

The Muppet movie

Something to oink and croak about

by Cheryl Downton

Lines like "I'll show you my etchings if you come to my lily pad", and "short, green and handsome" are not things one is likely to hear on an average date, but then Kermit and Miss Piggy are not the ordinary couple, and **The Muppet Movie** is not the usual film fare.

The Muppets are a familiar sight on the television screen and now Kermit and his friends have made the big time. **The Muppet Movie** tells the tale of how this curious collection of stringed puppets got their start in Hollywood. It's not the real story, but then fantasy will often make a better movie. In reality, Jim Henson, the Muppets creator, had to travel to England when American powers turned thumbs down on his motley Muppets. **The Muppet Movie** tells the story of the way it might have been, and brings back the Muppets in triumphant return.

Bowie from the big apple

by Lewis Humphreys

David Bowie's new album **LODGER** on the familiar R.C.A. label is the final in a series of three albums he has created with Brian Eno. The first two were recorded in Germany and capture the feeling of Berlin. The music is, in places, very solemn and Berlin's omnipresent (weeping) wall pervades Bowie's interpretation of the new German music scene. **LODGER** was conceived and written in New York, the effect this has had in comparison with the previous albums is exemplified in the new L.P.'s positive feeling. There is a great deal happening culturally in New York and this has surfaced in **LODGER**. It is very much an introspective work for Bowie, the majority of the songs reflecting on his recent trips abroad. Titles such as **Fantastic Voyage, African Night Flight, Move On,** and **Red Sails** speak for themselves.

Lyricaly, Bowie has incorporated the William Burroughs cut-up technique and used it very effectively on pieces like **Yassassin** and **Repetition** to convey a definite social message. This literary style was first used by Bowie on the **Diamond Dogs** L.P. and has now become an essential aspect of his music. Bowie certainly has done much to popularize this mode of writing. Originally he was embarrassed about the process of cutting up sentences because no one else was using it. Now it is in **Vogue** with the new wave and Bowie's influence there is obvious.

The band on **LODGER** is outstanding, Brian Eno is definitely a genius. The sounds he contributes to the

Kermit is 'discovered' by a Hollywood agent as he strums in his swamp, and is off to California in search of fame, fortune and the power to bring happiness. He meets up with Fozzie Bear in the El Sleazo Club, and together they begin their cross country journey. They are joined by Gonzo and his favorite chicken, a piano playing Rowlf, an unruffable Miss Piggy, Scooter and the Electric Mayhem, the professor and Beaker. Their quest for the sunny skies of the American south are continually thwarted by the efforts of one Doc Hopper and his squad of goons, who want Kermit as endorser of golden fried frog legs.

As is the case in all great fairytales, good triumphs over

evil, and Kermit and his colorful entourage arrive in Hollywood and sign the "standard rich and famous contract".

The Muppet Movie draws some close parallels with the quartet who followed the well known yellow brick path: rainbows figure prominently, evil forces are destined to impede their progress, and the final encounter with Lew Lord bears a striking resemblance to Dorothy's meeting with the Wizard. As with **The Wizard of Oz**, the characters ultimately have their wishes fulfilled.

The Muppet Movie offers something audiences have rarely been permitted to see—the feet and lower bodies of the Muppet cast. Kermit dem-

onstrates amazing agility, and the technical and special effects give a new magic to this colorful crew. The highlights include Kermit's bicycling, Fozzie's driving, and the musicianship of the Electric Mayhem.

Costuming rivals everything done to date, and Miss Piggy's elegance and Kermit's suave debonair style are enhanced with a flair for detail and accuracy. The human co-stars are relegated to second string, as the real stars demonstrate their multitude of talent.

It is a movie for children and anyone who still holds dear memories of a too soon ended childhood, and retains a desire to experience the lost joys of the world of make believe.

DEAR FLIES! After weighing your proposition, it is my belief that anything that cat's shit does not deserve to live for yours truly,
RBS



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