



Movies matter

By David Price

Death Proof (18), released 21st September, 113 minutes

DEATH PROOF was screened in London and across the UK—including Stratford Picturehouse—last Thursday via a live satellite link as part of TCN's (a Sky channel that shows a variety of cult and classic films) crime film festival.

The film began with an introduction from the director Quentin Tarantino and Zoe Bell who plays one of the key roles. Interestingly, we found out she performed all of her own stunts with no CGI—she lies on the bonnet of a speeding car being rammed by a pursuing car down a narrow track!

Death Proof is made to look like a lost B-movie from the 70s. The characters live in a very dated world, although they all have mobile phones and i-pods, and typically of Quentin Tarantino the characters are very well rounded, especially the protagonist "Stuntman Mike" played by Kurt Russell.

The film is split into two separate halves set 18 months apart, each with different gangs of girls having to face Stuntman Mike's vicious attacks in his death-proofed car. *Death Proof* was described by the director as a slasher movie with the car as the weapon, but it's no *Duel* (Stephen Spielberg 1971)!

The film has been aged in the lab to make it look older, with scratches giving artistic effect. There are many colour transitions from black and white to extremely over saturated colour and frequent jump cuts, multi-angled shots and freeze framing.

But for a Tarantino movie this film does not have as much action as his recent *Kill Bill* films. Despite this the dialogue is well crafted, and resembles in form *Reservoir Dogs*, with the extremely long shots (up to seven minutes). The first half-an-hour wasn't great but by the end of the film you've forgotten that.

This film really has to be seen on the big screen and it

definitely has the single greatest ending.

After the film was shown there was about an hour of Q&A which detailed how the film was made and how and why it existed. The original movie *Grindhouse* saw *Death Proof* and *Planet Terror* (directed by Robert Rodriguez) played back-to-back, but the new version of *Death Proof* has an additional half-an-hour of footage, that was not seen in the USA.

Remember that Night, David Gilmour live at the Royal Albert Hall (Exempted), Released on DVD next Monday.

STRATFORD Picturehouse joined 17 other cinemas in the live broadcast of a portion of David Gilmour's DVD in the second of two special events it has held in the past week.

The DVD features 23 songs from Pink Floyd, as well as many extras of rare songs. The DVD is the first part of a set, so it's one for the collectors. The satellite broadcast began with a brief intro followed by an hour-and-a-half of songs and a Q&A with David Gilmour and the audience in London. The vast majority of the questions were about inspirations for songs.

Close to 100 Gilmour fans showed up. As the haunting sounds of classic Pink Floyd numbers such as *Time* and *Shine On You Crazy Diamond* filled the air, the auditorium shook! Feet moved to the beat, and there were whistles and applause more usually only heard at a live gig.

Gilmour's playing still brings magic to the Floyd's back catalogue. But the slightly anodyne renderings of the classic tracks weren't to my taste. *Comfortably Numb* left me just that as I slumped in my cinema seat.

This isn't the sort of music or film I would normally go to see, but it was an interesting approach. With more and more videos and music being delivered via the web to individuals sitting in front of their computer screens, these cinemas should be applauded for trying their hand at using internet technology to refresh their offerings.