



VIDEO NASTY: Some of the macabre and provocative images from director Marc Swadell's clip.



PHOTOS: DUNCAN GREIVE

B-movie marathon heads to Hollywood

by Nicole Stanley

It's easy to get lost in Auckland's heavy schedule of film festivals this year, but one promises to be a bit more out there than the rest.

For the last five years, the 24-hour Movie Marathon has inspired film buffs with a whole day and night of caffeine-fuelled viewing.

On October 29, fans will once again cram into Avondale's Hollywood Cinema to revel in all the good, the bad and the very bizarre that movies have to offer.

Organiser Ant Timpson started the event to "relive the glory days of the Incredibly Strange Film Festival's marathon movie session where seven or eight movies were shown in a row".

Timpson promises a mix of genres this year and says he has deliberately chosen movies that will be fun to watch as part of an audience.

"Everything is in there for a reason. This year we have managed a half and half split between blockbuster premieres and bizarre movies found hidden in the film vault," he says.

Gory music vid for late-night TV

by Summer Hamilton

The New Zealand director of a controversial new music video is unapologetic about scenes that will make some viewers squirm.

The video for Bryan Bell's (formerly of Kiwi group Dead Flowers) second solo single, *Sure Seems a Long Way Down*, depicts a blood-like substance dripping from the mouths of kissing couples.

Later scenes include someone violently coughing up the thick dark substance.

"In the marketplace, anything that can get people talking about

the video, and wanting to view it is a good thing," says director Marc Swadell.

Bell says he loved the concept from the start and trusted Swadell implicitly to make the video work. It was shot in London.

He knew they would need to cut a G-certificate version with some parts blurred out, as the original would probably only screen after 9pm.

"It's a thin line - you can either make something you really like, or you can shoot yourself in the foot and try to compromise and make something that can be shown," he says.

Swadell says he doesn't think a scene showing two men kissing will be controversial in New Zealand, but it would be if the video screened in the United Kingdom.

"It's great, I think, because gay kissing isn't really an issue the way it would have been if I covered this issue six years ago."

Bell believes there are a lot worse things shown on TV than fake blood and says the video conveys the dark and oppressive nature of the song.

The choking scenes look very real for a reason, says Swadell.

He wanted to use something that didn't look too much like

blood - something viscous and stringy - and should have thought of using chocolate sauce.

"But instead we used HP sauce and a Japanese sauce. One of the actors, Julian, was basically choking on it, it was so disgusting. That's why it looks so real."

A video for Bell's next single, *Did Someone Get to Her*, was shot at the same time and the pair show no sign of conforming to mainstream expectations.

Swadell says the next video is based on "a day from hell" and follows an argument between a man and his girlfriend which ends in murder.

From sex objects to serious MCs

by Anne Marthe Bjoernulf

Women, it seems, are becoming more accepted in New Zealand's hip hop culture.

In this year's recent Boost Mobile Aotearoa Hip Hop Summit, the female voice was represented by famous performers like Temple Jones, Ladi6 and Nicky Montana.

Temple Jones says female hip hop culture in New Zealand is growing rapidly.

Her goal is to prove female performers can do just as well as men on stage.

"I don't want to be seen as a female MC, just as an MC," she says.

She says women are represented as sex objects in a lot of hip hop music and that inspires her to make her own.

While Temple Jones acknowledges that New Zealand's hip hop culture is male dominated, she says she has always been supported by male performers and never felt discriminated against.

Temple Jones, whose lyrics are about family, friends, politics and other issues in the community, says a lot of girls are fascinated by the hip hop culture because of its music, dance and clothes.

Tania McGlynn had a graffiti exhibition at the hip hop summit and says the graffiti culture is run by males which makes it hard sometimes.

"I've met a lot of people with no respect for females," she says.

McGlynn says there are more women working in graffiti now and she thinks the boys are scared of the competition.

She says a lot of women are working with wording in their graffiti. She uses the word 'LADY' and works her way around it.

"A lot of males have been criticising my graffiti. However, if you get yourself a name, the dudes start to respect you," she says.

Christchurch MC Ladi6, formerly of pioneering all-girl crew Sheelahroc, says the summit provides a forum for unknown female MCs to rap to a crowd.

"At Broad Spectrum a lot of underground girls got up and rapped, it was good for them to have that opportunity."

Danielle Smith works at Loaded, a streetwear shop in High Street, where they are selling a lot of hip hop clothes to girls.

She says the trend is for singlets, tight jeans and cool shoes.

"You would be called a tom-boy if you wore these clothes four years ago. But today it is a trend and everyone is wearing it," Smith says.

Spokesperson for the hip hop summit Allstair Kwun says this is the first year female voices have come out strongly at the summit.

Additional reporting by Summer Hamilton



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