

Tank Girl

Opening soon at a cinema near you this Spring the multi-million dollar screen adaptation of Tank Girl. Hasi takes a look and comes over all surly.

Forget pastel suits and high heels, we're talking about tough grunge girls, thanks to Tank Girl. We're going to be short on sophis and big on hard-core as a Hollywood big screen adaptation of the British cult comic, Tank Girl, hits screens at cinemas near you.

Tank Girl has the kind of cheeky attitude that girls at school had who smoked behind the bike shed and hung upside down on the climbing frame so that the boys could see their knickers. She is a St Trinians school girl with all the cheeky appeal of Betty Boop rolled into one.

Tank Girl was created by Jamie Hewlett and Alan Worthing some seven years ago because they were bored with the conventional characters in comics and fed-up with seeing girlies take a cutside back seat. The result is a girl more epitomises a Loaded reading lad than the kind of girl you'd take home to your mum.

In her short existence Tank Girl has done some pretty shocking



things including splatting some totally stupid Ninjas and dropping a big smelly one in none other than Jack Kerouac's automobile. Not surprising that her friends are pretty wild to - including Sub Girl, soft toy Camp Koala who basically doesn't know which way he swings, not to mention her kangaroo boyfriend who, as you might expect, has the patience of Mother Theresa. But despite all their craziness you can bet they have to take turns doing the washing up and making the usual chore-ridden trip down to the supermarket. Yep, Tank Girl might be able to put the boot in big time, but she is also pretty nifty at manoeuvring a trolley down Safeways.

She doesn't sound like the kind of character the Americans would like. After all they get their female fixes from the likes of Sharon Stone and Julia Roberts. But apparently they've taken this bower girl to their hearts and their are wannabes sprouting up all over the place and the T-shirts are selling faster than condoms in a whore house.

Somewhat surprisingly, and with every thanks to her originators, Tank Girl has not been turned into an all American cheesecake queen. The movie is as near to the comic strip as you could get, given that it's had Hollywood big bucks poured into it. It looks fabulous



and make the most of the big glam sets and stunning special effects that having a big movie mogul behind you can buy. Of course some things had to give, like the drug taking and swearing, to ensure that its a box office hit. Despite a heavy plot the movie has managed to keep Tank Girl's what the hell attitude and includes some great Busby Berkley song and



dance routines. One of the funniest has to be ICE-T, quite bizarrely dressed as a kangaroo, coming out with the cookie line ain't going to be no crumpets and tea. A huge tap on the back for its look



also has to go to stylist Arianne Phillips who comes with great credentials - she is responsible for Lenny Kravitz look. Apparently everyone was up for playing Tank Girl if the rumours around tinsel town are true - even Madonna was up for it. But the part went to Lori Petty, a wired lady

from Los Angeles with a voice like Minnie Mouse on acid. Her past movies include playing Geena Davis' sister in A League Of Their Own and more recently in the kids movie Free Willy, if you don't already know was a whale. Not really the CV for playing Tank Girl you might think, but she pulls off the role brilliantly with her spiky black girl and looks could kill beady blue eyes.

The role, however, didn't fall into Lori's lap. Yes there is a tale as you'd expect from any Hollywood studio. Apparently our very own Emily up ya bum Lloyd got the role, but she refused to have her golden locks cut for the movie. Crazy you might think, but apparently its absolutely true. So exit Lloyd, enter Petty.

Who would ever think that a lager swilling, foul mouthed feminist who shags kangaroos would ever be up there with the big hair Hollywood babes. Well she is, so burn your Wonderbras, get ya Docs on and get the beers in, this could be a summer to remember. That sifit doesn't rain, your parents don't keep you in, the BBC keeps up its policy of screening some cool repeats.....

Tank Girl hits the UK in late May. The sound track is available on Elektra and features another not to be toyed with babe, Bjork.

Captain Pugwash

In the second of our 70 s cartoon classic series we deconstruct the English cartoon series Captain Pugwash

Captain Pugwash was created well over forty years ago by John Ryan. Since then his adventures have featured in a large number of lavishly illustrated books and exceptionally poor animation. Despite Captain Pugwash's high profile there are a number of questions which remain unanswered. Colin Hamilton looks at the enigma that is Captain Pugwash.

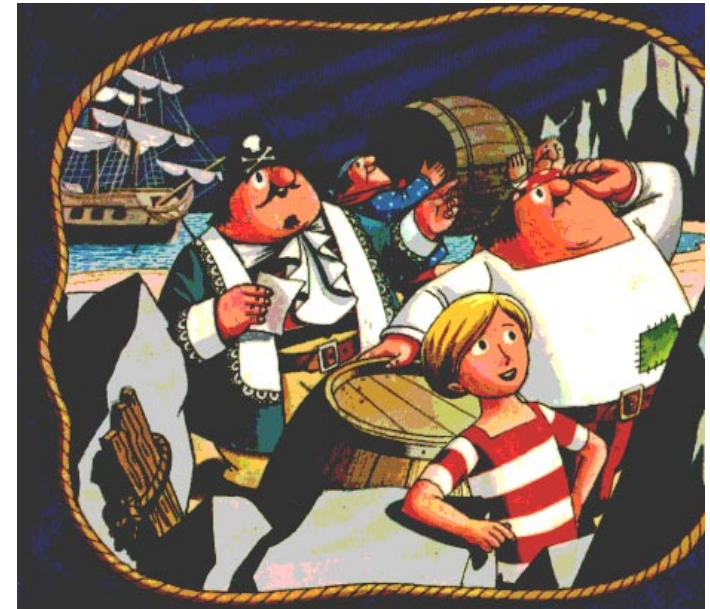


Captain Pugwash.

Captain Pugwash was the leader of the crew of the Black Pig. Despite the fact that he was only in charge of four people this position was well beyond his talents. He appeared to be far too naive to be a captain and far too reasonable to be a pirate. So how did he get the job? There are two theories to consider. One was that the title was hereditary and had been passed down to him from his father. The second is that he was rebelling against his middle class upbringing in much the same way that teenagers of today dye their hair green or buy Levellers records. Given that he was rather well spoken for a pirate this does seem to be the more likely scenario.

Tom the Cabin Boy

Tom, with his good looks and naturally blond hair, was the real hero on the ship. Despite his lowly title, his quick thinking often saved the rest of the crew from suffering the loss of the Black Pig or worse. So,



why did he take the back seat when the crew's survival often depended on him?

The Rest Of His Crew

There were three other crew members, Willie, Barnabus and the mate, who was often referred to as master mate. They were a collection of pirates who were dimmer than Pugwash and they consequently obeyed orders without question. As they were good pirates (if such a concept exists) they were clean shaven apart from token moustaches. Captain Pugwash, who (in theory) had a more aggressive role, had an extra patch of hair under his lower lip.





Cut Throat Jake

As his name may suggest Jake was a nasty piece of work. He had a proliferating mop of hair, a huge beard and the obligatory eye patch. Most of his time seemed to be spent hassling Captain Pugwash and his men despite the fact they never seemed to have anything of value that could be taken. His crew were bad pirates, consequently had facial hair. Obviously they didn't have as much as their leader, but it was clear that they did not care too much about their collective personal appearance. They looked rather like George Michael did in his initial post Wham days, though George was doing it because he had a point to make and he didn't want to dye his hair or buy Levellers records.

The Black Pig

How Captain Pugwash managed to purchase a ship when he could barely make ends meet is another mystery. Considering that his occupation was pirating he sel-

dom seemed to pillage anything or plunder from anybody. All his men looked well fed if not grossly overweight. There must have been another source of income. The assumption must be that his father had a good life insurance policy which had given Pugwash a lump sum to buy the ship and have enough left for a reasonable income each month.

The Plot

The plot was fairly straight forward. Each week Cut Throat Jake would attempt to capture the Black Pig from Pugwash. He did this despite the fact he had a better ship than Pugwash and, with a crew of just two, would have found it to difficult to maintain one vessel let alone two. Captain Pugwash would fall into whatever simple trap Jake had laid and all would look doomed. Tom, however, was a little brighter than Jake and would save his companions from their wicked unshaven foes. He would do this without letting Pugwash or the rest of the crew know how they narrowly missed a nasty end. While Tom remained silent, Pugwash took the credit for the crew's survival despite often having no idea what had happened. The motive for Tom's modesty was unrecorded in the books or the TV programme. Maybe he was worried that if Captain Pugwash had felt a failure

as a pirate, he would have returned to his family home to train as a doctor or solicitor. This, of course, would have left him as Tom the ex-cabin boy, jobless in a society that was even more threatening than today's. Pugwash, active pirate or shameful pretender? Let's hope we don't have to wait another forty years to find out.

Characters in Captain Pugwash

Captain Pugwash
Tom the Cabinboy
Barnabus
Willie
Master Mate
Cut Throat Jake
Cut Throat Jake's Crew (unnamed)

Characters not in Captain Pugwash

Master Bates
Seaman Stains
Roger the Cabinboy
George Michael
The Levellers

Little known Pugwash fact.

Peter Hawkins, who spoke for Captain Pugwash in the animated series, was also responsible for the flob a dob dobs of Bill and Ben and the we will destroy of the Daleks.



The cult of Jackie O

Judy Garziglia takes a look at America's late first lady, and searches for the truth about the image that is Jackie O, America's most infamous first lady.

They say that you can tell where a designer has been for their holidays just by looking at the influences in their collection - but flicking through pages of the fashion press, it seems that designers have gone one step further by looking through the obituaries for inspiration.



At the time of the death of one of this century's most stylish women - Jackie Onassis - designers were working on the Spring/Summer 95 collections, ensuring her a place in the spotlight for the last time and simultaneously eradicating any lingering traces of grunge.

The Jackie O look - knee length skirt or tailored dress, teamed with matching short-sleeved jacket - does sound like something you'd find hanging in wardrobes in Buckingham Palace, yet has been adopted by hippy chicks

with surprising enthusiasm. Teamed with the right accessories, the look is a heady cocktail of femininity, class and sex appeal.

So if you're a Jackie O wannabe, here's where you start: a fitted sleeveless dress, the likes of which you'll find in the high street: Whistles, or going down in the price scale, Oasis and Kookai. The good news about this season's dress is in the forgiving cut, so you won't need a figure like Kate Moss to carry it off. The next step is the sling back shoe, preferably in a pastel shade.

To complete the outfit, you'll need a jacket - there are many variations on the theme, but the essentials should include a jacket - three-quarter length sleeves, large buttons, and a cut that comes down just past the hipbone. Although tailored to emphasise the figure, this season's fabrics are generally blended with lycra, so you won't feel like you're wearing a straight-jacket.



Once you have the basics, you can accentuate the look with accessories, the most important being sunglasses. These should be slightly rounded in black or tortoiseshell, but the hippest should be white or pastel. Handbags are small, the straps are short and are looped through the arm. If you really want to give off the right kind of attitude, you should get a hat - once again these are small, delicate affairs, perched on the head at a slight angle.



OK, you've had enough. The Jackie O look sounds awful, and you wouldn't be caught dead wearing anything slightly resembling the former First Lady. In this case, you can ignore the lot - but keep your eye on the obituaries - who knows what designers are dreaming up now.



Whitby Gothic Weekend

Is your hair naturally crimped? Do you arise from your coffin with ethereal grace as the sun sinks? Is your eyeliner always f**king perfect? Are you in-love with Lord Byron? Do you KNOW you are the supreme goth? Are you essentially a pretentious git? Well, the weekend of 1st - 3rd September, well try

WHITBY...the weekend for those who are only 99% perfect.

More! It s got to be more! And bigger . Whitby 95. Yes, we ll get more bands, more goths, we ll arrange to have the sun turned off for the weekend, paint all the houses black . Or so says Jo Hampshire the events organizer.

Err , yes, it will be easy; organis-

ing the last one was OK, a couple of phone-calls, ha ha, the bills they ll never make me pay, ha ha, twenty thousand bats, where can I get twenty thousand bats ?

Suffed bats. In PVC, ha ha ha... Jo is undergoing treatment, and won t be allowed to send a free biro, or a chance to win a Wedgwood Shepherdess with this newsletter, but she will be out for Whitby 95.

In her more lucid moments, she has organised a bigger and better weekend. Perhaps not quite twenty thousand bats, but there will be a few things worth getting out of bed for ...

Plus this year there s going to be enough room to actually get in the venues , so there ll be more goths than you can shake a stake at! Bad News It might cost a bit... Well...only a tenner for the whole weekend s entertainment. A weekend pass includes admission to; Frocks & Frolics, Bizarre Bazaar , The Bands, Dracula Experience

No cash please! Send payment only by cheque or postal order for 10 pounds, payable to Jo Hampshire, at 6 Clarence Road, Monk Bretton, Barnsley, S. Yorkshire, S71 2NL, UK. Tel 01374 871685.





Things worth getting out of your coffin for...

The Weekend Whitby entertainments scroll kicking off

Friday

1.00pm: Onwards - Welcome! At the Elsinore Pub on Flowergate. Be there or be forced to stand on the pavement later on a registration point will be inside the pub - PLEASE come along and let us know you're here. We wouldn't want you to be branded a micro-goth!

7.00pm: Frocks And Frolics The Metropole Hotel, Argyle Road, North Promenade

8.00pm: Blind [Drunk] Date (You'd have to be!) Hosted by Uncle Warren and Count Von Heath. If you're single for the weekend, put your name forward, and you might just win that exclusive trip with a dream-date, heh heh heh! Contestants wanted! Single people only, extroverts welcome, size, looks, age unimportant.

9.00pm: Unfashion Show As many Gothic costumiers as we can contact displaying their wares and their wears on the

catwalk. Models wanted! Males and females required for various strutting and posing on the catwalk. Size, looks and age again totally unimportant.

10.00pm - 1.00am: Shape Throwing With Visitation DJ Mark A chance to get away from the Alice 94 & Preacherman collection of your local rock nightclub, and to ask for those records that you thought only you had ever heard of.

1.00am: Pilgrimage To The Clifftop! Time to form a disorderly crocodile and slope off up 199 steps to party in the graveyard. (An umbrella and torch might be useful at this point!) First one to bed will be publicly flogged!

Saturday

12.00pm - 5.00pm: Bizarre Bazaar Metropole Hotel, North Promenade Shop til you drop: stalls from all over the country selling the finest in gothic paraphernalia, including body-piercing and transfers, hair extensions, tarot readings, new and second-hand music, clothes, lots of black clothes and jewellery, not to mention a mountain of obligatory crucifixes.

7.00pm - 1.00am: The Bands Whitby Spa Theatre, North Promenade Up on stage, five of

the UK's premiere goth bands featuring... Children On Stun! The Shadowmaker (former Nosferatu) Suspira The Horatii Manuscript

followed by

Afterhours DJs Simon Price (He of Melody fame) and Sexbat (of nowhere in particular) playing a retro-goth mix of classic club tracks.

1.00am: Pilgrimage To The Clifftop! Time to form another disorderly crocodile. And you will have had a whole day to get your hands on an umbrella and torch.

Sunday

10.00am Onwards: Dracula Experience. Visit the newly revamped (!) Dracula exhibition.

12.00pm: Freaky Fond Farewells Back to the Elsinore on Flowergate. Swap phone numbers, addresses and (return the) underwear. A final chance to add your name to the mailing list.

What the Whitby locals said last year:

Those bloody vampire people - I threw a bucket of water over one of them, that'll give her purple hair something to think about...OOOH! (Local lady)

Goths make impeccable tourists...I had 500 in here last night... (Landlord of the Elsinore)

GOTHS... ARE WHAT WE WANT! (Whitby Gazette, 1994)





R.I.P.

Goth Friendly Accommodation

The main advantages to picking a recommended hotel are:

- a) you'll have someone to borrow hairspray of
- b) you'll be able to join in that unique experience - 'Gothic Breakfast'

All the Guest Houses below cost under £16 per person per night Bed & Breakfast.

The Corner Guest House, 3 - 4 Crescent Place, Whitby YO21 3HE Tel: 01947 602444
Havelock Guest House, 30 Hudson Street, Whitby, YO21 3EP Tel: 01947 602295
Lansbury Guest House, 29 Hudson Street, Whitby YO21 3EP Tel: 01947 604821
Chiltern Guest House, 13 Normanby Terrace, Whitby YO21 3ES Tel: 01947 604981
Pannet House, 14 Normanby Terrace, Whitby YO 21 3ES Tel: 01947 603261
Ashford Guest House, 8 Royal Crescent, Whitby YO21 3EJ Tel: 01947 602138
Kirklands Hotel, 17 Abbey Terrace, Whitby YO21 3HQ Tel: 01947 603868
Europa Private Hotel, 20 Hudson Street, Whitby YO21 3EP Tel: 01947 602251
Wentworth House, 27 Hudson Street, Whitby YO21 3EP Tel: 01947 602433
Grantley House, 26 Hudson Street, Whitby YO21 3EP Tel: 01947 604821
Weardale Guest House, 12 Normanby Terrace, Whitby YO21 3ES Tel: 01947 820389
Hotel Carlill, Royal Crescent, Whitby YO21 3EJ Tel: 01947 602349
Rosslyn Guest House, 11 Abbey Terrace, Whitby YO21 3HQ Tel: 01947 604086
Esplanade Hotel, 2 Esplanade, Whitby YO21 3HH Tel: 01947 605053

Alternatively, why not try a spot of DIY? Self catering Apartments are available at:

Greyfriars Holiday Flats, 2 Royal Crescent, Whitby YO21 3EJ Tel: 01947 603059
Langley Holiday Flats, 15 Royal Crescent, Whitby YO21 3EJ Tel: 01947 602747
Sanvid Holiday Flats, 7 Esplanade, Whitby YO21 3HH Tel: 01947 604739
Warwick Holiday Flats, 10 Royal Crescent, Whitby YO21 3EJ

