CON FUNK SHUN
"Electric Lady" (Mercury)

"Electric Lady," the current hit single by Con Funk Shun, is the title track from their tenth Mercury LP.

Con Funk Shun first started out in the late 60's in California as Project Soul. Moving to Memphis, they became the backup band for Soul Children ("The Sweeter He Is" and others).

The band took the name Con Funk Shun from the title of a song by the Nite-Liters. In 1977 they had their first number one hit on the R&B charts, "Ffun." This same record also hit #23 on the pop charts.

Although their last entry on the pop chart top-40 was with 1981's "Too Tight," they have had quite a few R&B hits such as "Shake And Dance With Me," Chase Me," and "Got To Be Enough."

Side note: In 1977, while "Ffun" was on the charts, a popular FM R&B station in Washington, D.C. created their own two-song medley consisting of the Bar-Kays' "Let's Have Some Fun" and Con Funk Shun's "Ffun." Coincidentally, both artists record for the same label.

The current Con Funk Shun lineup pictured on this page includes Michael Cooper, Karle E. Fuller (hey, I like that spelling), Paul E. Harrell, Cedric A. Martin, Louis A. McCall, Felton C. Pilate II, and Danny Thomas.

"Electric Lady" is a definite departure from last year's "Fever," which was more laid-back. With a little help from producer Larry Smith, who's worked with Whodini and Fat Boys, this new disc rocks with the hip-hop-sounding title track that makes you want to "move real smooth" (in the words of a certain host of a popular black TV dance show).

Con Funk Shun

The mid-tempo "Pretty Lady" is more pop-oriented, though not as convincing message-wise as their earlier hit "On Love's Train."

June Thorne's portrayal of Edith was half elementary school teacher and half martyr. Her character did not seem real because there was not the subtlest hint of anger or exasperation at being burdened with all the housework in a family of four adults.

This production suffered from a lack of energy, a fatal flaw in comedy. Watching the show was like seeing an over-the-hill boxer short of breath, wobbly of legs and inaccurate of punch, trying to do what nature will no longer allow him. The show missed the mark by a wide margin.

"Never Too Late"

(Continued from page 3)

that ensues from the pregnancy announcement and I suppose it was funny 20 years ago. As an adolescent, I saw the movie starring Paul Ford and was amused sporadically. The same cannot be said about the Arena Players production.

Only superb acting would or could have salvaged "It's Never Too Late." Such was not present in this production because a comedy of this type cries out for eruptions of anger and frustration and anxiety. The very premise of the play is that the men fall apart more readily in domestic crises than women.

The humor is supposed to come from role reversal. Some characters should be played broadly such as Harry and Mayor. Others such as the son-in-law Charlie and Edith should be played with subtler shadings to contrast with the outlandish characters.

Earl Burton played Charlie Lambert in too restrained a manner. Harry is supposed to be boorish and unreasonable. Burton played him as merely a little grouchy. His anger never reached the proper level and his sarcasm didn't either.

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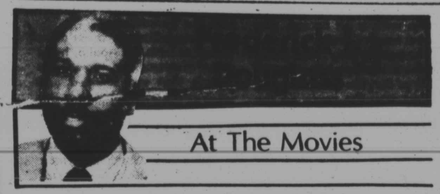

Chuck Norris at his best in 'Code of Silence'

Chuck Norris, the karate specialist whose recent movies "Missing in Action", parts one and two have been keeping him before the public eye over the past eight months, is already back on the scene with a smoking, blasting shoot-em-up, chop-em-down flick entitled "Code of Silence."

Playing a Serpico type lone wolf undercover police officer in the movie, Norris is out to break up a Columbian cocaine ring as the flick begins and has set up an elaborate bust based on eight months of intensive investigation. Intended to be a high level arrest of major drug dealers, the operation involves more than $500,000 in cash, a dozen or more police officers and beaucoup high grade cocaine.

While everything about the raid seems to be going down smoothly, things suddenly go awry when members of a rival gang show up to murder and rob their competitors. This is where the real fireworks of the movie begin because the robbers have killed blood relatives of Luis Comancho, an upper echelon drug peddler who is played by Henry Silva. Angrily seeking revenge on the perpetrators of the brutal crime, Comancho orders the murder of the family of the man whom he believes is directly responsible for the robbery and murders. Thus, a gang war begins.

Eddie Cusack, the cop played by Chuck Norris, soon finds himself embroiled in the middle of a killing spree between the warring gangs. From this point on, "Code of Silence" involves a fast paced series of shoot-outs, high speed car chases and karate scenes that are geared toward satisfying the appetites of people who crave for this type of grade-b, high action flicks.

The action focuses on Cusack's efforts to rescue the daughter of one of the criminals who has been kidnapped shortly after all the other members of her family have been shot to death. Played by Molly Hagan, Diana Luna is the offspring of a hardnosed, ruthless gangster who Comancho wants to find to complete his revenge.

While the final outcome of the movie is somewhat predictable, the moviegoer will find a few entertaining surprises on the way to the flick's closing moments. First of all, Chuck Norris finally seems to be getting into acting, albeit gradually. He is convincing as Cusack and gives the character a dimension of flesh and bones that his has previously demonstrated in his usual role as a fighting machine. Secondly, there is a story line that points out that criminals and policemen are human beings that have families, loved ones, enemies and friends.

More importantly, the story line reveals that all groups adopt protective behavior when threatened — they close ranks to protect those who live by their code and they ostracize those who violate their written and unwritten laws. Thus, when a policeman plants a gun on a Hispanic youth that he has shot by mistake, most of the policemen uphold his action on the streets and in court. They have a code of silence. Similarly, when Cusack goes to one of the older gangsters to try and obtain information that he believes will stop the gang war, he finds that they too have a code of silence, omerta if you please, and they refuse to tell him anything.

Eddie Cusack, however, is the rugged individualist and refuses to conform to peer pressure. Knowing that the cop who claims to have shot the young man in self-defense is both incompetent and an alcoholic, he refuses to stand by him and becomes an outcast. When he goes to rescue Ms. Luna from her fiendish captors and requests backup, all the other officers refuse, claiming to have emergencies that take precedent. But anyone who has ever seen a Chuck Norris flick knows that he is a one man army, fully capable of rescuing a damsel in distress no matter how mighty or well armed the enemy might be.

The climactic scenes of the movie involve some of the most wanton destruction ever seen on the silver screen with dozens of men being slain during a major bloodbath.

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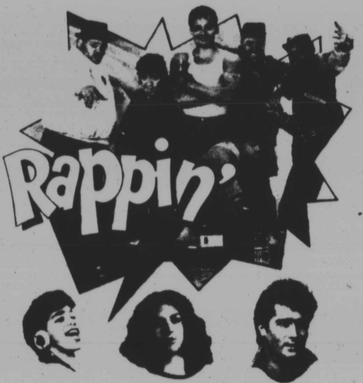

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Madonna	6 01	**** ****	7:30
Iron Maiden Accept	6 04	15.00 10.00	7:30
The Tubes Utopia	6 07	15.00 10.00	7:30
Tom Petty And The Heartbreakers	6 09	15.00 10.00	7:30
Kenny Loggins	6 17	15.00 10.00	7:30
Phil Collins And His Hot Tub Club	6 21	**** 11.00	7:30
Bryan Adams	6 22	15.00 10.00	7:30
REO Speedwagon	6 23	15.00 10.00	7:30
Willie Nelson	6 25	15.00 10.00	7:30
Eric Clapton	6 27	16.00 11.00	7:30
Dan Fogelberg	6 28	**** 10.00	8:00
Jeffrey Osborne	6 29	15.00 10.00	8:00
Santana	7 06	15.00 10.00	7:30
Jimmy Buffett & The Coral Reefer Band	7 12	**** 10.00	8:00
Style Council	7 19	15.00 10.00	7:30
Al Jarreau David Sanborn	7 21	15.00 10.00	8:00
Rick Springfield	7 25	15.00 10.00	7:30
Melissa Manchester	7 26	15.00 10.00	8:00
Huey Lewis & The News	7 27	**** 10.00	7:30
Huey Lewis & The News	7 28	15.00 10.00	7:30
Liza Minnelli	7 29 & 30	20.00 12.00	8:00
Lee Greenwood Gary Morris	8 02	15.00 10.00	8:00
Crosby, Stills & Nash	8 06	**** 10.00	7:30
Dire Straits	8 07	15.00 10.00	7:30
Don Williams The Judds	8 11	15.00 10.00	8:00
Don Henley	8 12	15.00 10.00	7:30
Barry Manilow	8 22-23	21.00 12.00	8:30
Oak Ridge Boys	8 31	15.00 10.00	8:00
Hank Williams, Jr.	9 06	15.00 10.00	7:30

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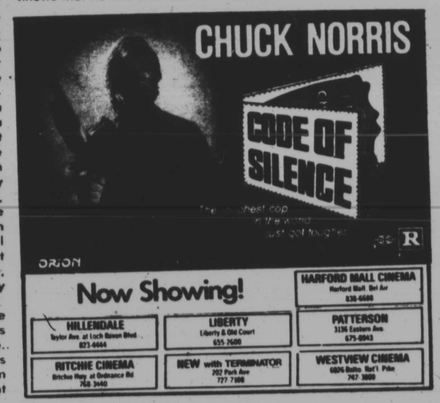

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