule] Most films that feature dramatic segments of characters trying to escape from a burning building inexplicably include a scene in which the protagonists (running towards the screen) are abruptly cut off from their only viable escape route by a wooden beam ablaze with kerosene-fuelled flames falling neatly, in its entirety, from the ceiling. The fact that the building in question most likely is an all-concrete office structure or a steel hangar does not pose any hindrance for this to occur. The escapees typically jump back, looking up horrified at the off-camera spot this inexplicable object might have dropped from. Their further survival is directly linked to their usefulness to the plot and to the preposterousness-level of the movie. Examples include Pixar’s The Incredibles (US 2004) and House on Fire, an episode of TV crime drama series Criminal Minds (episode #4.19, US 2009), which features a cinema engulfed by flames at the hands of a deranged arsonist (you didn’t see that coming, did ya?).  

Peeves, comments, rants? If you have a cliché you love to hate, or one that you have spotted as an odd, recurring 'rule' of filmmaking, send it in to {editor@cinemaheritagegroup.org} to see it featured in a future issue of the magazine.

CINEMA SHOPPING

[Italy] The Libreria del Cinema in Rome (Via dei Fienaroli 31) is an appealing cinema shop in the old Trastevere quarter, selling film books (main focus Italy), classic movie posters, DVDs, further including a small Café with Wi-Fi area, spread across three interconnected rooms. The films on offer are among the best indie/international/arthouse selections to be found in a shop of this kind. Go check it out on your next Rome trip or visit online at {www.libreriadelcinema.roma.it}

CINEMA JOBS & TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

[Malta] Starting in October, Cinébiss Ltd. will offer a 2-year internship programme for young people, focussing on film production. For further details on the 3-phase programme, including salary, check out {www.cinebiss.com/careers.aspx?aid=1&id=1234567896}

[UK] Cineworld Cinemas plc (the UK’s second largest operator with over 800 screens) has launched an online recruitment system (developed by Changeworknow) to better manage the multitude of applicants wishing to work in one of the chain’s cinemas. For vacancy postings and to apply, go to {www.cineworld.co.uk/careers/join}
The **CINEMA HERITAGE GROUP** (CHG, estd. 2006) is a non-profit organisation bringing cinema enthusiasts and industry experts together to encourage joint efforts in the recording, preservation and dissemination of cinemagoing history. We pursue the following **MAIN GOALS:**

1. Carry out, circulate and encourage **RESEARCH** on historic cinemas
2. Secure the protection and **PRESERVATION** of highly significant surviving cinemas
3. Establish and maintain **EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES** relating to cinemas and film
4. Promote **DEVELOPMENTS** in the cinema industry, including exhibition and filmmaking

**SUBJECT:** Historic cinemas, multiplexes, cinemagoing history and developments worldwide.

**FOCUS:** Malta, Ireland and global trends.

**THE CINEMATOGRAPH** (launched in Nov. 2006) is the monthly digital magazine of the Cinema Heritage Group. It is currently available via e-mail (in PDF format) through free subscription.

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**NEXT ISSUE:**

**#034** will be out in late August.

**including:**

- Historic cinema cover
- More Publication News
- The return of:
  - The Cinema Architecture Compendium
  - & The Nickelodeon Dictionary

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**RECORDING & PRESERVING CINEMA-GOING HISTORY**

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**COVER IMAGE:**

Cast & crew on the comet set of *Maltageddon*,
Kalkara (Malta) June 2009
© Marc Zimmermann

For further details see Spotlight above.

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**NOTES:**

**WEB-LINKS:** All {website} and {e-mail} addresses in the digital magazine are embedded links & can be clicked directly.

**SUBMISSIONS & FEEDBACK:** Submissions and comments are always welcome at editor@cinemaheritagegroup.org

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**MAG FORMAT:** European date format dd/mm & 2-digit country codes {http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ISO_3166-1} used.

**BEST PRINT RESULTS:** The magazine is enabled for high-res printing. Recommendation: In the print dialogue box choose 'Page Scaling: None' for a full-sized copy, and 'Properties: Finishing: Print on Both Sides' to help save a tree.