

WELCOME TO **FILM PANIC #1**

Film panic is a term we use to describe that strange affliction that possesses filmmakers when they feel desperation at trying to capture life's fleeting moments on camera. It's that panic-stricken desire not to miss a single moment, to record it on film or tape for all eternity before it slips out of reach and is gone forever.

We are honoured to include in this debut issue an interview with one of our key inspirations from the world of film publishing, the creator of *Psychotronic Video* magazine, Michael J. Weldon. *Psychotronic Video* has certainly had a big influence on the creation of FILM PANIC and we are excited to talk with Michael about the making of *Psychotronic Video* and its accompanying book, the invaluable *Psychotronic Encyclopedia of Film*.

Also in this issue we have an interview with American filmmaker Kelly Hughes. Kelly was the creator of a cable TV series in the early 90's called *Heart Attack Theatre*, a wonderfully vile and trashy concoction of cinematic spectacle in the form of soap opera unlike any other, that exists somewhere in a lurid limbo between *The X-Files* and *Pink Flamingos*. We talk to Kelly about his films and his new documentary *Heart Attack: The Pulse Pounding Cinema of Kelly Hughes*, which looks back at the making of the series and his other equally trashy adventures in filmmaking.

But the majority of this issue is dedicated to the artist who is dearest to our hearts, the British filmmaker, poet, painter, illustrator, sound artist and all-round creative genius, Jeff Keen! In our essay 'Of the Way of the Creator', we explore our interest in Jeff's work as a form of ritual and look at the role of mythology in his art.

ously unpublished interview with Jeff and his wife and muse Jackie, which was conducted in 2009. We have taken it as a good omen to have discovered this interview hidden away on an old hard drive as this issue was being put together. It really completes the issue and allows Jeff's inspiring and insightful words to be present.

We are also delighted to include in this issue an interview with Jeff's daughter and collaborator, Stella Starr. She tells us some wonderful stories about her father, his films and what it was like growing up in the world of Dr Gaz! We also talk to William Fowler of the BFI, who produced the fantastic DVD collection of Jeff's work, *GAZWRX*. This is an invaluable collection and certainly one of the best DVD releases from the BFI. In 'The Dreams and Past Crimes Of The Archduke', Jeff's friends, fans and collaborators offer us their memories and recollections of Jeff and his films.

Alongside all this we have many reviews and articles on the films we've been watching and the books that we have been reading. FILM PANIC is intended as a way of gathering information on all the films, filmmakers, artists and stars that inspire our own work and that we come across in our research. FILM PANIC isn't an attempt to make a final statement, it is a part of a process, a part of our own work as filmmakers and an unashamedly personal expression of all things cinema that we love, from the grandest of artistic expression to the lowest form of trash, from the amateur and outsider to the great spiritual quests, the experimental and underground to the cult classics. We hope that by sharing the things that interest and excite us, you may find something of interest and inspiration to you.

Thanks for reading,
Daniel & Clara

We are very happy to include a lost and previ-

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The Underground Film Studio Projects

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