

Bambi: Introducing the female Banksy

PHILIP BOUCHER, FRIDAY 12 APRIL 2013

Film/Lost legends are back in the reel world

By **TIM WALKER**

Warner Bros celebrates its 90th anniversary this month with an exhibition of items from its best known titles at its studio lot in LA. As Mastering Vice-President, it is Ned Price's job to maintain the archive.

"You'll never have to worry about losing *Gone with the Wind*," he says. "We have more back-up copies than you can imagine. But it's the lesser-known lost films that are on my mind."

Many original nitrate prints were destroyed by fires during cinema's first century. More than 70 per cent of silent-era films are considered lost to history.

Price believes they can be found. He recently recovered negatives of two Warner Bros films dating to 1929, featuring silent star Colleen Moore, whose career is largely forgotten, because most of her films are no longer thought to exist.

Synthetic Sin and *Why Be Good?* were discovered in a private archive in Milan, but will now take up residence in the Warner Bros vault at Burbank, which contains 675,000 reels, remains at 3.3 degrees Celsius and is built to withstand an earthquake.

After all, says Price, "the films are Warner Bros' assets. In a way, they are Warner Bros."



Visual arts/Introducing the female Banksy

By **PHILIP BOUCHER**

In the world of street art, Bambi has it all: critical acclaim, celebrity clients ranging from Brad Pitt to Adele, and a stencil of Amy Winehouse on the street in Camden that's considered to be so culturally important, it is now preserved under a fine layer of plastic. She has achieved this by projecting a distinctly female voice into the male-dominated world of urban etchings.

"Most people like her work because it is through a woman's eyes, so it comes out a little bit differently from other street art," explains Michael Sakhal, director of London's Walton Fine Arts and sole agent for Bambi originals.

Each piece mixes subtle cultural messages with a hint of whimsy. In *I Wish* (above) a small girl asks Santa for "an end to world hunger, poverty, animal cruelty and a set of Little Mix dolls". In a portrait of Kate Middleton, *Foreseeable Reign*, Britain's future Queen is pictured holding a parasol.

In the new exhibition *When Banksy Met Bambi*, her works are being displayed alongside those of the street-art superstar for the first time.

"However much you hear from hardcore Banksy collectors about her being a copycat, it is something new and extremely different," says Sakhal. "Banksy is more 90s. It is a very different era: hardcore political - real street art on the cutting edge. With Bambi it is a fusion of pop and street."

When Banksy Met Bambi, Walton Fine Arts, London, SW3, until 30 April

Pop/A radical new sound from Rhys

By **CHRIS MUGAN**

Neon Neon, the side project of Super Furry Animals' Gruff Rhys (below) and dance producer Boom Bip, is back, this time with an album about Giangiaco Feltrinelli, Italian publisher of *Time* magazine, *Leopard* and supposed leftwing terrorist. Rhys came across Feltrinelli when he was given a biography of the maverick entrepreneur.

In the Fifties, the scion of a wealthy family helped to smuggle *Dr Zhivago* out of the USSR before publishing Lampedusa's *Leopardo*. Before that, Feltrinelli fought the Nazis and Mussolini's forces as a Communist. He met Fidel Castro, whose works he also put out. In 1972, as the founder of a militant far-left group, he was found dead, killed by explosives he appeared to be planting. Suspicions that his death involved the Italian security services remain to this day.

For Rhys, Feltrinelli is a man of contradictions. "He was a Communist, but also a market genius and master retailer," he explains. "His legacy is as a publisher, a conduit for other people's ideas and his belief that radical and difficult texts could be taken to the masses."

Rhys and Boom Bip first came together as Neon Neon for 2001's Mercury Prize-nominated album

Stainless Steel, which focused on the rise and fall of Joe DeLorean, the businessman behind the titular sports car that tanked commercially yet enjoyed a legendary role in *Back to the Future*.

The follow-up record, *Praxis Makes Perfect*, turns the pair's gaze on to a character from a very different relationship to capitalism. 'Praxis Makes Perfect' is out on April on Lex Records.



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