

music

by Jenn Beck

THE VANCOUVER-based Nettwerk Productions has recently released a compilation album entitled "Nettwerk Sound Sampler Vol. 3". The Nettwerk label commands a diverse range of artists, and this release acts as a comprehensive showcase for the talent.

The song arrangement places those easier to take first, with smooth sweet "Baby" by Lava Hay opening the Sound Sampler. The intriguingly named and angelically dressed duo sing like sultry, mainstream Indigo Girls, and serve as a powerful lead to Sarah MacLachlan's "What Lies Beyond".

The next two songs prove disappointing. One, aptly named "Beach Party (Remix)" by Aquanettas, rivals the depth you would expect from a Go-Go's song. The following tunes improve dramatically, with the pared-down celtic pop of The Water Walk presaging the strong, driving beat of "Head Down" by Moev.

The rap element of Nettwerk Productions is stellarly represented by two groups; Consolidated and MC900 Ft Jesus with DJ Zero. These groups produce an absolutely funky and off-beat sound, with lots of creative sampling and infectious lyrics.

Segueing neatly from the sublime to the tragic, Boxcar offers "Insect", abominable techno-driven with a positively painful premise. Thankfully, Bel Canto's haunting "Shoulder to the Wheel" blessedly abolishes all memory of the fear-some previous track, but the respite proves brief as Hilt, the Skinny Puppy sound-alike band, wails and growls an industrial conclusion to the disc.

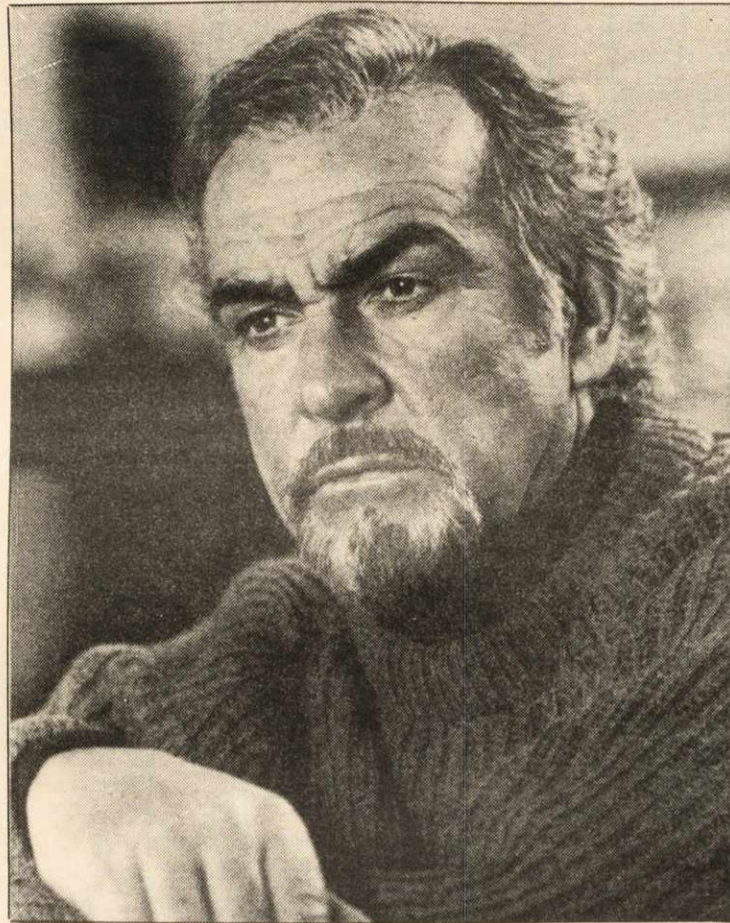
Altogether, this album is impressive, professional, and well-orchestrated, but with marked crests and troughs that even excellent production can't hide. Nettwerk has provided an unlimited forum, but that can only help, not fix, some of its' limited talent.

Cop Rocks

by Gurn Blasten

Kindergarten Cop

THIS IS A FAIRLY solid Schwarzenegger vehicle, this time with Arnold posing as a kindergarten teacher to catch a drug dealer. Penelope Ann Miller is suitably sweet as his love interest, but it is Pamela Reed who steals the show as Arnie's spunky partner. Unfortunately, director Ivan Reitman (*Twins*) had no original ideas on how to end the movie, so he simply let it degenerate into another shoot-out in the school's locker room. The most surprising thing about the film is that, considering its title, *Kindergarten Cop* is much too mean and violent for children under 12. A must for Arnie fans though.



Sean realizing he's too old for Michelle Pfeiffer.

Best Western

The Russia House

This is a beautiful, moody spy story set in the Glasnost-era of the Soviet Union. Sean Connery plays a British publisher drawn into the spy game by a mysterious Soviet scientist and a gorgeous Russian courier. Connery is dead-on as always as the boozy, haggard hero, but Michelle Pfeiffer is even better as the courageous messenger. With an immaculate support cast and breathtaking on-location photography, *The Russia House* is perhaps the best Western film ever made in, and about the Soviet Union. It is an excellent sociological and geographical essay on the culture, politics, and secrets of the country in this new age of openness and detente.

Much love in the Cards

by Matthew Rainnie

HE IS NOT A conventional leading man. He is not well-built or classically good looking, and he is not American.

Gerard Depardieu is the most acclaimed French film actor of our time. He is a veteran of over 60 French films, including *The Last Metro*, *The Return of Martin Guerre* and *Jean de Florette*. He recently won the Best Actor award at the Cannes Film Festival for his portrayal of the title character in *Cyrano de Bergerac*.

Green Card is Depardieu's first English speaking project. He was brought to the film by director Peter Weir (*Dead Poet's Society*), who wrote the screenplay with Depardieu in mind.

Green Card is the story of two people who want to get married for different reasons, neither being

love. Andie MacDowell plays Bronte Parrish, a horticulturalist who desperately wants to rent a lavish Manhattan apartment with a greenhouse. However, the apartment can only be rented to a married couple. Depardieu is Georges Faure, a French composer who needs a wife so he can get his green card and start a new life in America.

The film begins with their marriage and their parting, that is until the Immigration and Naturalization Service decides to check up on the arrangement. Bronte and Georges are given a weekend to invent their past and convince the INS that they are really in love. In the tradition of all good romances, they initially despise one another but come to find some common ground.

The premise of the film is interesting, and Weire makes the

most of it. The two try to learn everything about one another; what kind of face cream she uses, what color toothbrush he has. In one amusing sequence, the two even take pictures to try and create fictional vacations of their past.

Depardieu is excellent as Georges, the zestful, beef-eating Frenchman. His thick accent, beer belly and mangy hair add to the character's charm. This performance has already netted him a Golden Globe Award for Best Actor (Comedy).

MacDowell (sex, lies and videotape) gives a sporadically distant performance as Bronte. Her character is reserved and somewhat snobby, yet, as times, MacDowell carries this to robotic lengths. However, her ability does shine through, particularly in the film's concluding sequences.

Bebe Neuwirth (Lilith on TV's *Cheers*) and Ann Wedgeworth (Lana on TV's *Three's Company*), provide amusing supporting performances, particularly in a party scene with Neuwirth's rich parents, where Georges is definitely a fish out of water.

Green Card is light, fun, romantic fare. It is a throwback to pictures such as *The African Queen* and *The Goodbye Girl*, where two people are forced into an arrangement and end up falling in love.

The romantic comedy has made a strong comeback recently, with *Pretty Woman* and *Ghost* becoming two of the five highest grossing films of 1990. *Green Card*, which has no hookers, billionaires or dead boyfriends, won the Gold Globe for Best Picture (Comedy), edging out the two aforementioned films.

It is currently playing at Park Lane Cinemas in Halifax.

Nettwerk shows new slant