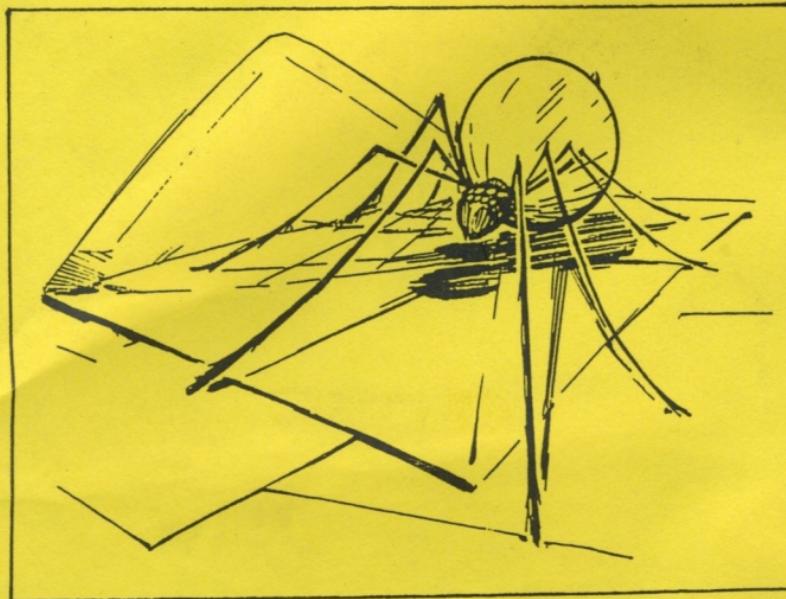


# Bug Powder

distribution  
catalogue #5 - Winter 1998



*art by Frazer Irving*

# **Bug Powder**

## distribution

### catalogue #5 - Winter 1998

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#### **BDP-Intro**

Welcome to the fifth Bug Powder catalogue. Since I started running this outfit seriously in September 97 things have been developing nicely. I was warned it takes a long time for a distro to kick in, but I'm already getting 3 or 4 decent sized orders a week from only 200-odd catalogues going out. Of course, I'm not making any money (I'd guess my net profits are less than 10% which is easily eaten up by miscellaneous copying and stamps), but as the sales increase so does the enthusiasm and desire to get more titles while streamlining the selection. Over the next few months I'm hoping to get a decent back-list of professionally produced self-published comics (like Sleaze Castle and The Maze in this catalogue) and use this higher profile stuff to support a wide range of comics by new creators who I want to give a bigger push. At the same time I want to increase the Slipstream section, bringing in a wider variety of views and opinions from around the world. If you can help with contacts, or publish something that might be of interest, please get in touch.

**CHEQUES PAYABLE TO PETE ASHTON PLEASE!**  
**Guild Box 123, Edgbaston Park Rd**  
**Birmingham, B15 2TU**

**Items flashed New! were not in catalogue  
#4, but some were in the November update.**

## **How To Use This Catalogue**

All items currently held by me are listed in this booklet with text descriptions, divided into a few sections with some key creators highlighted. With this catalogue should be a number of A7 cards with illustration for the comics distributed. On the back are the title and price, plus cross referencing info for other titles they appear in. If you haven't got the illos for any reason, let me know and I'll send them to you fer free. The updates will also be in this format. If you like it or hate it, please let me know, although I'll probably do something completely different next time...

### **I'm new here and I don't understand!**

It's a mail order distribution service for underground, alterative, small press and self published comics, fanzines and other publications. It's run my me, Pete Ashton, on a non-profit basis. I'm in this for a variety of reasons, the main one being to have a fair chunk of fun connecting with people around the world but also to help push magazines that I think deserve wider recognition. I've been involved with this stuff at a variety of levels for nine years and this is a natural development for me, like a hobby which has gotten out of control. If you're new to this stuff and have any questions, don't hesitate to ask, but the best advice I can give is find a fiver, have a read through, and pick a few items you think might be interesting. Then a month later, do it again. If you're wary of distros (and I know I used to be a few years ago!) then ask me for a TRS review sheet. It's free, reviews about 30 titles every couple of months and has direct addresses. However you decide to do it, enjoy yourself!

# Comic Books

**from photocopied mini comics to glossy printed jobs, all the strip-life you need is here**

*New!*

## **A L'INTÉRIER... DES TÊTES (THE HEADS... INSIDE)**

From Canada, Stéphane Blanquet weaves a frightening 'tec story about spooky heads growing inside people and creating havoc. A very disturbing and unique comic that impressed me. Smart packaging too with a full colour silkscreen cover and grey-scale inside printing. £3.00 (A6, 28pg) Translated into English. Limited copies available.

## **ANDY'S KONKY KRU PICTURE STRIPS**

Cool collection of 24 six panel strips which mess with comics form in a somewhat surreal manner using minimalist art to raise a wry smile. Some very clever ideas all nicely printed. By the ubiquitous Andy Konky Kru. £1.50 (A5, 28pg, glossy cvr)

## **ASSUME NOTHING**

### **Evolution of a Bi-Dyke**

Leanne Franson is a Canadian cartoonist who's auto-bio character is called Liliane, comparable to Roberta Gregory in ways, if a bit more cuddly! This is a smart collection of her strips which work well together. Featuring Liliane's coming out story, the discovery of a chunk of human skin in her apartment, and her quest to become pregnant by any means necessary. Franson's range is given good exposure and depth here. Recommended. £5.00 (US Comic, 88pg, printed w/glossy cover)

## *New!* **BELLYFLOP #1 & #2**

"The mag for people with stomachs who aren't afraid to use them." Kieron Mullins came to my attention this summer and I was immediately impressed with his style. A very expressive use of shading with detail only where necessary and just enough balls to start experimenting with layouts and storytelling, these two collections of short strips showcase a possible future star at the cusp of his career. £1.50 each, or both for £2.75 (A4, 32pg)

## **BIG SINS BOOK ONE**

Collecting Chris Askham & Darren Powell's Sin

This came out a few months back and keeps selling out beyond my expectations (and I had high expectations!) Here's one good review it got... "Those who missed the first three issues of Sin should jump at this chance to acquire a collection of one of the finest small press comics to date. Starting off as a simple gag about a female devil too wicked for the netherworld, it develops into a beautifully drawn, multilayered, original piece of work" said Mike Kidson in Comics International. Thanks Mike! Chris created and draws Sin while Darren writes it. Sin gets booted out of Hell so visits her angel sister in Heaven who's bored with the blandness of it all, so they shoot up on pure Holy essence forcing the big man to take action. Too cool for school! £1.50 (A5, 64pg)

## **TIM BROWN**

"For me, having an idea is like having diarrhoea. Sometimes I just stare into space for hours on end. Other times it all comes flowing out. I often wonder if I'm going to have enough paper. Just like diarrhoea, it strikes at the worst possible moment. You're just going to bed, the lights are off and it hits you. It won't go away until you write it down - all of it. Or you're walking along and you only have a pen in your pocket. By the time you reach wherever it is you're going, you're hands are covered in scrawl. But it was worth it, because one of those ideas may turn out to be the funniest joke ever written. It will propel you onto chat shows and This Is Your Life (the only time everyone you have ever met is pleased to see you) and generally make you wodgins of cash." *Taken from Vicious #5*

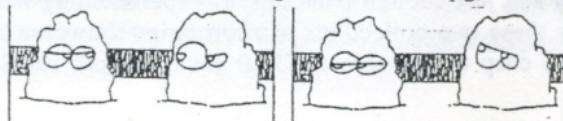
Tim's off-beat and generally unclassifiable laff-fest work deserves a wider audience, and you're it. Six titles at ridiculously cheap rates currently available...

### **Mystic Jam #8, #9 & #10**

You want me to explain this? Anti-Daily Mail is close, maybe... Jokes so warped you'll read them and laugh half an hour later when it clicks. Vampire Tea Bags, Phil Collins mercilessly attacked, Pookie the woodlouse, Nightclub Nick, an lots of Mystic Stones. 60p each (A5, 28-32pg). Three for £1.50

### **Part Time Lights #1, #2 & #3 New!**

New title replacing Mystic Jam and taking it further into planet strange. Off his fucking head, I reckon. 60p each (A5, 28pg) Three for £1.50



## **BURP!**

David Morris has been a fixture on the small press scene for years but never in his own mag, until now. Burp! collects strips showcasing his impressive range from slapstick to satire to tragedy to personal introspection. And boy can he draw! Highly recommended. £1.50 (A5, 36pg)



*New!*

## **DARK WEATHER #1-#4**

Tony McGee is quietly evolving into a major small press talent. I say quietly as his work is very understated. The writing is sparse, dialogue only when really necessary, pacing slow and art emotive rather than action based. The best example of evoking a sense of tension by having people stand a look at things. Good stuff. (#1&2 are A4, 16pg and 20pg, 3&4 are A5, 24pg) 75p each. Set for £2.50 when ordered with something else.

## **DEAD HAND #4**

Andy Fiddy's rather frightening journey into severe graphic design and Xerography has to be seen to be believed. Sometimes he could be accused of going mad for shock value, but there's a lot of depth here as well, especially in his strip work which scared the shit out of me! Bargain at £1.25 (A4, 44pg)

## **JEREMY DENNIS MAIN TITLES**

Oxford based female creator who in the last year has transformed and breathed new life into her soap opera characters. Her main themes are sexual identity and relationships, executed in a manner accessible to, and enjoyable by, all.

*New!*

## **3 in a Bed #7**

From the vaults, this back issue from '95 details the life of the Closets and Cloisters characters a few months prior. Angst, booze, fights, complex relationships and lots of sex in all varieties. A smart package and a good solid read. £2.00 (A4, 36pg, card cvr) Adults only.

## **Closets and Cloisters**

Squarebound collection of the acclaimed 3 In A Bed story arc concerning the quest for sexual identity amongst Oxford students. Lots of angst, sex, and bonkers doodly art-design - a good introduction to the themes of Jeremy's work. £4.99 (A4, 100pg) Adults only



## **The 12 Days of Christmas**

The prelude to her new series Rent clears up loose ends from the old 3iaB series in an innovative 12 Days song motif with lyrics altered appropriately to tell the tale. Despite the short length, there's lots in here. £1.25, or £1.00 with something else (A5, 20pg)

**New!**

### **Rent #1**

The new Jeremy Dennis saga kicks off nicely examining the sleeping patterns of the four story house in which our soap opera takes place. Some of the background detail here is amazing. Touched by the hand of Klimt, with a bit of Beardsley throw in for good measure. £2.50 (A4, 24pg) Adults only

3inaBed #7, Closets and Cloisters, 12 Days and Rent make up one nice big storyline. Buy the lot for £10.00, post paid. You won't regret it!

### **JEREMY DENNIS MINISMISC**

As Ms Dennis is incapable of not drawing, she is continually producing new strips outside of the 3inaBed/Rent mythos. Here's a few...

### **A-Z of Unusual Sexual Terminology**

Described by Andy Roberts at Caption as "More porn from Jeremy" this wonderful little book is the fruit of tireless research into obscure and ancient terms for shagging in all its variety, all sumptuously and explicitly illustrated. Highly recommended. £1.25, or £1.00 with something else (A6, 32pg, gold cvr) Adults only

### **You Left The Fish On!**

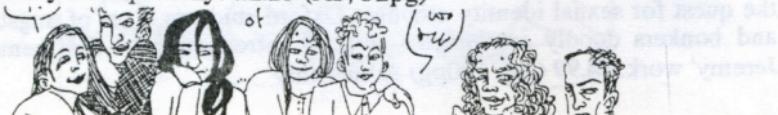
Smart square mini made for the BrumCAB comic convention contains a dream comic and a couple of shorts. Each copy has a unique colour sketch. Another good sampler of her wares. £1.00 (6" square, 20pg)

### **Mini Comics**

Five currently available: Cloe's Book Of Pick Me Ups And Put You Downs, Jeremy's Festival story, Alien Queen, Giant Sized Man Thing #2 and the New Fanny Anthology. The last two feature genitalia with names from superheroes (therefore Adults only), so be warned! 50p each or £2.00 the lot if ordered with something else. (A7, 16pg) Only a few left.

### **Lickity Spit #3**

"The Lean Clean Bi Zine" is just that, with comic strips by Jeremy and Damian Cugley (who is not female!) and investigations into closet bisexuality in children's literature of old. More lighthearted and celebratory than preachy. £1.25 (A5, 32pg)



## **EURO LILIANE #11**

Repackaging of Leanne Franson's (see Assume Nothing) mini-comics by Slab-O-Concrete for the Euro market, this double-flip-issue features Liliane Spoofs by Donna Barr, Roberta Gregory, Lee Kennedy and others. £1.20 (A5, 32pg)

## **SIMON GANE**

Straight from the planet Punk (or more accurately Bath) Simon draws a unique, expressive chunky line across a range of subjects from slapstick to serious.

### **Arnie Comix #2**

The best place to start sampling Gane's work, this smart comic shows his three main facets. First up Arnie The Anarchist, the kid-anarcho who keeps blowing himself up instead of the state. Next Les Peintres Maudits, a somber tale of two drunken artists scraping their way through 20's Paris which shows the depths of Simon's ability. Finally Cruising With The Dorks, a twist on punk bands written by Gav Burrows with the middle-England combo The Dorks: "Today will be remembered as the triumph of the tedious, the day of the dull! We will create one race, one folk, one trim garden suburb... let lack of imagination rise to power!". £1.50 (A5 w/colour cvr, 32pg)

### **The Adventures of Scrumpy and Smiles**

"I've got to cut down. I always seem to end up getting a kicking, and long stints in hospital seriously fuck up my drinking routine" says Smiles, but he goes drinking anyway and winds up involved in armed robbery. Fun for drunk anarchists everywhere. £1.00 (A5, 32pg)

### **Sap #1 & #2**

Punk Boy meets Punk Girl love story written by Ian Lynam and Kim Fern. After the first meeting their lives run in tandem but never cross. Alienated by society their store will ring true with disaffected youths everywhere. £1.00 each or £1.75 together (#1 A5, 24pg - #2 A4, 28pg)

**Simon Gane Set: Arnie #2, Scrumpy and Sap #1&2 for £3.50 (save a quid!)**

## **GRIM SMITH**

Matt Dyer's semi-autobiographical punk diary

### **#1 From Forest Hill to Istanbul**

Starting with an origin story of dysfunction families and squats, on to a "can't we just be friends" love story, and concluding with a 20pg epic about escaping to Turkey to visit an old friend who wants to escape to London. Downbeat and at times depressing, but constantly engaging with

an attitude that shows the dark humour in life's shitty aspects. Classic stuff.  
£2.50 (A4, 32pg)

## #2 I Moved to South London

More aging punk diaries from Matt Dyer concentrating on fatherhood and getting old this time. Grim dreams of dinosaurs killing Peter Lilley for breaking up his family via the DSS while bonding with his baby son ("He pissed on my face! What a brilliant boy!"). Some nice set chunky expressive art. £1.00 (A4, 18pg)

*New!*

## HEY MISTER

by Pete Sickman-Garner

This is in ways typical of the US indie-comix scene - humankind is shit, life is pathetic, etc, but with a very sardonic sense of black humour that doesn't moan or mope. Laugh at humankind. Laugh loud. The laugh at yourself for you are sadder than all of them. Another excellent US import. (US Comic size, 28pg, printed w/colour cover) £2.00



## ISSUE ONE

Collection of strips by Sam Learmouth from 1993. Some of them are admittedly a bit rough, but there's no denying Sam is an observational cartoonist to be reckoned with. His Morrissey P.I. and Snorepig Weepatch & Sweetpea strips alone make this worth £1.95 (A4, 32pg, printed)

*New!*

## JAMES KOCHALKA SUPERSTAR

If you had to name ten of the hundreds of American underground cartoonists, James Kochalka would be one of them. Most recently published by Black Eye Books and Alternative Press and often found arguing against the analytical mind-sets of The Comics Journal, he's a force to be reckoned with. These are two of my favourites from his self published work, with more to follow...



## Magic Boy and The Word Of God

A little classic from one of the main American underground cartoonists done in his trademark simple yet clear style making it open to your own interpretation. I reckon it's about personal freedom in conflict with good and evil and whether by rejecting both God and The Devil you can do 'the right thing'. And loads of other stuff. Top comics. (A5, 60pg, printed w/colour cover) £2.75

## **The Perfect Planet**

"A little map of the human mind. A guidebook to the soul. When you are lost, turn to these pages for direction. When all is steady and strong, return again and turn to jelly. Learn to be the only you that you can be". Kochalka sets up a robotic planet replicating his youth and places his iconic Magic Boy in it. It's hard to describe this without sounding pretentious, which it isn't, but it seems to be an attempt to understand others by understanding yourself, and the conclusion ain't too pretty. Highly recommended. (11x11cm, 84pg) £2.20

## **LARIAT #1 & #2**

Yay! Brummie Superhero Babe! If you thought underground comics were just moaning stick men you don't know how wrong you are. Martin Stephenson pulls this off with professional aplomb while still retaining a sound feel of Britishness. #1 £1.60 (US comic, 32pg), #2 £1.00 (US Comic, 32pg), both for £2.50

## **MALUS**

Chris Webster's acclaimed comic series has to be seen to be believed. Taking the superhero motif he blows it up with huge beings pounding the shit out of each other and a subtle subplot to confuse and entertain the hell out of you. #1-#3 @ £1.00 (A4, 24-28pg), #4 £1.75 (A4, 36pg, yellow cvr) Set for £4.50, and you need to read he set to fully appreciate it!

*New!*

## **THE MAN WHO LEARNED TO FLY**

Frazer Irving's 190 page epic will be published in the new year once I work out how (!) but in the meanwhile we've put together a 12 page sampler to arouse your interest. Send an A5 SAE or ask for it with your order.

## **THE MAZE #1 & #2 *New!***

It's end of season on the Greek island of Krissos and Xia is about to go home leaving a tangle of emotions and local politics behind her. Wonderful new series from the mysterious Metaphrog persons comparable to Eddie Campbell, Nick Abadzis, Glenn Dakin and Love & Rockets, with perfect pacing, spot-on characterisation, and an engaging storyline. I love the way Xia's hair is drawn m'self! #1 £2.25, #2 £2.50, both for £4.50 (US Comic, 32pg, printed w/colour cover)

*New!*

## MIND'S EYE PRESENTS #8 SCARRED FOR LIFE

I was quite dubious about this Canadian comic, thinking it to be typical North American auto-bio fare, but was pleasantly surprised. Scarred for Life is a collection of strips by various people about major events which have stuck with them. James Lloyd's piece about discovering Kurtzman and later discovering his death is one of the best auto-bio strips I've read in ages. Everything in it is perfect. I'd highly recommend it for that alone if Robin Bougie's Blind Trust wasn't also very moving. Overall this package exudes pathos without whining or feeling sorry for itself. A smart achievement. £2.20 (A5, 40pg)

## MODERN LIFE IS RUBBISH

Dave Metcalfe, king of the kitchen sink, wrote this farewell to his Northern roots which Chris Askham drew with great aplomb. A rollicking tale of slacker life, the drugs, pubs and loves of the youth of today. While the story is depressing, Dave has a good ear for dialogue and sound pacing which is helped along in spades by one of Chris's best art jobs to date, capturing the expressions perfectly. £1.00 (A5, 32pg)

## THE PLOT THICKENS

Gav Burrows writes all the strips in this anthology which allows him to vent his anarcho-syndicalist spleen with venom and much humour. Three artists do the pen-stuff: Adrian Stapleton deals with history, spinning events like the Enclosure of the Commons and the Norman invasion; Simon Gane does the music stuff, reprinting the Dorks strip from Arnie #1 plus Private Sector, the Thatcherite version of the Sex Pistols; and Pete Doree does his wonderful Infernal Gods of Electric Disaster strip attacking youth 'culture' in all its pathetic guises. Burrows has surpassed himself and neatly side-stepped the earnest furrowed brow of so much commie-pinko humour. Top! £1.50 (A5, 40pg, colour cvr)

## SLEAZE CASTLE

Terry Wiley (writer/artist) and Dave McKinnon (writer) have been chronicling their Sleaze Castle epic since 1989 and have become unlikely heroes of the small press. Sleaze Castle is ostensibly a transdimensional romp chock full of sly cultural references and physics of the quantum variety wrapped around complicated interlinking plots. BUT! If you chose not to unravel the tangles, you'll find the strength lies in the characterisation and interaction of the two main characters, Jo Dribble (dizzy media studies post-grad) and Panda Quartile (fashion

victim queen of the other-dimensional Sleaze Castle) and their large supporting cast. The whole Sleaze Castle range is in stock cos I love it and highly recommend you check it out.

### **Sleaze Castle: The Director's Cut #0**

"Featuring acting, busking, speeding, partying, fights, jealousy and pizzas!" The least difficult to get into and a top introduction to the Sleaze world, this tells of Jo's University days as Panda visits her incognito and is initiated into Earth customs. This book is heavy on the characterisation with lots of neat scenes and unless you're a hardened cynic, the whole thing will leave you with a warm glow. £6.95 (US Comic size, 136pg, printed and bound)

### **Sleaze Castle: The Director's Cut #1**

"Featuring boingy dimensions, beach picnics, more pizza, and a little thing that squeeks when you prod it!" Reprinting the first three comics this starts off a little rough in comparison to #0 and #2 but still works well to introduce that characters and shed some light on the plot. Jo is picked up from University by Panda and chums and taken off to another dimension but due to spacio-temporal dimensional physics gubbins she can't return. While the adorable Little Happy Creatures begin their quest, stuff happens... £3.49 (US Comic size, 78pg, printed and bound)

### **Sleaze Castle: The Director's Cut #2**

"Jo, Panda and the Prof try to retrieve a lamp-post from inside a pocket dimension and return to the alternate Earth through a copy of Holman Hunt's 'The Hireling Shepherd'." The plot continues with impressive inventiveness and the relationship between Jo and Panda builds and twists around the story with ease. Excellent, excellent, excellent. £3.99 (US Comic size, 78pg, printed and bound)

### **Sleaze Castle #7 & #8**

Not yet collected, the saga continues in these comics. In #7 Panda is taken ill and the problem of the rogue spaceman has to be sorted out. Jo's dreams are on overdrive and while the Little Happy Creature's quest continues Panda makes an announcement. #8 starts with a flash-back to Director's Cut #0 (or is it?) before lunging into a masquerade loosely based on Shakespeare designed to disorientate the spaceman. Showing the maturity of the creators, you don't need to know the plot to enjoy these comics, but if you do it adds layers upon layers. £2.00 each (US Comic sized, 28/32pg, printed with colour cover)

### **Surreal School Stories #1-5**

When Dave hasn't written anything for Terry to draw, he cracks on with this series set in the 70's. Jo is enrolled at an exclusive girls school with strange rules and traditions and hooks up with her bestest friend Verity whose secret society is dedicated to finding out where the naughty girls go: they don't get expelled, they just drift away. Written in Enid

Blyton/ripping-boys-yarn style with spot illustrations this is shaping up to be the perfect sister title to Sleaze Castle, often surpassing it in my view. #1 £1.00, #3 £1.20, #4 £1.40, #1-5 £5.00 (save a quid!) (A4, 20-24pg)

## New!

### **STRANGE WEATHER LATELY #2**

Metaphrog continues the life of Martin Nitram after the sell-out first issue. "He sat contented in the knowledge that nothing was certain. Disturbed he realised he couldn't even be certain of that." The paranoid neurotic Martin is working at a theatre preparing for a production of a play that has never made it to performance as life starts to imitate art. Or is he just being irrational? A mysteriously evocative comic fully painted (printed in grey). Recommended. £2.15 (US Comic, 32pg, printed with colour cover)

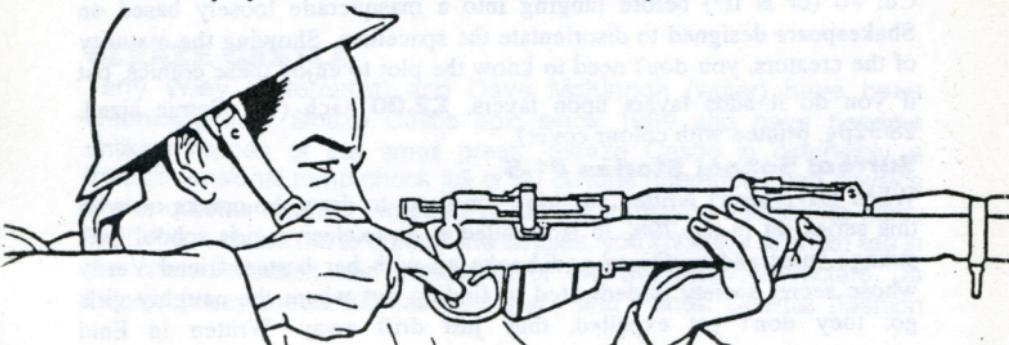


### **TOPAZ**

Obscuro ComicArt Anthology collected by Jason Lyne and featuring his bizarre Procrustes character in the lead and many budding 'toonsters from around the globe. Very trippy stuff and lots of networking info. Most recent issue £1.30 (A4, 20pg, col cvr)

### **TERRIBLE SUNRISE**

One of my best sellers this with very good feedback from everyone. Steven Martin's epic history of WWI starts with a reconstruction of the Sarajevo shooting and the social and political tremors the followed just prior to August 1914. Steven's take on the politics and society of the era is up there with Bryan Talbot's Luther Arkwright in my view. And he draws like a demon - a sound European line with impressive design. This is going to be very good. £2.00 (A4, 60pg) I have a 4pg intro to the series with commentary by Steven. Send an SAE or add it to your order.



## **MINI COMICS and CHEAP COMICS**

**All these are a quid or less. If you're ordering them with anything else on the list, then don't add postage, but if you're ordering them on their own, then please add 30p for the first five and 50p for any more (no more than 80p!)**

*New!*

### **ALCHEMIST #3**

A smart project from David Hobden printing good comic stories that might not have seen print before, and here he strikes paydirt with twenty four pages of John Miller strips, one of the most underrated and unique cartoonists on these isles. If you know John's work, then you have to buy this (no reprints as far as I can tell) and if you're not familiar, then I urge you to check it out. Gasp as skool is destroyed! Marvel at the Great Escape from church! Cheer as Frank Zappa beats up the Brain Police! And all for just 50p. Very Highly Recommended! (A4, 24pg)

**Alchemist #1&2** are also available for free on request, while stocks last. Add 20p to your order to cover postage.

*New!*

### **THE ASSASSIN AND THE WHINER #7**

First of hopefully many comics from Carrie McNinch I hope to be distributing. These are some of the most brutally honest auto-biographical comics you're likely to read from the US. Either Carrie is very up or very down and she drinks like a fish. But though she whines I can't get superior at all thanks to the honesty which quite frankly blows me away. On top of this is a beautiful art-style. Lots of black and chunky expressive lines. I just want to give her a big hug! **80p** (A5, 16pg)

### **BRUMCAB97 BOOKLET**

I still have a fair few of these left over from the BrumCAB comic convention this year. It's got strips by Hunt Emerson, Graham Higgins, Paul Rainey, Tony McGee, Terry Wiley, Dave Morris and others and it's well worth £1.00 (A4, 20pg) with proceeds going towards BrumCAB98! Write for more details of the convention and monthly comics pub meets in Birmingham.

## **THE GUEST LIST GIRLS**

Playful parody on club culture with Karen and Nicole, the obnoxiously adorable Guest List Girls. All the club stereotypes are here but Cool Cheese manages to avoid being corny with smart cartooning and a knowing smile. Bargain at £1.00 (A6, 52pg, printed, colour cover)

## **HYPNAGOGIC REVIEW**

Alexandar Zograf lived through the Yugoslavian war and kept on cartooning. In fact the horrors fed his work and gave him a mission - to contact as many other underground cartoonist around the world to highlight the plight of his country. His main passion is dreams, specifically the dream-state between sleep and waking, which he often sees in comics form. £1.00 (15x7cm, 12pg)

*New!*

## **ITSY BITSY #1**

Top value mini-comic anthology edited by Andy Konky Kru, there are two rules here. Firstly the comics must have at least 3 panels a page. Secondly the theme is size. The result is nine strips by creators around the globe including Lee Kennedy, James Kochalka, Pete Lubach, David B and Mark Horeans. All for only 50p (A7, 32pg)

## **MAAIKE'S LITTLE HOLIDAY DIARY**

Way cool mini-comic from Amsterdam with the teeniest panels you'll ever read. Lots of observational stuff with a very light-hearted approach aided wonderfully by the cute cartooning. A gem and highly recommended. £1.00 (A6, 20pg with luggage tag (!))

*New!*

## **ODETTA #4**

Possibly THE most minimalist comic going right now. No more than 2 panels a page allowed by Jeremy Lewis in this pop-art Kirby-esque cosmic thang blast. I'll let you make your own interpretation! 50p (A5, 20pg)

## **RED HANKY PANKY**

Simple and effective cartoons by Rachel House singing the praises of the bi-sex-life and entertains muchly. She's also an avid collector of cool tat which shows in her work. Smart stuff. £1.00 (A5, 36pg, red cvr)

**New!**

## **SMASHING CARS**

Mini from Peter Poole who draws in a unique style evoking a tangibly British yet never establishment atmosphere. Jeremy Clarkson's biggest fan has a crash and learns the error of his ways in a Scrooge-style redemption voyage. (10x10cm, 24pg) 50p



## **MISSIVE DEVICES**

Pete Pavement of Slab-O-Concrete publications devised this innovative twist on the mini-comic last year. It's a 16 page A6 comic with sealable flaps so you can post it. Buy comic, read comic, write message in comic, send comic, buy comic. Simple! And in colour too! Like good mini-comics they're an inexpensive way of checking out people's work before committing to buy more of their work. Currently I've got seven in stock with more to follow. See Mini's above for postage rates.

## **BAD HAIR DAY**

Craig Conlan's Hairy Mairy character has big hair with personality, literally. An accident with Beer Shampoo leads to trouble as the hair starts shagging cats and wigs. Cutie-pie fun. £1.00

## **BUNNY GIRL AND PIG BOY IN BLISS?**

Big 24 pages of Nigel Auchterlounie, one of my fave cartoonists at the mo'. He maximizes the Missive Device structure giving great value with the satire of the battle of the sexes. I can't be impartial here - I URGE you to check this out! £1.00

## **HAIRY MARY**

"Craig Conlan describes his work as 'bubblegum drag manga' and likes drawing robots, monsters, big hair, gorillas and girls with big eyes and small noses." More from the Bad Hair Day geezer. £1.00

## **HELLO PUSSY**

Behind a fetish 'Hello Kitty' cover we find the tragic tale of Kitty Lips - robot with a Monroe complex who just wants to be a woman. Hairy Mary comes to the rescue. Conlan again! £1.00

## **MR & MRS BEAUVINE & CALFS**

Curious tale from Lorna Miller about a dysfunctional family of cows. Mr's Beauvine gives birth to another mutant child. £1.00

## **SKELETON KEY**

Andi Watson's Skeleton Key is one of the British success stories from American publishers Slave Labour, but he hasn't forgotten his roots. Kitty tickles fish while Tamsin tries to study. A spot-on character piece which fits the feel of the SK series perfectly while standing alone. Highly recommended. £1.00

## **U-BOAT COMMAND IN TORPEDO... LOS!**

An all-girl U-Boat crew are shipwrecked on a dinosaur infested desert island. Chris Hogg delivers the goods with panache. Highly recommended. £1.00

## **COMIC STRIP ANTHOLOGIES**

**Lots of different people under one cover, these are a good way of discovering the delights of the comics underground in one fell swoop.**

### **CRISP!**

crisp! was a London exhibition last summer showcasing single pages of comic art on bus shelters and in galleries around the capital. This catalogue has all 58 exhibition pieces from a range of contemporary cartoonists from the UK and abroad, with handy contact addresses in the back. A good introduction to the current scene for a dirt cheap £2.00 (A4, 68pg, bound, glossy cover) with proceeds going to the Cartoon Art Trust.

### **SUPERSTATE FUNNIES**

The annual small-press/underground comics convention, Caption97, had a European theme last year and managed to get Arts Council funding for this anthology of work from around Europe. While half the contributors are from the UK, there's work from The Netherlands, France, Slovenia, Finland, Serbia, Norway, Belgium and Switzerland. Top stuff! £4.00 (A4, 80pg, bound, glossy colour cover)

## **TOP SHELF**

US indie comics anthology which draws parallels to Scenes From The Inside and Drawn & Quarterly showcasing some of the best mini-comics creators from the States. The fourth issue was unofficially banned by Diamond distribution and the fifth issue is about to gain critical acclaim. I have the first three issues in stock. Top Shelf #1 has work by Gheena, James Kochalka, Kris Stacks, Steven Ryan, Tom Hart, Wayne Shellabarger, Ulan Zahajkewycz, Rick Pinchera & Josue Menjivar. Top Shelf #2 features Gheena, Gavin McInnes, Steve Weissman, David Fremont, Gabby Gamboq, Drew Curtis, Kris Stacks & John Porcellino. Top Shelf #3 stars Jeff Johnson, Wayne Shellabarger, Ivo Vercara, James Kochalka, Mitch O'Connell, Rick Pinchera, Josue Menjivar, Fly & Mike Macropoulos. £3.25 each, or all three for £9.00 (A5, 40pg, printed w/colour cover)

## **SCENES FROM THE INSIDE**

Bristol based anthology that dredges the underground and picks out the nuggets of gold it finds, presenting them for you in what some might term a neo-techno-pagan-boy package of extreme slickness. Scenes works by showcasing some of the top underground talents next to bringing to light new folk and never shying from full-on experimentalism.

### **Scenes From The Inside #7**

"Potato motorboat simulation for the culturally boomeranged!" 150 square bound pages with a cover to die for. Forty contributors including (my faves here) Luke Walsh, Denny Derbyshire, James Kochalka, Steve Weissman, Ed Pinsent, Andi Watson, Phil Elliot, Glenn Dakin, Chris Frazer, the list goes on and on. Best approached with an open mind to produce wonderful results mind-fuck wise. £5.00 (A4, 150pg, square bound w/colour cover)

### **Scenes From The Inside #4, #5 & #6**

"Laptop Literature", "Generic Engineering", "Neurodisney". More of the same in smaller packages. Satellite editions to float around the mothership. Trace the evolution of the Scenes and settle back to an enjoyable read in the process. Available individually or as a bargain-value-booster-pack. £2.75 each, £6.50 the lot (save £1.75!) (A4, 64pg, colour cvr, with inserts)



# **S L I P S T R E A M**

**No comics here. What follows is a very small selection of some of the wonderful underground things that pass my way. This section will expand in future. Like unexplainable groovy, y'know?**

## **CARRY ON SABBING**

Underground music anthology tape with full contact details featuring bands including Oi Polloi, Urin-8, Bob Tilton, J Church, Dr Bison, Wat Tyler and ten more. If you want to hear more, there's a contact lyric sheet. Interested in getting into the musical equivalent of small press comics? This could be your link. All proceeds to support hunt sabs. £2.50 (90 minute cassette)

**New!**

## **THE INFORMATION #1**

"Where unknown forces strike the edge of ecology!" Ecological action news gathering service involving cartoonist Peter Poole who provides the cover and spot illos. Also contains conspiracy stuff surrounding space travel and UFOs. Crammed full of info and generally well written without the usual OTT hyperness. £1.00 (A5, 16pg)

## **SCHWA**

Over the last few years Bill Barker's SCHWA project has exploded onto the global consciousness that it's beyond credulity to think he actually came up with it himself, but apparently he did. You've seen the face but you probably don't really know what it's all about. Well... SCHWA "isn't about the aliens - it's about the humans. Those who await the aliens, those who hate the alien, those who serve the alien, those who study them, and those who are them. The chunk of flying skull off JFK's head is the same shape as the saucers. The saucers wait for you to enter the churchbank for them. Their archetypal symbol enters your orgasm. There is no escape because they are BIGGER THAN YOU and that is why YOU MUST LOVE THEM." Taken from the SCHWA book postscript by Rev. Ivan Stang. The SCHWA Pack has the book (18x22cm, 80pg) full of Barker's illustrations and a cornucopia of stickers and cards to protect yourself. It

costs £10.00. The SCHWA Sticker Pack has the cornucopia but no book. It costs £4.50. Don't be fooled by impostors at the churchbank, this is the real thing!

## **PARANOIA #16**

The best magazine I've found on conspiracy theories is thorough and skeptical in approach - a refreshing change from the X-Files inspired drek currently giving conspiracy buffs a bad name (now how's that for a conspiracy!). This issue has stuff about porn-meister Larry Flint, Yitzhak Rabin, TWA800, Gulf War Syndrome, Satanism, The Illuminati, Knights Templar and more, plus a fascinatingly disturbing 'rant' reprinted from the Christian Anti-Communist Crusade Newsletter, comparing sodomists with communists. £3.50 (A4, 60pg, printed)

## **PHOUND PHOTOS**

Curious collection of photographs found in various places around the world and collected by Australian zinesters Woozy. From the inane to the bizarre, the stories behind the pics are yours to make up! £5.00 (A4, 68pg, printed in single colours on card stock and bound)

*New!*

## **RUBBER WHAMMY #4**

Ostensibly a rubber stamp catalogue for Xtina Lamb's service, this has a dual purpose. Lots of cool clip art for a start accompanied by little pieces on religion, kitschy cut-ups from old adverts, zine reviews and more. Much more than just a mere catalogue! 50p (15x8cm, 44pg)

## **SKIROCORE**

If you think you know radical underground you don't know shit 'til you've seen SKIROCORE. From Slovenia, this "underground magazine for art and music" makes the best of a bad situation (the war in former Yugoslavia didn't help the arts much...), interviewing punk/hardcore bands from around the world and showcasing some of the most extreme comic art I've seen in a long while. Definitely not for the faint hearted, morally pure or narrow minded. These contain material that may well offend so I need an age statement to keep my ass out of court! #7 (A4, bound, 64pg) is £5.00 and #8 (A4, glossy cover, 64pg) is £4.50 **Note new lower price!**

Cartoonists featured in **Skirocore** include Mary Fleener, Simon Gane, Marcel Ruijters and Mike Diana interviewed in #7 plus many more

curious pen-sters. Then in #8 we have the gorgeous Chris Crielaard, for whom the term "pushing the envelope" was coined, plus Aleksander Zograf, Ruijters, Mladen Oljaca and many others (18 in total) you probably won't have heard of! I'd recommend #8 for starters for the Crielaard strips.

### **TOWARDS 2012 part iii: Culture and Language**

This on-going project from the Unlimited Dream Company "pulls together some of the most original and provocative insights into the chaotic transformations of human culture. Here you will discover... the shamanic implications of sampling technology; new research into menstruation's role in the origins of culture; analysis, documentation and celebration of DIY subcultures by grassroots activists and writers; an astrologikal look at the evolution of mass communication and autonomous media creation; the links between aboriginal teaching systems and global electronic information networks; and much much more." Strikes me as a British version of the excellent ReSearch titles with a cyber-new age twist. £5.00 (A4, 100pg, printed & bound with colour cover, like a proper book!)

## **MAGS AND ZINES**

**Some to do with comics, some not to do with comics. See also the Slipstream section.**

*New!*

### **BEER ZINE**

While not whining, Carrie McNinch (see Assassin and Whiner) is writing to cartoonists and zinesters around the world and spreading the good word. In this she has collected drinking stories, some in strip form, some in a few paragraphs. Being creative types there are mercifully few dickhead tales here but, as you'd expect, little enlightenment either. A fun package £1.60 (A5, 52pg)

*New!*

### **FRENCH SMALL PRESS GUIDE**

An indispensable guide to what's going on over the channel from Jean-Paul Jennequin. As well as a detailed list of many small press titles there's a nice objective overview of the current scene, explaining terms and

differences between their comix culture and ours. All sumptuously illustrated with full pages of comic art. Nice one JP! £2.00 (A5, 44pg)

## **GIRLFRENZY #6**

All female anthology of comics and writing throws up some curiosities: interviews with cartoonists (Jeremy Dennis, Cool Cheese, Annie Lawson), strips by Lee Kennedy, Christina Lamb, Maaike Hartjes and others and articles on a feminist/grrl tip. "Articles, Strips and No Makeup Tips!" £1.80 (A4, 36pg, printed)

## **GRAPHIC REVIEWS #1**

Andy Konky Kru's innovative idea of getting cartoonists to review other cartoonists in comic form comes to realisation at last. Sounds complicated but it ain't really. Each page has a sample full page from the item under review next to a comic strip talking about the sample. It works on many levels. At the most basic you get an anthology of groovy comics by some very respectable creators, but there's also the interesting way creative types react to their contemporaries work (as opposed to frustrated critics). Dave Morris, Andy Roberts, Jim Cameron, Ralph Kidson, Mooncat, Lee Kennedy, Colin Brown, Andy Brewer, James Kochalka, Garen Ewing, Clive Scruton, Jean-Philippe Peyraud, Simon Gane, Terry Wiley and Pat Moriarty all contribute. £1.50 (A4, 32pg)

*New!*

## **INTER-SECTION #1 & #2**

A welcome addition to the ever fluctuating arena of UK comics zines. From Chris (Jack Kirby Quarterly) Harper InSect tries to cross all genre boundaries and prejudices in comics while still holding a firm editorial line. It look promising and deserves your support. Issue #1 articles on bondage artist Eric Stanton by Jeremy Lewis, the state of the industry by the ubiquitous Fabio Barbieri, Flemish artist Willy Vandersteen by Mike Kidson, plus more and many reviews. Issue #2 has possibly the best written piece I've seen from Fabio on why comics ain't dead and Mr Kidon telling why William Hogarth is bloomin great, plus loads more and a good lettercol. A sound start and only £1.00 each. Highly recommended (A5, 32pg)

## **STRANDS #1**

My attempt at doing a Zum! early last year has shed-loads of small press comics under review ranging from pithy paragraphs to full-blown essays. A lot of it is written by m'self with contributions from Rik Hoskin, Gav Burrows, Andy Konky Kru, Mike Kidson and Darren Powell amongst others. Comics International gave it 9/10 and it keeps selling out (now in 4th printing goshdarnit!) despite (or perhaps because of) the tiny type and cut'n'paste layout. £1.50 (A4, 32pg)

## **STRANDS #2**

My personal zine which mutates with each issue. Not just complete strips by Andi Watson (of Skeleton Key fame) and Sam Learmouth, but also in-depth reviews of Dirty Plotte, Kane, The Maxx, Meng & Ecker, Optic Nerve, Paradise Sucks, and many more, as they say, comprehensively illustrated throughout. Only £1.00 (A4, 24pg)

## **T.R.S. - THE REVIEW SHEET**

My Faustian pact with the small press. In return for getting sent loads of interesting and sometimes downright worrying comics and zines in the post I will review all of them and make 500+ copies of said reviews, sending them around the country and the world. It's working so far, so if you want a copy of the latest TRS, send an SAE, if you do a zine, send me a copy, and if you're happy to help distribute 30 or so copies or make copies yourself, get in touch! Free w/SAE or order (A5, 2-8pg)

*New!*

## **T.R.S. VOLUME 2 - The Complete 1997 Listings**

Every title reviewed in 1997 by me. more than 23 thousand words of reviews with around 200 titles under examination. All this crammed into 24 pages of tiny type. You can't go wrong for an overview of the small press scene that passed through my letterbox in 1997. 70p (half A4, 24pg)

**You can ensure you never miss a  
TRS by sending me a few SAEs and  
I'll post them to you as soon as  
they're done. Do it now!**

## **VICIOUS COMICS DISCUSSION FANZINE**

Between 1995-7 I found myself running a discussion fanzine that, along with TRS, is responsible for putting me where I am today, and I owe it all to the contributors. Vicious is an open-forum zine where anything sent in is printed. Obviously this abandonment of editorial control lead to a wide range contributions of varying quality, but did throw up some wonderful gems. But as the zine exploded it took its toll and this last year I handed it over to Jez Higgins and Matthew Lawrenson, who have also found it a chore. The final issue will be out soon (which we've been saying for the last six months!) before it converts into an APA, and I'm holding back issues here. Due to a reprint cock-up I've got too many of #1 to #4, so they're dirt cheap. The rest are cover price. #1 £1 (A5, 48pg), #2 £1 (A4, 48pg), #3 £1 (A4, 56pg), #4 £1 (A4, 36pg), #5 £2.95 (A4, 64pg), #6 £2.50 (A4, 48pg), #7 £2.50 due soon! *Quote: "If you want the true voice of fandom, a platform for anybody to write about anything related to comics, this is it. A thoroughly enjoyable read. (9/10)" Comics International.*

## **ZUM! #10**

The grandaddy of comics review zines still packs a punch despite being a yearly overview of small press activity. It's main appeal is in the critical thoroughness of the reviews which tend not to pull any punches. It can be rather daunting at first glance, but reading through the hundreds of reviews will give you a good feel of what's going on in small press comics in this country, while going some way to forming a critical language for comicdom. £3.50 (A4 w/spine & glossy cover, 68pg)

## **FREE STUFF!**

Over the years I've gathered together hundreds of small press comics and zines and decided it's time for a clear out. Because a lot of them were sent to me for free I don't feel I can justifiably sell them, so I'm giving them away for free! Now, be warned there is a fair bit of crap in this lot but when sorting them out I'll try and ensure a few gems go in, especially for BDP customers. The highest limit for 2nd class post is 750g at £1.55 which gets you about 150 sheets of A4 paper. If you want to specify a genre (underground, superhero, autobio, etc) or two then feel free and I'll try and accomodate. Stamps or a cheque for multiples of £1.55 to the usual address!

## **Ordering stuff**

Simplicity itself, kinda... Postage is included in the price unless otherwise stated. Mini-comics are the main stumbling block. Basically, if you're ordering a lot of big things, then minis are post free. If you're ordering just minis then add 30p for the first five, then 50p for any more than five, up to a max of 80p. All other postal anomalies are with the respective prices. PLEASE MAKE CHEQUES PAYABLE TO PETE ASHTON. That's me. I run this thing. Then send them to BDP, GUILD BOX 123, EDGBASTON PARK RD, BIRMINGHAM, B15 2TU. I've been pretty prompt at replying so far, but if you hear nothing within 3 weeks, get in touch. I try to keep most things in stock but may run out. You can list alternatives or I can send you a cheque back. If you want to phone to check on anything, feel free on 0121 414 0514, but be aware that I do keep very odd hours these days!

From Abroad: I haven't worked out overseas rates yet so please contact me before sending any monies. Do this by post (with an IRC), fax (+44121 4155588) or email ([pca522@bham.ac.uk](mailto:pca522@bham.ac.uk)). Let me know which titles you want, how you want them sent (air or surface) and I'll let you know how much. As I'm trying to get more foreign stuff in the catalogue, I'm open to reasonable trades to cut down on money transactions.

**This catalogue is valid until Easter 1997,  
with an update around February/March.  
Write to me for #6. Customers go on the  
list and get it free.**