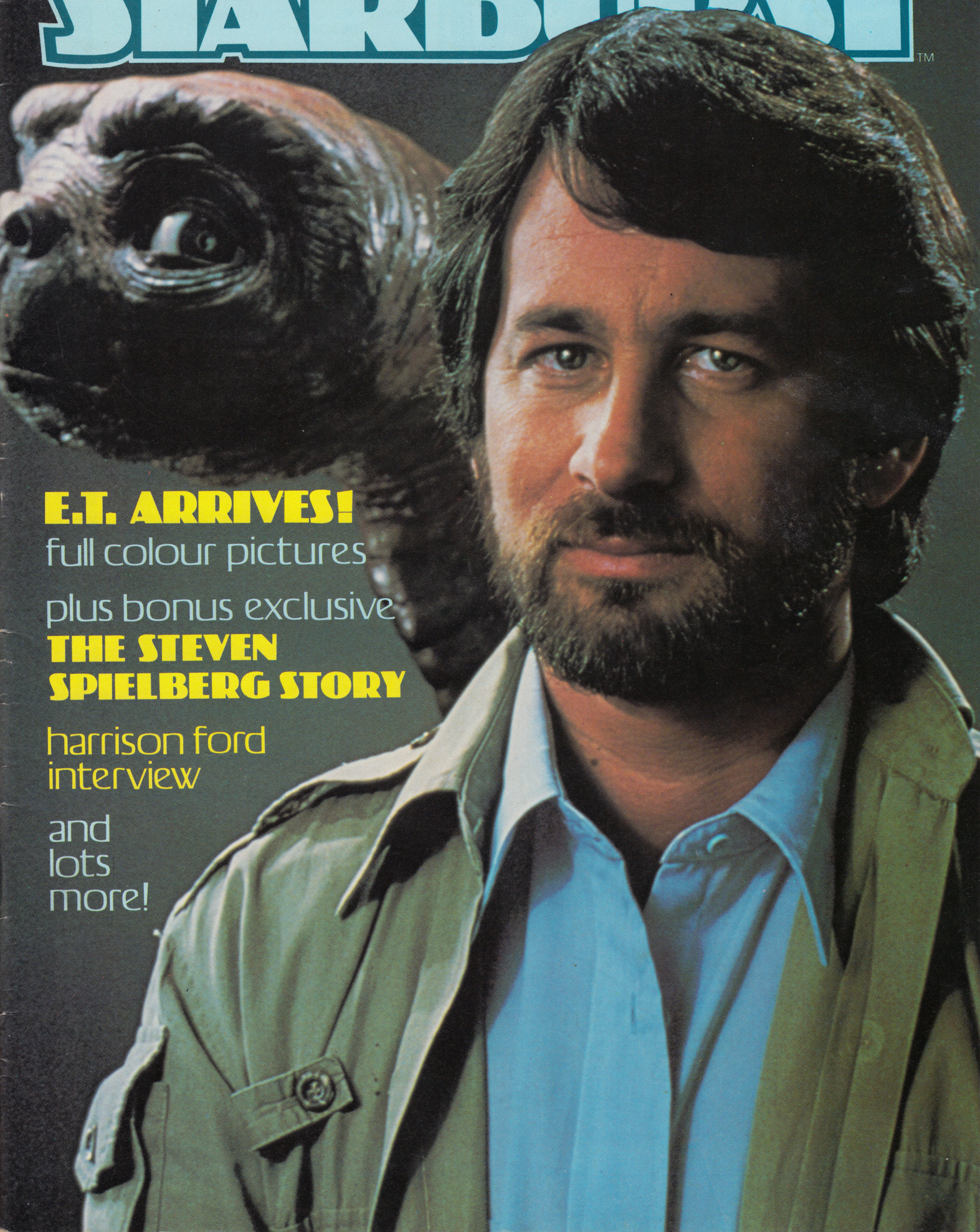


no 53 the magazine of cinema & television fantasy 95p

STARBUZZ



E.T. ARRIVES!

full colour pictures

plus bonus exclusive

THE STEVEN SPIELBERG STORY

harrison ford
interview

and
lots
more!

STARBURST LETTERS 4

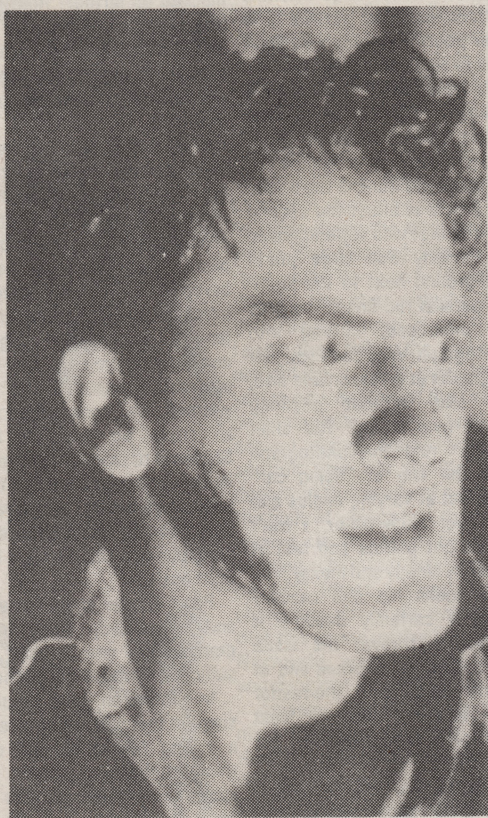


STARBURST IS BLASTED FOR ITS LAYOUTS AND DESIGN BY READER STEPHEN CROOKS.

THINGS TO COME 6

MORE NEWS FROM THE WORLDS OF TV AND CINEMA FANTASY, COURTESY OF TONY CRAWLEY.

EVIL DEAD 10



ANOTHER SUPER DIRECTOR IS BORN. THOUGH ONLY 19 WHEN HE MADE THIS FILM, SAM RAIMI HAS CREATED A POWERFULLY FRIGHTENING HORROR MOVIE.

CREEPSHOW 11

AT LAST... THE FILMIC TEAMING OF KING AND ROMERO IN AN ANTHOLOGY STYLE HORROR COMPENDIUM.

JUST BEFORE DAWN 14

DISTRIBUTION OF THIS NEW FILM FROM JEFF LEIBERMAN (SQUIRM, BLUE SUNSHINE) WILL BE SPARSE, WHICH IS STRANGE AS IT IS ONE OF THE BEST HORROR MOVIES WE'VE SEEN IN A LONG TIME.

BLOODY BIRTHDAY 17

MORE HORROR SHENANIGANS REVIEWED BY ALAN JONES.

AMITYVILLE II: THE POSSESSION 18

WE'RE HAPPY TO REPORT THAT THIS PREQUEL TO THE ORIGINAL MOVIE IS BETTER IN EVERY WAY.

THE NEW YORK RIPPER 20

THE LATEST OFFRING FROM ITALIAN GRUE-MASTER LUCIO FULCI IS JUST AS UNWHOLESOME AS HIS OTHER EFFORTS.

E.T. 23

A FOUR-PAGE COLOUR PULL-OUT ON THE FANTASY FILM OF THE YEAR. STEVEN SPIELBERG'S E.T.

THE STEVEN SPIELBERG STORY: PART I 28



THE MOST COMPLETE BIOGRAPHICAL FEATURE EVER ASSEMBLED ON STEVEN SPIELBERG BEGINS IN THIS ISSUE OF STARBURST. TO BE CONCLUDED IN THIS MONTH'S CINEMA.

THE LAST HORROR FILM 36

WE TALK TO SPECIAL EFFECTS DIRECTOR PETER MACKENZIE ABOUT THE PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED DURING THE FILMING OF CAROLINE MUNRO'S LATEST MOVIE.

IT'S ONLY A MOVIE 39

JOHN BROSNAN HAS THE LAST WORD ON THE STAR TREK II CONTROVERSY.

TV ZONE 42

RICHARD HOLLISS LOGS ANOTHER OF HIS MONTHLY LOOKS AT THE WORLD OF FANTASY TELEVISION.

INTERVIEW: HARRISON FORD 44

AN INTERVIEW WITH THE STAR OF RAIDERS OF THE LOST ARK AND BLADE RUNNER BY TONY CRAWLEY.

evil dead

Review by Phil Edwards

If it were easy to analyse what makes a cult horror film, then genre fans would be in seventh heaven every time they went to the cinema. But it's really the discovery of a film that attains cult status that makes picking one's way through the plethora of exploitation horror movies which have proliferated over the past few years so much fun. I can remember seeing *Night of the Living Dead* in a little flea-pit in Paris; *Texas Chainsaw Massacre* at the London Film Festival and *Halloween* in a sleazeporium on Hollywood Boulevard. Each time I was aware that I was watching the work of some inspired talent, and it's doubly sad that Tobe Hooper has never been able to duplicate the sheer bravura in subsequent films. More recently Jeff Lieberman's *Just Before Dawn* gave me a similar thrill of discovery. Sadly, Lieberman's mini-masterpiece, thanks to the short-sightedness of Rank Distribution is likely to remain unseen by most people.

But now comes a film that most fans of good exploitation horror cinema are going to get a chance to see, and I really urge all you thrill-seekers to go out of your way to catch *The Evil Dead*, a first film directed and written by Sam Raimi. Like most films of this nature it deals with a group of college kids in extreme peril, but forget it if you think this is some kind of formula splatter movie. *The Evil Dead* is a supernatural horror tale which owes more to the works of H.P. Lovecraft than any other film I can think of. But where Lovecraft never managed to describe the horrors which lurk in the depths of those eldritch woods of which he was so fond, Raimi and co present them in a totally graphic way which just might have you reaching for a barf bag. Yep, *The Evil Dead* is pretty grisly stuff and if the distributors, Palace Pictures, have any sensitivity then they should add a word of warning to the squeamish on all their advertising materials. It's not often that I've seen a typical press show crowd leap with such regularity *en masse* during the screening of a movie.

Like *Texas Chainsaw*, the events of *The Evil Dead* take place over a single night of terror as the ancient gods unleash their power after a mysterious incantation is played back on a long lost tape recorder. The spirits of the dead invade the bodies of the living turning them into the nastiest looking walking dead it has ever been my pleasure to squirm at.

What's so exciting about the movie is the level of imagination and cinematic invention on show. Raimi never goes for the easy scare, and though there are plenty of shocks emerging from all parts of the frame, they are rarely the obvious, and it is this originality in staging and story that makes one aware that we are seeing the first work of a major new talent, easily on par with the early Cronenberg, Carpenter and Romero. Let's hope that Raimi doesn't go the sad way of Hooper.





Raimi is obviously a fan of the first order and probably a charter subscriber to *Fangoria* magazine for the film is full of special effects and make-up, which while not Rick Baker or ILM standard show a great deal of imagination in their design and execution. People are attacked by forest vines and trees, rip their own flesh apart, eyes are gouged out and a man is attacked by a headless corpse pumping blood from the mutilated neck. *The Evil Dead* is about a nine on the disgustometre and would have been a ten had the censor not shortened a couple of scenes of carnage, but not enough to rob the film of its completely visceral assault on the senses.

What's so impressive also about *The Evil Dead* is the enthusiasm with which Raimi and his chums have approached the making of their movie. For unlike *Texas Chainsaw* which leaves a nasty taste after viewing, *The Evil Dead* is imbued with quite a sense of fun—Raimi is just having one hell of a good time scaring the pants off you, and that it does, I guarantee you. Forget the easy mechanical frights of *Friday the 13th*, *The Evil Dead* outdoes them all, leaving you gasping for more. Perhaps the best recommendation can come from Stephen King who calls the film, "The most ferociously original horror film of the year." If you like stomach churning horror, thrills, spills and shocks then don't miss *The Evil Dead* when it comes your way.

