

FILM&VIDEO

FOTA screens Tarkovsky

FOTA (*Friends Of The Archives*, as in Southwest Film/Video Archives at SMU) is hosting what must be anticipated as an interesting evening of film on Saturday, September 22, when they screen Andrei Tarkovsky's science fiction film *Solaris*, based on a Stanislaw Lem novel. Tarkovsky, formerly a Soviet filmmaker and now living in Italy, has been acclaimed for, as *A History of Film* puts it, "escaping the dictates of socialist realism and expressing a strong personal vision through structures and styles more closely resembling those of other contemporary filmmakers in Western Europe."

FOTA is an organization dedicated to finding, restoring, and preserving nitrate films now slowly dissolving into explosive dust. If you're at all dedicated to film, it's about time you became a member of FOTA. It's only \$35 (\$50 per couple) and well worth it. Call the Center for Communication Arts at SMU for more information.

Screening time for Tarkovsky's film is 8 p.m. in the Bob Hope Theatre. It's open to members only, so show up and join.

Computer art "performance game" at North Texas State

The hottest computer game on the NTSU campus this fall won't be played in the Student Union or a nearby video game parlor. It will be found in the Intermedia Theater of the NTSU School of Music, where, through a grant from the Inter-Arts Program of the National Endowment for the Arts, six artists with an interest in computers and a computer programmer with an interest in the arts will combine talents to present two unusual evenings of sound, sight, dance, mime, and theater.

The performances, at 8:15 p.m. October 1 and 2, are entitled *The Cybernetics Arts Project 1984*, a collaborative 100-minute computer art performance with five artists as performers. For more information on how the game works, contact Pat Colonna at (817) 565-2108. The performances are free and open to the public.

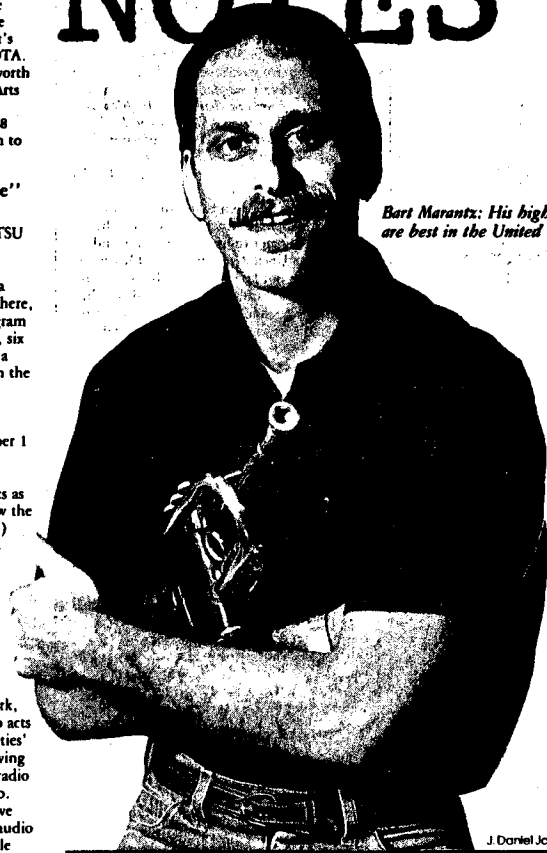
MUSIC

KISS my grits

In thriving musical cities like New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, and Austin, radio acts as one of the great promoters of those cities' local music scenes. In cities without thriving musical scenes, for instance Dallas, the radio medium is generally ineffective and drab. And Dallas radio seems to take ineffective and drab a few steps further. The local audio broadcasting medium, with a few notable exceptions, is ineffective, drab, unexciting, uninviting, slightly terrible, and often rude. And it just got worse.

KEGL-FM 97.1, which only two years ago had the most exciting and groundbreaking format around (called *Rock of the '80s*, the Eagle's format featured a steady dose of new rock from artists such as Elvis Costello, the Clash, Trio, the Psychedelic Furs, and Romeo Void), has gone Top 40. Bleah. KEGL isn't calling it Top 40, of course. The station has chosen to use the old programming-cloaking-device trick and call it a "CHR/personality" format (CHR stands for contemporary hit radio), which is long on playing the hottest rock and roll songs of the moment over and over. More Michael Jackson, more Prince, more Journey, more advertising sales. KAFM-

NOTES



Bart Marantz: His high school jazzers are best in the United States

J Daniel Jones photo

FM 92.5 has taken that basic format and turned it into a winner, which is the real reason KEGL has shifted its focus, however slight that shift in focus might seem. KAFM has gotten results with the CHR format, but until this month the station has worked in a near-monopoly situation. KEGL is attempting to challenge KAFM and the other front-runner in the adult contemporary market, KVIL-FM 103.7, for some of that broadcasting superiority. After all, the radio medium dictates keeping up with the Joneses or else losing face and—far worse—losing ratings, which is merely another way of saying losing a great deal of money.

Luckily for everyone involved, radio people who lose face and/or ratings don't commit

hari-kari. American radio general managers are civilized people, albeit slightly cutthroat. No, what we do in America when faced with low ratings is sell and sell fast. That's what Hicks Broadcasting did with KIXX-FM 106.1. KIXX, which utilized the classic hit radio format and mixed '60s-style rock with some of today's sounds, never managed to capture an audience in Dallas. Thus, it was sold to ABC Broadcasting (yes, *that* ABC) and on September 10 ABC switched the station's format to, you guessed it, CHR. The official call letters are now KTKS, but on the air and

for promotional purposes, the station calls itself KISS-FM. Kind of makes you want to gag, doesn't it?

The only bright spot to all of this computerized formatting nonsense is that there is a limited audience out there. How many CHR/Top 40 stations can Dallas take? How much of the same old thing can be sold before the marketplace collapses on somebody? Well, that's what all of this fuss is about. The recent format changes by KEGL and KISS can be viewed as attempts by those two stations not only to catch up to KAFM and KVIL, but to overtake them. As KISS general manager John Hare says, "I don't think we'll all survive."

Now there's a hope. Not to wish anyone ill in their chosen profession, but two more CHR/Top 40 stations in Dallas is two more too many by almost *anyone's* standards of audio decency.

Prep jazzers score big

The top high school jazz band and combo in the United States is right here in Dallas. The National Association of Jazz Educators picked the Arts Magnet High School at Booker T. Washington schools as the best performers after the high schoolers entered last June with a record not yet released for sale. When the NAJE holds its annual convention in Dallas at the AmFac Hotel in January, the Arts Magnet lab band and the combo will be featured in concerts at the convention with a nationally recognized jazz artist to be named at a later date. Both the local jazz groups are directed by jazz studies teacher Bart Marantz. It's not the first time the jazz program under Marantz's direction has won national recognition. Earlier this year, *downbeat* magazine selected Booker T.'s Joe Jackson, trombonist, as outstanding soloist in the '84 Student Music Awards.

Meadows selects Rostropovich

Mstislav Rostropovich, music director of the National Symphony and internationally-known cellist, has been selected to receive the fourth Meadows Award for Excellence in the Arts. The Russian musician will be in residence next fall, on October 6 and 7, 1985, for corollary activities with the SMU and Dallas communities.

MISCELLANY

Memory lane for the Bath House

Do you remember the Bath House at White Rock Lake before it was the Bath House Cultural Center? If so, the Bath House Advisory Council would like to talk to you about it. They're seeking historic memorabilia from Dallas area residents for an upcoming photography exhibit and oral history project. Scheduled for November 10-30 at the arts center, the exhibit will survey the Bath House's evolution from a focal point for a popular swimming hole in the '30s to its current status as the first neighborhood cultural center in Dallas. The council is searching for old photographs of the Bath House and the lake itself, and is also compiling reminiscences and stories about family outings, boat rides, picnics, reunions, etc. held at the Bath House over the years. For more information contact Jayne Hickey, Bath House manager, at 328-8427.

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