

Wormwood's moves up the street

BY AARON BLEASDALE

After seven-and-a-half years at 2015 Gottingen St., Wormwood's Dog and Monkey Cinema is moving.

But, not to worry, because its new location is in the same area of town, actually on the same street... well, almost next door. Wormwood's has moved one block away, into the old Vogue Cinema, or more recently, the site of the nightclub "Rumours".

But, if the move represents no great improvement in location, why move at all? After seven-and-a-half years in the same location, one would think that a cinema that has bounced around since its inception twenty years ago was finally settling down. Well, one would be wrong to think that.

I recently had a chance to talk with Lea Renaldo, co-operator of the theatre, and she explained that the main reason for the move was the desire to finally settle down. The arrangement they had had up to now at 2015 Gottingen St. was a rental arrangement, and during the course of this deal, Wormwood's had paid enough in rent to have been able to buy its own place. So, when Rumours, a local nightclub, shut down and left its building vacant, how could they have resisted the temptation of their own building?

They didn't. In June, owners Peter Gaskin and Meredith Hutchins bought the building and began its renovation. Four months later, after much hard work, Wormwood's new locale is ready.

The new venue is spectacular. Designed as a film house, the Vogue has a three-hundred seat capacity (double that of the old location), staggered seating for



John Clattendburg working on the relocated and renovated Wormwood's Cinema.

better sightlines, a fancy Dolby bigger sound system, and the surround screen that patrons and operators have wanted for so long.

But will the doubling of seating capacity have an effect on the types of movies that are shown? Will there be a compulsion to make certain sacrifices in order to fill the house?

Renaldo responds to this by stating that Wormwood's will still showcase and follow the careers of talented young directors, only now they will have more of the big name movies too. Why? Because with a greater seating capacity comes a greater potential for profit, and distributors love profit. A prime example is the movie "Smoke", starring Harvey Keitel and William Hurt. Wormwood's is scheduled to run that film from the 15th to the 21st of September, before any

other theatre in Halifax.

Renaldo has also expressed an interest in using the space for more than just showing movies. The Nova Scotia Fringe Theatre Festival, as well as the Atlantic Comedy Festival, have both contacted Wormwood's in hopes of using the space in the future. The possibilities seem endless.

There has been some concern raised about the building's previous occupant being a "gay" bar, and the possibility that this may have an effect on people's opinions about Wormwood's itself.

Renaldo answers these concerns by saying, "It's sad that it's even a question... I hope it doesn't have any affect at all."

There is also concern about the theatre moving further north along Gottingen, but does one block really make that much of

a difference? Besides, through government investment similar to that which took place downtown during the G-7, Gottingen St. is starting to look up again.

Wormwood's Dog and Monkey Cinema is a film house that, after twenty years of showing great films, has finally found a home. Only now, they can show movies that were previously out of reach.

Wormwood's reopened on Monday, September 18. If you've never been there, check it out, you'll be pleasantly surprised. If you're a gnarled and grizzled Wormwood's veteran and are concerned about the effects of the move, Renaldo comforts, "It's still intimate and cosy... with the same people, the same films, and the same popcorn."

I know that I'll be tasting that popcorn again in the future.

Superfriendz not to be missed again

BY L. FRY

First seeing the Superfriendz perform about a year ago, I was happy to see a band with a few catchy tunes and a passionate stage presence. So, I cheerfully strolled down to Birdland Saturday night, expecting to see an even better show.

Opening for the Superfriendz were The Suddens and local female quartet (occasionally) Plumtree. Plumtree thoroughly entertained us once again with their clever, quirky pop songs, while I found The Suddens were your generic, tuneless, pop-rock group, but had a few memorable riffs.

Then the Superfriendz played an outstanding set with ten times more energy and poise than the last time I saw them perform. Their impressive set consisted mostly of songs from their album "Mock up, Scale down", and a few other songs from their super repertoire. My favourite was "When They Paid Me", a wonderfully crafted and arranged song that has a hint of a country melody and a little bit of some mid-seventies Kool and the Gang — a mixture you thought no artists could combine.

Hopefully, all you folks will refrain from purchasing the latest Frank Mills and buy the newest Superfriendz release. I know a lot of you frosh are familiar with "Karate Man", as it is one of the only notable songs on that worthless compilation you received with your frosh package. Well, there are at least ten songs that are better than that one on the album.

Yes, I enjoyed myself, and I once again encourage you to see the Superfriendz live. Or, listen to their album as they are probably writing the best songs in the province besides those superfellowz from Liverpool, the Holiday Snaps. If you missed the show, you were probably superloaded somewhere and I hope you regret being absent. In the future, I hope to tell you about other rocking events that you may miss.

Halifax gears up for film festival

BY RIES VAN BEEK

I am sitting here trying ever so hard to figure out the best way to tell you about the 15th Atlantic Film Festival.

It's happening next week, from the 22nd until the 30th of September, and it will feature parties, galas, international celebrities, workshops, seminars, and most of all, terrific movies! At a sneak preview for *the Gazette*, I saw some of the outstanding movies that will be entertaining Nova Scotians next week. Believe me, there are some wicked flicks coming your way.

Usually the idea of Canadian cinema doesn't really excite me, but in previewing movies such as *Soul Survivor* and *The War Between Us*, my whole conception of film changed. I'm not a movie lightweight either — I love movies. If I'm not going to Park Lane or Wormwood's to check out something that I hope might be cool, then I'm finding a couple of free hours to rent something that I know will be. In retrospect, I suppose my subconscious belief has always been that the best films emerge from the multi-million dollar movie machine of Hollywood. But if you've been noticing lately that there are ten times as many movies passing through town as there are movie characters that you can connect with, then check out the festival. You will walk away feeling challenged, enriched, and entertained.

The following are some of movies the festival will feature.

Lives of Girls and Women is a brilliant film based on the novel by Alice Munro and



A scene from Curtis' Charm.

set in 1940s small-town Southern Ontario.

Curtis' Charm is a super-cool film based on a true story by American author Jim Carroll. This is a film with both humour and intensity, and it captures street life with magic, realist touches. Carroll successfully combines the surrealistic humour of "Drugstore Cowboy" with the gritty, dramatic intensity of "The Man With A Golden Arm".

Douglas Coupland: Close Personal Friend is a short film about the famous author by award-winning Canadian director Atom Egoyan of "Exotica" fame.

Margaret's Museum is a moving look at coal-mining families in 1940 Glace Bay with Helena Bonham Carter.

The next three films appeared at this year's Cannes Film Festival, and make this year's Atlantic Film Festival one of the most prestigious ever:

The Confessional, one of the guaranteed winners, is the long-awaited film debut of internationally renowned theatre director

Robert Lepage. This suspenseful thriller will be part of the new Wormwood's involvement in the Festival, and will be included in Saturday's opening night lineup.

Rude is one of the biggest draws of the Festival. It is a surreal, vivid portrait of three characters struggling for redemption on an Easter weekend in a stylized inner-city. *Rude* was described by movie critic Brian D. Johnson as "...boldly unconventional and provocative."

Soul Survivor is also a story from the inner city. It's set in Toronto's Jamaican community. Infused with driving reggae, dancehall, and hip-hop beats, *Soul Survivor* presents a world of dreamers, strivers, and above all, survivors.

I know you can't judge a book by its cover, but films such as *Cave of Gold*, *Café Utopia*, *Nuclear Bombs and Golf*, *The Ghetto of Cool People*, and *As They Drove Away She Shouted 'So Long, Kiss My Ass'*, promise to present the thought, creativity and vision that is usually rare in mainstream cinema.

There are parties at the Lord Nelson and other venues that are open to anyone interested, and you can mingle and schmooze with celebrities from the films who are participating in the festivities. There are also creative workshops, and to make it easier to get tickets, the festival has a phone order box office, (422-6965). Most of the screenings will appear at Wormwoods, Park Lane, The Halifax Main Library, and The Art Gallery of N.S. For more information, pick up free schedules in the Dalhousie SUB.

Film Festival Info

BUYING YOUR TICKETS

- You can guarantee a seat by purchasing your ticket in advance. Patrons who purchase special Festival Passes will also enjoy substantial discounts, as well as entrance to the restricted events. Drop by the Festival Box Office at the Red Herring Co-op Bookstore, 1578 Argyle Street, Halifax, 12pm to 6pm, Monday to Saturday.
- Phone orders, call 422-6965.
- Tickets reserved by phone must be picked up by noon of the day prior to the event, or be paid by Visa.

PRICE LIST

Adult	\$7
Members, Students, Seniors	\$6
Gala Festivities	\$10
Awards Night	\$20

- Library and Maritime Museum Screening — Admission is free! If you are a first-year student, check your frosh pack for a special one dollar coupon valid at the festival.
- To volunteer with the festival, contact Frances in the C.B.C Radio Building, at 420-4457.