

an elemental "force of nature" like her. (Press those feminist alarm bells ...)

But the idea of this hyper-active, aerobicised role-model somehow playing "dizzy blonde" (is it *really* Marilyn Monroe she's supposed to be aping with that pout?) is clearly absurd — and Madonna makes sure that it is by never letting even one of those tell-tale "vulnerable" moments become remotely plausible. So, as bad acting goes, it's almost subversive.

Unlike the 'fifties heroines/victims, her "scattiness" is never allowed to become an object of ridicule or scorn — and this reviewer, at least, found that a relief. It may be a small tribute to the filmmaker, but is certainly a larger one to Madonna's own innate role-modelling good sense. After all, with the eyes of several million tough-nut teenage girls on your every confident move, how could you *melt* ...?

In other respects, too, *Who's That Girl* is a sign of the times. We're by now well used to '80s Hollywood and its knack of reworking the clichés of bygone eras in ways that

should really have had the post-modernists reaching for their word-processors. From *Star Wars* and *Superman* onwards, the last decade seems to have been a veritable carnival of genres turned topsy-turvy in search of contemporariness. Who, for instance, really expects us to take the plot-line of *La Bamba* seriously? Poor boy made good, Latino boy meets nice white girl, mother and son, brother and brother — it's got every cliché known to film, almost as if the writer were ticking them off on his or her list. But here, as in most mainstream art forms down through history, it's not *evading* the clichés, but what you do with them, that counts.

And, apart from the 'fifties references (and here *Bringing Up Baby* is the model, as the *Herald* critic noted), *Who's That Girl* is a treasure trove of other genres and con, too. For a start, it's part of the sub-genre yuppie boy meets street life downtown (or downtown girl): in this case, it's the appropriately awful soon-to-be-married Loudon Trott, who's supposed to be taking our newly-released crim Madonna safely

to the bus station and out of town. Of course, from there everything goes wrong, and everything turns on its head — from graffitied Rolls Royces to the spectacle of Madonna masquerading as the very proper bride-to-be to a brace of stockbrokers.

And, as in comedy it should be, the message is appropriately popular, in the best sense of the word: the pomposity of the wealthy and notable gets a bucketting; the street kid wins out; and of course an appropriately incredible love-match wins out, too, in the end. If there's nothing new in *Who's That Girl*, there's certainly nothing which should give any halfway good-humoured left cause for heartburn. It does give a funny kind of uplift, and it has more than a few genuine comic moments. It's definitely not great filmmaking, but there are a lot worse things the kids could be doing over the holiday season.

DAVID BURCHELL co-ordinates
ALR.

The Future For The Left

by Jade Bull

PROMINENT UPCOMING POLITICAL BIRTHDAYS

CAPRICORN

Josef Stalin, 2/1
Joh Bjelke-Petersen, 14/1
J. Edgar Hoover, 15/1
Richard Nixon, 20/1
Loretta Young, 19/1

AQUARIUS

Antonio Gramsci, 22/1
Ronald Reagan, 6/2
Abraham Lincoln, 8/2
Franklin Roosevelt, 17/2

Jade has been inundated both by sincere, sharing supply-side socialists (probably with large share portfolios) and badly alienated unbelieving leftists, all claiming that I mispredicted the Wall Street crash (see ALR 102). My only response is "stay liquid — you ain't seen nothing yet".

As far as Jade is concerned the fireworks won't come from the Bicentennial, they will come from the Saturn/Uranus/Neptune conjunction. For the astrologically illiterate, this is a cosmic event bigger than the late lamented Laurie Brereton's vision.

A year of turmoil lies ahead, comrades: through the mosaic of Bicentennial bliss, perspiring politicians, bleeding blacks, stampeding stockbrokers, a new party of the left or the left-overs of a new party, one thing is clear — '88 will not be for the faint hearted.

So take a little advice from Jade — here are your prospects for '88.



ARIES
March 21-
April 20

Planetary influences on your chart

mean that you will spend much of 1988 feeling that the numbers are against you. Don't get paranoid, they are. 1988 just isn't going to be a good year for you — best just to put it down to experience. In case you hadn't noticed, 1987 was your year: if you didn't get your politics, love-life and finance together then, Jupiter (the cash-flow planet) isn't due to smile on you in particular for another 11 years.

Lucky number — 1 must be honest, your guess is as good as mine.
Lucky colour — whatever matches your eyes.



TAURUS
April 21-
May 21

GOLLY! This is going to be a great year. Had your eye on the Branch President's position? You won't get a better chance for a long, long time. Finances and fortunes are favourable with Jupiter moving into your sign, maybe you will win the collected works of Kim Il-Sung at the Xmas Dinner. You will find that dedicated readers of this column will like you more in 1988.

Lucky number — Any: fate's on your side.
Lucky colour — We suggest you stick with red.



GEMINI
May 22-
June 21

After many years of trials and testings, your development is reaching a crucial conjuncture. Unfortunately, the influences of Neptune in Capricorn and the Bicentennial will give you a powerful urge to cop out. If you do you will probably be hit by a bus. Your tendency to periods of manic hyperactivity, unless curtailed, could lead to domestic disharmony and new travel opportunities (albeit to an adjoining suburb).

Lucky number — 2 (of course).
Lucky colour — Green (Jade's green '79 model Gemini has always been reliable).



CANCER
June 22-
July 22

Since late 1987 Uranus has been forming in your sixth house (the house of health and habits).

Unexpected health related matters could make Cancerians retreat into their shells. This is probably a good thing: everyone knows that Cancers flourish in the Australian summer.

Lucky number — You don't believe in this rubbish.
Lucky colour — ditto.



LEO
July 23-
August 23

Over recent years you may have felt uncertain or uncomfortable with your personal environment due to Pluto's slow transit of your fourth solar house. Though the Plutonian need to probe and reassess this area of your life continues, your attention should begin to turn to your potential for leadership. Consensus politics offers no opportunities for you. With your constellation in consternation, the ultra-left calls.

Lucky number — 50% + 1
Lucky colour — anything but green.



VIRGO
August 24-
September 23

Amid the turmoil of '88, the ebb and flow of planetary influences should be gentle for most Virgos. Don't be concerned about your desire to withdraw from political activities: nobody really appreciates you, anyway.

Lucky number — N/A
Lucky colour — ditto.



LIBRA
September 24-
October 23

You saw '87 as the end of your indecisiveness: now you are not so sure. 1988 should be a great year to remember for romance and personal achievement, but is that what you really want? Unfortunately, that's *your* decision. It's not written in the stars, you know.

Lucky number — 4
Lucky colour — Blue.



SCORPIO
October 24-
November 22

With Pluto in Scorpio you are having a really good time seeking to "find yourself" (a bit self-indulgent, don't

you think?) '88 promises more of your favourite pastimes — smut, dirt, mystery and intrigue. Not only that — you will probably enjoy it. If you want to clean up your game, hang around with Virgos.

Lucky number — more the merrier
Lucky colour — black.



SAGITTARIUS
November 23-
December 21

With Saturn and Uranus transiting through your house you are to experience a year that might be likened to a "cosmic bowel movement". Stay on your guard and be prepared to expel all that is useless in your life. Watch that deficit spending — Saturn is the ruler of the balanced budget.

Lucky number — 13
Lucky colour — brown.



CAPRICORN
December 22-
January 20

If you think Sagittarians have got something to think about you've got it even more so (see Sag.). Fortunately, Saturn is more comfortable in Capricorn so you will probably have the movement without the mess.

Lucky number — as above
Lucky colour — ditto.



AQUARIUS
January 21-
February 19

Caught in the wake of the Sagittarian and Capricorn eruptions, the wise Aquarian will go to bed with a good book and *ALR*. See you in '89.

Lucky number — not necessary
Lucky colour — ditto.



PISCES
February 20-
March 20

The transiting Neptune, sextet to Pisces, makes you particularly susceptible to tall ships and national chauvinism. Your failure to resist these urges will leave you like a fish out of water. Remember, others on the left will not be as impressed with your Bicentennial convict barbecue apron as you are.

Lucky number — 88
Lucky colour — green and yellow.