

# Miles would be proud

Five Weeks pays tribute to legendary Davis with some jazz heavy hitters



## ERROL'S CAN'T MISS LIST

**1** HarbourKIDS: Monster, a free three-day festival "creatively investigating the scary, funny and exciting potential of monsters" starts Saturday and wraps up Monday. For details, visit [harbourfrontcentre.com/harbourkids](http://harbourfrontcentre.com/harbourkids) or call 416-973-4000.

**2** Pianist Robi Botos and his trio are at Chalker's Pub tonight and every Tuesday. \$10. 7:30 p.m. 247 Marlee Ave. 416-789-2531.

**3** Bluesman Son Roberts celebrates the release of his CD, *Tell That Story*, at the Dominion on Queen Thursday. \$10. 500 Queen St. E.

It's that time of year again.

Trumpeter Brownman returns to Trane Studio to remind us of the genius who was Miles Davis and the legacy he left behind by playing music from the mercurial legend's various eras.

Five Weeks for Miles began last Saturday, but you have the opportunity to swing by the spot to hear Brownman fronting four all-star quintets who'll do their damndest to do Davis proud.

"For those who appreciate jazz as a true art form, Five Weeks for Miles represents a rare opportunity to understand its greatest legend's career, where he could have gone and a reminder of what he might have meant to us today," Brownman says. "I'm truly honoured to be fronting this tribute and performing with such a monstrous cross-section of players."

The series features Canadian jazz legends like Dave Restivo and Ted Quinlan, Brownman's contemporaries Adrean Farrugia and Ross MacIntyre, and "the best of the new breed of jazz modernists" like Morgan Childs and Ben Miller.

This year will also feature a few New Yorkers like rapper Mad Dukes and DJ Cutler, who works with Jeru The Damaja.

"Whatever age, whatever background, whatever colour — we're all going to be giving



## Rhythms N' Rhymes

all of ourselves over to Miles' music ... to try and do the man and his vision justice."

Here are the themes being explored in the series:

Sat. Oct. 8: *Birth of the Cool* — Post-Bop Miles  
Sat. Oct. 15: *Plugged Nickel* — The Shorter Years  
Sat. Oct. 22: *Bitches Brew to Tutu* — Electric Miles  
Sat., Oct. 29: *Doo-bop* — *Had He Lived*.

\$20. 8 p.m. 964 Bathurst St. 416-913-8197

On the subject of Davis, check out the just-released groundbreaking album, *Miles Espanol: New Sketches of Spain*. It features a group of Davis alumni, some of New York's finest Latin Jazz musicians, and top-notch flamenco musicians exploring the influence of Spanish music on the trumpeter's sound.

Some of the heavy guests — and there are 30 of them — include Chick Corea, Jack DeJohnette, John Scofield, Ron Carter, Alex Acuña, Gonzalo Rubalcaba, Chano Domínguez, Eddie Gomez, Jerry Gonzalez, Cristina Pato, Edmar Castañeda and Antonio Sanchez.

## SCRATCH THIS!

A monthly film series, *Undercurrents* at The Underground, kicks off tonight in fine style with a documentary about Lee (Scratch) Perry, the eccentric and hugely influential reggae producer.

The film begins in rural Jamaica, looking into Perry's mysterious youth as well as the notorious events of his peak production years in Kingston in which he mentored a young Bob Marley, created the sound of reggae as we now know it, pioneered a new genre of music he called Dub, invented what was to become the remix and produced international hit songs for artists from Junior Murvin to The Congos to The Clash. He accomplished all of this while working out of his infamous Black Ark Studio, a shack he built with his hands then later burned to the ground in a fit of drug-addled rage.

*The Upsetter: The Life and Music of Lee Scratch Perry*, was made by American filmmakers Ethan Higbee and Adam Bhala Lough and is narrated by Benicio Del Toro.

Undercurrents Productions is promising more screenings of "thought-provoking documentaries, cultural dramas, speaker Q&As and innovative presentations from the arts community" in the months to come. We can't wait.

\$10. 8 p.m. 186 Spadina Ave.



BROWNMAN

# Chinese drama about 1911 minutes too long

LIZ BRAUN  
Toronto Sun

Jackie Chan's 100th movie celebrates the 100th anniversary of the rebellion that changed China's future.

*1911* is an account of the Xinhai Revolution which ended the Qing Dynasty and brought democracy to China at the turn of the last century. The film has some epic battle scenes with impressive action, but it's otherwise

a huge mess. You can see all the good intentions, wedged in there among the endless, droning lists of historical facts, undeveloped characters, bizarre conversations and confusing events.

This one is a noble failure.

The focus of the movie is on two men: Sun Yat Sen (Winston Chao), who goes on to become the first president of China, and revolutionary leader Huang Xing (Jackie Chan). The two men are friends, and as

the revolution unfolds, one is in the heat of the action while the other raises money for the cause and waxes diplomatic. You're right in the centre of the action for the Guangzhou Uprising (of April 1911), and for the tragic sight of the dead rebels, Lin Juemin (Ge Hu) among them, in the aftermath.

Here's Joan Chen chewing scenery as the Dowager Empress. Here's a love affair that seems to spring out of nowhere between Huang Xing

and his wife (Li Bingbing) — a marriage that started as a fiction to serve the rebellion. Here's the Wuchang uprising, here's the wild-eyed general Yuan Shikai (a scene-stealing Sun Chun), here's the carnage at Hanyang.

By the time there's an election and the Qing dynasty is finito, you'll likely leave the theatre feeling no better informed about this period of Chinese history than you were when you walked in.

What you bring with you to *1911* will likely be the deciding factor in how the movie plays. One assumes that a knowledge of the era and the history could make up for much of the inept storytelling. And the editing. And the wooden acting.

If you're looking for the film that will quickly bring Western viewers up to speed on the crucial events of a hundred years ago in China, this isn't it. The film is in Cantonese, with English subtitles.

1911



2 HOURS, 5 MINUTES

## STARRING

Jackie Chan, Li Bingbing, Winston Chao, Joan Chen

## DIRECTOR

Jackie Chan and Zhang Li