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THE BEDLAM FILES

With Adam Groves

The Bedlam Files Quote of the Month

“Last year I wished everybody a happy new year and look what happened. So this year, from the bottom of my heart, fuck you.”

–Albert Brooks

Streaming Now



1. NIGHT STALKER: THE HUNT FOR A SERIAL KILLER

For those of us who lived in the LA area back in 1985 this expertly crafted documentary, about the investigation into the crimes of the “Night Stalker” (a.k.a. Richard Ramirez), will provide a horrifically engrossing flashback to a time that wasn’t nearly as idyllic as everyone likes to claim it was. For everyone else it will be merely engrossing, which in this case should be than enough.

NETFLIX

Adam's Picks



1. CRASH (1996)

Recently released on DVD/Blu-ray with the much sought-after laserdisc audio commentary (which has been MIA since 1997), this is **David Cronenberg's** defiantly avant-garde adaptation of novel. It's definitely a love-it-or-hate-it exercise; I happen to be among the lovers of CRASH, which I feel is one of Cronenberg's most interesting films, and if you enjoy my reviews you'll probably feel the same way.

FILM



2. PRETEND IT'S A CITY

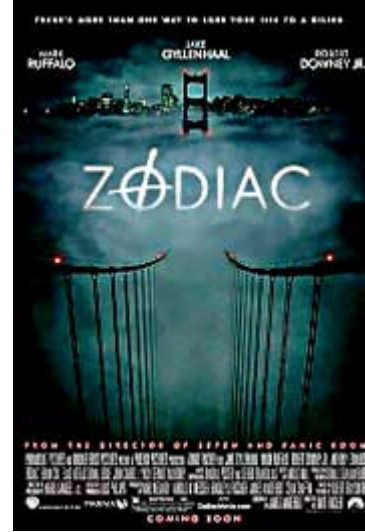
I'm not a huge fan of Fran Leibowitz (essentially the East Coast intellectual answer to Roseanne Barr), but found this Leibowitz-centered docuseries quite enjoyable. The fact that it was made by **Martin Scorsese** certainly ups its watchability factor, with the series being as much about the ever-changing face of New York City, Leibowitz and Scorsese's spiritual and physical home, as it is about its subject's (bad) moods.

NETFLIX



3. COBRA KAI Season 3

More of the same from the COBRA KAI-verse. This latest season sees Daniel LaRusso (Ralph Macchio) and high school rival Johnny Lawrence (William Zabka) once again caught up in a drama involving unlikely alliances, surprise appearances by past KARATE KID cast members and a massive karate brawl. The problem is all those things were already done in seasons one and two, suggesting that inspiration may be running low on the part of COBRA KAI's makers. I'm



2. ZODIAC

A sincere attempt at a panoramic depiction of the hunting of a serial killer (as contained in the abovementioned **NIGHT STALKER**) in feature film form. Zodiac's director **David Fincher** has admitted that a much longer, multi-episode canvas would have been preferable, but he did create a pretty authoritative account of the crimes of the Zodiac killer who terrorized San Francisco in 1960-70, and the police investigation into those crimes.

FILM



3. SWIMMING AMONG SHARKS-- THE STORY BEHIND THE MAKING OF GRIZZLY II: REVENGE By SUZANNE C. NAGY

This book offers conclusive proof that every movie, no matter how worthless, has a story behind it. GRIZZLY II's producer Suzanne C. Nagy tells a story of fraud, backstabbing, incompetence, malicious gossip and expulsion from the socialist-run Hungarian film

willing to hold out for a season four, but I honestly don't see how much farther this series can go.

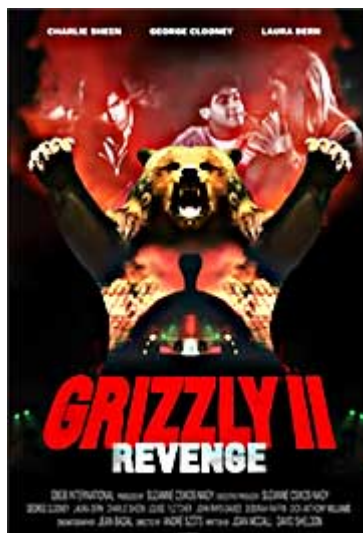
NETFLIX



4. **BATMAN: SOUL OF THE DRAGON**

The idea of placing Batman in a 1970s chop-socky pastiche is irresistible. A feature length cartoon that proudly flaunts its R rating, SOUL OF THE DRAGON is nothing special, treating its subject as a supporting character in a story about several former pupils of a missing martial arts instructor teaming up to track down their master. There is, at least, a great deal of bloody action, packed into an economical 83 minutes.

AMAZON



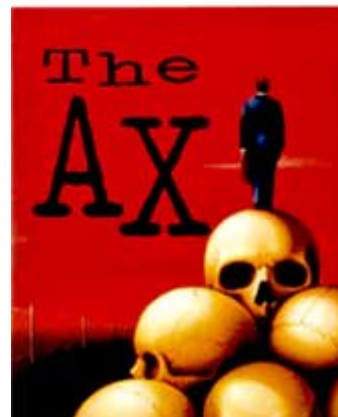
5. **GRIZZLY II: REVENGE**

Here it is, the legendary Hungarian made sequel (to 1976's **GRIZZLY**) that became one of the most monumental films in its country's history yet remained unfinished until

industry, in a crudely written account that's still far more diverting than the film it details.

BOOK

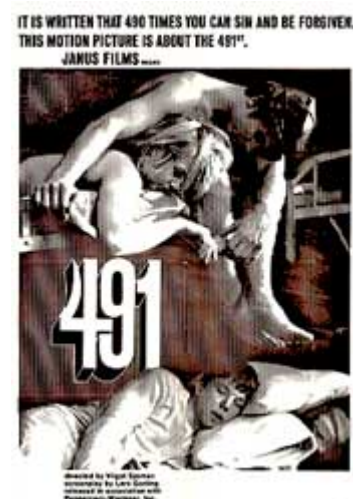
Donald E. Westlake



4. **THE AX BY DONALD E. WESTLAKE**

Initial reviews of this 1997 novel, about a laid-off suburbanite clawing his way back up the corporate ladder by (literally) eliminating the competition, stressed its satiric elements. Nowadays, amid widespread unemployment and a decimated economy, THE AX no longer seems very funny, although it does remain a compulsive page-turner.

BOOK



5. **491**

Another once-outrageous narrative that now hits uncomfortably close to home. It's a Swedish import about a group of wayward boys shut up in a big city tenement as part of an experiment, which leads to claustrophobia, foul language and

last year. Now that it's finally been unveiled, I'll have to say that GRIZZLY II is every bit as appalling as I was expecting, with a mutant grizzly bear loose at an outdoor concert (thus allowing the filmmakers to pad the film with footage of crappy eighties rock bands), and a cast that includes George Clooney, Laura Dern, Charlie Sheen and Louise Fletcher.

AMAZON

much miscellaneous bad behavior. Wonton amorality and destruction resulting from prolonged isolation? I'm sure none of us would know *anything* about that!

FILM

Also NEW on the Site!

- **Har Har Mahadev**
- **Shooting Midnight Cowboy**
- **The Messiah**
- **Indie "It" Girl, Elina Löwensohn**
- **The Blue Peril**
- *And Much More!*



INSIDER NOTES

One of the more tragic and inexplicable famous person deaths of 2021 was that of actress **Tanya Roberts** at age 71. She may not have been anyone's idea of a skilled thespian (although in her defense, the movies she headlined, which included THE BEASTMASTER, SHEENA and A VIEW TO A KILL, weren't anyone's idea of quality cinema), but those of you who remember the eighties surely remember Tanya, who went from a CHARLIE'S ANGELS cast member to a mainstream movie star to a big name in the straight-to-video exploitation market in the space of a decade.



The initial reports of Tanya Roberts' death were appallingly jumbled and contradictory. You may recall it being announced and then immediately rescinded, then announced yet again the following day. This is in keeping with the life of an actress that, it seems, was quite enigmatic.

Depending on who you ask, Ms. Roberts was either a sweet natured saint or a promiscuous troublemaker. Among the latter claimants is John Hancock, who directed Tanya in CALIFORNIA DREAMIN' (1978), and in the book **HANCOCK ON HANCOCK** claims she not only tried to seduce him but also "got into the head of" one of the film's other cast members, actor **John Calvin**, who apparently "allowed himself to be misled on the film... mostly by his dick!" The latter, for the record, categorically denies Hancock's claims (yes, I spoke with Mr. Calvin about this directly) so who knows where the truth about Tanya Roberts may lie?

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