



BY SARAH JACOBSON

UNDERGROUND

If you haven't noticed, there's a

great scene of underground films that are being made and shown around the country. My punk friends, who used to collect records, now collect underground videos. There's a lot of hype about independent film, but it's mostly Industry, Jr. bullshit with the occasional true low budget film thrown in for credibility (sound familiar music fans?). Some of this stuff is too cool to pass by without being written about, so here it is.

First, I'd like to start with some cool indie features that I've seen lately that have only gotten limited distribution or no distribution at all. Check these out if you see them playing at festivals, at the local arthouse theater or at the cool video store. First off, is *The Delicate Art of the Rifle* which is a twisty, meandering retelling of the Charles Whitman (guy from the roof of the University of Texas in 1967) shooting from the viewpoint of his geeky roommate. The story goes off on a million tangents, only to be brought back together in a brilliant conclusion. I don't think I've ever seen a film like this. It's made by the Cambrai Liberation Collective from North Carolina and has been playing the festivals for the last year. If it doesn't get established distribution, the CLC will get the film out themselves, so keep your eyes open for it.

Then there's the fantastic looking *Toast of the Gods*, a modern day version of the *Odyssey* but it takes place in Seattle and the characters are strippers and drug dealers instead of Gods and Goddesses. The parallels to the original story are so inventive that it makes you want to read (or reread) *The Odyssey* just because New York filmmakers Eric Magun and Latino Pellegrini did such a good job. Featuring a small scene with Seven Year Bitch.

A Gun for Jennifer is the story of a girl who moves to New York and gets caught up with a gang of rapist-killing strippers after they save her from being attacked. Actually, they make Jennifer kill the guy herself in this gritty, dark, feminism-dosed-with-a-reality-check tale. It was made by Todd Morris and Deborah Twiss, who wrote the film after a bad night of stripping and got the money from one of her customers.

Peter Hall's *Delinquent* is a great study of a bored teenage boy who lives in a trailer park with his asshole cop Dad whose fantasy world dangerously intersects with reality. There's a great score by Gang of Four and the film is thoughtful and realistic, not some girl-on-your-arm, motorcycle riding wet dream like the title suggests. The kid's performance is so natural; he draws you back to when you were young, bored, restless, and striving to control your own life.

I recently saw *The Year of My Japanese Cousin* by Maria Gargiulo. It's an interesting film, but I didn't do backflips for it or anything. I saw it with some of my girlfriends who are in bands and they loved it. For them it was totally realistic, so maybe you might like it too. It stars Janis Tanaka from the band Stone Fox and Selene Vigil from Seven Year Bitch, who puts in a really sparkling performance. It's about this girl's Japanese cousin who comes and visits her in Seattle and everyone thinks the cousin is cooler than the girl. It's got some great girl-perspective moments.

Get Over It by Nick Katsapetses is a black and white film shot for \$9,000 about a guy who gets dumped by his boyfriend and can't get over it. It's shot very interestingly and the dialogue is hilarious. The film has great characters that are typical but not cliché: the obnoxious fag hag, the closeted straight guy, the