

The Video Zone

Newly-released
video reviews

BY TODD RODGERS
STAFF REPORTER

Welcome to this week's edition! We are making a few changes from our last column. From now on I will be reviewing three to four top new video releases. I'll rate them on a scale that we are all much familiar with, the letter grading scale. Let's just get right to our first edition of this new column.

Renaissance Man This is a refreshing film starring Danny Devito, Kadeem Hardison and James Remar. The film centers around Devito, a recently unemployed advertising agent. His job searching leads him to the army, where he is forced to teach a group of under achievers. Devito battles his own problems while trying to help these cadets find their own self worth. This is a film that combines good acting, an enjoyable story, and likable characters to entertain you for about two hours. Rating: A-

Wolf The most recent adaptation of the famous Werewolf saga came to video stores last week. Jack Nicholson, Michelle Pfeiffer, and James Spader star in the new release. Nicholson stars as the gentleman lucky enough to be bitten by a wolf one night. He takes on the transformation and finds all sorts of interesting side effects. Pfeiffer plays his love

interest and Spader plays the nemesis that he does so well. This is a very good modern version of the classic. Nicholson is wonderful and his co-stars also perform very well. The only aspect that I find lacking in this film is that even though they spend quality time setting up the effects of Nicholson's condition, they leave out a lot of the werewolf legend. When Jack goes to speak to a "professional" on werewolves the conversation lacks something. The "bite me" remark doesn't help the scene either. Rating: B

The Mask Jim Carrey is back in this wacky ride of a film. Carrey, who is best known for *In Living Color* and *Ace Ventura*, returns to the big screen to shake it up. Carrey plays a timid bank employee who stumbles upon an old mask one night. He puts the mask on and what follows can only be described as a roller coaster ride of zany antics. The mask brings out his inner most wants and desires. Carrey has a dog in the film and if it weren't for his explosive screen presence, he would have been overshadowed by the pooch. It is a film that the whole family can enjoy and it is filled with some tremendous special effects. If you really enjoy it you can even find it for sale around town for as low as \$12.95. Rating: B

That's it for this week. I hope you enjoy the new format. I'll be bringing you these picks every week, so until next week, hit your video store and pick some of these up. Till next week....

Star

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the entertainment spectrum. Singers, dancers, actors, actresses, choreographers, look-a-likes, rock bands, specialty acts—you name it, they could be looking for you!

"Las Vegas is in the infancy stages as far as the film industry goes. What's happening is so exciting," says Lindsey. "We will not only focus on film and commercials for our

talent," Linson adds, "but also conventions, special events, and theme parties."

If you think you've got what it takes to be in show business and would like to be considered for representation by Star West International, the process is quite simple. Call Leanne Lindsey or Patty Linson at 795-7091 between 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. to set up an appointment, or stop by the office located at 125 E. Reno Suite #17, 89119. A head shot and resume are required except in the case of extra work.

Experiencing the Legacy: The John Lennon Exhibit

BY DANNY KIM
STAFF REPORTER

During the past few days, the artwork of John Lennon has been on display in the Exhibition Room of the Imperial Palace.

When Lennon was with the Beatles, he was able to reach many people through his music. With each song that the Beatles recorded, Lennon and the Beatles gained international success. Lennon was tragically shot down in New York City about a decade ago, but his memory still lives on.

Lennon possessed an extraordinarily imaginative mind and a peaceful heart. Not only did Lennon write and perform great music, but he had a great talent for the visual arts as well.

Unbeknownst to many of his fans, John Lennon attended the prestigious Liverpool Art Institute before his tenure with the Beatles. During these three years (1957-1960), Lennon developed the necessary skills that would allow him to express his art in another form.

On the heels of the Beatles' success, Lennon proceeded to draw the 'Bag One' collection as a honeymoon gift for Yoko Ono in 1969. The reception to the collection was rather poor, as many studios would not

take Lennon seriously as an artist. In addition to this, some of Lennon's more racy compositions were initially deemed obscene, and as a result, were banned and confiscated.

Due to the mishandling, many of the original pieces were destroyed, and Lennon was discouraged from displaying his art for years to come. In 1970, Lennon authorized fourteen lithographs from his 'Bag One' collection to be sold at a London Art Convention. The success of his simple yet elegantly styled drawings has continued well past this time.

In 1986, Ono released some drawings which Lennon had saved carefully. The pieces on display at the Imperial Palace are reproduced lithographs, serigraphs, and copper etchings containing Lennon's embossed signature and Ono's hand-written signature.

The drawings represented a side to Lennon that was less evident in his music. My general impression of the exhibit was that the art was centered around Lennon and his family, beds, peace, and love.

The art complemented Lennon's already prolific reputation as a songwriter, putting images to songs such as "Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds" and "A Day in the Life." The art also contained eccentric themes which displayed

frequent symbolism and phrases. Some of the vivid and peculiar pieces include "Apple Pie Bed," "Sherlock Lennon," and "Bed In For Peace."

The art essentially provides us with another resource with which to look into Lennon's mind. Curator, Richard Horowitz made this brief statement: "In a nutshell, his work is very autobiographical."

The exhibition is being curated by the Pacific Edge Gallery based in Laguna Beach, California. The tour is currently scheduled for six shows a year, and has been ongoing since 1989. The tour has been through Atlanta, Seattle, Scottsdale, and Honolulu. The stop in Detroit marked the what would have been Lennon's 50th birthday.

The exhibit will have passed through Las Vegas by the time this article is published. However, you can sample some of his art in the following books: *In His Own Write*, *A Spaniard in The Works*, and *Skywriting By Word of Mouth*.

In closing, I'd like to use a quote from the exhibit program. "If art were to redeem man, it could do so only by saving him from the seriousness of life, and restoring him to an unexpected boyishness."

Chevys: A Fresh Approach

Chevys Mexican Restaurant's slogan is "Fresh Mex" and they take that commitment seriously. The fish is flown in daily, and the salsa and tortillas are continually being made throughout the hours of operation. It is Sunday late afternoon, my family just finished checking out the John Lennon exhibit at the Imperial Palace. We are hungry.

I have heard mixed things about Chevys and decide it's time I experience it first-hand. Located on the second floor of the Polo Towers, it is minutes away from the exhibit and campus. Chevys is a place for fresh food. This idea makes their cuisine literally burst with flavor. Wafer thin, warm flour tortilla chips and Indian-red salsa with black flecks come just minutes after we sit down. The salsa's ingredients: tomatoes, onions, and peppers are charred and roasted.

We shared a crisp and colorful dinner salad (\$2.95). It was made up of: bright green leaf lettuce, crunchy red peppers, purple cabbage, a bit of black beans, and sweet corn. This was all topped by sprinkles of queso ranchero cheese and thin multi-colored tortilla strips. Excellent!

Mark, my husband ordered the Grilled Catfish. It was served on a sizzling plate with drawn butter, thick slices of a tomato, yellow onion, and green bell pepper. It was also accompanied by soft tortillas, pico de gallo, guacamole, sour cream, as well as beans and rice. Although both were tasty the beans in particular were delicious. They were a compilation of pinto beans, tomatoes, onions and spices. Awesome!

I enjoyed the Tostada Salad



(\$6.95). It was a medley of most items I've already mentioned. The dinner salad ingredients plus more low-fat queso ranchero cheese, a lot of ripe, fresh gua-

camole (no need for dressing) served in a warm flour tortilla shell lined with pinto beans. This salad came also with a choice of beef or chicken roasted in salsa. I chose the peppery and tangy chicken.

My daughter, Autumn, decided on the chicken taco child plate (a true value at \$2.95). It came with a juicy slice of honey dew and a half of a sweet orange. When I inquired how her soft tortilla taco tasted, Autumn replied "delicious!"

The food was enjoyed by all. Chevys restaurant is a large, colorful room with the ability to accommodate nearly 300 guests. The tables are ample enough; they are covered with bright table coverings and the chairs are an array of pastel colors. The room was splashed with bold pinata's shaped like peppers and cacti. The wall of windows that overlook the plaza below provide the room with a sunny disposition. There were areas that were inconsistent with the above quality. The work stations were highly visible in the center of the room. And even though the furnishings and decorations had character, there were too few varieties and so the ambiance lacked sophistication. The fake plants and flowers were obviously that; more detracting than esthetically pleasing.

Service was friendly and for the first half of the meal, timely and efficient. The restaurant suddenly became busy, and our service suffered for it. We sat

with dirty plates in front of us for a good ten minutes. But our minds were distracted from this by Ms. Leslie Shilling, the manager on duty. She was informative, professional, and friendly. I stopped her to ask about the salsa. From there we discussed parts of the menu, and after the meal she offered us a tour of the kitchen.

The cover of the menu informs that a tour of the kitchen can be obtained by request. And here was Leslie going one step further and inviting us for one. Of course I jumped at the opportunity. As I entered the kitchen I caught the faint smell of cinnamon which I discovered was from the homemade flan. There were vats of roasted vegetables waiting to become salsa everywhere. From the line to the walk-ins, it was clean, orderly and efficient.

It is seldom that establishments open their back of the house to the public. I salute Chevys for being an innovator in this.

Rating Scale

FOOD CATEGORY—A

The quality and freshness of ingredients are tremendous. They are prepared and presented with the greatest of skill. Mouth-watering, incredibly delectable, a must try.

AMBIANCE/SERVICE CATEGORY—B+

The atmosphere is consistent with the theme and the mood is pleasant, but details and complexity are lacking. The staff is courteous but not successful in satisfying all customer's needs.


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