

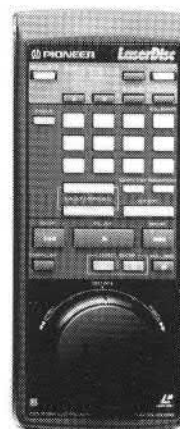
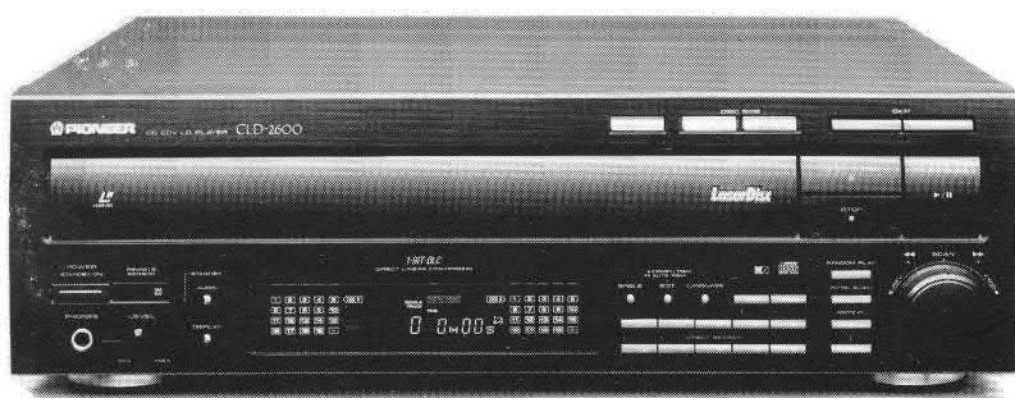
LASER DISC REVIEW

the home of quality viewing

Issue 34

September-
October 1991

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Pioneer's Combis - Right At Last ?

LDR will take some of the blame for publishing incorrect details about Pioneer's new players - but not all of it. When writing up the new models earlier in the year there was obviously an element of speculation involved that, as the specifications have been finalised, has not come to pass. Errors here are LDR's. But the last write-up in LDR-33, culled from Pioneer's own press releases, should have pretty near correct. But it seems we still didn't get the correct info. So here it is once again.

Pioneer's new top-end CLD-2600 (illustrated) is a PAL-only combi capable of playing both laserdisc sides without reloading. It has jog-shuttle control rather than forward/reverse scan buttons. The suggested retail price is expected to be around £549.

Pioneer's new £349 budget model is the CLD-600 (again PAL-only) and not the CLD-1600 as described last time. Though apparently well featured (there is a full complement of front panel controls), this new combi follows in the flawed tradition of the CLD-1200 and lacks the CAV function. There is a CLD-1600 but it won't

be sold in the UK. The 1600 fits into the middle of the new range, effectively being this year's update of the CLD-1500. Because the 1450 is planned to continue in the UK for the next 12 months there is no real point in selling the 1600 as well. Hardly any units of the 1500 were shifted in the UK over the last year; everyone who bought a player wisely bought the 1450.

Features common to the CLD-600 and 2600 (and, for that matter the 1600) are twin scart connectors (to make certain configurations of A/V hook-up easier). There is also something called '4 language OSD'. Each player has a small front panel preset that allows the on-screen displays (for time, chapter etc) to be output in either English, French, German or Italian. On the audio side the new players incorporate a 1-bit pulse flow D/A converters with an 8x 20-bit digital filter. Pioneer quotes measurable differences for S/N, dynamic range, channel separation and THD between the 2600 and 600 but they are modest differences.

Video frequency response is given as the now standard 440 lines (which is a greater bandwidth than ever encoded on the discs) but there are three new integrated circuits developed for the players which should enhance picture quality in other ways. One is for the focus tracking slider which it is claimed will improve reliability. A new time base servo IC upgrades colour and picture stability and, coupled with the effects of the focus

tracking slider IC, there is a claimed improvement in the CLV scan. Lastly, a new video IC has raised picture quality and increased the signal-to-noise ratio (though no figures are proffered).

Pioneer confused us by sending out a photo of the CLD-1600 in the press information rather than the 600. In its current press ads Pioneer has obviously confused itself too. In one of the first two-page colour displays (such as appeared in *What Video*) the blurb goes on about the new 1-bit D/A converters & twin scarts on the three machines shown on the page. One of these players is, of course, the CLD-1450 which has neither of these features. There has been no suggestion that the 1450 is having its spec revised so how come this error arises? Well, Pioneer's ads are often organised on a Europe-wide basis and this one was obviously intended to feature the three new models - the 600/1600/2600 - and, as such, the text and photos would have matched. However, the UK version has had the photo of the 1600 stripped out and the 1450 dropped neatly in its place. But no-one thought to revise

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the text. (A later version of the ad has
been spied which avoids the twin scart
blunder but continues the confusion over
the 1-bit aspect.)

Expected arrival date of the CLD-
600 in UK shops is late September with
the CLD-2600 to follow late October.

Some UK dealers are looking enthu-
siastically to getting their hands on a
sample of the 2600. Not that they expect
to sell many as Pioneer manufactures it
but, if there is any potential to modify the
player to incorporate NTSC replay, this
new machine will suddenly blossom into a
very desirable bit of kit for the movie buff.
That double-side play feature can only
presently be obtained from a dedicated
NTSC machine. Keep an eye for 2600
upgrade news in future issues.

Letters

Pioneer SR Codes

Norbert Roll, Germany writes -

"I have found out the coding format of
the Pioneer SR infra-red remote control
system and the codes of about 80 different
functions. Furthermore I have designed,
built and tested a device that can send
every code in the SR system. Control is via
a parallel (Centronics) printer port using
ASCII sequences so it can be connected to
any computer. It cost me roughly £10. I'm
willing to pass on this knowledge. Since I
prepared some hard and software to
facilitate the reading of the codes it would
be very easy to take additional SR codes".

Norbert can be reached at Haselbühl
49, W-7900 Ulm, Germany.

(Re: Dealer List in LDR-33, Norbert
advises that the Laserdisc Euroclub has a
minimum order value of DM100,-.)

Does Digital Sound Rot?

Jack Frost, U.S.A. queries -

"Regarding Keith Window and his
rotted CD Video clips, if the video is
impaired what is the condition of the
audio-only section of the disc? Also, I note
that even in the worst case laser rot
videodiscs the picture info is still sharp and
clear within a great snowstorm. Does this
mean digitally encoded audio discs can be
read and leave the snowstorm behind
completely?"

* Although Keith Window's letter made
no mention of sound deterioration the
usual experience is that the digital audio
hangs in there well past the point where
the disc is unviewable. However, in LDR-
32 Steve Williams wrote that the sound on
his All About Eve disc was distorted on
the video portion.

The comment about rotted laserdiscs
remaining sharp and clear warrants contra-
diction. When the snowstorm becomes
really bad it is virtually impossible to even
see the image. (There is a well-rotted
German/PAL disc of the movie *Endless
Love* somewhere here in the shelves that
was all snowstorm when last viewed with
only the faintest suggestion of an image
beneath. It couldn't be located for an

up-to-the-minute assessment of its con-
dition - possibly the disc has completely
evaporated?)

It would seem logical that even the
digital audio on a rotted disc would
eventually go but, judging by the limited
number of complaints in the hi-fi press
about loss of sound on CDs, this would
take a long time.

Dragon's Lair On The Amiga

Reviewed by Trevor Farrell

If you happen to own an Amiga
computer and a PAL Pioneer CLD-1400,
1500 or 1450 then you could be in for
some fun with the *Dragon's Lair* package
from Software Corner in Germany. It
consists of one floppy disk for the Amiga
computer, a connecting cable to join the
laserdisc player to the computer and an
active play 30cm *Dragon's Lair* laserdisc.

Setting up is easy. Just connect the
cable between the control socket on your
laserdisc player and the computer's paral-
lel (printer) port. Switch the laserdisc
player on an insert the programme disk in
the computer. After a few minutes the title
screen appears and your laserdisc player
drawer opens. Insert the *Dragon's Lair*
laserdisc and press the space bar on the
computer keyboard. The drawer will then
close and play will engage.

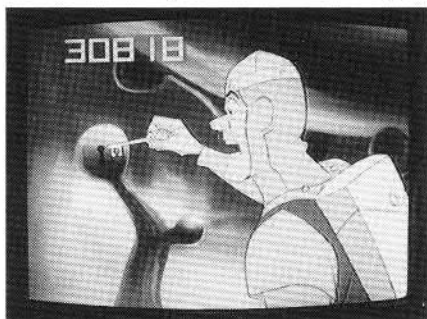


The computer and laserdisc then run
a short demo imitating the original arcade
game feel. (This *Dragon's Lair* disc
contains exactly the same programme that
appeared on the disc used in the machines
found in amusement arcades several years
back.) Sound effects are output from the
amplifier's right-hand channel and speech
from the left. There is also a beep for
when you are controlling Dirk the Daring
(the knightly hero) and this is output to
your computer monitor speaker.

The game is controlled by a standard
joystick with the score and 'lives' dis-
played on the computer monitor. (Dirk has
to rescue a maiden, Princess Daphne, from
a castle that is beset with traps. He only
has so many lives to lose while undertak-
ing the task.) The game is started by
pressing the joystick fire button which tells
the laserdisc player to search for frame
01214 and engage still. Unfortunately the
frame that was chosen has a blank screen
and should ideally have been the next
frame which has a freeze of Dirk holding
his sword.

Pressing the fire button again sends

the laserdisc into play mode and starts the animation and the music playing. You are presented with a picture of a castle which zooms in closer to reveal a drawbridge that unfortunately hasn't been treated with Cuprinol for a while and gives way beneath him. This is where the interactivity comes: you must decide either to draw your sword or move up/down/left or right. In this instance you need to draw your sword as there are some rather unfriendly purple creatures lunging at you from the moat beneath. Next you must move the joystick to enable Dirk to climb back up and continue into the castle before the drawbridge closes. The most important thing to remember when playing the game to move the joystick at the right time. A split second either way will lose one of his six lives. When you inevitably lose a life the computer selects an animation sequence where you can watch Dirk being killed in a variety of ever inventive ways.



Dragon's Lair is undeniably addictive and once the joystick control timing has been mastered you will find it difficult to walk away from. The animation (by Don Bluth, whose movie work includes *The Land Before Time* and *All Dogs Go To Heaven*) is rich with colour and detail and flows with an alarming pace. The sound effects are also excellent and do much to enhance the game play. It was found that the best results were obtained with the effects channel at the front of the room and speech at the rear as the speech channel is only sporadic and has more impact this way.

At £67.00 (UK price) the package is a worthwhile purchase and an ideal way to enter the world of interactive laserdisc. If you already have the laserdisc Software Corner will sell you just the computer disk and the cable for £35.00.

The review took a little time to initiate as when the equipment was first hooked up there was no control of the laserdisc player. This was with an Amiga 500. A changeover to an Amiga B2000 got everything functioning fine. An Amiga 3000 was also tried but the software would not run. A second cable was tried and the Amiga 500 then functioned perfectly. Possibly there could be wiring or signal level variations between various Amiga models. Note also that the laserdisc will not function with Pioneer's CLD-600 & 1200 combis which have no CAV circuitry.

Software Corner can be found at Augartenstrasse 6, D-6800 Mannheim 1, Germany. Their telephone numbers are (010) 49 621 402387 or 443632 and fax (010) 49 621 444773. Payment for the product can be with either cash (ideally sent via insured or registered mail) or by Eurocheque. Control software for the Atari ST and IBM PC is also now available, but check with Software Corner for prices.

Pioneer LDCE Aims

Further to our initial report on the establishment of Pioneer's new software division in the UK (LDR-32), Pioneer has now formally announced its new offspring and laid out a plan of operation.

Pioneer Laser Disc Corporation Europe (Pioneer LDCE) was established on the 25th May, 1991, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Pioneer Electronic Corporation, Japan. Operation began in May with a capitalisation of £3.5 million and a staff of 26 employees. The new company is situated close to Pioneer's present UK HQ in Greenford, Middlesex.

Three main tasks have been outlined-

1) To distribute laserdisc titles such as movies and special interest titles to the European market (primarily the UK, France, Italy and German language territories) using software distribution channels. In the first year (beginning this November) Pioneer LDCE will release approximately 100 laserdisc titles, mainly in the areas of music and special interest programmes. The music programmes will include classical, jazz and pop-rock music. Special interest programmes include documentaries and specialised subjects (such as airplane acrobatics). Pioneer LDCE is also planning to acquire future film rights from major film production companies in Hollywood.

2) To produce and distribute laser karaoke software in six European languages (English, French, Italian, German, Dutch and Spanish). Though a Japanese invention, karaoke success in the USA has been attributed to the local production of titles. Following this example, Pioneer LDCE is developing karaoke programming for each country to meet local language and cultural needs.

3) To manufacture laserdiscs by special order for European customers. Laserdisc pressing demand is increasing in the European market and Pioneer LDCE has set up a specialised pressing service in the UK to handle it. Presently, this disc manufacturing is being carried out at Pioneer's Carson, California plant but, as the demand for PAL laserdiscs in Europe expands, Pioneer will consider the setting up of a production line at its new UK manufacturing site in Wakefield, Yorkshire.

In respect of its first aim, Pioneer LDCE already has a tentative release schedule. Each month should see at least a couple of 'serious' music titles (opera, ballet and orchestral music), one jazz title (mostly modern featuring artistes such as Wynton Marsalis, Stanley Jordan etc. though there are plans to release some Montreux Festival recordings by the likes of Ella Fitzgerald) and a couple of documentary or image/BGV titles.

The documentary category would include many of the *Rolling In The Sky* titles (such as reviewed in LDR-33) plus the *Carrozzeria* series focusing on the work of Italian car designers Bertone,

Michelotti and Pininfarina. (Though one doubts the wisdom of such releases given the nature of the hardware Pioneer is selling. These are essentially CAV discs and, as such, won't function properly on the new CLD-600.) The image music titles will include many of the Windham Hill discs (such as reviewed in LDR-10).

So far, LDCE is not suggesting anywhere near the level of pop music involvement that it manages in America and (particularly) Japan. Only Madonna's *Blond Ambition Tour '90* disc is being promised. This is useful addition to the laser catalogue as it is an exclusive-to-disc title that might attract a bit of attention to the format. So far, it looks as though none of Pioneer Artists previous PAL titles (released in the mid-eighties) will be re-issued under the new regime. As to the movie aspect of LDCE's plans, matters are less advanced.

Because Pioneer feels it can't promote the 1450 PAL/NTSC concept (several of the US movie studios with which it has laserdisc distribution deals won't sanction such a change in the status quo), Pioneer has to try and make a go of it in PAL. And because the UK movie companies show no great enthusiasm for becoming embroiled in laserdisc again, ultimately Pioneer will probably have to license any movies it wants for UK disc. The fact that Pioneer UK plans to keep the 1450 in production for the next year suggests that the company itself sees the impossibility of the challenge facing it.

Optimistically, even if Pioneer releases enough PAL movies to stimulate activity, such an improvement in the software situation will encourage other hardware manufacturers to contribute machines to the market. Few of these manufacturers need be constrained by the PAL/NTSC conflict and so, while Pioneer does the 'honourable' thing in promoting PAL only, everyone else will undercut its player sales by offering a feature Pioneer leaves off. It's easier for the other manufacturers to compete on features than price and adding NTSC functionality to a PAL player is just about the best feature imaginable, given the modest addition to manufacturing cost.

At the end of August, Pioneer held a European-wide laserdisc launch promotion down in Cannes. Part of the press information given out stated the following:

"Pioneer is now using its established relationships with film and music companies to provide Europe with a constant stream of exciting new releases, scheduled to start flowing in September of this year. Film producers involved include Warner Bros, Paramount Pictures, Universal Pictures, CBS-Fox and Columbia Pictures..... The company's initial marketing phase will focus on: England, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, the Netherlands and Belgium."

No doubt this encouraging news will be published in the various magazines but the information, as far as the UK is concerned, is incorrect. A Pioneer LDCE spokeswoman claimed to be "alarmed" that such misleading information had been distributed.

In practice, discussions on film releases in the UK are far from a conclusion. It seems inconceivable that any movies could materialise in the UK before xmas and even the spring looks optimistic.

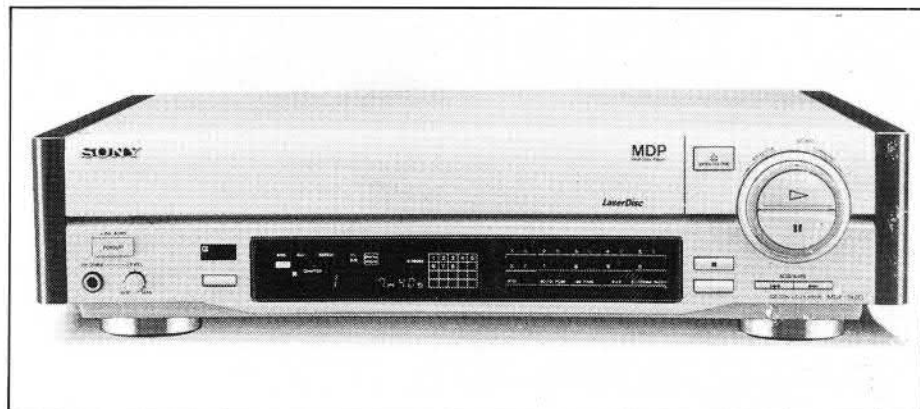
Berlin Report 1991 - Part I

The big German consumer electronics fair held in Berlin every other year ran from the end of August through the first week of September. Because manufacturers use it as a showcase for forthcoming products to be sold throughout Europe as well as just the local German market a visit is always worthwhile - providing one can face the almost unending trek between the 25 exhibition halls. (The additional outside exhibits centre around a live performing area and can usually be by-passed except when wants to sit down and take a breather in the fresh air.)

Laserdisc manifested itself more thinly than last time but was well represented on the stands which did display the product. A major laserdisc promotion is getting under way in Germany which, so far, probably doesn't have 10,000 combis in circulation. Many new titles are being put on the market in the coming months and this winter period should indicate whether laserdisc can be shifted into an more energetic gear. [Note: For prices quoted in D-marks, divide by 3 to reach an approximate £ value. However, except where indicated, products mentioned won't necessarily be offered for sale in the UK.]

New Laserdisc Hardware

Philips - LDR has often printed reports of Philips' intentions to produce a PAL/NTSC combi but the company has been remarkably slow in bringing this techno-



logy to fruition. Earlier this year it **did** launch its PLD600WS in Japan (which must be the first time PAL capability has been available there as a standard feature) and has recently been selling it in France, but known as the LDP600WS. (The 'WS' stands for World Standard.) Now Germany is to have the player and just about everyone else in Europe - except the UK.

Philips was openly showing the machine (photo below) on its Berlin stand and feels happy to sell it but won't introduce the machine to the UK for fear of jeopardising UK/PAL disc production. As English is the second language in the rest of Europe such a conflict with local endeavours is not perceived and the 600 is seen as fulfilling a niche market position, satisfying a minority of enthusiasts who might want to import certain NTSC titles.

Philips has changed the player's number from the CDV800 originally proposed. The move from the CDV prefix to LDP makes sense given the change to laserdisc as the generic name for the product. But why it should have become a 600 instead of an 800 is less clear. (The

player incorporates a newly developed V800 video chip which one might assume to be the inspiration for the original number.) Philips says it was a 600 in Japan and was well received so why not keep the same number. But, confusingly, the CDV600 is Philips current top-end machine in the US (see mention in LDR-32, p.7) and, externally, the European LDP600WS is the same machine. Considering the US CDV600 does not play PAL discs it would have seemed more logical to stay with the original 800 tag.

However, so far, the 600WS appears to be attracting more interest than its premium price would indicate, suggesting there is a genuine demand for such a product, even when Sony has something similar on sale already.

Price of the LDP600WS is around DM1500,- in Germany, just over £500 which seems very competitive. It measures 420 x 133 x 404mm (w x h x d) and weighs 12.5kg (about 25% heavier than the standard PAL combi, the CDV400 which has now been renamed the LDP400). At 48 watts, power consumption



is also 50% up on the basic player. The 600WS will satisfy those who have been looking forward to obtaining a Bitstream machine from Philips. The 600 also has Favourite Track Selection (FTS). The spartan front panel has all the main controls (including a facility to switch the LCD readout off) with all the others reserved for the remote (which has a rotary scan knob).

Part of the publicity for laserdisc on the Philips stand involved a brief signing session on 5th September from Level 42.

Sony - Sony showed three new combi players, effectively last year's models with minor upgrades and added features. The MDP-333 becomes the MDP-440 (DM998,-) with the addition of a dual mode shuttle, split horizontally; the top half performing the play function as before and the bottom half offering pause. All the new Sonys have this dual mode shuttle.

The PAL/NTSC-capable MDP-640D is this year's MDP-533D and sells for a more promising DM1498,- (>£500). (If memory serves correctly both these new players are now in black rather than grey.)

At DM1798,- the MDP-740D (photo top of page opposite) is a tweaked 640D with a champagne gold finish and wooden end panels that fits in with Sony's Esprit range. Some extra attention has been paid to the audio output stages and the phono sockets are gold plated but that's about it. However, the extra cost works out to only about £100.

All the Sonys have two 18-bit D/A converters with 8x oversampled 45-bit noise shaping filters.

To the back of its laserdisc stand (which was always extremely well attended) Sony had a prototype double-side play machine (also PAL/NTSC that it might introduce next season. (It didn't bear any model number but was actually up and running.) The machine, running a bit of Karajan, is illustrated right.

Telefunken - Not a company with a particularly high UK profile, Telefunken has joined the laserdisc camp with two badged Pioneer combis. Their CLD-2600 equivalent is the VDP800 and the VDP500 is their version of the CLD-1600.

Pioneer - Pioneer showed its usual row of machines, each one connected to a TV that visitors to the stand could play with. Details of these have been given before and also elsewhere in this issue. However, we don't have the CLD-1600 which is this year's version of the CLD-1500. It has most of the features and performance specs of the CLD-2600 (plus a couple of minor ones the 2600 doesn't have) but without the double-side play facility.

Many sleeves from the latest movie releases were displayed hanging from the ceiling. Surprisingly, there was no sign of any of the new James Bonds that Warner has recently had pressed. After some prompting a copy of *The Living Daylights* was dug out just to prove the things do exist. Unfortunately, it looks as though the relevant Bonds are not in the original widescreen aspect ratio as expected. However, the new *Never Ending Story II* release was seen on demo at the Pioneer stand and this was in the full 7:3 aspect ratio.

Others - Fewer laserdisc players showed up on other manufacturers stands than in recent years it seemed. Obviously some



were being used to demo various bits of software in A/V set-ups (usually NTSC) but often not in a prominent way. You wouldn't have seen a Panasonic combi unless you paid a visit to Panasonic's THX demonstration cinema. (Though the chap running that seemed to be talking of a PAL combi appearing in Europe sometime in the near future - which was just about what Panasonic was saying two years ago! - and thought the company would go the PAL/NTSC route rather than introduce a dedicated PAL model.) Korean manufac-

turer, Samsung, showed its DV-5000N and DV-5000NK (karaoke version) combis quite prominently but has no intention of producing PAL versions it would seem. Denon didn't have a laserdisc player but was previewing a DM2000,- (c. £700) Dolby Pro-Logic A/V amp which had very few front panel controls at all. But one of the few that was in evidence bore the legend "VDP Direct" which is obviously a more sensible straight-path routing than the usual CD Direct switch found on sound-only equipment.





Laserdisc Computer Games

Software Corner's (see *Dragon's Lair* write-up this issue) commitment to laserdisc games is turning out to be rather more substantial rather sooner than expected. Not only has the original pressing of *Dragon's Lair* sold out and had to be re-pressed but a whole bunch of other laserdisc games discs are being manufactured to capitalise on its success. Contrary to the usual obstacle that hits anything other than mainstream software, *Dragon's Lair* is already well into four figure sales. Not bad going.

Software Corner also has *Space Ace*, *Thayer's Quest*, *Firefox*, *Voyage To The New World* and *Shadow Of The Stars* to come this autumn. Prices vary from title to title, depending on complexity, but all are within the DM130,- to DM170,- range. This sort of price is a little more than the norm for consumer laserdiscs but compares favourably with many computer games that just get served up on cheap-

to-duplicate floppies for £25.

This number of new titles is a tidy investment in software and Software Corner is obviously encouraged by initial reaction to take such a major step. Speaking to Software Corner's Dirk Neuen (yes, Dirk, just as daring as the hero of *Dragon's Lair*), it transpires that he is a longtime supporter of laserdisc as a consumer since the first German launch. It's good that Pioneer should find space for his product on its stand at Berlin.

Computer games on laserdisc are the sort of special interest category that give laserdisc an appeal over videotape that can only enhance the product. (But it's a pity that the German Laserdisc Association couldn't find space to list the games in the latest German catalogue that was being distributed extensively at the show. Fortunately, the omission looks to be remedied for the next edition.)

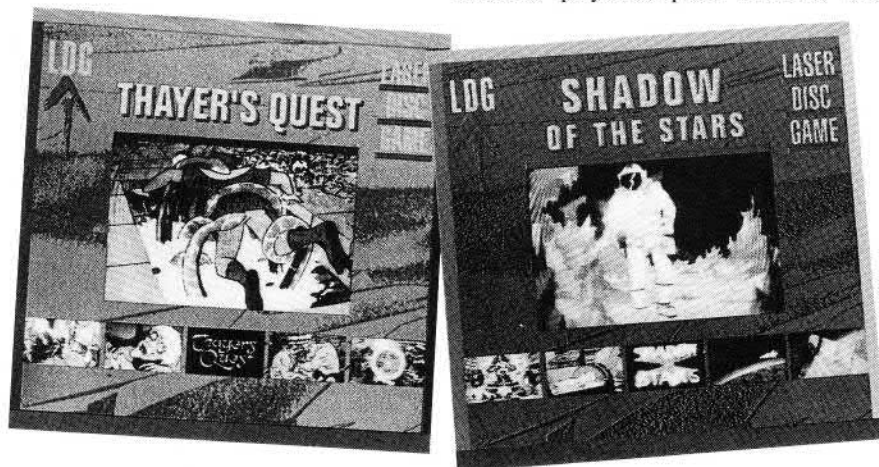
There's more. Shown to your Editor at Berlin was a prototype of a new laserdisc player/computer interface that

will replace the current cable system. It still needs to be connected to the computer but communicates via an infra-red transmitter which controls the player just like the remote control does. And it works with just about any laserdisc player - PAL or NTSC. Quite an impressive piece of technology. It doesn't have a name yet so you'll have to ask for "that infra-red connector thing" or some other similarly descriptive phrase. The price is around DM300,- (c. £100).

The one obstacle that has always seemed to stand in the way of expanding the computer related use of domestic laserdisc players is the emission of the industry standard RS-232 connector. All professional machines incorporate these but the suspicion is that manufacturers resist fitting RS-232s to consumer machines for fear of undermining that more profitable market (professional machines have traditionally sold for two to three times the price, though this gap has diminished in recent years). However, Dirk Neuen maintains that just as good a level of communication can be achieved with the new infra-red system.

But, despite the adaptability of the new universal controller, Dirk recommends Pioneer players as they tend to be faster in operation. The new 1600/2600s are an appreciable bit faster still than the previous 1500 model in manoeuvring around a disc which can only help increase the immediacy and excitement of the laserdisc games. Dirk would like to see consumer players pepped up even more. There's still a speed gulf between professional and consumer models.

US readers may be wondering if Software Corner has any plans to make its laserdisc games and software available in NTSC versions. After all, the games are virtually exclusively American designed

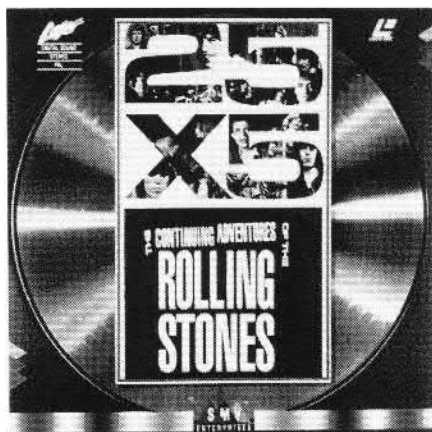


and US dealers have occasionally sold off surplus laserdiscs originally intended for arcade consoles (but without any means of making them function interactively as intended). Presently, Software Corner has no firm plans for such expansion but has contemplated the idea of pressing up future titles PAL on one disc side, NTSC on the other. However, that would still leave a major re-write of the floppy disk programs to be undertaken.

Software

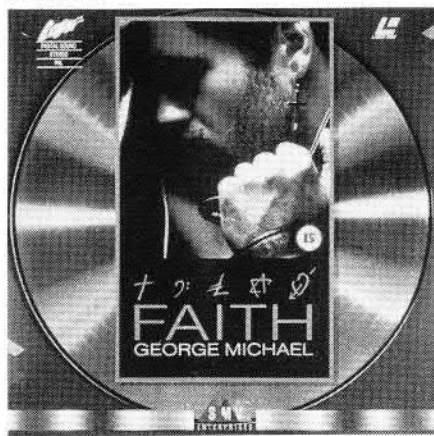
If anything the show could have done with a little more software display. The latest September '91 catalogue was well stocked on several stands (and even being dished out near the main entrance as the crowds poured in) but Berlin is essentially a hardware show and, as such, there probably has to be a degree of compromise on what gets promoted.

Some aspects of software distribution do seem to be taken care of in Germany that could be emulated here in the UK. German dealers can obtain their discs via several wholesalers, obviating the need to have direct accounts with the individual labels.



It is often quite impractical for laserdisc dealers (who may stock no other software than laserdisc) to maintain lots of accounts and, indeed, the major labels don't want them. There does need to be an intermediate level of distribution to im-

prove availability and Germany seems to have this.



Sony Music Video is to begin releasing pop titles which will include the likes of Gloria Estefan (*Homecoming Concert*), Harry Connick Jr., George Michael, Midnight Oil, Rolling Stones (25x5: *The Continuing Adventures*). Sleeves of some of these were on view but no actual discs yet. Telemedia is to make available the French Louvre and Orsay museum CAV titles. After a bit of a break Warner and RCA-Columbia are back with up-to-the-minute movies (such as *Flatliners*, *Freshman*, *Rocky V* and *Presumed Innocent*) and Philips is introducing CIC titles from October onwards. Some jazz titles will be forthcoming from Chick Corea, one of which will be in conjunction with avant-garde classical pianist Friedrich Gulda who has some discs of his own too. Pop titles listed for future release in the September catalogue include *Best Of* collections from A-Ha and Rod Stewart, a Paul Simon *Live In Central Park* disc, REM's *This Film Is On* and *The Four Faces Of Eric Clapton*.

All told, in the months through to April, there will probably be around 10 movies a month and easily as many pop and classical titles. That will make a very healthy looking level of ongoing activity to potential machine buyers. It's certainly the most concerted software effort so far in Germany.

USA Report

* In July **WEA Manufacturing** part of the Time-Warner group, announced its first successful production run from the **new laserdisc pressing line** installed at its Olyphant, Pennsylvania plant.

* **Carver** - the US hi-fi company with a reputation for its unconventional design approach - has added a combi to its range. (Photo at foot of page.) The **MD/V-500** incorporates 18-bit/8x oversampling D/A circuitry and is one of the few players to offer a picture sharpness control. (See photo - it's the second knob on the front panel, next to the headphone volume.) In keeping with Carver's current design scheme, the MD/V-500 also features rack handles, in all probability the first time these have ever been offered on a combi.

* **Image Price Reductions** - Image has re-pressed 31 older titles (mostly movies), many of which have been out-of-print for a while, that will be sold at a reduced \$24.95 suggested retail price: *Africa Screams* (Abbott & Costello with supplementary section), *Airport '77*, *The Appaloosa*, *Blue Collar*, *Braddock-Missing In Action III*, *Brian's Song*, *Dead Heat*, *Electra Glide In Blue*, *The Hunchback Of Notre Dame* (1939 Charles Laughton with commentary on second audio track), *The Island*, *Lady Beware*, *Light Years*, *Macbeth* (1948 Welles), *My Dinner With Andre*, *October*, *The Owl & The Pussycat*, *Plan 9 From Outer Space*, *The Point*, *Prison*, *Reform School Girls*, *Romeo & Juliet* (1983 Bolshoi with Galina Ulanova), *Rooster Cogburn*, *Shenandoah*, *Switching Channels*, *This Gun For Hire*, *Tour Of Duty*, *Tour Of Duty-Bravo Company*, *Tour Of Duty-The Hill*, *Viva Santana!* (84 minutes of music and documentary), *Waxwork*, *Zulu Dawn*.

* In an article about laserdisc in the June/July edition of Tower Records promotional magazine the following snippets of info were to be found: Fox Video's new



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extended-length widescreen versions of *Alien* and *Aliens* are late because of problems with rights; similarly the decision to do a laserdisc of *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* still rests with movie producer, Lou Adler, rather than Fox Video; producer of the *Indiana Jones* trilogy, Frank Marshall, is contemplating a multiple-disc collector's package - "It might be a four-disc set that will include previously unseen footage, behind-the-scenes action and interviews with the principal creators"; something similar is conceivable with the *Back To The Future* series; Martin Weinstein, VP of Turner Home Entertainment is reported to have given a commitment to release (eventually) its 757 movies on laserdisc.

* **Statistics** - No sooner had a new record-breaking pre-order for a new laserdisc release been announced (*Ghost*, which was released simultaneously with the videotape in March, and had advance orders of 75,000 copies) did Image announce it had pre-release orders for *Fantasia* of 180,000. Just prior to this positive news, Disney Video boss, Bill Mechanic, had expressed his rather negative view of the November release. Indicative of Disney's patchy support for the format (where's *Jungle Book*?) he is reported to have said "If it doesn't ship 100,000 it isn't a business" in the belief that at least 25% of the player owners would want to buy a copy and, if not, intimating Disney shouldn't really be bothering with laserdisc. Arrogant talk when one considers that *Fantasia* was itself less successful than hoped for at the box-office when originally released but possibly easy to understand when viewed in relation to the expected 10,000,000 sales of the VHS cassette. (Sales figures for recent Disney 'A' title laserdiscs *Peter Pan* and *The Little Mermaid* have been estimated at relatively modest 10-20,000 copies.) Incidentally, *Top Gun* would seem to have been the best selling laserdisc up till now, having moved between 100-115,000 copies in the 4 years it has been on sale.

* **Image Entertainment improves financial position** - For the year ending March 31st, 1991 Image Entertainment managed a

USA NEW RELEASES - NTSC

DATE	CATEGORY	PRICE	NUMBER	LABEL	TITLE		LO	ST	DI	CC	
9.91	Mus-Pop-Doc	\$29.95	ID 8064	CMV	AEROSMITH / Making Of Pump	1990/110'	L	S	Di	=	
8.91	FF-Drama	\$39.95	ID 8282	Orion	ALICE [PG-13]	1990/106'	L	DS	Di	CC	
9.91	Doc-Mus	\$34.95	V 1042L	Voyager	ALL THAT BACH	/1-s			S	Di	+
9.91	FF-Drama	\$34.98	41098	MCA	AMAZING STORIES: Book 3 [PG-13]		LA	S	Di	CC	+
9.91	FF-Drama	\$39.98	ML 102338	MGM-UA	ANDY HARDY MEETS A DEB // LOVE FINDS ANDY	/3-s	L	M	Di	=	
7.91	Opera	\$59.95	071 505-1	London	ARABELLA	/150'	L	S	Di	=	
9.91	FF-Action	\$34.95	59356	RCA-Columbia	ARENA [PG-13]	1991/	L	S	Di	CC	+
5.91	FF-Comedy	\$39.95	CC 1279L	Voyager	ARSENIC AND OLD LACE	B&W 1944/118'	L	M	Di	+	
11.91	FF-Thriller	\$29.98	LV 27022	Republic	ASSASSINATION OF TROTSKY, The	1987/	L	M	Di	=	
0.91	FF-Thriller	\$49.95	CC 1265L	Voyager	BAD DAY AT BLACK ROCK	WS-7:3 1954/81'	L	MA	Di	=	
9.91	Ballet	\$24.95	ID 8229	-PC	BALLET RUSE: Ballets Tocadoero	1988/30'	L	S	Di	+	
9.91	FF-Comedy	\$39.98	ML 102239	MGM-UA	BANANAS // LOVE & DEATH	197145/3-s	L	M	Di	=	
8.91	FF-Sci-Fi	\$34.98	12291	Warner	BEAST FROM 20,000 FATHOMS, The	B&W 1953/	L	M	Di	=	
6.91	FF-Fantasy	\$89.95	CC 1245L	Voyager	BEAUTY AND THE BEAST (+extras)	B&W 1946/93'	A	MA	Di	+	
0.91	FF-Drama	\$39.95	V 1048L	Voyager	BELLOVED ROGUE (+ tints)	B&W 1927/99'	L	M	Di	=	
8.91	TVM-Horror	\$34.95	59186	RCA-Columbia	BEYOND THE DOOR III	1991/	L	SS	Di	CC	+
9.91	FF-Thriller	\$34.98	ML 101378	MGM-UA	BIG SLEEP, The	B&W 1946/114'	L	M	Di	=	
9.91	Adult	\$29.95	ID 8310	Pries	BIKINI BLITS // AUSSIE GIRLS	1991/96'	L	M	Di	=	
9.91	FF-Western	\$34.98	1040	Warner	BILLY JACK [PG]	1971/	L	M	Di	=	
10.91	FF-Adventure	\$29.98	LV 20314	Republic	BLACK PIRATE, The	B&W (+ tints) 1926/	L	S	Di	=	
9.91	FF-Action	\$29.98	90620	HBO/Warner	BLOODMATCH [R]		L	SS	Di	CC	+
9.91	FF-Thriller	\$39.95	ID 8247	Live	BLOODMOON [R]	1989/104'	L	M	Di	+	
9.91	FF-Comedy	\$34.98	11133	Warner	BOBO, The	WS 1967/	L	M	Di	=	
8.91	FF-Comedy	\$34.95	75146	RCA-Columbia	BOOK OF LOVE [R]	1991/	L	S	Di	CC	+
9.91	FF-Sci-Fi	\$34.98	ML 102235	MGM-UA	BRAINSTORM [PG]	WS-7:3 1983/	L	DS	Di	=	
11.91	FF-Drama	\$29.98	LV 20444	Republic	BROKEN BLOSSOMS	B&W (+tints) 1919/	L	S	Di	=	
8.91	FF-Comedy	\$34.95	77156	RCA-Columbia	BULLSEYE [PG-13]	1991/	L	S			+
0.91	FF-Drama	\$49.95	CC 1261L	Voyager	BURN! (aka QUEIMADA!)	WS 1969/112'	L	M	Di	=	
8.91	FF-Drama	\$34.98	ML 102234	MGM-UA	BUTTERFIELD 8	WS-7:3 1960/108'	L	M	Di	=	
8.91	FF-Musical	\$44.95	PSE91-10	Pioneer S.E.	BYE BYE BIRDIE	WS-7:3 1963/112'	L	S	Di	=	
10.91	FF-Drama	\$29.98	LV 20482	Republic	CADENCE [PG-13]	1990/	L	S	Di	CC	+
0.91	FF-Comedy	\$49.95	CC 1274L	Voyager	CAGE AUX POLLES, La	WS 1978/91'	L	M	Di	=	
9.91	FF-Western	\$34.98	11281	Warner	CARILL-U.S. MARSHALL [PG]	WS-7:3 1973/103'	L	M	Di	CC	+
9.91	FF-Musical	\$34.98	11209	Warner	CALAMITY JANE	1953/	L	S	Di	=	
10.91	FF-Comedy	\$34.98	41015	MCA	CAREER OPPORTUNITIES [PG-13]	1991/	L	SS	Di	CC	+
8.91	FF-Drama	\$49.95	CC 1275L	Voyager	CARNAL KNOWLEDGE [R]	WS 1971/	L	MA	Di	=	
9.91	Mus-Pop	\$24.95	PA-91-376	Pioneer	CHARLATANS UK / Some Friendly	/1-s	L	S	Di	=	
8.91	FF-Drama	\$49.95	PSE91-17	Pioneer S.E.	CHASE, The	WS-7:3 1966/135'	L	M	Di	=	
0.91	FF-Drama	\$89.95	CC 1249L	Voyager	CHILDREN OF PARADISE (+extras)	B&W 1945/195'	LA	MA	Di	=	
9.91	FF-Drama	\$39.95	30159	RCA-Columbia	CHINA SYNDROME, The [PG] (remastered)	1978/3-s	L	M	Di	CC	+
9.91	FF-Drama	\$34.98	ML 101163	MGM-UA	CHRISTMAS IN CONNECTICUT	B&W 1945/	L	M	Di	=	
0.91	Doc	\$49.95	V 1038L	Voyager	COMIC BOOK CONFIDENTIAL	1988/85'	LA	M	Di	+	
0.91	FF-Drama	\$39.95	CC 1277L	Voyager	CONFIDENTIAL REPORT (aka MR ARKADIN)	1955/99'	L	M	Di	=	
9.91	FF-Sci-Fi	\$59.98	1137-85	CBS-Fox	CONQUEST OF THE PLANET OF APES	WS-7:3 1972/87'	L	S	Di	=	
8.91	FF-Comedy	\$34.98	40020	MCA	CONTINENTAL DIVIDE [PG] *	1981/	L	M	Di	=	
9.91	FF-Action	\$39.95	ID 8279	Live	COVER UP [R]	1991/91'	L	S	Di	=	
8.91	FF-Adventure	\$49.95	ID 8023	-IN	CRABE TAMBOUR, Le	WS 1977/119'	LA	M	Di	Su	+
0.91	Doc-Science	\$49.95	V 1034L	Voyager	CREATION OF THE UNIVERSE	1985/90'	L	MA	Di	=	
10.91	FF-Sci-Fi	\$34.98	23005	MCA	CREATURE FROM THE BLACK LAGOON	B&W 1954/79'	L	M			=
9.91	Doc-Sport	\$34.98	2229-80	CBS-Fox	DAZZLING DUNKS & BASKETBALL BLOOPERS	1987/42'	L	S	Di	=	
10.91	FF-Drama	\$29.98	LV 20989	Republic	DENIAL [R]	1991/	L	S	Di	CC	+
8.91	FF-Drama	\$39.95	ID 8315	HBO	DESCENDING ANGEL [R]	1990/98'	L	DS	Di	+	
9.91	FF-Comedy	\$34.98	ML 102336	MGM-UA	DESIGNING WOMAN	WS-7:3 1957/118'	L	M	Di	=	
9.91	FF-Drama	\$59.98	1527-85	CBS-Fox	DESIREE	WS-7:3 1954/110'	L	SS	Di	=	
0.91	FF-Drama	\$49.95	CC 1243L	Voyager	DEVIL & DANIEL WEBSTER	B&W 1941/104'	L	MA	Di	=	
0.91	FF-Thriller	\$49.95	CC 1278L	Voyager	DIABOLIQUE	B&W 1954/114'	L	M	Di	=	
9.91	FF-Drama	\$24.98	ML 102246	MGM-UA	DINNER [R]	WS 1982/110'	L	SS	Di	CC	+
8.91	Doc-History	\$295.00	DIV 01LD	Home Visions	DIVIDED UNION (American Civil War)	1991/5-s					+
9.91	Mus-Pop-Vids	\$24.95	PA-91-392	Pioneer	DOLBY, Thomas / Golden Age Of Video	/1-s	L	S	Di	=	
6.91	Doc-Mus	\$49.95	V 1033L	Voyager	DOMINOES	1988/59'	L	S	Di	=	
9.91	FF-Comedy	\$29.98	90218	HBO-Warner	DON'T TELL HER IT'S ME [PG-13]	1991/	L	S	Di	CC	+
9.91	Mus-Pop-Doc	\$29.98	41097	MCA	DOORS / Soft Parade: Retrospective	1991/	L	M	Di	+	
9.91	FF-Biopic	\$39.95	ID 8275	Live	DOORS, The [R]	WS 1991/135'	L	DS	Di	+	
9.91	FF-Drama	\$39.95	ID 8068	-DS	DR JECKYL & MR HYDE (+ extras)	B&W 1920/90'	L	S	Di	=	
0.91	Doc	\$49.95	V 1012L	Voyager	DREAM MACHINE: Vol. 3	1991/60'	A	DI			=
9.91	FF-Drama	\$39.98	ML 101601	MGM-UA	ELMER GANTRY	1960/3-s	L	SS	Di	=	
9.91	FF-Drama	\$49.95	ID 8024	-IN	ETAT SAUVAGE, L'	WS 1978/112'	L	M	Di	Su	+
8.91	FF-Action	\$34.98	7753	Nelson	EVE OF DESTRUCTION [R]	1991/	L	S	Di	CC	+
8.91	FF-Comedy	\$39.98	ML 102230	MGM-UA	EVERYTHING Y.E.W.T.R.A.S.E.X // STARDUST MEMORIES		L	M	Di	=	
8.91	FF-Comedy	\$49.95	ID 8214	Fox Lorber	FAMILY VIEWING	1987/86'	LA	M	Di	=	
11.91	FF-Fantasy	\$39.99	1132 AS	Walt Disney	FANTASIA [G]	1940/120'	L	DS	Di	CC	+
11.91	FF-Fantasy	\$99.99	1236 CS	Walt Disney	FANTASIA [G] (+ extras)	1940/120'	A	DS	Di	CC	+
9.91	FF-Comedy	\$34.95	91046	RCA-Columbia	FAST GETAWAY [R]	1990/	L	SS	Di	+	
9.91	FF-Drama	\$34.98	ML 100841	MGM-UA	FATHER OF THE BRIDE	B&W 1950/	L	M	Di	=	
0.91	Doc	\$49.95	V 1045L	Voyager	FILMS OF RAY & CHARLES EAMES: I	1989/49'	A	M	Di	+	
0.91	Doc	\$49.95	V 1046L	Voyager	FILMS OF RAY & CHARLES EAMES: II	1989/59'	A	M	Di	+	
9.91	FF-Musical	\$39.98	11208	Warner	FINIAN'S RAINBOW [G]	WS 1968/140'	L	SS	Di	=	
9.91	FF-Action	\$39.95	ID 8060	Live	FIRST BLOOD [R] *	1983/96'	L	DS	Di	=	
8.91	FF-Sci-Fi	\$49.95	PSE91-11	Pioneer S.E.	FIRST MEN IN THE MOON	WS-7:3 1964/103'	LA	M	Di	+	
10.91	Opera-Live	\$49.95	PA-91-390	Pioneer	FLEDERMAUS, Die (ROH w.Sutherland)	1990/4-s	L	S	Di	=	
9.91	FF-Comedy	\$29.95	ID 7044	Turner	FLYING DOWN TO RIO	B&W 1933/89'	L	M	Di	=	
10.91	FF-Drama	\$34.98	16012	MCA	FM [PG]	WS 1978/104'	L	SS	Di	CC	+
9.91	FF-Sci-Fi	\$24.98	ML 102321	MGM-UA	FORBIDDEN PLANET	WS-7:3 1956/	L				=
8.91	FF-Musical	\$49.95	PSE91-12	Pioneer S.E.	FUNNY LADY [PG]	WS 1974/138'	L	S	Di	=	
9.91	FF-Musical	\$29.95	ID 7884	Pickford	GAY DESPERADO, The	B&W 1936/86'	L	M	Di	=	
10.91	Doc	\$34.95	LV 12944	Paramount	GODFATHER FAMILY-A LOOK INSIDE	1991/	L	S	Di	CC	+
10.91	FF-Drama	\$39.95	LV 32318-2	Paramount	GODFATHER PART III [R] (+9 minutes)	1991/3-s	L	DS	Di	CC	+
0.91	FF-Comedy	\$39.95	V 1044L	Voyager	GOLD RUSH, The	B&W 1925/82'	L	M	Di	+	
0.91	FF-Adventure	\$79.95	CC 1267L	Voyager	GOLDFINGER (+ extras)	WS 1964/111'	A	MA	Di	+	

\$609,306 loss compared to one of \$1.34 million the year before. Sales increased from \$28 to \$48 million, a 71.4% increase.

New Releases

The backlog of previously announced Pioneer-distributed titles still to be released seems to have been increasing over the last few months. By September there were over 200 titles due to be released, most of them by the end of that month, an unlikely occurrence given the ongoing 70+ new titles being added each month by the company.

Pioneer's August new title listing contained many confusing specifications on forthcoming releases (such as listing old B&W movies coming out in wide-screen and stereo) that seem unlikely to be realised on the discs when they eventually appear. A limited attempt has been made to correct some of the more glaring erroneous claims in these lists but readers are advised to be wary of any title they suspect doesn't look correctly specified.

* The big news for November is the release of Walt Disney's *Fantasia*. The 120' cartoon will be released simultaneously on laserdisc and videotape on the first of the month and be available for the next 50 days only, after which time it will be withdrawn from circulation "never to be released again on home video". (Though the company leaves room for future updated re-issues with additional footage, as was Walt Disney's original intention back in the '40s. It is talking of a *Fantasia Continued* in 1996 or 1997.) There will be the regular CLV release at \$39.99 and a de-luxe CAV box at \$99.99 which will be supplemented by *The Making Of The Masterpiece* film, a booklet and other bits and pieces. Several million dollars was spent on restoring *Fantasia* recently for its cinema re-run and so the new laserdisc version should be as good as current technology permits.

* *The Godfather Part III* is having 9 minutes of extra footage added that was not used in the cinema version of the movie. Paramount is also making available *The Godfather Family-A Look Inside*, a documentary featuring interviews, rehearsal

USA NEW RELEASES - NTSC

8.91 FF-Drama	\$99.98 ML 102244	MGM-UA	GONE WITH THE WIND (+ extras)	1939/10-s	A M Di : =
8.91 FF-Drama	\$34.98 ML 100617	MGM-UA	GOODBYE MR CHIPS	B&W 1939/	L M Di : =
9.91 FF-Adventure	\$34.98 12304	Warner	GOONIES, The [PG]	WS 1985/	L DS Di CC =
0.91 FF-Adventure	\$89.95 CC 12731	Voyager	GREAT ESCAPE, The (+ extras)	WS-8:3 1963/173'	LA MA Di : =
9.91 FF-Drama	\$99.98 ML 102339	MGM-UA	GREAT GARBO COLLECTION (4 movies)	B&W	L M Di : =
9.91 FF-Comedy	\$39.98 11091	Warner	GREAT RACE, The	WS-8:3 1965/163'	L SS Di CC =
9.91 FF-Drama	\$39.98 ML 102245	MGM-UA	GREATEST STORY EVER TOLD	WS-8:3 1965/3-s	L SS Di CC =
8.91 Doc	\$29.95 ID 7991	Mystic Fire	GREEK FIRE: Source & Myth	1990/52'	L M Di : +
9.91 FF-Comedy	\$34.98 41079	MCA	HARD WAY, The [R]	1991/	L DS Di CC +
9.91 FF-Comedy	\$34.98 41099	MCA	HARD WAY, The [R]	WS 1991/	L DS Di CC +
9.91 Mus-Pop-Live	\$29.95 ID 7934	VPI	HAVENS, Richie / (German show)	1988/60'	L S Di : +
8.91 FF-Comedy	\$29.95 ID 7081	Turner	HAVING A WONDERFUL TIME	B&W 1938/70'	LA M Di : =
11.91 FF-Drama	\$29.98 LV 21713	Republic	HEARTS OF ENGLAND	B&W (+tints) 1918/	L S Di : =
6.91 FF-Comedy	\$49.95 CC 1262L	Voyager	HERE COMES MR JORDAN	B&W 1941/93'	LA M Di : +
9.91 FF-Drama	\$29.98 90558	HBO-Warner	HIDDEN AGENDA [R]	1991/	L SS Di : =
9.91 Doc-Art	\$39.95 ID 7341	Kino	HOMAGE TO CHAGALL	1977/88'	L M Di : +
8.91 FF-Comedy	\$29.95 ID 7040	Turner	HOOK LINE & SINKER	B&W 1930/75'	LA M Di : +
9.91 TV-Drama	\$199.95 ID 7990	Pacific Arts	I CLAUDIUS (BBC w.Derek Jacobi)	1977/780'	L M Di : =
8.91 FF-Comedy	\$29.98 12071	Warner	IF LOOKS COULD KILL [PG-13]	1991/	L DS Di CC =
8.91 Animation	\$34.95 LVD 9106	Lumivision	INCREDIBLE ANIMATION: Vol. 1	B&W	A M Di : +
8.91 Animation	\$34.95 LVD 9107	Lumivision	INCREDIBLE ANIMATION: Vol. 2	B&W	A M Di : =
9.91 FF-Thriller	\$34.95 59076	RCA-Columbia	INNER SANCTUM	1991/	L M Di CC =
8.91 TVP-Musical	\$49.95 ID 8285	-MB	INTO THE WOODS	1991/	L S Di : =
10.91 Mus-Pop-Live	\$29.95 PA-91-389	Pioneer	IRON MAIDEN / Live After Death (Long Beach)		L S Di : =
9.91 Mus-Pop-Live	\$29.95 PA-91-377	Pioneer	IRON MAIDEN / Maiden England		L S Di : =
0.91 FF-Drama	\$39.95 V 1039L	Voyager	IT	B&W 1927/72'	L M Di : +
0.91 Mus-Jazz-Live	\$39.95 STA 031D	Horne Vision	JARRETT, Keith / Standards II	1990/91'	L S Di : =
9.91 Animation	\$29.95 ID 8155	Hanna Barbra	JOHNNY QUEST: Vol. 3	7/3'	LA M Di : +
9.91 FF-Thriller	\$34.98 ML 101437	MGM-UA	KEY LARGO	B&W 1948/	L M Di : =
7.91 Mus-Pop	\$24.98 6-38235	WEA	KIDSONGS: A Day At Ol McDonald's	/1-s	L S Di : =
7.91 Mus-Pop	\$24.98 6-38236	WEA	KIDSONGS: A Day With The Animals	/1-s	L S Di : =
8.91 FF-Adventure	\$49.95 ID 7415	Turner	KING KONG // SON OF KONG	B&W 1933/100' & 70'	LA M Di : +
8.91 TVP-Drama	\$49.95 ID 8006	HBO	KING LEAR (w. Patrick Magee)	1988/121'	LA M Di : +
8.91 FF-Comedy	\$34.98 41054	MCA	KING RALPH [PG]	1991/	L DS Di CC =
10.91 Mus-Pop-Vids	\$24.95 PA-91-394	Pioneer	KINKS / Come Dancing With The Kinks	/1-s	L S Di : =
10.91 FF-Drama	\$34.98 41068	MCA	KISS BEFORE DYING, A [R]	1991/	L SS Di CC =
8.91 FF-Musical	\$34.98 ML 102325	MGM-UA	KISS ME KATE	1953/	L SS Di : =
6.91 FF-Drama	\$49.95 CC 1268L	Voyager	KNIFE IN THE WATER	B&W 1962/94'	L M Di : +
9.91 FF-Drama	\$34.95 30030	RCA-Columbia	KRAMER VS KAMER [PG] (remastered)	1979/	L M Di : =
6.91 Doc	\$39.95 V 1037L	Voyager	KREMLIN, The	1990/30'	A MA Di : +
0.91 FF-Drama	\$49.95 CC 1269L	Voyager	LADY FOR A DAY	B&W 1933/95'	L M Di : =
0.91 FF-Drama	\$124.95 CC 1271L	Voyager	LAST PICTURE SHOW (+ extras)	B&W 1971/122'	A MA Di : +
9.91 FF-Comedy	\$39.98 ML 102340	MGM-UA	LAUGHING 20s // DEVIL'S BROTHER	B&W /3-s	L M Di : =
8.91 FF-Drama	\$29.95 ID 7085	Turner	LITTLE MINISTER, The	B&W 1934/110'	L M Di : =
9.91 FF-Drama	\$39.98 ML 100068	MGM-UA	LOLITA	B&W 1961/3-s	L M Di : =
9.91 TV-Western	\$29.95 ID 7950	Rhino	LOVE RANGERS: Vol. 3	B&W /100'	L M Di : +
0.91 Doc-Art	\$295.00 V 1049L	Voyager	LOUVRE COMPENDIUM	1990/stills	A : : =
8.91 FF-Drama	\$49.95 ID 8274	Connoisseur	LOVE	1971/90'	L M Di Su =
8.91 FF-Comedy	\$29.95 ID 8108	Media	MAID, The [PG]	1990/90'	L M Di : +
9.91 Doc	\$29.95 ID 8253	HBO	MAKING OF MISS SAIGON, The	1991/74'	LA M Di : +
9.91 FF-Comedy	\$24.98 ML 102242	MGM-UA	MANHATTAN [R]	B&W WS-7:3 1979/96'	L M Di CC =
8.91 Mus-Jazz-Live	\$29.95 PA-91-381	Pioneer	MANHATTAN PROJECT: W.Shorter, S.Clarke etc	/1-s	L S Di : +
9.91 Mus-Pop-Live	\$29.95 ID 7908	VPI	MARTYN, John / Live In Europe	1986/44'	L S Di : =
9.91 FF-Horror	\$34.95 77236	RCA-Columbia	MASQUE OF THE RED DEATH [R]	1990/	L S : +
9.91 Mus-Pop-Live	\$29.95 ID 7904	VPI	MAYALL, John / (German show)	1988/58'	L S Di : +
9.91 FF-Drama	\$39.98 11055	Warner	McCABE & MRS MILLER [R]	WS-7:3 1971/120'	L M Di : +
0.91 FF-Drama	\$89.95 CC 1270L	Voyager	MIDNIGHT COWBOY	WS 1969/113'	A MA Di : =
9.91 Animation	\$29.99 1191 AS	Walt Disney	MINI CLASSICS: Prince & Pauper, Peter & Wolf +1		LA S Di : +
0.91 Doc	\$75.00 V 1035L	Voyager	MIRACLE OF LIFE	1986/60'	A M Di : =
9.91 Doc-Art	\$74.95 PSI-90-031	Pioneer S.I.	MIRO		A S : =
9.91 Animation	\$29.95 ID 8163	Live	MONGLI'S BROTHERS +2	/72'	LA M Di : +
0.91 Mus-Clas-Doc	\$49.95 V 1041L	Voyager	MOZART: Dissonant Quartet	1991/106'	L MA Di : =
10.91 FF-Adventure	\$29.98 LV 22822	Republic	MR ROBINSON CRUSOE	B&W (+tints) 1932/	L M Di : =
9.91 FF-Drama	\$39.98 ML 100804	MGM-UA	MRS MINIVER	B&W 1942/134'	LA M Di : =
8.91 TV-Drama	\$29.95 ID 8284	Pacific Arts	MURDER BY THE BOOK (w.Peggy Ascroft)	1986/54'	L M Di : +
9.91 FF-Musical	\$39.98 12276	Warner	MUSIC MAN, The [G]	WS-7:3 1991/151'	L S Di CC =
9.91 FF-Comedy	\$29.95 ID 7091	Turner	NEW FACES OF 1937	B&W 1937/100'	L M Di : =
8.91 FF-Comedy	\$29.95 ID 7058	Turner	NITWITS, The	B&W 1935/81'	L M Di : =
9.91 FF-Thriller	\$34.95 90856	RCA-Columbia	NO SECRETS [R]	1990/	L S Di : +
9.91 FF-Comedy	\$29.98 12068	Warner	NOTHING BUT TROUBLE [PG-13]	1991/	L DS Di CC =
7.91 FF-Comedy	\$34.98 16019	MCA	NUDE BOMB, The [PG]	1980/	L M Di : =
8.91 FF-Drama	\$44.95 PS891-18	Pioneer S.Z.	OBSESSION [PG]	WS-7:3 1975/98'	L MA Di : +
9.91 Opera-Doc	\$29.95 PA-91-363	Pioneer	OPERA STORIES: Ernani	/1-s	L S Di : =
8.91 Opera-Doc	\$29.95 PA-91-359	Pioneer	OPERA STORIES: Il Trovatore	/1-s	L S Di : +
9.91 Opera-Doc	\$29.95 PA-91-355	Pioneer	OPERA STORIES: La Boheme	/1-s	L S Di : +
8.91 Opera-Doc	\$29.95 PA-91-361	Pioneer	OPERA STORIES: Manon Lescaut	/1-s	L S Di : +
9.91 FF-Thriller	\$39.95 ID 8286	Live	PALERMO CONNECTION, The [R]	1991/100'	L M Di : =
9.91 FF-Comedy	\$39.98 ML 102342	MGM-UA	PAT & MIKE // ADAM'S RIB	B&W /3-s	L M Di : =
9.91 FF-Western	\$34.98 ML 102238	MGM-UA	PAT GARRET & BILLY THE KID [R]	WS 1973/3-s	L Di : =
11.91 FF-Comedy	\$29.98 LV 23152	Republic	PECKS BAD BOY	B&W (+tints) 1921/	L S Di : =
8.91 FF-Drama	\$29.95 ID 7053	Turner	PENGUIN POOL MURDER	B&W 1932/65'	LA M Di : +
9.91 FF-Action	\$34.95 LV 32519	Paramount	PERFECT WEAPON, The [R]	1991/	L SS Di CC =
8.91 FF-Drama	\$29.95 ID 7070	Turner	PHANTOM OF CRESTWOOD, The	B&W 1932/76'	LA M Di : =
8.91 Adult	\$24.98 90624	HBO/Warner	PLAYBOY CENTERFOLD: Morgan Fox	/1-s	L S Di : =
8.91 Doc-Adult	\$24.98 90477	HBO/Warner	PLAYBOY: Secrets Of Making Love	/1-s	L S Di : =
8.91 Adult	\$24.98 90625	HBO/Warner	PLAYBOY: Wet & Wild III	/1-s	L S Di : =
8.91 FF-Drama	\$39.95 ID 7498	HBO	PLENTY [R]	1985/119'	L DS Di : =
9.91 Mus-Pop-Doc	\$24.95 PA-91-393	Pioneer	POLSON / Sight For Sore Ears	/1-s	L S Di : =
8.91 FF-Horror	\$34.98	MGM-UA	POLTERGEIST II [PG-13]	WS 1986/	L DS Di CC =
8.91 Mus-Jazz-Live	\$29.95 PA-91-383	Pioneer	POWER OF THREE: Petruciani, Hall, Shorter	/1-s	L S Di : +

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sal footage and a previously unseen screen test. Later on this year there will be a *Godfather* boxed set containing all three movies and the new documentary to retail at \$129.95.

* Several mega packages are due from MGM-UA. *The Greta Garbo Collection* (\$99.98) contains *Anna Christie*, *Anna Karenina*, *Flesh And The Devil* and *Camille*. *The Thin Man Collection* (\$124.98) features the William Powell/Myrna Loy comedy/murder-mystery series produced between 1934 and 1944. \$99.98 will get you a new CAV collector's edition of *Gone With The Wind* that fits on no less than 10 sides. Trailers, footage of the premiere and other extras are included. MGM-UA is also releasing more double-features (identified in LDR lists by "//") dividing the two titles - there's not room to do anything more!).

* Turner/Image has a double-feature of *King Kong* and *The Son Of Kong*, each film fitting on its own disc. *King Kong* is the entire film - including the censored scenes - transferred from Turner's 35mm archival print that has never before been used as a home video source. The 70' *Son Of Kong* (not previously released on laserdisc) has side two in CAV.

* Several titles long overdue for laser release are due in coming months - MCA-Universal has *The Creature From The Black Lagoon* and *FM* (this, apparently, held up for release previously on account of music rights problems) and MGM-UA has James Cagney's *White Heat* and a couple of obvious wilderness re-releases - *Brainstorm* and *Forbidden Planet*. Warner has the Doris Day musical *Calamity Jane* and the TV pilot of David Lynch's *Twin Peaks*.

* For all those who thought the prospect of *Star Trek: The Next Generation* TV episodes coming out as \$29.95 single-sided discs none too enticing (imagine the cost of accumulating a whole set!) there is good news in that *The Naked Now* and *Code Of Honor* discs have been cancelled. In their place is just the one disc (Paramount LV40270-103) containing an episode each side and which sells for \$34.95. (Next time, just beam them down in one go - Along with laserdiscs and whatever else, Paramount has sanctioned the Franklin Mint to offer a 25th anniversary *Star Trek* chess set. Two pieces (at a cost of \$29.50 + p&p each) are sent every other month to those taking up the offer, a good way of concealing the not inconsiderable total cost of the set which is not mentioned in the adverts. However, there are 32 pieces in the set which means that it will be more than two-and-a-half years before any subscriber can play their first game.)

* For November Paramount has a 35th anniversary re-issue in widescreen of *The Ten Commandments*. Filling 6 sides, the disc is claimed to be restored to a form as close to the original release as possible and includes three trailers. Sides 4 & 5 are in CAV and the price is \$89.95. *Apocalypse Now* is also being re-issued in a "remastered" pan & scan version and a new widescreen edition. Both list for \$44.95.

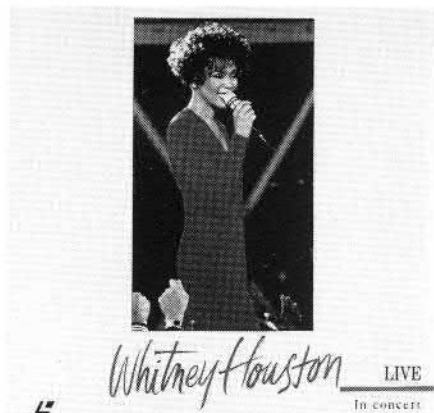
* The *Image Entertainment Laserdisc Catalog: Volume I* is an attempt to carry an illustrated listing of all 3,500 Image distributed titles on a 20cm CAV laserdisc.

USA NEW RELEASES - NTSC

9.91	FF-Comedy	\$34.98	1035	Warner	PRISONER OF 2ND AVENUE [PG]	WS-7:3	1975/98'	L	SS	Di	CC =
8.91	FF-Western	\$49.95	PS291-14	Pioneer S.E.	PROFESSIONALS, The	WS-7:3	1966/123'	L	S	Di	+
8.91	FF-Thriller	\$34.98	41040	MCA	PSYCHO IV [R]		1991/	L	SS	Di	=
10.91	FF-Horror	\$34.95	LV 12957	Pull Moon	PUPPET MASTER III [R]		1991/	L	S	Di	CC =
9.91	Mus-Jazz-Live	\$29.95	ID 7900	VPI	PURIM, Airtro & Flora / Live In Europe		/46'	L	S	Di	=
8.91	FF-Comedy	\$39.95	ID 7620	Live	QUEENS LOGIC [R]		1991/116'	L	DS	Di	+
8.91	FF-Thriller	\$29.95	ID 7080	Turner	RACE STREET	B&W	1948/79'	LA	M	Di	=
8.91	FF-Comedy	\$29.95	ID 7083	Turner	RAINMAKERS, The	B&W	1935/78'	LA	M	Di	=
9.91	FF-Drama	\$39.98	ML 102441	MGM-UA	RAINTREE COUNTY	WS	1957/3-s	L	M	Di	=
8.91	Mus-Jazz-Live	\$29.95	ID 7259	View	RAWLS, Lou / Show (w. Freda Payne)		/35'	L	M	Di	=
8.91	Mus-Pop	\$24.95	PA-91-388	Pioneer	READY STEADY GO!: Vol.3	B&W	/1-s	L	M	Di	+
9.91	FF-Comedy	\$39.98	ML 102206	MGM-UA	REVENGE OF THE PINK PANTHER [PG]	WS	1978/3-s	L	M	Di	CC =
9.91	FF-Biopic	\$39.98	ML 101149	MGM-UA	REAPSODT IN BLUE	B&W	1945/3-s	L	M	Di	=
8.91	FF-Drama	\$29.95	ID 7087	Turner	RIFP-RAPP	B&W	1947/80'	LA	M	Di	=
9.91	Opera	\$49.95	ID 7817	HBO	RIGOLETTO (Jonathan Miller)		1982/133'	L	Di	+	
9.91	FF-Drama	\$34.98	12275	Warner	RISKY BUSINESS [R]	WS	1983/99'	L	DS	Di	CC =
8.91	FF-Drama	\$49.95	ID 8271	Connoisseur	ROADS TO THE SOUTH		1978/97'	L	M	Di	Su =
9.91	FF-Drama	\$34.98	ML 101612	MGM-UA	ROARING TWENTIES, The	B&W	1939/	L	M	Di	=
9.91	FF-Drama	\$39.98	11369	Warner	ROBIN & THE SEVEN HOODS	WS-7:3	1964/123'	L	M	Di	=
8.91	FF-Adventure	\$39.98	1907-80	CBS-Fox	ROBIN HOOD		1991/116'	L	DS	Di	=
8.91	FF-Sci-Fi	\$34.95	59366	RCA-Columbia	ROBOT JOX [PG]		1990/	L	+		
8.91	FF-Musical	\$39.98	ML 102323	MGM-UA	ROMANCE ON THE HIGH SEAS // MY DREAM IS YOURS			L	M	Di	=
10.91	Opera-Live	\$39.95	PA-91-391	Pioneer	ROMEO ET JULIETTE (Munich)			L	S	Di	=
9.91	FF-Musical	\$34.98	ML 102324	MGM-UA	ROSE MARIE	B&W	1936/	L	M	Di	=
9.91	FF-Comedy	\$39.99	1118 AS	Buena Vista	ROSENCRANTZ & GUILDENSTERN ARE DEAD		1991/117'	L	DS	Di	CC +
8.91	FF-Action	\$39.99	1158 AS	Hollywood	RUN [R]		1991/	L	DS	Di	CC =
9.91	FF-Drama	\$39.98	ML 102337	MGM-UA	RYAN'S DAUGHTER [R]	WS-7:3	1970/4-s	L	SS	Di	=
9.91	FF-Comedy	\$39.99	1163 AS	Touchstone	SCENES FROM A MALL [R]		1991/87'	L	DS	Di	CC +
8.91	Mus-Jazz-Live	\$29.95	PA-91-382	Pioneer	SCOFIELD, John / Live 3 Ways		/1-s	L	S	Di	+
9.91	FF-Western	\$39.98	12235	Warner	SEARCHERS, The	WS	1956/119'	L	M	Di	=
11.91	FF-Drama	\$39.98	LV 23617	Republic	SEPARATE BUT EQUAL [PG]		1991/4-s	L	S	Di	CC =
0.91	FF-Drama	\$49.95	CC 1272L	Voyager	SHAMPOO	WS	1975/110'	L	M	Di	+
8.91	FF-Adventure	\$39.99	1168 AS	Walt Disney	SHIPWRECKED [PG]		1991/93'	L	DS	Di	CC =
9.91	FF-Drama	\$39.98	ML 102399	MGM-UA	SHOES OF THE FISHERMAN	WS-7:3	1968/157'	L	Di	=	
9.91	FF-Comedy	\$39.98	ML 101164	MGM-UA	SHOP AROUND THE CORNER	B&W	1939/3-s	L	M	Di	=
9.91	FF-Horror	\$29.95	ID 8000	Prism	SHERLOCK, The [PG]		1974/93'	L	M	Di	=
8.91	FF-Comedy	\$29.95	ID 8088	Media	SHERIP ON THE BARBIE, The [R]		1991/86'	LA	M	Di	+
9.91	FF-Comedy	\$29.95	ID 7090	Turner	SILLY BILLIES	B&W	1936/64'	LA	M	Di	=
8.91	FF-Musical	\$39.98	ML 102196	MGM-UA	SINGIN' IN THE RAIN		1952/4-s	A	M	Di	=
9.91	FF-Comedy	\$29.95	ID 7094	Turner	SKY'S THE LIMIT, The	B&W	1943/89'	L	M	Di	=
9.91	FF-Thriller	\$39.98	1871-80	CBS-Fox	SLEEPING WITH THE ENEMY [R]		1991/99'	L	DS	Di	CC =
0.91	FF-Adventure	\$39.95	V 1043L	Voyager	SON OF THE SHEIK, The (+ tints)	B&W	1926/68'	L	M	Di	=
9.91	Mus-Pop-Vids	\$24.95	PA-91-386	Pioneer	SONIC YOUTH / Goo That Lives On		/1-s	L	S	Di	=
8.91	Mus-Pop-Live	\$24.95	PA-91-387	Pioneer	SOUNDS OF MOTOWN, The: Various	B&W	/1-s	L	M	Di	+
8.91	FF-Drama	\$49.95	ID 8215	Fox Lorber	SPEAKING PARTS		1989/92'	L	S	Di	+
7.91	Mus-Clas-Live	\$34.95	072 249-1	DG	SPIRITUALS IN CONCERT		/91'	L	S	Di	=
9.91	FF-Western	\$34.98	35078	Warner	STAGECOACH	B&W WS ?	1939/	L	M	Di	CC +
0.91	FF-Comedy	\$39.95	V 1040L	Voyager	STEAMBOAT BILL JNR (+ tints)		1928/71'	L	M	Di	+
8.91	Doc-Education	\$39.95	ENG 03LD	Home Visions	STORY OF ENGLISH		/9-s	L	+		
10.91	Mus-C&W-Live	\$29.98	40798	MCA	STRAIT, George / Live! (in Dallas)		1987/1-s	L	M	Di	=
0.91	FF-Drama	\$39.95	CC 1190L	Voyager	SUMMERTIME		1955/99'	L	M	Di	=
8.91	Mus-Jazz-Live	\$24.95	ID 8232	-PC	SUPERDRUMMING (Bellson, Powell etc)		1983/53'	L	S	Di	+
9.91	Mus-MOR-Live	\$24.95	ID 8227	-PC	SWINGLE SINGERS / In Concert		1989/25'	A	S	Di	+
10.91	FF-Drama	\$29.98	90550	HBO/Warner	SWITCH [R]		1991/	L	SS	Di	CC =
6.91	Doc	\$200.00	V 1030L	Voyager	TED 2 (2nd Technology Entertainment Conference			L	Di	+	
8.91	FF-Sci-Fi	\$29.95	ID 8316	Hemdale	TERMINATOR, The [R]	WS	1984/108'	L	M	Di	+
8.91	FF-Musical	\$39.98	ML 102341	MGM-UA	THANK YOUR LUCKY STARS // IT'S A GREAT FEELING			L	M	Di	=
10.91	FF-Adventure	\$34.98	LV 24160	Republic	THIEF OF BAGHDAD, The B&W (+tints)		1924/3-s	L	Di	=	
9.91	FF-Action	\$29.95	ID 8144	Academy	THIEVES OF FORTUNE		1989/91'	L	M	Di	=
8.91	FF-Comedy	\$124.98	ML 102231	MGM-UA	THIN MAN COLLECTION, The	B&W	1934-44/	L	M	Di	=
8.91	FF-Musical	\$44.95	PS291-15	Pioneer S.E.	THREE FOR THE SHOW	WS-7:3	1955/93'	L	S	Di	=
8.91	FF-Adventure	\$49.95	ID 8027	-IN	THREE HUNDRED & SEVENTEENTH PLATOON		1965/94'	L	M	Di	Su +
0.91	FF-Drama	\$89.95	CC 1252L	Voyager	THRONE OF BLOOD	B&W	1957/105'	A	M	Di	=
8.91	FF-Drama	\$34.98	ML 102232	MGM-UA	THUNDERBOLT & LIGHTFOOT [R]	WS-7:3	1974/	L	SS	Di	CC =
11.91	FF-Comedy	\$29.98	LV 24212	Republic	TILLIES PUNCTURED ROMANCE	B&W (+tints)	1914/	L	S	Di	=
8.91	FF-Action	\$34.95	91166	RCA-Columbia	TO DIE STANDING [R]		1990/	L	S	+	
0.91	FF-Comedy	\$124.95	CC 1264L	Voyager	TOOTSIE	WS 7:3	1982/116'	A	MA	Di	=
10.91	FF-Thriller	\$29.98	LV 24265	Republic	TOTAL EXPOSURE [R]		1990/	L	S	Di	CC =
8.91	FF-Horror	\$34.95	LV 12933	Pull Moon	TRANSCERS II [R]		1991/	L	S	Di	CC +
8.91	Mus-Clas-BGV	\$34.95	LVD 9108	Lumivision	TROPICAL SWEETS			A	SS	Di	=
8.91	FF-Drama	\$34.95	LV 32127	Paramount	TRUE COLOURS [R]		1991/	L	SS	Di	CC =
9.91	TVN-Drama	\$34.98	35198	Warner	TWIN PEAKS (Pilot)		1990/	L	S	Di	CC =
8.91	FF-Sci-Fi	\$29.98	ML 102233	MGM-UA	Two-Thousand & One - '2001'	WS-7:3	1968/3-s	LA	SS	Di	=
8.91	FF-Adventure	\$34.98	11385	Warner	VALLEY OF THE GWANGI, The		1969/	L	M	Di	+
9.91	FF-Drama	\$49.95	ID 7733	Fox-Lorber	VERY OLD MAN WITH ENORMOUS WINGS, A		1988/86'	L	M	Di	Su +
8.91	FF-Drama	\$39.98	1831-80	CBS-Fox	VITAL SIGNS [R]		1990/103'	L	DS	Di	CC +
0.91	FF-Adventure	\$59.95	CC 1244L	Voyager	WAGES OF FEAR	B&W	1953/140'	L	M	Di	=
9.91	FF-Drama	\$34.95	59286	RCA-Columbia	WAITING FOR THE LIGHT [PG]		1990/	L	S	Di	CC +
9.91	Doc	\$29.95	ID 7958	Pacific Arts	WALK THRU 20TH CENTURY W.BILL MOYERS		1984/58'	L	M	Di	CC +
9.91	FF-Comedy	\$69.98	1856-85	CBS-Fox	WAR OF THE ROSES, The [R] (+extras)		1989/	L	DS	Di	CC =
8.91	FF-Drama	\$44.95	PS291-19	Pioneer S.E.	WAY WE WERE, The [PG]	WS-7:3	1973/118'	L	M	Di	+
8.91	FF-Adventure	\$34.98	11073	Warner	WHEN DINOSAURS RULED THE EARTH [G]		1970/	L	SS	Di	CC =
9.91	FF-Thriller	\$49.95	ID 7012	Turner	WHILE THE CITY SLEEPS	B&W WS	1956/100'	L	M	Di	=
9.91	FF-Thriller	\$34.98	ML 101570	MGM-UA	WHITE HEAT	B&W	1949/	L	M	Di	=
10.91	Mus-Jazz-Live	\$29.95	PA-91-384	Pioneer	WILLIAMS, Tony / New York Live		/1-s	L	S	Di	=
9.91	FF-Drama	\$34.98	ML 102237	MGM-UA	WIND & THE LION [PG]	WS	1975/	L	S	Di	=
9.91	FF-Comedy	\$39.98	11261	Warner	WORLD ACCORDING TO GARP, The		1982/3-s	L	SS	Di	CC =
0.91	Doc	\$49.95	V 1050L	Voyager	WORLD ALIVE		1991/	A	Di	=	
9.91	FF-Thriller	\$34.98	11397	Warner	TAKUZA, The [R]	WS-7:3	1975/112'	L	M	Di	=
9.91	FF-Drama	\$39.98	40123	NCA	TANKS		1979/3-s	LA	M	Di	+
8.91	FF-Musical	\$34.98	40769	NCA	ZOOT SUIT [R]		1991/	L	SS	Di	=

DISC REVIEWS

Whitney Houston Live In Concert



BMG Video 781 137
UK/PAL 30cm £24.51
CLV-Ch Colour Stereo Di
1991 76mins [SWG]

I Wanna Dance With Somebody/Saving All My Love For You/How Will I Know/Didn't We Almost Have It All-A House Is Not A Home-Where Do Broken Hearts Go/All The Man That I Need/My Name Is Not Susan/Anytime/A Song For You/Revelation/Who Do You Love/I'm Your Baby Tonight/Greatest Love Of All

Hello sailor! Or, more precisely, lots of sailors. Last Easter Whitney Houston made her first concert video on the aircraft carrier, the U.S.S. Saratoga, berthed at Norfolk, Virginia. The show took place in one of the cavernous lower decks.

Rather in conflict with her glossy superstar image, the show is not one of those immaculately filmed events but a very live sounding and immediate looking video production. The sound balance gives good vent to the enthusiastic audience, even if it is at the expense of perfect digital clarity. The concert was originally an HBO TV special.

Whitney Houston is a lot better stage performer than her records might suggest. Though the act looks very well rehearsed, it is still possible to feel that this particular night was special. About the only questionable aspect is the Kermit the Frog jumpsuit which the singer cavorts around in during the middle portion of the show. That aside the disc should appeal to a wider audience than just Whitney Houston fans.

The standards conversion from NTSC is good and, apart from a little lag in opening sequence might easily go unnoticed as a conversion. The image is very clean and noise free and, as a whole, pleasant to watch. In its way it is also colourful. (All of the singer's outfits are different, bright colours.)

Every now and again a disc comes

along that make one realise how the technology of actual disc manufacture is progressing. The shortish running time involved here no doubt helps but, a couple of years back, a digital sound disc with this sort of stage lighting and colouring would have been visibly noisy. Here, however, the chroma image is as stable as many analogue discs.

Flight Of The Intruder



Paramount LV 32109-WS (7:3 ratio)
Paramount LV 32109 (4:3 ratio)
US/NTSC 30cm \$34.95
CLV Colour Stereo Di CX DS CC
1991 115mins Rated PG-13 [PiA]

Paramount feature film starring Danny Glover, Willem Dafoe and Brad Johnson with Rosanna Arquette and Tom Sizemore and directed by John Milius.

In the UK, at least, the Vietnam action drama *Flight Of The Intruder* is being promoted as "the *Top Gun* of the '90s". In the small print it explains why you might not have heard about the thing when it states it was "not previously released to the cinema circuit due to the sensitivity of the Gulf War". That's their story, anyway.

The main theme is that of an unauthorised bombing mission into off-limits North Vietnam conducted by a couple of US Navy pilots (played by Dafoe and Johnson) flying an A-6 Intruder based on a carrier under the command of the Danny Glover character. The movie takes a little time to get going but has some fair action sequences (even if the model work of the ground defence forces doesn't stand up to too much close inspection). Dramatically it is not so inspiring. The characterisations are very superficial and most of the dialogue is rather clichéd. The actors tend to act at each other rather than suggest any real communication. The result is closer to

Days Of Thunder than *Top Gun*. The main reason to investigate the disc ends up being an eventful, good quality surround soundtrack.

On the 7:3 aspect ratio transfer quite a lot of the movie looks like it was shot without any concession to producing a pan and scan version for conventional video release. It turns out, despite the Panavision credits at the end, the movie must have been shot in the same Super 35 format as, for example, *Black Rain*. Accordingly both discs are cropped. The widescreen disc shows the whole frame width and masks the top and bottom. The 'standard' 4:3 TV aspect ratio disc chops a small amount off the width (but usually manages to hold all the characters in shot, even when they are located at the extremities) but reveals more top and bottom.



The widescreen disc contains the occasional nice-looking wide-angle shot that just can't be maintained in the 4:3 version but, that apart, it is very difficult to come down conclusively in favour of one disc or the other. The larger image on the 4:3 disc makes for more impressive picture quality (the eye has more operative scanning lines to survey) though both transfers are equally sharp. Both are of similar technical merit and in keeping with Paramount's better work, all bar some slight grittiness to the image which tends to manifest itself in the shadow areas of some of the darker scenes. However, the day lit shots do look very nice.

Sony Classical UK Launch

Sony Classical is making the first of its laserdisc titles available in the UK this October. Many of them have been previously on offer in the mainland European territories as well as, in NTSC, the US and Japan. To begin with the selection is mostly orchestral music (lots of Karajan),

though room has been found early on for its HDTV originated music video type production, *The Loves Of Emma Bardac*.

But it looks as though the range of material will be expanded in due course. For example, there is a 1987 Salzburg *Don Giovanni*, a Vienna/Claudio Abbado *Nozze di Figaro* and *War & Peace* from the Seattle Opera set for future release.

Sony Classical came up with four of the initial batch of 16 UK titles for LDR to peruse. All are single discs and are presented in open-out sleeves (the sort with internal pockets) carrying multi-lingual sleeve notes on the inner faces. Added pzazz comes in the form of a glowing disc image behind the main artwork which is further enhanced on the Karajan titles by a matching holographic image of the conductor.

All Soul's Day Concert 1984 focuses on Richard Strauss' *Death And Transfiguration* and *Metamorphoses*. Rather grim-sounding pieces, the first is certainly lighter in mood than the title might suggest. It is quite modern sounding yet is the earlier of the compositions. Videod before an audience (whose applause is strangely muted until the end, even though they can be seen clapping between the selections) at the Berlin Philharmonic Hall the photography is fairly straightforward with the anticipated concentration on (and of) Karajan, interspersed with small group and solo shots of the players. Now and again the two are superimposed. The cameras do not slavishly follow the featured instruments. There is one particularly effective angle used on the violin section. In vigorous bow and with the foreshortening effect of the telephoto lens the result is more like a view of a wheat field in the wind. Ernest Wild was director of photography.



Sony Classical SLV 45984
UK/PAL 30cm £40.99
CLV-Ch Colour Stereo Di/DDD
1984 54'38" [SoJ]

Technically the image does not look to have quite the usual 1" tape detail and clarity (one assumes 1" to have been the originating format) though it is adequate. The slight softness in some ways suits the musical mood. Given the span of years over which Karajan recorded his 'legacy for home video' there are likely to be noticeable variations in visual style and image quality from disc to disc. This disc has a DDD sound code and a manageable dynamic range that won't conflict with involvement in the picture.

As might be anticipated, given the recording location, the other three titles were originated on NTSC video and

standards converted to PAL. Superficially, the Seiji Ozawa/Boston Symphony *Zarathustra* looks quite nice. There is some slight softness but it is very brightly lit and exhibits a nice tonal quality. You almost feel you were there. The standards converter is the sort that loses it on any fast lateral movement but, in practice, this is only visible when the conductor first walks on. However, Sony Classics does seem to have one minor bit of trouble with its standards conversions that affects all three of the Japanese recorded discs. In expanding the 525 line signal to 625 lines the vertical height appears to have been slightly stretched. Everyone looks noticeably slim.



Sony Classics SLV 46376
UK/PAL 30cm £34.99
CLV-Ch Colour Stereo Di/DDD
1987 58'14" [SoJ]

Chopin: Nocturne in D flat major, op.27 No.2/Impromptu in G flat Major, op.51/ Mazurka in B Minor, op.30 No.2/ Mazurka in C major, op.56 No.2/ Mazurka in F sharp minor, op.59 No.3/ Mazurka in C sharp minor, op.63 No.3/ Polonaise in A flat Major, op.61 (Fantaisie)

Debussy: Images I - Reflets dans l'eau/ Hommage à Rameau/Mouvement
Poulenc: Toccata from 3 Pieces

Both the piano recitals were recorded at Tokyo's Osaka Hall in 1987. Beyond the appearance of a vase of flowers on one of them the two programmes look as though they could have been videoed on the same night, but were actually shot several months apart. The sleeve photos look to be from the concerts and are an accurate guide to what you will see on the discs. (And their softness is also a fair representation of how the video image appears. Neither of the piano discs is terribly sharp or detailed.)

The then 16 year old Yevgeny Kissin disc runs to two sides. Although the selection of pieces makes for a homogeneous programme, side one is slightly more upbeat than the second so the disc can be exploited selectively to suit a mood. The Bunin programme is more studious and less obviously crowd pleasing. The jolly encore could well have been featured earlier on in the concert as a bit of an ice-breaker. Bunin gets a good thump going in his more dynamic moments - that at least is what comes over on the disc which picks up the resonance from the wooden stage quite effectively. The microphone placement appears identical on both discs but Bunin's concert has more audience cough and rustle distractions than it should. The Kissin disc has enough of the

feel of the audience but no distracting coughs.



Sony Classics SLV 46375
UK/PAL 30cm £43.99
CLV-Ch Colour Stereo Di/DDD
1987 76'55" [SoJ]

Rachmaninov: Lilacs/Études Tableaux op.39 - No.5 in E flat minor & No.1 in C minor

Prokofiev: Piano Sonata No.6 in A Major, op.82

Liszt: Trois Études de Concert, La Leggerezza/Zwei Konzertetüden, Waldesrauschen

Chopin: Nocturne in C sharp minor, op.27 No.1/Nocturne in A flat major, op.32 No.2/Polonaise in F sharp minor, op.44.

Scriabin: Mazurka in E minor, op.25 No.3/Étude in C sharp minor, op.42 No.5

Koyama: Natsu-wa Kinu

Seiji Ozawa's *Also Sprach Zarathustra* also has a few coughs. And it's not fair to blame the audience for all of it. A violin player is clearly seen 'at it', right in the middle of the screen. (The cough manifests from the left speaker, correctly so as her apparent central position is purely a consequence of an oblique camera angle.) Recorded at Osaka's Festival Hall in March 1986 the performance enjoys a very literal video mix with featured instruments being focused on dead on cue.

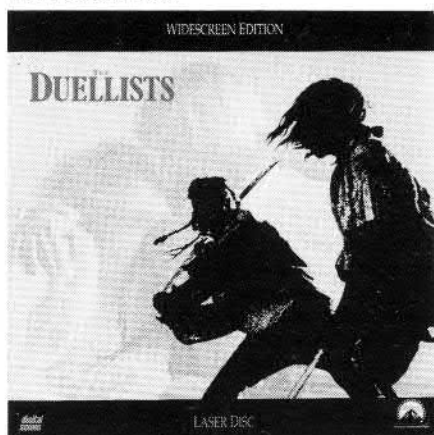


Sony Classics SLV 46378
UK/PAL 30cm £43.99
CLV-Ch Colour Stereo Di/DDD
1986 84'42" [SoJ]

Strauss: Also Sprach Zarathustra, op.30
Brahms: Symphony No.1 in C minor, op.68

All the laserdiscs are nice clean Sony pressings. The sleeves were printed in Germany but more than likely the discs were made in Japan.

The Duellists



Paramount LV 8975-WS
US/NTSC 30cm \$34.95
CLV Colour Mono Di CX
1977 101mins Rated PG [PIA]

Paramount feature film starring Keith Carradine and Harvey Keitel with Edward Fox, Cristina Raines, Robert Stephens and Albert Finney and directed by Ridley Scott.

Ridley Scott's directorial debut (in the movies as opposed to the world of advertising commercials), *The Duellists*, has previously been available in the US but has now been re-issued with digital audio and in the original 5:3 aspect ratio. The picture transfer is particularly appealing, aided no doubt by the sort of care in the original lighting that someone used to seeing their work displayed on video (where the ability to contain an extended contrast range is far less than photographic film shone through a projector) might show. On this disc you really get the feel of watching a movie; everything has just the right 'look' about it.

Even if the content is not of major appeal (some people find the two American-accented leads out of place) the laser-disc is a nice thing to have on the shelf. The story concerns itself with two French officers in Napoleon's army (Keitel and Carradine) who become embroiled in a series of futile duels over an extended period of years. It is based on Josef Conrad's story *The Duel*.

The audio track, though lacking the sort of dynamics that might be expected today, is presentably clear.

Logan's Run



MGM-UA ML 102144
US/NTSC 30cm \$39.98
CLV Colour Stereo Di CX DS
1976 119mins/+trailer(3-s) Rated PG [PIA]

An MGM feature, filmed in Todd-AO, starring Michael York, Jenny Agutter, Richard Jordan, Farrah-Fawcett Majors and Peter Ustinov and directed by Michael Anderson.

A fashionable view expounded in the swinging sixties maintained that life was over by the age of 30. It was a view that became conveniently forgotten when its proponents found themselves at that very watershed but survives here in the seventies sci-fi movie, *Logan's Run*, which has just been re-issued in letterbox format.

In the 23rd century society depicted in *Logan's Run* the entire day is spent in the pursuit of pleasure. Everything in the enclosed city seems perfect. There are a few trouble-makers - citizens reaching their sell-by date who resist 'voluntary' termination - who attempt to escape to the outside world. There they believe a longer life is attainable. Michael York plays Sandman Logan, a guard given a special detail to find the secret exit sought by the escapees - the 'runners'.

The movie will be of some interest to those who enjoy special effects photography (for which it won an Oscar) and contains some mildly involving action scenes but trails off in its latter moments. There are aspects to the production that seem dated, even for 1976, and it could easily have been filmed 10 years earlier.

Though only a two-hour film it has been spread to three sides though the end of side two has been poorly chosen given the immense latitude available. A three-minute theatrical trailer has been included at the end of the disc which is presented in a gatefold sleeve.

Filmed in Todd-AO the aspect ratio is an uncompromising 8:3. MGM-UA's digital video transfer is mostly sharp but there are inevitable resolution losses as a consequence of the fewer scanning lines in operation. The print appears to be in good condition.

The audio is not to the same standard. There is a sweeping Jerry Goldsmith score and various sound effects which retain the anticipated sparkle but the dialogue track is only so so. The dialogue is masked by some low level hiss and has a couple of moments where it becomes slightly cloudy.

The Dolby Surround is not a recent addition. *Logan's Run* is a very early Dolby Surround production but doesn't sound that eventful here. In fact, there is something to be said for listening to the disc in straight stereo as the isolation of the dialogue in the centre speaker tends to draw attention to its weaknesses. Listened to blended in more with the music and effects the soundtrack is easier on the ear. The stereo itself is not particularly three dimensional but tends to favour the use of exaggerated left-right effects. And, contrary to current Dolby Surround convention, the dialogue does occasionally wander from side to side rather than remain in the centre.

The Magnificent Seven

MGM-UA ML 101563
US/NTSC 30cm \$39.98
CLV/CAV Colour Mono Di CX
1960 129mins(3-s) [PIA]

A Mirisch Company feature, filmed in Panavision, starring Yul Brynner with Eli

Wallach, Steve McQueen, Charles Bronson, Robert Vaughn, Brad Dexter, James Coburn and Horst Buchholz. Music by Elmer Bernstein and produced and directed by John Sturges.



The source material for this new letterbox issue of the western favourite is not in the best of condition and taxes one's perception of MGM-UA's "Deluxe Letter-box Edition" connotation.

Visually the image lacks the bite of the best of its digital video transfers (no doubt an intentional softening to mask some of the wear on the print) and can only manage a rather muted display of colour. On the audio front the soundtrack has merely the range to be expected of an older (pre-Dolby) optical track and exhibits moments of distortion, both in the dialogue and louder musical passages. The movie can still be enjoyed for its content but the disc will not fulfil most people's requirement for a definitive version of the classic. It would seem that MGM-UA did not have access to the original source material and had to make do with an existing print. The two recent Pink Panther releases - also Mirisch productions - were similarly below par.

The aspect ratio is not the full Panavision image, falling between 7:3 and 6:3. It's a reasonable compromise as there is no obvious absence of picture information left and right and no apparent harm has been done to the original composition of the frame. (Despite what the sleeve notes say, the photography is straightforward with no pretensions of great art.) The sleeve is a gatefold one. MGM-UA has split the disc in such a way as to achieve a third CAV side. The resulting side breaks are not ideal. Side one might have been better concluded around the 49 minute point, for example, before the village festivities commenced.

Swashbuckler

MCA-Universal 41089
US/NTSC 30cm \$34.98
CLV-Ch Colour Mono Di CX
1976 101mins/+trailer Rated PG [PIA]

Universal feature, filmed in Panavision, starring Robert Shaw, James Earl Jones, Peter Boyle, Genevieve Bujold, Beau Bridges and Geoffrey Holder and directed by James Goldstone.

An advantage of having the trailer included on a disc is that it gives one an accurate perspective on how the studio intended its endeavours to be judged at the time of release. Universal meant Swash-



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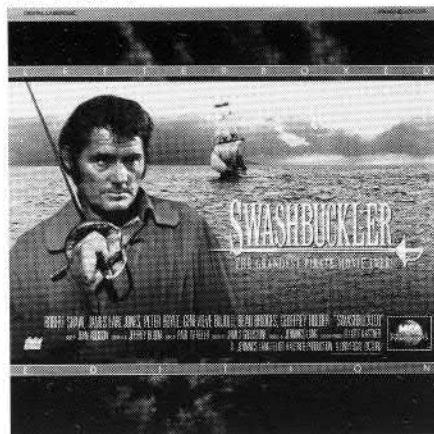
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buckler to be a glorious recreation of the pirate movie - a real adventure story - but like the later Polanski effort, *Pirates*, it fails to genuinely excite. It begins well but doesn't make any progression. It's very even-keeled, so to speak. What remains is a glossy-looking location piece that wiles away the time but little more. (And don't be seduced by the implication of the front cover photo; most of the action is firmly land-locked and the boat only plays a brief sail-on part.)



Set in Jamaica, Peter Boyle plays a corrupt local government official who abuses his powers which enables the viewer to side with the otherwise disreputable pirates led by Robert Shaw and his side-kick James Earl Jones. Though furnished with a major credit Beau Bridges has only a modest part as a rather buffoonish British officer but captures something of the style of farce that could well have been made more use of in the movie as a whole. The film-makers do seem to have had difficulties coping with the display of violence and sex. In attempting to keep the film family oriented it becomes very apparent that they didn't want to face up to the fact that all that jolly pirate sword play results in people getting killed. Likewise there are intimations of odd sexual practices which, because they are not fully revealed, cause some momentary confusions in the plot.

The Panavision movie has been transferred full frame (7:3). The source print is in good condition and is one of MCA's characteristically sharp efforts. The sound is only in mono but although the range is not immense it is clear and quite full-sounding.

Rocky V

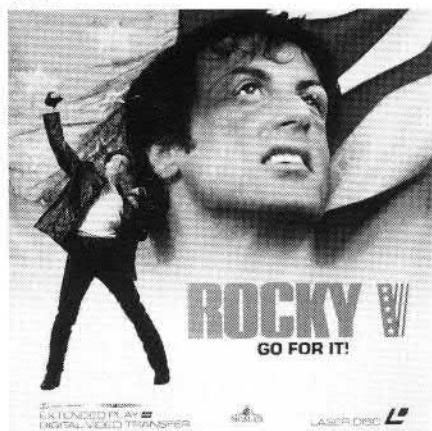
MGM-UA ML 102218
US/NTSC 30cm \$24.98
CLV Colour Stereo Di CX DS CC
1990 105mins/+trailer Rated PG-13 [PiA]

United Artists feature, filmed in Panavision, starring Sylvester Stallone with Talia Shire, Burt Young, Sage Stallone, Tommy Morrison and Burgess Meredith and directed by John G. Avildsen.

The UK release of *Rocky IV* was a good example of how sharp and clear a laserdisc can be. (Not that it was planned that way, incidentally. It would have been as dismal a disc as its predecessors but Warner in the UK rejected United Artists' film transfer. On a second attempt, UA came up with a significantly better piece of work.) Consequently one might have great expectations for this latest episode.

Don't have; the transfer is as gloomy and unsharp as the first three.

And you know they could have done better. Uncredited on the sleeve, MGM-UA has tacked the cinema trailer on the end of side two. While exhibiting the usual rough trailer sound quality the picture quality is pretty good, certainly sharper and more detailed in the shadows than the main feature. (The trailer doesn't look too promising to start off with because the colour is too strong but this can be corrected on the TV.) How then, if the trailer can be made this clear, the film itself looks so dull. This is one digital video transfer (really?) that doesn't live up to expectations. Fortunately the sound is OK.



The movie itself is more OK than KO too. It won't win any new converts to the series but is better than many a sequel. That it has original *Rocky* director John G. Avildsen at the helm (Stallone directed II to IV) must be what gives it the edge. Rocky has suffered brain damage and has been bilked out of his money by a dodgy accountant and can't fight any more. That doesn't look a very promising start point to a movie where the audience expects the hero to spend a considerable time in the ring but, in practice, it pans out quite well. It's a good companion piece to the first movie but technically, as a laserdisc, a disappointment.

Starman



Pioneer Special Editions PSE91-09
US/NTSC 30cm \$44.95
CLV-Ch Colour Stereo Di CX DS
1985 118mins Rated PG [PiA]

Columbia Pictures feature, filmed in Panavision, starring Jeff Bridges and Karen Allen with Charles Martin Smith and Richard Jaeckel and directed by

John Carpenter.

One of the first releases from the new Pioneer Special Editions label is the John Carpenter sci-fi movie *Starman* in which Jeff Bridges is an alien temporarily stranded on Earth who has to make his way across the US to Arizona in order to be rescued. The alien - the starman - takes on the physical appearance of a human for the duration of his stay and chooses the dead husband of Jenny Hayden (Karen Allen) for the purpose. The couple set off on their travels with the usual obstructions from hostile government agencies. The action interest is split about 50-50 with the sci-fi content and effects. There is sequel crying out to be made from *Starman*, to be set twenty or so years on.

When reporting the announcement of Pioneer's new label in LDR-33 it was overlooked that Pioneer is claiming these Special Editions to be limited. In fact the words "Limited Availability" are even gold embossed on the sleeve. Quite why there should be a cut-off beyond which they will no longer be around is not clear. (Neither is the actual length of time the discs will be on sale.) All the Special Editions so far announced are from the vaults of RCA-Columbia.

Starman is presented in full 7:3 Panavision aspect ratio. Though presumably, a new video transfer, the source material for the disc only looks to be RCA-Columbia's existing low contrast print, the same one that might have been used for the pan and scan release a few years back. The contrast and colour characteristics are closer to RCA-Columbia's older film transfers than some of the better work it is now turning out. That said it is still OK but the \$10.00 premium may have led one to expect Pioneer was going to do something a bit special. The sound is fairly presentable but, again, not outstanding.

The sleeve carries some rather more extensive liner notes than would usually be the case with an RCA-Columbia disc title and contains a chapter listing. Oddly, the chapter numbers are in Roman numerals.

White Hot



Image ID 8137AC (Academy)
US/NTSC 30cm \$29.95
CLV-Ch Colour Mono Di CX
1988 94mins Rated R [Tec]

A Juban Group (in association with Rebo High Definition Studio) feature film starring Robby Benson, Tawny Kitaen and Danny Aiello. Music by Nile Rogers and directed by Robby Benson.

Laser Disc Review - 34

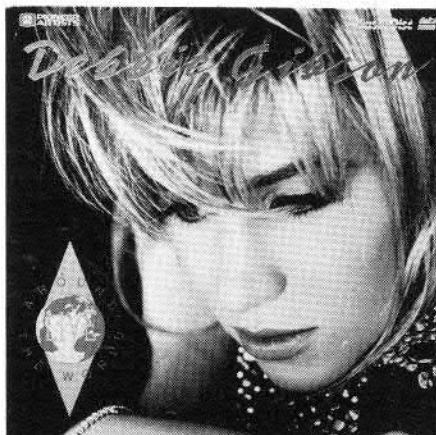
The second feature film shot on Sony's HDVS 1125-line video system has recently surfaced on laserdisc in the US. A 1988 production, it (briefly) toured UK cinemas under the title *Crack In The Mirror* (see LDR-22).

Like its predecessor, *Julia And Julia* (LDR-19), *White Hot* is again something of a disappointment technically. The image on the disc exhibits a cheap video look that belies the fidelity of the original. In this case the cause of degradation would appear to be that the disc has been sourced from a video master taken from a film print ie. it was shot on 30fps 1125-line video, transferred to 24fps film for cinema distribution and then telecined back to conventional 30fps NTSC video. Someone should have had the sense to take the video master direct from the 1125-line tape. (*Julia And Julia* appeared to have been done this way.) In some respects *White Hot* is better than *Julia And Julia*; there is less of the streaky noise in the darker scenes and the colour palette looks less compressed, but the detail level is no better and against it are the motion defects that its predecessor didn't have. Inexcusably the sound is not very good either. There is not a lot of range and odd moments of dialogue are spluttery. The sound is mono. A Dolby Stereo consultant is listed in the credits but the movie doesn't appear in Dolby's list of stereo films.

As a movie that was probably put together as much as an exercise in new technology as anything else it is a passable thriller - a first time directorial effort from the star, Robby Benson. Set in New York it concerns itself with the the drugs trade, giving topical reference to the upsurge in crack. Robby Benson and Tawny Kitaen play a well-to-do couple of young professionals experiencing a momentary cash-flow problem who resort to a little on-the-side drug dealing to restore their financial equilibrium. Though a little obvious moralising takes place (not quite on the level of *Reefer Madness*, however) the plot is fairly convincing. Danny Aiello has a good role as drugs boss.

However, one should not really entertain acquiring the movie in the condition it's in. It may be of more appeal in a few years time when we are actually able to watch the thing in true hi-def, without the convoluted transfer sequence.

Debbie Gibson Live Around The World



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Pioneer Artists PA-91-336
US/NTSC 30cm \$29.95
CLV-Ch Colour Stereo Di CX
1991 90mins

[PiA]

Live - Who Loves Ya Baby/Over The Wall/Lost In Your Eyes/Don't Flirt With Me/Dance To The Music/Love Under My Pillow/Should've Been The One/We Could Be Together/No More Rhyme/Electric Youth Promos - Staying Together/Electric Youth/Lost In Your Eyes/No More Rhyme/We Could Be Together/Anything Is Possible

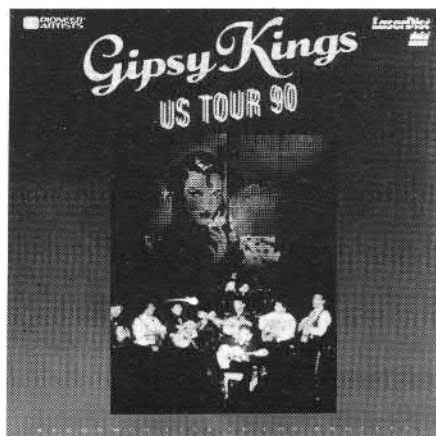
Live Around The World is only half the story. While all of side one is indeed a compilation of live performances (which appear to be all shot in the US), most of the second side of this latest Debbie Gibson laserdisc comprises 6 of her promo videos. Also, to contradict the main thrust of the title, they haven't made a very thorough job of mixing the live sound and, despite Debbie Gibson's energetic strutting around the stage, the overall effect is rather flat and lifeless. (That said, the sound is itself good quality.) Most of the songs are punctuated by the singer talking to the camera and so it is not the sort of live performance one can get stuck into. Picture quality (video originated) is very good with a clear, sharp image.

The side break (at less than 50 minutes) happens with one live number left to do; an unusual way to split the programme. After this final live song is out the way the singer continues to talk between the promos so, again, the side isn't as suited to audio-only replay as it might. Most of these later documentary inserts have been shot in Debbie Gibson's studio (her own - paid for out of all those big-selling 45s). There is an uncredited (short) version of *Will You Love Me Tomorrow* played solo. Picture quality on the videos (which are all fairly jolly and as appealing as any) is nothing too special. A major hue correction on the TV is advised to suppress the yellowness.

As it has been edited the programme (which is licensed from Atlantic Record's A-Vision label) is essentially a documentary type production with music rather than a music disc. Such an approach tends to limit its appeal to a general audience.

Gypsy Kings

US Tour 90



Pioneer Artists PA-91-369
US/NTSC 30cm \$29.95
CLV-Ch Colour Stereo Di CX
1990 77mins

[PiA]

Liberté/Chiribi/Pharaon/Bamboleo/Trista Pena/Caminando Por La Calle/Djobi Djoba/Passion/A Mi Manera/Pena Penita/El Camino/Fandango/Viento Del Arena/Bem Bem Maria/Vamos A Bailar/Allegría

The 6-piece guitar group (augmented by keyboards and percussion) is captured here on their US tour last year in a performance at Los Angeles' open-air Greek Theatre. Even Mr Stallone turned up to enjoy the show. If you are familiar with any of the Gypsy Kings' songs the show is very much more of the same and the disc has been edited down to a pretty solid 77 minutes worth. Contrary to the view expressed in the last LDR about the British reluctance to accept popular music in a foreign language, what you hear here is equally unintelligible but, for whatever reason, it doesn't seem to matter. However, saying that, it's a near certainty that you'll end up hearing Paul Anka's English *My Way* lyrics to *A Mi Manera*, no matter what the Gypsy Kings are actually singing.

The disc has a good clear live sound with plenty of body but there is less merit in the image. Recorded on video by a French production company (Pioneer has licensed the programme from Anaconda) the originating format was visibly not NTSC so the disc has been standards converted from either PAL or SECAM. It's not that dismal (and certainly not as fuzzy as the front sleeve photo might have you fear), but obviously the programme would look better on a PAL laserdisc. Should Pioneer have the rights to the programme in Europe, more patient Gypsy Kings fans might consider waiting for a local release.

Havana



MCA-Universal 41049
US/NTSC 30cm \$39.98
CLV Colour Stereo Di CX DS CC
1990 145mins(3-s) Rated R [PiA]

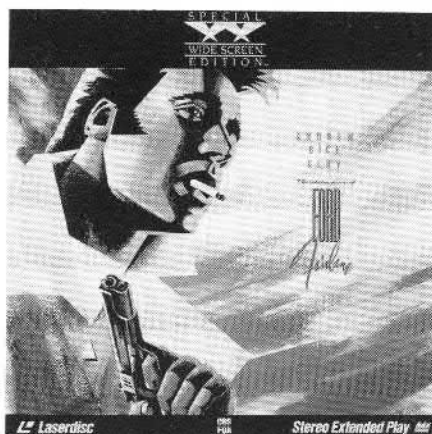
Universal feature, filmed in Panavision, starring Robert Redford and Lena Olin with Alan Arkin and directed by Sydney Pollack.

Robert Redford's recent box-office non-performer is a better film than might be anticipated. A romantically slanted drama set in Havana on the eve of Castro's takeover, it brings together a professional poker player (Redford) and the American wife (Lena Olin) of a local revolutionary. Beyond a couple of unnecessarily long dialogue sequences between the two leads the movie is otherwise a believable episode. The characters are clearly caught up in what is happening all round them but

the film cleverly avoids becoming embroiled in the political rights and wrongs of the events.

MCA may have missed an opportunity in presenting the movie in a pan and scan version on laserdisc. Presumably, because of its low commercial profile, a letterboxed edition just for laserdisc was not justifiable. The movie has a classy look and is the sort of well-budgeted production that would appeal to the letter-box audience. That said, the pan and scan work does not exclude any important detail and only occasionally shows framing compromises. The image lacks the absolute crispness of MCA's best transfers and, more fortunately, also lacks the extreme contrast seen on some recent efforts. This latter aspect is quite important as the movie is darkly lit. The dialogue track sometimes exhibits a few rough edges - it almost sounds slightly overmodulated - but the audio is otherwise bright and clear. The seamless manner in which the side changes have been selected deserves particular praise.

The Adventures Of Ford Fairlane



CBS-Fox 1840-85
US/NTSC 30cm \$39.98
CLV-Ch Colour Stereo Di CX DS CC
1990 102mins Rated R [SoA]

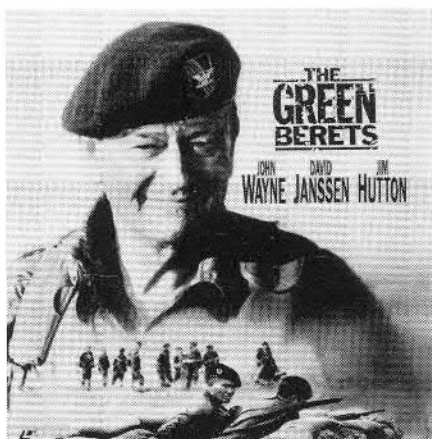
A Twentieth Century Fox feature, filmed in Panavision, starring Andrew Dice Clay, Wayne Newton, Priscilla Presley and Morris Day with Robert Englund and Ed O'Neill. Music by Yello and directed by Renny Harlin.

Not the first movie appearance by the comedian, Andrew Dice Clay, *The Adventures of Ford Fairlane* is his first starring role. (Do you remember the bouncer in the UK-released *Pretty In Pink*? He also had a bigger part in much more his macho style in the comedy *Casual Sex*?) He is Ford Fairlane, a '50s-hip private eye working on the edges of the West Coast record business, and the intentionally frenetic plot has him tracking down the evil doings behind the murder of the lead-singer of a popular heavy-metal group. The movie is produced in a comic book style with Clay frequently making asides to the viewer. He is known for his medallion man image and crude humour (which may be why his work on video has not crossed the Atlantic that much) but this movie is milder. Not all the comedy hits its mark but the movie has an energetic pace. The Ford Fairlane personality looks well conceived but has maybe not been executed with enough cultural subtlety to

hit all the targets. If ever made it is possible to imagine *The Further Adventures Of* could be a sequel that might improve on what has happened here. (There has to be something slightly amiss when the usually effervescent Prince cohort, Morris Day, comes over as though he was reading his lines off a cue card.)

CBS-Fox's transfer is not grainy, which is something of a shock. However, the image does look rather enhanced. The whole picture has a smooth, synthetic look to it (with the usual odd CBS-Fox colourings) that in some ways suits the fantasy style of the movie, even if film stock isn't meant to look this way. More critically, however, it should be better than it is. The aspect ratio reveals most of the 7:3 Panavision frame and the decision to show the wider picture (rather than pan and scan it) was a wise one. Good quality sound transfer.

The Green Berets



Warner Home Video 1002
US/NTSC 30cm \$39.98
CLV/CAV-Ch Colour Mono Di CX
1968 142mins(3-s) [PIA]

Warner-Seven Arts feature, filmed in Panavision, starring John Wayne, David Janssen and Jim Hutton with Aldo Ray, Raymond St Jacques, Bruce Cabot, Patrick Wayne and Luke Askew and directed by John Wayne and Ray Kellogg.

John Wayne's patriotic view of the Vietnam war, *The Green Berets*, has a pretty dismal reputation as a piece of movie making but is no worse than many of the actioners he appeared in during his long career. Rather cleverly, the story manages to incorporate some of the then fashionable resistance to the war with the David Janssen character as a critical newspaper reporter. His hostility to America's meddling in another country's affairs is rapidly halted when he goes out as an observer with a Special Forces battalion (in which John Wayne plays the colonel in charge) and sees the brutalities of the Viet Cong and the effect of the war on the innocent civilian population. America was right after all and that was the message John Wayne wanted to get across.

Though credited as co-director, his efforts in *The Green Berets* unfortunately lack the style of, say, *The Alamo* (which was filmed with flair). *The Green Berets* has many pedestrian moments, particularly during the first hour. Fortunately there are a couple of extended action sequences. The main one - a night-time attack on the

Green Berets' camp - is difficult to follow on this disc though the blame for this may be the TV screen's limitations of size. (Worse still, as seen here, the US troops don't come over as a particularly efficient fighting force. This could hardly have been Wayne's intention.)

Warner's new disc is, itself, not properly sharp. It suffices when the characters are in close-up but its shortcomings begin to be noticeable when the camera pulls back. The aspect ratio is not quite the full 7:3 and so there is a little more height on offer and nothing of significance lost on the left and right edges and there are no compositional compromises. Colour and general condition of the print is OK. The movie sound is adequate at modest volume. There are no significant distortions but it doesn't have a lot of range.

Both side one and side two side changes are premature by a few seconds and break scenes unnecessarily. The third CAV side could still have been achieved by moving both of them back by just a fraction.

Singin' In The Rain



MGM-UA ML 102166
US/NTSC 30cm \$24.98
CLV-Ch Colour Mono Di CX CC
1951 104mins Rated G [PIA]

MGM feature film starring Gene Kelly, Donald O'Connor and Debbie Reynolds with Jean Hagen, Millard Mitchell and Cyd Charisse and directed by Gene Kelly and Stanley Donen.

MGM-UA's new release of *Singin' In The Rain* follows a much earlier analogue sound disc and more recent Voyager CLV and CAV editions. MGM-UA's own re-issue contains not only the movie - one of the most popular Hollywood musicals - but the original trailer, a deleted musical sequence of Debbie Reynolds singing *You Are My Lucky Star* (shot in front of the advertisement hoarding featured at the end of the movie) and a version of the title song from *Hollywood Revue of 1929*. That the song should come from an early sound film that featured many of the studio's silent stars echoes the plot of *Singin' In The Rain* which is set during that same transition to the talkies. (For those who like making such connections, a similarly reflective movie about Hollywood, Mike Nichols' *Postcards From The Edge*, has recently been released on laserdisc in the US. Starring Meryl Streep and Shirley MacLaine it is

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based on Carrie Fisher's relationship with her mother, Debbie Reynolds.)

There are 70 chapters. The songs (which include *All I Do Is Dream Of You*, *Make 'Em Laugh, You Were Meant For Me* and *Good Morning*) are printed in capitals so as to make them stand out from the mass of the listing. Given the budget price, the presentation of the disc is therefore excellent though, for some reason, the front illustration is not terribly appealing.

The film is in a presentable, clean condition. As with most Technicolor features it lacks the fine detail that is achieved with more modern film transfers. The sound is essentially good too though there are a couple or three tiny glitches (in chapters 17 and 18, for example), but these are not bad enough to spoil the enjoyment.

[There is also a CAV disc - ML 102196 - (not seen during preparation of this review) which has the same contents as the CLV disc.]

Bonfire Of The Vanities



Warner 12048
US/NTSC 30cm \$29.98
CLV/CAV-Ch Colour Stereo DS Di CX CC
1990 126mins(3-s) Rated R [PIA]

Warner Brothers feature film starring Tom Hanks, Bruce Willis and Melanie Griffith with Morgan Freeman and produced and directed by Brian De Palma.

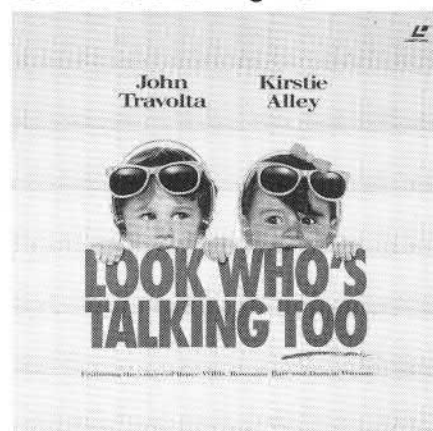
Brian De Palma's frivolous interpretation of the Tom Wolfe story about a young black New Yorker accidentally run down by a Wall Street money man's (Hanks) limo has been criticised for failing to translate the written word to the screen. However, in its own right, it is nonetheless an entertaining movie. A comedy (but of the kind that doesn't raise that many overt chuckles) it enjoys classy production values, a quality cast and attention to directorial detail that makes it worthy of investigation. The film contains many technically demanding scenes - particularly in respect of camera angles - which must have made the actors' efforts in maintaining continuity that bit more difficult.

Warner has given the movie an above average transfer - close in style to that of *Batman*. Consequently the disc avoids the gaudier colouring found in many of Warner's transfers. At around 6:3 the TV screen image is reasonably large and there appears to be little loss at either edge. Much of the movie has been shot with a wideangle lens which introduces distortions in perspective that would be very difficult to put right in a pan and scan

version. Sound quality is of a commensurate high standard.

Side three of the disc is in CAV.

Look Who's Talking Too



RCA-Columbia 70556
US/NTSC 30cm \$34.95
CLV Colour Stereo Di CX DS CC
1990 81mins Rated PG-13 [PIA]

Tri-Star feature film starring John Travolta and Kirstie Alley with Olympia Dukakis and Elias Koteas and featuring the voices of Bruce Willis, Roseanne Barr and Damon Wayans. Written (with Neal Israel) and directed by Amy Heckerling.

The freshness of *Look Who's Talking* would be difficult to recreate in a sequel, though the cleverly titled *Look Who's Talking Too* does manage to continue in the same spirited manner. Retaining most of the main characters (George Segal doesn't appear) and, again, most of the original cast (there's a different Mikey), this sequel takes the story on to the birth of a second child, a girl. Well, you could work that out from the sleeve photo.

Even if the movie doesn't match the first, a lot of the interplay between the characters is every bit as enjoyable as before. Where it seems to have run out of ideas is with the children's characters. That is unless toilet training sounds like an appealing idea for a sub-plot. (On the plus side, Mel Brooks plays the toilet.) At just over an hour-and-a-quarter the energetically edited movie might appear a little short in value considering the standard cost of this disc (as opposed to the budget price of its predecessor). Well-known songs of the sixties and seventies are used throughout, mixed at a very high level. There is also a nice little joke on the Tri-Star logo to start the movie off.

Undoubtedly, John Travolta and Kirstie Alley make a very entertaining screen couple but maybe the sequel could have been rather more adventurous in taking them further away from the theme of the original movie.

The image characteristics are similar to the first film though this transfer is sharper, but sometimes at the expense of a little grain. Yet, taking all aspects into account, it is a better transfer with some occasional nice looking scenes. For some reason, although the movie was only shot in 5:3, the transfer has a slightly cramped look about it, as though it might have been cropped. But in reality, it probably wasn't. The first disc exhibited this tightness too.

White Palace



MCA-Universal 41019
US/NTSC 30cm \$34.98
CLV Colour Stereo Di CX DS CC
1990 103mins Rated R [PIA]

Universal feature film starring Susan Sarandon and James Spader and directed by Luis Mandoki.

The promotional blurb on the sleeve - "the story of a younger man and a bolder woman" - is a clever and partially appropriate play on words that captures one aspect of this romantic drama but misses the main theme. Max (James Spader) is a rising young professional in an advertising agency living the comfortable life while Nora (Susan Sarandon) works as a waitress in a hamburger joint. It is the differences in wealth, education and culture that really threaten to divide the couple. The sleeve also conveniently gets the message across that the movie has the obligatory steamy sex scene but again this is not representative of the whole.

Essentially a two-hander, *White Palace* is a modest production but shows attention to detail in its making. The early scenes are a little overplayed but the movie settles down soon after.

Before even the opening credits are over the Max character is cleverly defined with one brief stoop to straighten the decorative frill on his sitting room carpet. When (instead of flowers or something of their equal) he later buys the considerably less meticulous-around-the-home Nora a vacuum-cleaner, it is a gaff of the first order but just the sort of thing Max would do. Likewise, when Max's normally pristine Volvo loses a headlight in a minor collision with a mail box it is very obviously out of character for him to overlook fixing it. Before he met Nora you know it would have been done the very next day. Weeks pass with the light still missing. Then one day Max drives the vehicle out of a car-wash with the job done. It looks like a continuity flaw but is in fact a signal to the viewer there has been a major progression in the plot.

A lot of *White Palace* takes place in underlit interiors which don't make for that compelling a disc image. (Again, some credit to the sleeve photos for capturing the slightly flat look of the picture.) When the first daylight scene takes place the transfer can be seen to be as sharp as MCA often manages but the bulk of the disc remains rather drab looking.

The movie was probably shot 5:3. The disc transfer has certainly been cropped slightly left and right but fits the 4:3 TV frame acceptably. Sound quality is OK.

Review Commentary

Pressing Performance - Although there has been only a handful of these Review Commentaries, this one is the best in respect of quality of disc pressings. Part of the story is told by the number of faults. Out of 22 titles reviewed (involving 23 actual discs pressings) only one was an outright reject. (One side of the disc OK; the other side a continuous manifestation of low-level blue speckling, particularly distracting as it was a letterbox film where such speckles are extra visible in the black bands.) Unfortunately, as last issue, the rogue disc was again from Sony's US plant though, to be fair, other Sony discs from this source have also been seen that have proved OK. Technidisc's one title had a minor flaw - a brief rolling line at the end of a side - but was otherwise satisfactory. The other part of the story that the statistics don't reveal is that all the other discs were particularly cleanly pressed. Pioneer US - which made the bulk of them - has obviously dug itself out of its bad patch of a few months back and is now producing some very clean discs again.

Picture Picks - *The Duellists* would be the best-looking disc reviewed this issue with *Flight Of The Intruder* (the 4:3 ratio version) and *Bonfire Of The Vanities* being quite good and both these fulfilling more modern expectations of sound quality. The Whitney Houston disc is one of the better NTSC conversions to make it to a PAL disc and, accordingly, deserves some mention. (However, it would appear that the forthcoming US release of this title has a slightly different track listing. A review might be in order which may also determine whether there is a significant advantage in the unconverted NTSC version.)

One small apology for the paucity of UK/PAL discs this issue. Though there are new UK discs around, there aren't that many of them - at least when it comes down to the narrow window available for selecting a balance of titles for review. The more plentiful and steady supply of NTSC titles allows us to stockpile reviews so, when our plans for featuring certain local discs fall by the wayside, there is something to fall back on.

Bits & Pieces

* **Gramophonegoes laser** - The classical monthly did a major spread on laserdisc in its September edition, including a brief review of the CLD-1450. 9 pages of advertising from all the software companies accompanied Pioneer's 2-page spread for its players and discs. The magazine has plugged the format before - usually each time there has been a 're-launch' - but has not really sustained its interest. With so much classical material now being released a continuing series of

reviews should be possible. Whether this happens or not will be a useful guide to how well the format is being accepted. The record companies seem very adamant that classical music got CD off the ground and expect the same trick to work for laserdisc. (They do seem, however, to overlook the fact that pop representation on CD in the early years was truly dismal. Effectively, if you were an early CD player buyer you could only buy classical stuff!)

* **Another stock of old laserdiscs uncovered** - Video World, Swanage has acquired a library of around 500 older UK laserdiscs - mostly movies - from a Welsh retailer no longer carrying the product. If you are trying to fill gaps in the collection then an SAE for a list to Video World might be advisable. Video World is also contemplating **another laserdisc weekend** (see LDR-30) to be held this November. If anything like last time it will prove a good opportunity for laserdisc fans to get together informally and look at some interesting discs and hardware. Video World can be reached at 19 Ulwell Road, Swanage, Dorset BH19 1LF. (See advert for other details.)

* **Enhanced Pro-Logic doubts** - Now that many home Dolby Surround decoders incorporate the proper Pro-Logic circuitry, equipment manufacturers are looking for the next feature to add. Various forms of 'enhanced' Pro-Logic are being offered that promise to recreate not only the correct signal but add the ambient effects of the cinema itself. Seems a sensible enough idea, but consider this info culled from a report on the building of a state-of-the-art screening room for 20th Century Fox in New York.

Engineers from the Sigma Design Group (who carried out the work), speaking at a Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers conference last year, point out that much of the audio design of cinemas has grown around shortcomings in the technology that pertained in the '30s and '40s when many of the standards were established. For example, the use of reverberation was necessary to obtain adequate volume levels from the modestly powered equipment then available, even if this meant compromising clarity and transient response. Consequently cinemas 'sound' the way they do not because of what their designers wanted but what they had to make do with.

Modern technology now allows the manufacture of powerful amplification and speakers with good directional capability and there is no longer reason to work with these original compromises. Consequently, the Sigma designers come out in favour of a neutral room (which in the case of the Fox cinema results in a reverberation time of 0.2 seconds over the 125-4Hz range) that contributes negligible standing waves and echoes that could cause localised frequency response and phase artefacts. They concluded - "Essentially the audience hears what is on the soundtrack and nothing more. Also, by minimising the reverberant field, sound localisation is greatly enhanced. Often left/right information is lost in the reverberant field".

Seems, then, that adding a cinema acoustic to your Pro-Logic sound, though an accurate representation of what you might hear in your local picture house, will not improve the absolute sound quality.

The reality is that, with today's

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digital audio encoded laserdiscs employed in a well-designed and neutral home viewing room (which, because of its smaller size is much easier to control acoustically), a more accurate reproduction of the movie director's intentions can be achieved than in the venues they were originally designed for. However, the cinema still has the edge when it comes to 6-track Dolby movies (which have stereo rather than mono surround channels) because there is currently no laserdisc sound format that will accommodate these.

* **Pioneer LD-V4300D** - Competition must work! A year or two back, when Sony introduced its LDP-3600D, the first PAL/NTSC laserdisc player (for the professional market, before any consumer player appeared), the folks at Pioneer insisted that there was no need for them to follow suit. It wasn't a market worth catering to, they told LDR. Now Pioneer's professional/industrial division sells the LD-V4300D, a PAL/NTSC player. Unlike the consumer CLD-1450 combi, the professional machine outputs either a pure PAL or NTSC signal (ie. not transcoded) or an RGB one.

Euro News

France - In July the music industry magazine, *Billboard*, ran a big feature on France which included several mentions of laserdisc activity. The French video market generally is in quite a healthy state, with a growth rate of more than 50% last year. After the UK (2.77 tapes per machine), France is the second biggest consumer of pre-recorded videos (2.66), ahead even of the US (2.24). Quite a bit of the vigour of

the video market appears to be rubbing off on laserdisc but, depending on who you read, it is seen as both performing well and below expectation!

Pioneer in France is saying that out of every 100 laserdisc players sold in Europe, 90 are bought in France. Since the end of 1988, 65,000 machines have reportedly been sold which, on Pioneer's figures would give France a player penetration of nearly 60,000 machines, somewhat more than last reported. (And, on that basis, it would suggest only about 7,000 players sold in Germany, the Netherlands and the UK!)

Fox Video apparently sold 20 million francs (about £2M) worth of laserdiscs last year. Laserdisc accounts for 4% of the sales volume of the three Virgin Megastores now selling the product. (Though, we believe Virgin also sells NTSC laserdiscs, so this turnover may be being inflated by non-domestic product.) Sales of music discs so far in France amount to 120,000 units, of which nearly two-thirds have been classical titles. However, French CD manufacturer MPO (which has recently introduced 20cm laserdisc pressing and is expected to offer full-size laserdisc production soon) speaks of the present market as being "sluggish" and is looking toward an autumn/winter promotion to further stimulate activity.

Netherlands - The photo at the top of the page of Elvic Laserdiscs was sent by Ron Exalto, owner of Netherlands first dedicated laserdisc shop opened in November 1990. On June 22nd Elvic held a Blues Brothers day to plug the release of the film on laserdisc and Pioneer's new VSA-740 Pro-Logic A/V amp. Dressed as Jake and Elwood, Ron and a colleague pose on a look-a-like American black & white to get into the spirit of the affair.

Ron writes of some of the events in the Netherlands lately. The lack of recent activity from Warner and RCA-Columbia

is put down to a dispute over Superclub in Belgium's (a Philips-owned video chain) plan to do a laserdisc rental deal, leasing combi players with an obligation for takers to rent a certain number of titles each month.

Philips has licensed a lot of titles from CIC (expected eventually to amount to 100). The sleeve for *E.T.-The Extra Terrestrial* has a widescreen logo on the reverse but the picture is a conventional full screen version. (The only widescreen disc currently available is Warner's *Dangerous Liaisons* and the Dutch language *Koko Flanel*.) *Saturday Night Fever* and *Grease* were late for release on account of problems with poor soundtrack quality on the masters. (Most of the titles released under the Philips-CIC deal are older titles which, having often been transferred to video up to 10 years back, don't always manage the more consistent transfer quality that can be seen and heard on current American releases.) These obstacles aside, the CIC titles are appearing very regularly each month.

Many of the laserdiscs coming from the Belgian Cascar label are being pressed by Kuraray in Japan whose discs seem to be more cleanly pressed than most of PDO's pressings.

Elvic Laserdiscs also does mail-order and can supply LDR readers both in the Netherlands and elsewhere. They don't presently offer credit card facilities but can accept payment by Eurocheque or, if you have a Post Giro account, direct transfers (which are free) to their account number 2644817. Interested readers should send for a list of what's on offer to Elvic Laserdiscs, Haardstedelaan 2, 1271 NM Huizen, The Netherlands / Tel: (010) 31 2152 65671 / Fax: (010) 31 2152 62733.

Mail-order dealer Vidi (details LDR-33) advises of these July releases - mostly CIC titles: *American Graffiti*, *Beverly Hills Cop*, *Bigfoot & The Hendersons*,

Flashdance, The Golden Child, Heartburn, Mask, Out Of Africa, Witness and Dark Angel. For August - Best Defence, Star Trek-The Movie, Raiders Of The Lost Ark, Legal Eagles, Children Of A Lesser God and Scarface.

(Unless otherwise stated, Dutch laserdiscs are in the original language with Dutch subtitles.)

LDR Goes Up !

It's been a year or two since the last price increase so what better reason to further bolster LDR's bulging coffers (oh yeah?) than a rise in the cover price. (We'd give it away if we could - honest!) However, at £2.00 a copy (or only c. £1.66 by subscription), and allowing for editorial bias in saying so, it still represents value for money.

Even a whole year's subscription is less than the cost of the cheapest laserdisc and, though LDR might encourage you to spend more money, it at least helps you avoid spending unwisely.

Overseas subscribers can feel extra pleased with the new increases - they only apply for the UK. Overseas prices are being held at 1988 rates.

The Next LDR

There will be another LDR before xmas - probably late November. The Berlin Report will be concluded with a few brief observations on HDTV but what else is, as yet, undetermined.....

New Release News

PIONEER - Pioneer is recommencing its UK laserdisc releasing activities this November, a good 5 years since we last had any new titles from them. At press time prices had not been fixed but release dates had for the first 10 titles.

Those for the 8th November are:

Lohengrin - The chorus and orchestra of the Vienna State Opera, conducted by Claudio Abbado, support Placido Domingo in this Wolfgang Weber directed performance, recorded for video by Brian Large. Other featured singers are Robert Lloyd, Cheryl Studer, Hartmut Welker and Dunja Vejzovic. The 219 minute opera runs to 4 sides and includes a booklet containing background notes and a synopsis in German, English, French and Italian.

Swan Lake - Evelyn Hart, Peter Schaufuss, Martin James, Elizabeth Anderton and Johnny Eliassen are the principal dancers in

ELDA Views First Year's Activities

In September, to coincide with the Berlin Funkausstellung, the European Laserdisc Association gave an overview of the current status of the format. Expected sales of players in France and Germany to the end of 1991 are now given at 75,000 units. Specific language titles (ie. mostly films) for both total around 400, with a further 150 new releases expected by the end of the year.

As to future plans of members, Sony Classical is releasing 25 titles this year with a further 25 during the first quarter of 1992. This rate of output is expected to be maintained thereafter. BMG has 14 titles to come by the end of 1991. Warner Music Europe (which, presumably, includes both pop material from WMV and classical from Teldec) plans 25 titles by the end of this year. EMI Classics should have brought out 20 titles before the year is out.

PolyGram's classical labels will continue their steady output of new releases with 50 new titles. Philips activities in licensing film and other material from software companies is expected to bring 10 to 15 new laserdisc releases a month to all the territories where laserdisc is currently available - France, Germany, Italy, Spain and the Benelux - but excluding the UK. To quote the ELDA statement exactly - "The ELDA committee for the United Kingdom has started discussions to make future plans". (Projections of disc sales in the UK by ELDA indicate a fairly thin level of activity during 1992 ie. about on a par with sales in the Benelux countries. Even in 1993, UK disc sales are expected to be less than enjoyed this year in France.)

On the matter of disc pressing shortages, Sony's new facility in Austria is now coming on line and PDO has announced that it has significantly increased the output from its plant in Blackburn.

a performance of Tchaikovsky's ballet with the Danish Radio Symphony Orchestra conducted by Graham Bond. Peter Schaufuss is also artistic director and the production directed by Thomas Grimm. *Blues & Swing* - Jazz trumpeter, Wynton Marsalis, is featured on this 79 minute music programme which includes a performance with his quartet in 1987 at the Westwood Playhouse, Los Angeles and in a student workshop at Harvard University. Also in the quartet is Marcus Roberts (piano), Bob Hurst (bass) and Jeff Watts (drums).

Patrouille de France - Was reviewed in NTSC format in LDR-33 and features the aerobatics of the French Air Force team. The PAL disc will also be in CAV.

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(phone lines open till 8pm)

Blond Ambition World Tour: Live - Bound to be the biggest seller of the first batch of releases is Madonna's 112 minute concert video recorded in Nice, France last year. Exclusively available on laserdisc, the title might also attract some publicity to the format itself. It has been the best selling music laserdisc title in the US since its release there.

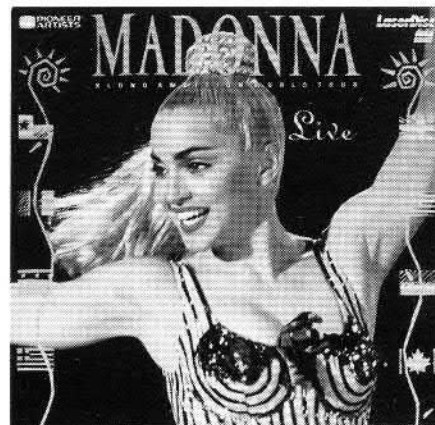
Scheduled for November 25th are:

Samson et Dalila - Placido Domingo, Shirley Verrett and Wolfgang Brendel feature in this San Francisco Opera performance produced by Nicolas Joel. Julius Rudel conducts.

Beethoven Symphony No.9 - Kurt Masur conducts the Gewandhaus Orchestra & Chorus in this popular work. A live recording from Leipzig in 1990, the featured soloists are Gwynne Howell, James Wagner, Doris Soffel and Venceslava Hrubá-Freiberger.

Aida - Second opera of the month is Verdi's *Aida* featuring Maria Chiara, Luciano Pavarotti, Ghena Dimitrova, Paata Burchuladze and Juan Pons with the Chorus and Orchestra of La Scala conducted by Lorin Maazel. Stage direction is by Luca Ronconi.

Red Arrows - A *Rolling In The Sky* title of particular UK interest is this CAV release of the RAF flight display team. According to Pioneer's publicity material, the Red Arrows are also popular in Japan as, since this disc has been released there in September 1990, it has enjoyed the highest average sales per month of all Japanese laserdiscs.



Super Guitar Trio & Friends - Fulfilling the jazz spot in this batch is a guitar session featuring Al Di Meola, Larry Coryell and Bireli Lagrene. The 60 minute programme is a live concert recording.

As to the future, the coming months should see operas such as *Carmen*, *Macbeth*, *La Cenerentola*, *Les Hugenots*, *Elektra*, *Madama Butterfly*, *Fidelio*, *La Traviata* and *La Bohème* and ballets *The Merry Widow* and *L'Enfant et les Sortilèges*. There are more jazz titles (including some Montreux Festival performances) and more in the *Rolling In The Sky* series.

PHILIPS - *Mozart On Tour* is a forthcoming series of 13 programmes on 7 discs, each with a documentary introduced and narrated by Andre Previn covering Mozart's tours. (No mention of any T-shirts yet.) Each programme includes a piano concerto performed by the likes of Ashkenazy, Frager, Holtmann, Klansky, Kocsis, Lupu, Madzar, Ranki, Uchida and

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Zacharias. The spoken word part of each disc will be teletext subtitled in French, German and Italian.

Another documentary/performance title with teletext is Mitsuko Uchida's *The Debussy Etudes* which has the artiste both playing and talking about the works.

Teletext discs - The Drottningholm *Così Fan Tutte* (which is one of 8 Drottningholm Mozart operas to come) has teletext subtitling in three languages, while Wagner's *Meistersinger* and *Lohengrin* are English only. A forthcoming *War & Peace* will possibly be teletext subtitled in German, English, Italian and French.

DEUTSCHE GRAMMOPHON - DG's first laserdisc *Ring Cycle* is a Metropolitan Opera production by Otto Schenk with James Levine conducting. It is scheduled for 1992 and will be available both as an 11 disc/18 side box and the four separate operas. Featured singers include James Morris, Siegfried Jerusalem, Christa Ludwig, Ekkehard Wlaschiha, Hildegard Behrens, Jessye Norman and Kurt Moll.

EMI CLASSICS - It transpires the October release Munich Opera *Ring Cycle* was originally shot in Hi-Vision. It has already received a prize as the best classical music video of 1990. The full running time has now been revised to 14 hours 28 minutes, spread to 20 disc sides. EMI is also releasing the four operas individually at the same time. Soloists on

Previously Announced - To Be Released

DATE	CATEGORY	PRICE	NUMBER	LABEL	TITLE	LA	ST	Di	CC
0.91	Opera-Live	£40.86	072 416-1	DG	AIDA / Met. w. Domingo, Milnes	L	S	Di	=
9.91	Mus-Clas-Live	£40.99	SLV 45984	Sony	ALL SOUL'S DAY 1984 IN BERLIN / Karajan /54'	L	S	Di	=
6.90	Mus-Pop-Live	£20.43	082 382-1	PMV	BACK TO STAX: Vols 1 & 2 / Various 1990/104'	L	S	Di	=
0.91	Opera-Live	£40.86	072 414-1	DG	BARBIERE DI SIVIGLIA, Il / Met w. Battle	L	S	Di	=
0.90	Mus-Clas	£30.64	070 122-1	Philips	BEETHOVEN: Piano Concs 4 & 5 / Arrau	L	S	Di	=
10.90	Ballet film	£20.43	070 116-1	Philips	BEETHOVEN: Sym. 7 / Haitink / Dutch Nat. Ball.	L	S	Di	=
0.92	Opera	£40.86	070 408-1	Philips	BEGGAR'S OPERA / EBS, Gardiner	L	S	Di	=
6.91	Mus-Clas	£20.43	LDA99 1291	EMI Classics	BRAMMS: Violin Concerto Op.77 / Nigel Kennedy	L	S	Di	=
9.91	Mus-Clas-Live	£34.99	SLV 46376	Sony	BUNIN, Stanislaw / In Tokyo-Recital 1987 /58'	L	S	Di	=
10.91	Mus-Clas-Doc	£30.64	LDB99 1151	EMI Classics	CALLAS, Maria / Life & Art	L	S	Di	=
0.90	Mus-Clas-Live	£30.64	070 131-1	Philips	CARMINA BURANA / BPO-Ozawa w. Battle 1990/62'	L	S	Di	=
0.90	Opera-Live	£40.86	070 416-1	Philips	COSI' FAN TUTTE / Drottningholm 3-s	L	S	Di	Tx
0.91	Mus-Pop-Vids	£17.36	083-096-1	PV	CURE, The / Picture Show /60'	L	S	Di	=
0.90	Opera-Live	£40.86	070 418-1	Philips	FINTA GIARDINIERA / Drottningholm	L	S	Di	Tx
5.91	Opera-Live	£47.99	9031-71478-6	Teldec	GIOVANNA D'ARCO / Bologna w. Bruson, Dunn /3-s	L	S	Di	=
0.89	Opera	£51.08	071 406-1	Decca	INCORONAZIONE DI POPPEA, L'	L	S	Di	=
6.91	Mus-Pop-Vids	£20.43	082 572-1	PV	JNKS / Greatest Video Hits 1980-90 1991/120'	L	S	Di	=
9.91	Mus-Clas-Live	£43.99	SLV 46375	Sony	KISSIN, Yevgeny / In Tokyo-Recital 1987 /77'	L	S	Di	=
0.92	Ballet	£30.64	070 130-1	Philips	KYLIAN COLLECTION / NDT	L	S	Di	=
11.90	Mus-Clas-Live	£30.64	070 123-1	Philips	LISST: Pelerinage / Brendel	L	S	Di	=
12.91	Mus-Clas-Live	£30.64	LDB99 1301	EMI Classics	LIVERPOOL ORATORIO: Paul McCartney 1991/	L	S	Di	=
3.91	Mus-Pop-Vids			Sire/WMV	MADONNA / Immaculate Collection 1990/55'	L	S	Di	=
10.91	Mus-Clas-Live	£30.64	LDB99 1244	EMI Classics	MAHLER: Sym. 1 / Tennstedt-CSO 1990/65'	L	S	Di	=
0.90	Mus-Clas	£40.86	072 415-1	DG	MAHLER: Sym. 3, 10 / Bernstein-VPO w. C. Ludwig	L	S	Di	=
0.90	Opera	£71.51	070 413-1	Philips	MEISTERSINGER, Die / Bayreuth-Stein 6-s	L	S	Di	Tx
0.90	Mus-Clas	£20.43	070 128-1	Philips	MOZART: Gran Partita / Bruggen	L	S	Di	=
0.90	Mus-Clas	£30.64	070 129-1	Philips	MOZART: Il Re Pastore / Marriner	L	S	Di	Tx
9.91	Mus-Clas-Live		SLV 46377	Sony	MOZART: Sym.35 // MAHLER: Sym.5 / Solti-CSO	L	S	Di	=
9.91	Mus-Clas-Live		SLV 45985	Sony	NEW YEAR'S CONCERT 1987 IN VIENNA / Karajan	L	S	Di	=
9.91	Mus-Clas-Live		SLV 45986	Sony	NEW YEAR'S EVE CONCERT 1988, BERLIN / Karajan	L	S	Di	=
9.91	Mus-Clas-Live		SLV 45983	Sony	NEW YEAR'S EVE CONCERT, BERLIN 1984 / Karajan	L	S	Di	=
0.91	Opera-Live	£51.08	070 421-1	Philips	NOZZE DI FIGARO / Drottningholm 4-s	L	S	Di	=
0.91	Mus-Pop-Live	£20.43	083 180-1	PV	O'CONNOR, Sinead / Year Of The Horse 1990/67'	L	S	Di	=
0.91	Opera	£71.51	070 410-1	Philips	PARSIFAL / Bayreuth-Stein 6-s	L	S	Di	Tx
9.91	Mus-Clas-Live			Decca	PAVAROTTI, Luciano / Pavarotti In The Park	L	S	Di	=
0.91	Mus-Clas-Live	£30.64	071 119-1	Decca	PAVAROTTI-LEVINE / In Recital 1988/72'	L	S	Di	=
9.91	Mus-Clas-Live		SLV 45987	Sony	PERAHIA, Murray / In Performance-Aldburgh 1989	L	S	Di	=
0.92	Mus-Clas	£30.64	070 113-1	Philips	SCHUBERT: Piano Sonatas 958, 959, 960 / Brendel	L	S	Di	=
6.91	Mus-Clas-Live	£20.43	LDA99 1263	EMI Classics	SCHUBERT: Sym. 9 / Muti-Wiener Phil 1990/60'	L	S	Di	=
0.91	Mus-Pop-Vids	£17.36	089 877-1	PV	STING / Soul Cages Video	L	S	Di	=
9.91	Mus-Clas-Live	£43.99	SLV 46378	Sony	STRAUSS: Zarathustra / S.Ozawa-Boston Sym	L	S	Di	=
0.90	Opera film	£51.08	070 412-1	Philips	TANNHAUSER: Bayreuth / Davis 1978/199'	L	S	Di	Tx
0.90	Mus-Clas	£30.64	070 120-1	Philips	TCHAIKOVSKY: Serenade // GREIG: Holberg / ASMF	L	S	Di	=
0.90	Opera	£71.51	070 409-1	Philips	TRISTAN UND ISOLDE / Bayreuth-Barenboim	L	S	Di	Tx
0.91	Opera-Live	£40.86	072 413-1	DG	TROVATORE, Il / Met. w. Marton, Pavarotti	L	S	Di	=
0.92	Opera	£51.08	070 414-1	Philips	XERXES / ZWO-Mackerras 4-s	L	S	Di	=

Das Rheingold are Robert Hale, Marjana Lipovsek and Robert Tear. Robert Hale, Hildegard Behrens and Julia Varady feature on *Die Walküre* and on *Siegfried* Hale and Behrens are joined by René Kollo. Hildegard Behrens, René Kollo and Kurt Moll are the main soloists in *Götterdämmerung*.

The documentary *Maria Callas: Life & Art* offers up interviews from those who knew one of the world's best known opera singers who died in 1977 at the young age of 53. Extracts from famous concerts and recordings are featured, including two duets with Guiseppe di Stefano. The running time is approximately 90 minutes. *Mozart At Buckingham Palace* commemorates the first time permission was ever granted for a concert to be recorded in the

spectacular surroundings of the ball room. It was at Buckingham Palace that the 8-year old Mozart first performed for the British royal family. This concert was hosted by HRH the Prince Of Wales in aid of his Charities Trust and attended by several other members of the royal family. Following a brief introduction by Prince Charles, *Amadeus* author, Peter Shaffer, narrates a background to Mozart's writing and performance of the three pieces: *Symphony No. 32 k.318*, *Sinfonia Concertante k. 364* and *The Impresario*. Violinist, Frank Peter Zimmerman, and viola player, Tabea Zimmermann, appear with the English Chamber Orchestra conducted by Sir Colin Davis. Yvonne Kenny, Judith Howard, Barry Banks and Matthew Best are the featured singers in the comic opera that concludes the event.



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New Announcements

DATE	CATEGORY	PRICE	NUMBER	LABEL	TITLE	LA	ST	Di	CC
11.91	Opera-Live		PLMCD 00071	Pioneer	AIDA / Scala w. Chiara,Pavarotti	/160'	L	S	Di =
0.92	Mus-Clas			EMI Classics	ASHKENAZY IN MOSCOW		L	S	Di =
0.92	Mus-Clas			EMI Classics	BEETHOVEN TRIOS: Perlman/Zukerman/Harrell		L	S	Di =
0.91	Mus-Clas-Live	£30.64	072 134-1	DG	BEETHOVEN: Missa Solemnis / Karajan		L	S	Di =
11.91	Mus-Clas-Live		PLMCD 00061	Pioneer	BEETHOVEN: Sym. 9 / Gewandhaus	/72'	L	S	Di =
9.91	Mus-Clas		SLV 46386	Sony	BERLIN-ISRAEL / Mehta-Berlin Israel Phils	/81'	L	S	Di =
0.91	Mus-Clas	£30.64	072 136-1	DG	BRUCKNER: Sym. 8 / Karajan-VPO		L	S	Di =
0.91	Mus-Clas	£30.64	072 137-1	DG	BRUCKNER: Sym. 9 / Karajan-VPO		L	S	Di =
8.91	Mus-Clas-Live	£40.86	072 423-1	DG	CANDIDE / Leonard Bernstein	/3-s	L	S	Di +
10.91	Opera	£51.08	071 413-1	Decca	COSTI FAN TUTTE / Sellars	/4-s	L	S	Di =
0.91		£40.86	071 410-1	Decca	DAMNATION DE FAUST, Le / Solti-CSO	/3-s	L	S	Di =
9.91	Mus-Pop-Vids			BMG Video	DEPECHE MODE / Strange Too	1991/30'	L	S	Di =
0.91	Mus-Clas	£30.64	072 135-1	DG	DEUTSCHES REQUIEM, Ein / Karajan		L	S	Di =
0.91	Opera-Live	£30.64	071 124-1	Decca	EUGENE ONEGIN / Solti-ROH		L	S	Di =
10.91	Mus-Clas			Decca	GLENNIE, Evelyn / In Rio - Fiesta		L	S	Di =
0.92	Opera-Live	£51.08	072 421-1	DG	GOTTERDAEMERUNG / Met w.Behrens,Jersusalem	/5-s	L	S	Di =
10.91	Opera-Live		LDF99 1287 1	EMI Classics	GOTTERDAEMERUNG / Bayerische w.Behrens	/25'	L	S	Di Tx =
0.91	Mus-Clas-Live	£30.64	071 120-1	Decca	HAYDN AT ESZTERHAZA / Hogwood		L	S	Di =
0.92	Mus-Clas		071 126-1	Decca	HAYDN: The Creation / Hogwood		L	S	Di =
0.91	Ballet	£30.64	070 125-1	Philips	HISTOIRE DU SOLDAT, L' // SYM. DE PSAUMS / NDT		L	S	Di =
9.91	Mus-Pop-Live	£24.51	781 137	BMG Video	HOUSTON, Whitney / Live In Concert	1991/76'	L	S	Di +
10.91	Mus-Pop-Live	£20.43	083 746-1	PV	INXS / Live Baby Live	1991/100'	L	S	Di =
11.91	Opera-Live		PLMCD 00011	Pioneer	LOHENGGRIN / Domingo,Lloyd-VPO	/219'	L	S	Di =
9.91	Mus-Clas-Vid		SLV 46370	Sony	LOVES OF EMMA BARDAC, The	1991/60'	L	S	Di =
11.91	Mus-Pop-Live		PLMPB 00041	Pioneer	MADONNA / Blond Ambition Tour-Live	1991/112'	L	S	Di =
9.91	Mus-Clas		SLV 46379	Sony	MAESTRO & THE DIVA / Kanawa-Solti-BBC	1991/80'	L	S	Di =
0.92	Mus-Clas	£30.64	072 125-1	DG	MAHLER: Sym. 5 / Bernstein-VPO		L	S	Di =
1.92	Mus-Clas-Live	£30.64	LDB99 1310 1	EMI Classics	MAHLER: Sym. 8 / Tennstedt-LPO	1991/	L	S	Di =
0.92	Mus-Clas	£30.64	072 129-1	DG	MAHLER: Sym. 9 / Bernstein-VPO		L	S	Di =
12.91	Mus-Pop-Doc	£20.43		PV	MARLEY, Bob / Time Will Tell	1991/90'	L	S	Di =
11.91	Mus-Jazz		PLMJB 00031	Pioneer	MARSALIS, Wynton / Blues & Swing	/79'	L	S	Di =
11.91	Mus-Clas-Live	£30.64	LDB 1300 1	EMI Classics	MOZART AT BUCKINGHAM PALACE / ECO	/90'	L	S	Di =
9.91	Mus-Clas-Live		SLV 46393	Sony	MOZART: Concs 21 & 27 / Perahia	1991/2-s	L	S	Di =
9.91	Mus-Clas		SLV 46373	Sony	MUSSORGSKY: Pix At Exhibition / Solti-CSO	/1-s	L	S	Di =
0.91	Mus-Clas-Live	£30.64	072 175-1	DG	NEW YEAR'S CONCERT / Abbado		L	S	Di =
9.91	Opera	£51.08	071 412-1	Decca	NOZZE DI FIGARO, Le / Sellars-VSO	/4-s	L	S	Di =
0.92	Mus-Clas	£20.43	071 133-1	Decca	ORIENT EXPRESS / I Saloniisti	/1-s	L	S	Di =
11.91	Doc		PLSAB 20011	Pioneer	PATROUILLE DE FRANCE	/52'	A	S	Di =
12.91	Mus-Clas	£30.64	LDB99 1243 1	EMI Classics	PERLMAN IN RUSSIA		L	S	Di =
0.91	Mus-Clas	£20.43	071 131-1	Decca	PROKOPIEV: Classical/Romeo & Juliet	/1-s	L	S	Di =
11.91	Doc		PLSA B020021	Pioneer	RED ARROWS	/50'	A	S	Di =
9.91	Mus-Pop-Vids	£24.51		BMG Video	RED HOT & BLUE / Various	1991/90'	L	S	Di =
10.91	Opera-Live		LDD99 1276 1	EMI Classics	RHEINGOLD, Das / Bayerische w.Hale	1989/151'	L	S	Di Tx =
0.91	Opera-Live	£40.86	072 418-1	DG	RHEINGOLD, Das / Met w. Morris,Ludwig	/3-s	L	S	Di =
0.92	Mus-Clas	£30.64	071 132-1	Decca	RIFKIN, Joshua / Rags & Tangos		L	S	Di =
10.91	Opera-Live		LDX99 1275 1	EMI Classics	RING CYCLE / Sawallisch-Bayerische	1989/868'	L	S	Di Tx =
0.92	Opera-Live		072 422-1	DG	RING DES NIBELUNGEN, Der / Met	/18-s	L	S	Di =
9.91	Mus-Clas		SLV 46387	Sony	ROSTROPOVICH / Return To Russia	1991/90'	L	S	Di =
11.91	Opera-Live		PLMCC 00051	Pioneer	SAMSON ET DELILAH / San Francisco	/125'	L	S	Di =
10.91	Opera-Live		LDE99 1283 1	EMI Classics	SIEGFRIED / Bayerische w.Hale,Behrens	/235'	L	S	Di Tx =
0.92	Opera-Live	£51.08	072 420-1	DG	SIEGFRIED / Met w.Jerusalem,Behrens	/5-s	L	S	Di =
0.91	Mus-Clas-Live	£30.64	071 127-1	Decca	SOLTI IN BUDAPEST: Bartok		L	S	Di =
0.91		£30.64	071 122-1	Decca	STILL LIFE AT THE PENGUIN CAPE / I. Jackson		L	S	Di =
11.91	Mus-Pop-Live	£20.43	089 880-1	PV	STING / Soul Cages Concert	/90'	L	S	Di =
11.91	Mus-Jazz-Live		PLMJA 00081	Pioneer	SUPER GUITAR TRIO / Meola,Coryell,Lagrene	/60'	L	S	Di =
11.91	Ballet		PLMC B000021	Pioneer	SWAN LAKE / London Festival Ballet	/120'	L	S	Di =
0.91	Mus-Clas		781 141	BMG Video	TCHAIKOVSKY GALA IN LENINGRAD		L	S	Di =
10.91	Mus-Pop-Doc	£20.43	083 588-1	PV	TWO ROOMS: Elton John & Bernie Taupin	1991/90'	L	S	Di =
0.91	Mus-Clas-Doc	£30.64	070 127-1	Philips	UCHIDA, Mitsuko / Debussy: 12 Etudes		L	S	Di Tx =
9.91	Mus-Clas		SLV 46362	Sony	VON KARAJAN / Highlights From Legacy	1991/1-s	L	S	Di =
10.91	Opera-Live		LDE99 1279 1	EMI Classics	WALKURE, Die / Bayerische w.Hale,Behrens	/225'	L	S	Di Tx =
0.91	Opera-Live	£51.08	072 419-1	DG	WALKURE, Die / Met w. Behrens,Morris	/5-s	L	S	Di =

Released Since Last Issue

8.91	Mus-Clas-Live	£40.86	072 423-1	DG	CANDIDE / Leonard Bernstein	/3-s	L	S	Di +
8.91	Mus-Pop-Vids	£17.36	081 194-1	PV	FINE YOUNG CANNIBALS / Raw & The Cooked	/30'	L	S	Di +
5.91	Opera-Live	£47.99	9031-71486-6	Teldec	FLIEGENDE HOLLANDER, Der / Savonlinna	/3-s	L	S	Di +
5.91	Mus-Pop-Live	£24.51		BMG Video	HEALEY, Jeff / See The Light	1990/80'	L	S	Di +
5.91	Mus-Pop-Live			BMG Video	HENDRIX, Jimi / At The Isle Of Wight	/57'	L	S	Di +
9.91	Mus-Pop-Live	£24.51	781 137	BMG Video	HOUSTON, Whitney / Live In Concert	1991/76'	L	S	Di +
5.91	Mus-Clas-Live	£30.64	072 149-1	DG	SPIRITUALS IN CONCERT: K.Battle-J.Norman	/91'	L	S	Di +

BACK ISSUES

Back-issues of the following editions of Laser Disc Review are still available at £1.65 each. This price includes postage. The overseas cost is also £1.65, but if you require airmail delivery copies are £2.20 each. Orders for back-issues exceeding £10.00 total value are eligible for an additional 25% discount.

Special Offer. We can supply a complete set of all currently available back-issues for only £17.50 (UK), £20.00 (Europe) or £25.00 (beyond Europe). No discounts apply to this offer.

Up to (and including) LDR-21 the typical size of the magazine was 36 pages. Subsequent editions are 24 pages. Most editions carry disc reviews and an index for all the UK disc reviews is in LDR-31. There is also a useful index for all the articles and this appears in LDR-21. There is currently no index for articles in issues later than LDR-21.

LDR-6 - Looking at future LV developments. 49 disc reviews including PAL imports and porno discs.

LDR-7 - Equipment reviews of Pioneer LD-707, CLD-900 players and PX-7 MSX Computer. Dwight R. Decker reviews the American space discs. 25 disc reviews.

LDR-9 - Towards a PAL combi player. Video Recordings Act. Dolby Surround & review of Marantz RV 353 Surround Decoder. 43 disc reviews.

LDR-10 - HDTV on disc at IBC. NEC AV 300-E Dolby Surround Sound A/V Amp review. NTSC disc update. Presentation & packaging of LV discs. 18 disc reviews.

LDR-11 - Yamaha CLV-1 & Sony LDP-730 reviews. Philips 400-series professional LV player specs. CD Video stirrings. Document & Data storage on optical disc. LV catalogue corrections & update. 27 disc reviews.

LDR-12 - Philips/PolyGram Amsterdam CD Video announcement - full 12-page report. CD-I preliminary specs. Dolby Surround Mixing. Video Recordings Act update. 15 disc reviews.

LDR-13 - CD Video's US launch at Chicago CES. A/V products for 1987. How LV discs are made - Part I. The Ecodisc. 3M speaks out on laser rot. 12 disc reviews.

LDR-14 - CD Video's European launch at Berlin - full photo report. First CD-V clip on sale. 10 disc reviews.

LDR-15 - Pioneer CLD-1050 - first PAL combi reviewed. All Show & No Go - CD Video launch slips. How LV discs are made - Part II. Dealer's eye view of the US videodisc scene. First CD-V clips reviewed.

LDR-16 - CD Video delay continues. UK LaserVision grinds to a halt. Multi Audio. Digital Video Interactive. Virgin TV's film-to-video operation. Little Shop of Horrors chaptering. Dolby Surround discs reviewed. 12 disc reviews.

LDR-19 - Philips CDV 475 & Pioneer CLD-1200 reviews. CD Video launch catalogue and player survey. Terms Glossary.

LDR-20 - Sony MDP-212 specs. The polycarbonate LD Single. European CD-V listings. 12 disc reviews.

LDR-21 - The noise problem on digital sound discs. DiscoVision Days - 10th anniversary of launch. Current (April '89) Stock list. 11 disc reviews. Index for Issues 1 - 21.

LDR-23 - Second launch for CD Video at '89 Berlin Funkausstellung. 4-page list of all German discs. 11 disc reviews.

LDR-24 - CD-V & LV name change. Berlin 1989 - Part II. Sony recordables and Pioneer erasables. Pioneer LD-V8000. Philips VP 310. Harmonising PAL & NTSC disc reviews.

LDR-25 - Pioneer CLD-1450 review. Counterfeiting & videodisc.

LDR-26 - Laserdisc name change. Pioneer CLD-1450 NTSC 3.58 conversion. Full PAL CD-V clip list.

LDR-27 - European Laserdisc Association formed. Listing of latest German, French & Dutch discs.

LDR-28 - ELDA first meeting anticipated. US discs not able to be sold in the UK. Disc Pressings: A Basic Guide. 22 disc reviews.

LDR-29 - ELDA announces plans. Laser Rot on clip discs. Warner's Megillah. 28 disc reviews.

LDR-30 - Japan launches the Video Single Disc. Videoworld's first laserdisc convention. Sony MDP-533D 5-page review. 27 disc reviews.

LDR-31 - 14 page list of every UK disc released since 1982. Includes explanation of listing codes used in all LDR lists. Longest PAL disc released in Germany.

LDR-32 - NTSC on CLD-1400 & 1500. Another 1450 bug. The maximum viewing distance. 33 disc reviews.

LDR-33 - A new CD Video format from Philips. Imports: guidelines & sources. Warner Home Video & UK laserdisc. 28 disc reviews.