

Den of iniquity delights the senses

The murmur of conversation and jazz can be heard as I descend into Tanuki's Cave.

A travelling Kiwi brought the underground yakitori bar concept here after seeing it in Japan and it has proved a huge success.

The small, dimly lit bar is crowded just about any night of the week.

I immediately feel this would be the perfect place for crooked deals or a first date.

The crowd is mostly young Kiwi professionals with only a few Asians, unlike most Asian-owned establishments.

Either they have Westernised their service or perhaps it's just so popular that anyone feels comfortable.

I suspect it's the latter, as I

Restaurant
Tanuki's Cave
Queen St
Review by Justin Latif

squeeze my bar stool between a couple and a group of young office workers.

The menu specialises in charcoal grilled meat on skewers (yakitori) or deep fried bread crumbed skewers (kushiage). Sake or Japanese beer is recommended as an accompaniment.

This place provides a snapshot of Japanese life and so the meals are merely a snapshot of Japanese food, which explains the mere \$4 for a couple of skewers of steak.

While it may not fill your stomach, it's easy to rack up a hefty bill trying the variety of delights on the menu.

On my first visit here, the beer list was more extensive and I was able to match a Tiger beer with my very spicy steak.

But this time I found they had restricted the beer list and I tried the menu's Japanese beer which was a little disappointing.

The atmosphere of this place is really worth the visit alone.

There is a constant flow of people, and with the kitchen steaming away, the place provides a warm, intimate environment away from Auckland's frigid streets.



Drastic plastic makes intoxicating viewing

"Every three seconds another house in North America is sided with vinyl."

It's not the most alarming statistic to infiltrate our eco-weary consciousness, but award winning film maker Judith Helfand commits five years of her life to showing us why this seemingly benign plastic should concern us.

The story of *Blue Vinyl* begins on Long Island, in the modest suburban home of Helfand's elderly parents.

They've proudly re-clad their house with vinyl – a hard plastic, embossed with fake wood print to "look so much like real wood".

A survivor of a rare form of cervical cancer caused by exposure to synthetic oestrogen, Helfand questions the dangers of encasing the family home with a material

Movie
Blue Vinyl
Showing at Rialto
September 9 and 13
Directed by Judith Helfand
Review by Amanda Snow

so loaded with toxic chemicals.

With a blue vinyl off-cut as her travelling companion, the affable Helfand skips off to Lake Charles, Louisiana, the source of her parents' new cladding, to discover "the truth" about vinyl (or poly-vinyl-chloride commonly known as PVC).

Award-winning cinematographer and co-director Daniel B. Gold captures the irony of a city going about its business as thick clouds of black smoke billow from gargantuan Orwellian factories

spread across the town's horizon.

Surprise, surprise Helfand discovers the vinyl capital of America is riddled with stories of cancer, conspiracy, cover-up and denial.

"I'd like to have the people responsible come to my house, to watch him die one piece at a time," says the softly spoken wife of a former poly-chloride factory worker.

Enter Billy Bagget – a local attorney who handles hoards of health-related claims against poly-chloride factories, and who is literally obsessed with bringing the industry to justice.

"Billy," Helfand tells us, "has come to believe the vinyl companies knew their employees could get cancer just by coming to work, and that they acted together to

hide the truth."

In her relaxed, narrative style, Helfand reveals that vinyl (which is "everywhere" including building products, food packaging, children's toys and even sex toys) "turns out to be the most environmentally hazardous consumer product on Earth."

And, as her elderly father points out, "that wasn't written on the box".

Open, enquiring, gentle, funny, friendly and approachable, Helfand delivers an almost indigestible topic with patience, and humour – a palatable change from your usual know-it-all, picture perfect, investigative reporter breaking such a huge story.

There is so much in this highly acclaimed, intoxicatingly delight-

ful documentary, you'll want to go through your kids' toy box and toss out all their dioxin laden toys – except vinyl can't be recycled.

Awards
Best Documentary — Bermuda Film Festival
Excellence in Cinematography Award — Sundance Film Festival
Emmy Awards nominee — (Best Documentary, Best Research)

Blue Vinyl will show at the DOCNZ International Documentary Film Festival. See below for details and story "Festival time for docs" on page 4.

music

Buzzcocks

St James Complex
September 10

The kings of punk rock are playing one live show in Auckland. Strictly R18.

Tickets from Ticketdirect.



The Melbourne Funk Affair

Rakinos, Auckland
September 2

Head to Rakinos and check out Melbourne and Sydney based DJs Agent 86, Danny Cool and Bubu, with local support from DJ Sambro. Strictly R18. Door sales, tickets \$10.

Nathan Haines and Friends

Craft, Grey Lynn
September 3

For a great night out, head over to Craft in Grey Lynn, Auckland, and hear Nathan Haines and friends.

'Autozamm, Op Shop and Sarah Brown

The King's Arms Tavern
September 9

Head over to the King's Arms in Newton, Auckland, and check out Autozamm, OpShop and Sarah Brown.

Static fm 88.1

Mon - 12-2pm: Juliette Live - 'Midday Mundies'
2-4pm: Fleur Live
4-6pm: Karen Live - 'Evenings with Karen Margaret'

Tue - 8-10am: Vanessa Live
12-2pm: Richard Live, 'Dragon's Lair.'
2-4pm: Darryl Live, 'Down, up, down with Darryl.'

Wed - 8-10am: Glynis Live
10-12: Gemma Live
2-4pm: James Live, 'The Runaround.'
6-8pm: Jared Live

Thur - 12-2pm: Matt Live
4-6pm: Maia Live

Planet fm 104.6

Mon- Sathya Sai 9.25am
Mandarin 1.30pm
Arabic 4.20pm
Singhalese 6pm

Tue- Niuean 8am
Ghanian 6.15pm
Russian 7.20pm
Kiribati 9.20pm

Wed- Hindi 8am
Maitreya 9.05am
Cantonese 1.30pm
Punjabi 4.25pm

Thur- Tamil 3.10pm
Cook Islands 6.30pm
Samoan 7.40pm
Korean 8.15pm

Fri- Christian 2.10pm
Fijian 6.30pm
Swahili 8.10pm
Romanian 9pm

Sat- Spanish 10am
Indonesian 4.40pm
Turkish 7.35pm
Japanese 10.35pm

Sun- Hindu 6.30am
Jewish 9am
Irish 11.35am

Joss and Gemma's picks:

The Civic Open Days

The Civic, Queen St
September 16-17

A fun, free day for the family, the Civic Open Days will showcase the theatre with tours, films, concerts, guest speakers and activities.

New Sound Saturdays

Safari Lounge, Ponsonby
August 16 - September 16

Check out Ned Roy and friends playing RnB and other tunes to dance the night away. Opens at 9pm, strictly R18, ladies happy hour from 10 - 11pm. Free admission.



Air New Zealand Fashion Week

Viaduct Harbour Marine Village
September 19 - 23

New Zealand's premier fashion event is being held in Auckland to showcase some of our world-class fashion designers. The inaugural public access day will be held on Saturday, with the AUT "celebrity sewdown". Tickets available at Ticketek.

The DOCNZ International Documentary Film Festival
Academy Cinemas, Lorne St and Rialto Cinemas, Newmarket
September 7-17

New Zealand's DOCNZ International Documentary Film Festival is Australasia's only international competitive documentary film festival showcasing the very best in documentary films.