



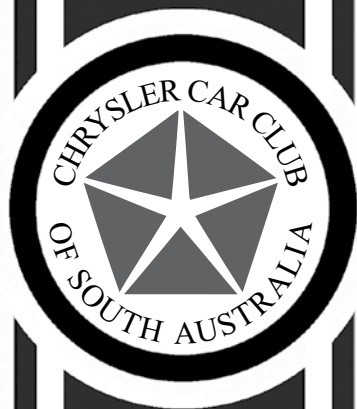
# *Torqueback*

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE CHRYSLER CAR CLUB OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA



## **MOVIE MOPARS - Part Two**





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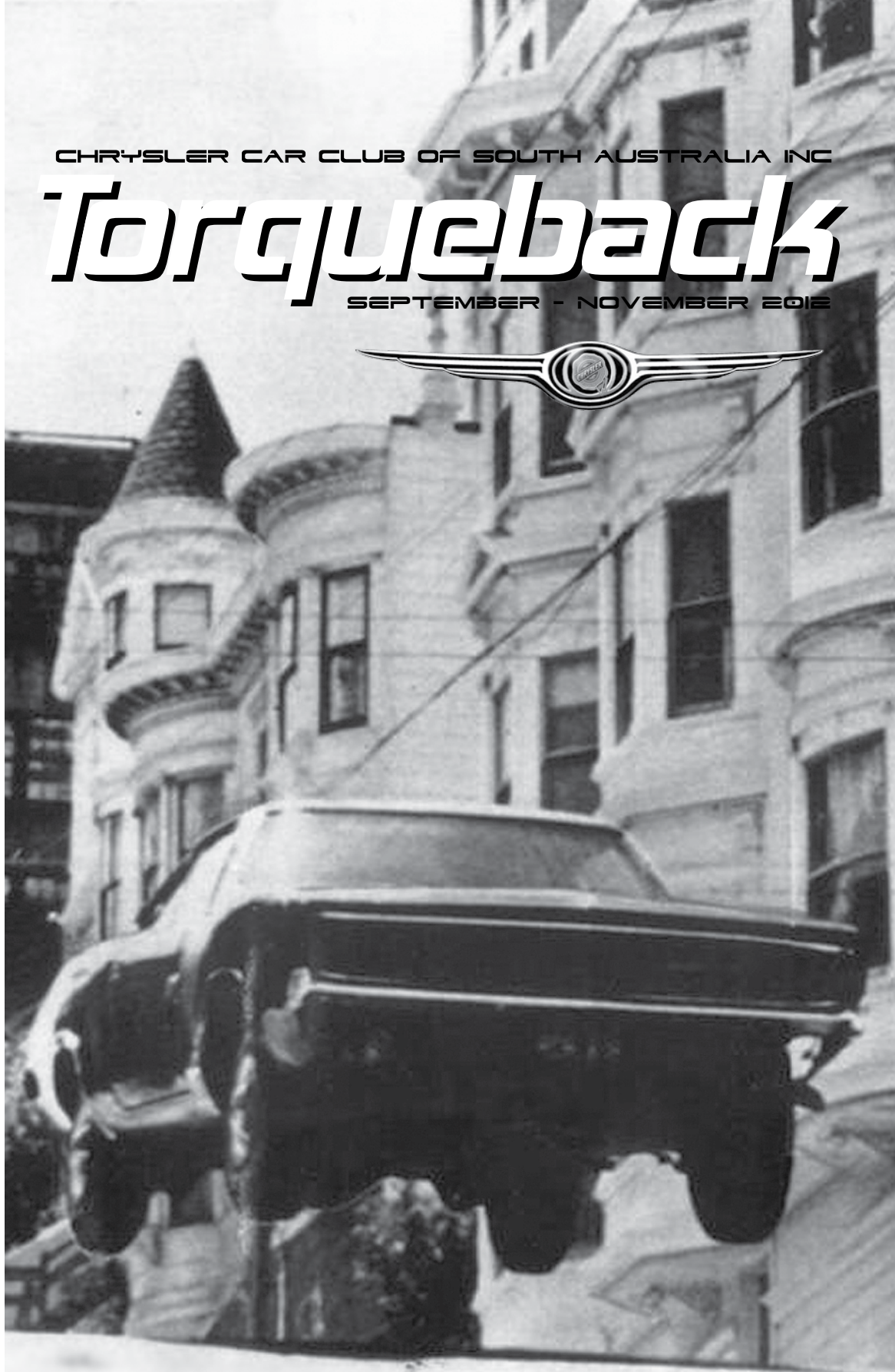
Contributors  
**Darren Koziol**  
**Steve de Wit**  
**Lesley Little**  
**Patrick McGrath**  
**Paul Najjar**  
**Paul Cronin**  
**Rob McIntyre**

Enquiries  
*Club Mobile*  
**0412 426 360**  
**www.cccsa.net.au**

CHRYSLER CAR CLUB OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC

# ***Torqueback***

SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER 2012



All correspondence should be sent to:  
The Chrysler Car Club of South Australia Inc.  
PO Box 240  
Greenacres SA 5086

General Meetings are held every second Tuesday of every month at:  
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Croydon  
(directly opposite Officeworks)

Membership Fees  
Regular - \$20.00 per year (& quarterly magazine)  
Historic Registration - \$30.00 per year (& quarterly magazine)



G'day. Welcome to Issue 14 of the 'new' Torqueback, **Movie Mopars - Part Two**.

Hope you enjoy reading this issue as much as I did putting it together. However along with renovations, AFL finals, and this probably being my busiest time of year drawing by far (I have so much work to catch up on now), this issue ended up being a real challenge to finish – and I can tell you the most difficult thing was deciding what to put in and what to leave out. What to talk about at length and what to just give a quick mention. No doubt, I have probably missed a few movies and TV shows you might think of – so we'll have to save that for ron. But you have to eventually stop at some point. As usual, I had far too much I wanted to show and say. In the end, I realised that this theme could probably go on forever – or at least for yet another issue, but that won't be happening.

Anyhow, if you'd like to find out more on this theme, there's a heap of websites up on the net that talk about cars and movies. The basis for much of my research has been what I think is the world's best collection of Mopar info (anything and everything Mopar), the **Allpar** website. There you'll find comprehensive lists of makes and models in film and television, from obscure appearances in the background to prominent 'starring' roles. Try <http://www.allpar.com/history/movies.html> and [www.allpar.com/history/tv.html](http://www.allpar.com/history/tv.html). You could spend hours there (I know I did) trawling for movie trivia. Originally, I was going to publish these lists here in this issue of Torqueback, but they ended up about thirteen pages each even at the smallest type! So I just couldn't justify the space.

Another good site to look at is the famous **IMDb** (Internet Movie Database) site which is the world's

most popular and authoritative source for movie, TV and celebrity content. Movie buffs from all over contribute reviews, gossip and history, and there is quite an extensive section on famous showbiz cars.

Of course, there's also a goldmine of snippets and even entire features on good ol' **YouTube** if you do some searching. Lots of Aussie Chrysler footage.

And finally, but most importantly, I have to acknowledge all of my friends who contributed to the **TV/Movie Mopars** thread on **Hemi6Pack**. I'd like to thank them all personally, but they seem to be very shy and apart from their avatars I don't know a lot of their proper realworld names! (Anyway they know who they are and how much I'm grateful). After all, it was this thread that inspired this Torqueback spotlight in the first place...

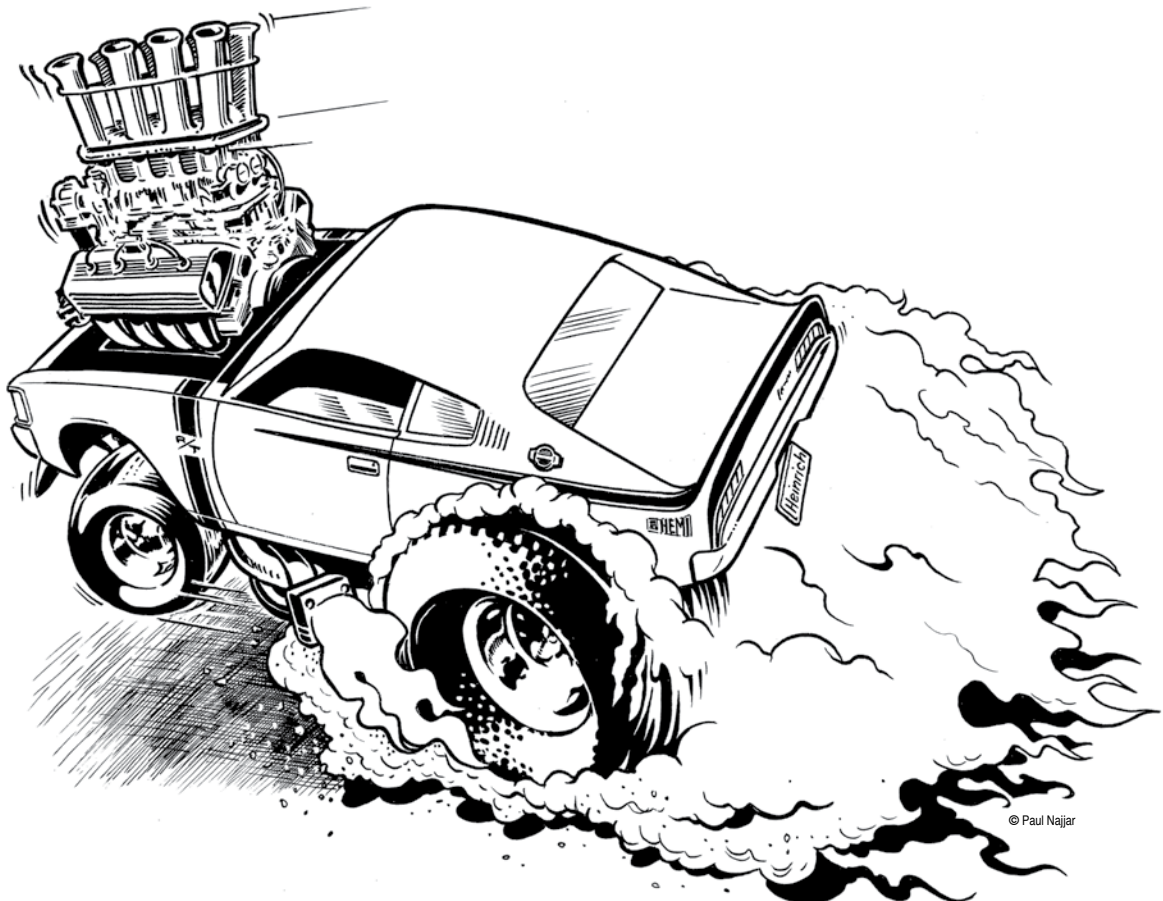
There are some other interesting contributions in this edition. At **All Chrysler Day** earlier this year **Steve de Wit** gave me some skerrick of newspapers he found rolled up and jammed in the walls and into various gaps in the kitchen of his last house he was renovating (a 1950 red brick old State Bank house in Mount Pleasant). The house was a rental for nearly 60 years (the Government sold it to an investor when the State Bank collapsed in the 1990s) when Steve bought it in 2008 to "either renovate or detonate". As he so eloquently told me "I just find that old crap interesting, particularly when you compare what things costed then versus now...". The newspapers were so fragile that they crumbled as I scanned them, however I did manage to capture the auto classifieds from a 1977 **Sunday Mail** and a 1973 **Advertiser**. Thanks Steve!



**Pat McGrath** went over to Bendigo earlier this year for the CVCC's highly successful **Midstate Mopars** event where he took some photos and wrote us up a report. Thanks Pat. Completely unsolicited, along with her professional photo-portraiture, **Lesley Little** also produced a report for Torqueback on the Midyear Dinner. Thanks Lesley. Along with the usual suspects from the Committee, I also would like to thank **Darren Koziol, Paul Cronin, Rob McIntyre, Paul Najjar** and **Dave Newbury** for helping me out with this issue.

Well, it's time for me to now start on the All Chrysler Day press designs, so make sure you all attend the Monthly Meetings and get involved in **ACD** preparations – as we gear up for February next year! Stay tuned for our next issue, Torqueback 15, (hopefully) coming in the new year.

Cheers,  
**Dave H**







Hello and welcome to spring, a time to embrace the warmer weather and get off the lounge. You could do some gardening and get ripped to pieces

by the rose thorns, maybe spring-clean the house and fall off the ladder to break a leg, or perhaps take up lawnbowls and break your hip – or bingo, get attacked by an upset granny!

Nah, stuff that – its all too dangerous!

Why not get the Chrysler out of the shed and go for a cruise? Or better yet perhaps take the old beast out to the revitalised **Adelaide International Raceway** on October 21 and see how fast you can go legally at the *Mopar Mania* event. There's even a show and shine happening in the morning which will be all Chrysler Dodge – and all this car stuff is 100% safe and harmless – crikey, you might even have fun!

I would like to congratulate and welcome the new inductees to the Life Members of the Chrysler Car Club of SA. **Steve De Wit, Iain Carlin and John Eckermann**. Well done guys, for your fantastic help over the last decade.

I would like to thank the committee for the help over the last year, and their great contributions to the club we all love. Thanks to you all for your continual presence on the unchanged committee. I look forward to working with you all over the next year.

The *All Chrysler Day* sub committee has also been confirmed and we welcome **Jaf (Andy Staples)** into the sub committee this year. The *All Chrysler Day* theme was voted on at the August Meeting and I am pleased to say that the focal point will be around the 50 year anniversary of the closing of TJ Richards and the opening of Tonsley Park – the exact wording still to be clarified. The committee are all now thinking of how to arrange and run the event the best way possible. So, stay tuned for more news on *ACD 2013*.

See ya out and about somewhere!

**Raddy**



Elwood Blues (Dan Akroyd) once said that this famous 1974 Dodge Monaco had "a cop motor of 440 cubic inch plan, its got cop tires, cop suspension, cop shocks" and it was "the model made before catalytic converters so it will run good on regular gas..." so "what do you say, is it the new Bluesmobile or what?" To which Jake Blues (John Belushi) replied, "...fix the cigarette lighter..."

**adrian brien automotive**

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Hi all,

Well, spring is here with warmer days, less rain and bright sunshine (In theory) so we can get our treasures out of their winter hibernation, polish them up and give the non Chrysler owning public the chance to see what they're missing out on. It will be great to cruise again without worrying about rain, hail, sleet, etc.. And the best bit is that we won't have to worry too much about speeding because there are so many road works around the place that going over the limit is bloody near impossible.

The *AGM* has been run and won. I have it on good authority that the **Guinness** records people should ratify ours as being eligible for the shortest on record (Thanks **Stuart**). I think a radio or television ad would go for longer than the election of the committee and ACD subcommittee. Seriously though, I am honoured that our club saw fit to extend my term as Vice President for another year. I will be giving it my best efforts, once again, as will everyone else on both committees. Bear in mind though that we are all volunteers with full time jobs, so occasionally, there may be delays in attending to individual needs.

The club phone hasn't been all that busy these past few months but what I find encouraging is there appears to be an increase in inquiries to become

members. That's a good thing on a couple of levels; firstly it shows that our club will continue to grow and secondly, many of these potential members seem to have Chryslers that haven't been on historic registration before; so more quality vehicles are coming out of barns and garages where they've been stored for God knows how long. There have been several nuisance calls; people who don't have English as a first language and who want to speak to "the owner". Then there was the text message that said we had just won twenty five million pounds in the lottery of Great Britain and could I please email our banking details so the funds can be transferred. Yep!!

Which leads me effortlessly to my challenge to our readers. Although we haven't finalised a final date yet (at time of writing this article) we all know that the *2013 All Chrysler Day* will be around the end of February/early March. Now I, for one, am very proud of my VIP and love showing it off at every opportunity. How many of you feel the same?

Because if you do, we have the best venue and the best chance to put our event up there with the big ones. We should be able to put at least a hundred or so of our club vehicles on display which will still leave stacks of room for other clubs. There is more than enough room for almost every one of our club vehicles with still plenty of space left over to allow for



other clubs, trade and food stalls, children's rides, static displays and much more. This could and should be one of the premier car events in this state.

So, come on. We all have great cars; let's show the world just how good they and our club really are. I'd like to see at least three hundred Chryslers on display, if not more.

And for this, we need your help.  
Happy Moparing

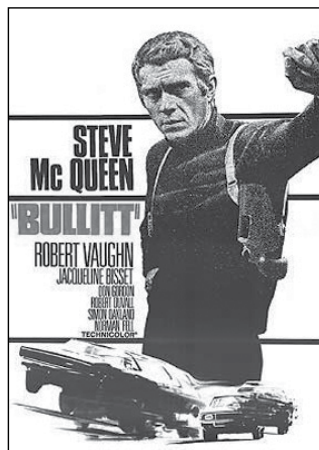
**Hugh**

Aussie comedian Nick Giannopolous made us laugh at ourselves with the passionate care and pride he held in his tough Val, in his comedy *Wog Boy*. Of course, as the saying goes in Adelaide, "wogs are the best Valiant mechanics..."





### QUINTESSENTIAL CARSPLOITATION FLICKS



If you talk to any Mopar aficionado about classic car movies, chances are the first films they'll immediately rattle off will be *Bullitt* and *Vanishing Point*. The late 60s and early 70s saw a boom in 'road' movies which was punctuated by the dawn of the muscle car, and several moviestars such as **Steve McQueen**, **Peter Fonda** and **David Carradine** (who we'll talk about again later on) rode high on the Hollywood red carpet as tough guys and action heroes just as they did behind a big V8.

*Bullitt* is a 1968 thriller directed by Peter Yates, produced by **Philip D'Antoni**, and starring Steve McQueen, **Robert Vaughn** and **Jacqueline Bisset**. The screenplay was based on the 1963 novel *Mute Witness* by Robert L. Pike. Basically the plot follows an all guts, no glory San Francisco detective who becomes determined to find an underworld kingpin who kills a witness in his protection. Many people will remember the distinctive cool jazz soundtrack, and look out for a young **Robert Duvall** in a small part as a cabbie who provides information to McQueen's copper.

So, if *Bullitt* was a crime detective thriller, what's it got to do with cars exactly? Well, At the time of the film's release, the epic car chase scene between the goodguy's Ford Mustang and our favourite – the '68 black Dodge Charger piloted by the badguys, generated a huge amount of excitement. It still blows us away today.

At a breakneck pace, McQueen (doing his own driving) is chased by and chases a couple of gangsters up and down San Francisco's winding and hilly streets. They slam into intersections, bounce halfway down the next hill, scrape by near-misses, and sideswipe each other. Who can forget that scene where after the goons realise they are being followed by McQueen, the driver stops at an intersection, puts on his seat belt, plants the foot and the big Dodge goes off in a cloud of tyre smoke. The pony and the big Mopar pass a VW beetle multiple times, and the Charger loses way more than four hubcaps!

The extended DVD tells in the making of this film how the Dodge driver gave McQueen some lessons before the car chase – he was in fact a stunt driver and not an actor, hence there were no words at all from him during the scene. Only adds to the mystique!

With the movie sponsored by Ford, McQueen actually drove two Mustangs, but at the last minute the filmmakers decided they needed a distinctive badguy car so they walked into a Dodge dealership and bought two Chargers to match. The Mustang had trouble keeping up with the Dodge in a straight line, so they did some work on the motors to even them up. As you can see in the car chase the Mustang keeps up in the corners, but fails miserably in a straight line. And all four cars had Kenworth 15

speed Road Ranger gearboxes! You've just got to love the double clutching on every change – these rides would've run a 25 second quarter if they were trying that down the strip! There's also a Camaro that's makes almost as many appearances as the Beetle too.

There's been a bit of talk on US forums over the last year or so about the only surviving Bullitt Charger being found and currently being restored – it has a believable history and remains of camera mounting points etc – there are still plenty of sceptics though, especially when the DVD points out that all four cars were destroyed.

Apparently McQueen wanted to keep one of the Mustangs, but because of liability claims (you can see they were hammered over the Frisco bumps and into each other) he wasn't able to do so. That's not to say that someone couldn't have dragged one of these cars from the salvage yard, but the filmmakers were adamant they were destroyed.

Movie critics at the time called the famous car chase scene "one of the most exciting car chases in film history, a sequence that revolutionized Hollywood's standards." Indeed, the extended car chase instantly became a classic, and no doubt won editor **Frank P. Keller** an Oscar for Best Editing. Later, producer Philip D'Antoni took this successful formula onto similar car chases for *The French Connection* and *The Seven-Ups* in New York City.

In 2001, the Ford Motor Company released a *Bullitt* edition of the Mustang GT and then again in 2008, Henry produced the 'Mustang Bullitt' model for the 40th anniversary of the film. The *Bullitt* nameplate on the steering wheel honored this movie which made the Mustang one of the most popular cars of the 1960s and 1970s – a name that has since always been closely associated with the film. The distinctive green and gold colorscheme (a racing car commonplace) was also brought back for the anniversary edition.

The famous car chase has been echoed in other movies since. During the recent finale of the 2012 season of *Alcatraz*, a 2013 Ford Mustang GT gives chase to a black LX Dodge Charger. The chase sequence mirrored portions of the one featured in *Bullitt*, right down to a scene of the villain buckling his seatbelt in his Charger before the start of the chase and two passes by a green Volkswagen beetle.







# *musclecar chasey*

## VANISHING POINT



*Vanishing Point* is a 1971 action road movie directed by **Richard C. Sarafian** and starring **Barry Newman**, **Cleavon Little**, and **Dean Jagger**. The film is notable for its scenic film locations across the American Southwest and its social commentary on the post-Woodstock mood in the United States. The film is especially popular with Mopar enthusiasts because it prominently features a classic 1970 Dodge Challenger.

A car delivery driver, Kowalski (Newman), arrives in Denver, Colorado late Friday night with a black Chrysler Imperial. The delivery service clerk urges him to get some rest but Kowalski insists on getting started with his next assignment – to deliver a white R/T 440 Magnum Chally to San Francisco by Monday. Before leaving Denver, Kowalski pulls into a biker bar parking lot around midnight to buy Benzedrine pills to stay awake for the long drive ahead. He bets his dealer that he will get to Frisco by 3:00 pm Saturday, even though the delivery is not due until Monday.

Kowalski is a Medal of Honor Vietnam War veteran and former race car driver and motorcycle racer. He is also a former police officer, who was dishonourably discharged in retaliation for preventing his partner from raping a young woman. Haunted by the surfing death of his girlfriend Vera, Kowalski now thrives on adrenaline.

Driving west across Colorado, Kowalski is pursued by two motorcycle cops who try to stop him for speeding. Recalling his days as a motorcycle racer, he forces one officer off the road and eludes the other officer by jumping across a dry creek bed. Later, the driver of a Jaguar E-Type convertible pulls up alongside Kowalski and challenges him to a race. After the Jaguar driver nearly runs him off the road, Kowalski overtakes him and beats the Jaguar to a one-lane bridge, causing the Jaguar to crash into the river. Kowalski checks to see if the driver is okay, then takes off, with police cars in hot pursuit.

Kowalski drives across Utah and into Nevada, with the police unable to catch him. During the pursuit, Kowalski listens to radio station KOW, which is broadcasting from Goldfield, Nevada. A blind African-American disc jockey at KOW, Super Soul (Little), listens to the police radio frequency and encourages Kowalski to evade the police. Super Soul seems to understand Kowalski and seems to see and hear Kowalski's reactions. With the help of Super Soul, who calls Kowalski "the last American hero," Kowalski gains the interest of the news media, and people begin to gather at the KOW radio station to offer their support.

During the police chase across Nevada, Kowalski finds himself surrounded and heads into the desert. After he blows a left front tyre and becomes lost, Kowalski is helped by an old hermit prospector (Jagger). After Kowalski is given fuel, the old man redirects him back to the highway. There, he picks up two homosexual hitchhikers stranded en route to San Francisco with a "Just Married" sign in their rear window. However when they attempt to hold him up at gunpoint, Kowalski throws them out of the car.

Saturday afternoon, a police officer and some thugs shouting racial epithets raid the KOW studio and assault Super Soul and his engineer. Near the California state line, Kowalski is helped by a hippy biker, Angel, who gives him pills to help him stay awake. Angel's girlfriend who rides a motorcycle nude, recognizes Kowalski and shows him a poster she made of newspaper articles about his police career. Kowalski suspects that Super Soul's encouragement is now being directed by the police to entrap Kowalski. Confirming that the police are indeed waiting at the border, Angel helps Kowalski get through the roadblock trap with the help of an old air raid siren and a small motorbike with a red light strapped to the top of the Challenger. Kowalski finally reaches California by Saturday 7:12 pm. He calls Jake

the dealer from a payphone to reassure him that he still intends to deliver the car on Monday.

On Sunday morning, California police, who have been tracking Kowalski's movements through electronic road sensors, set up a roadblock with two bulldozers in the small town of Cisco, where Kowalski will be passing. A small crowd gathers at the roadblock. As Kowalski approaches at high speed, he smiles as he crashes into the bulldozers in a fiery explosion.

The film-makers did Chrysler a favour for their long-time practice of providing 20th Century Fox with cars on a rental base for only a dollar a day. Many of the other cars featured in the film are also Chrysler products. Stunt Coordinator **Carey Loftin** said he requested the Dodge Challenger because of the "quality of the torsion bar suspension and for its horsepower" and felt that it was "a real sturdy, good running car."

Five Alpine White Dodge Challenger R/Ts were lent to the production by Chrysler for promotional consideration and were returned upon completion of filming. Four cars had 440 engines equipped with four-speeds; the fifth car was a 383. No special equipment was added or modifications made to the cars, except for heavier-duty shock absorbers for the car that jumped over No Name Creek. The Challengers were prepared and maintained for the movie by **Max Balchowsky**, who also prepared the Mustangs and Chargers for *Bullitt* (1968). The cars performed to Loftin's satisfaction, although dust came to be a problem. None of the engines were blown. Loftin remembers that parts were taken out of one car to repair another because they "really ruined a couple of those cars" while jumping ramps between highways and over creeks. Newman remembers that the 440 engines in the cars were so powerful that "it was almost as if there was too much power for the body. You'd put it in first and it would almost rear back!" The Challengers appear in the film with Colorado plates OA-5599.








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**MONARO** HQ LS 308 V8 with 1-bar auto, custom air cond., power steering and brakes, electric windows and aerial, radio-cassette and radio, genuine reason for selling. RBK-956. Inspect at 251 Findon rd., Flinders Pk. till 3 p.m.

CARS

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**MORRIS** Mini 850, exc. con. \$525. Ring before 12 noon. Phone 258 1670.

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**PANEL** van 68 HR Holden 5 months reg. mech. Al. in immac. cond. \$1,000. o.n.o. RDW-166 446. A.H. 76 8670.

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2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 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3294, 3295, 3296, 3297, 3298, 3299, 3300, 3301, 3302, 3303, 3304, 3305, 3306, 3307, 3308, 3309, 3310, 3311, 3312, 3313, 3314, 3315, 3316, 3317, 3318, 3319, 3320, 3321, 3322, 3323, 3324, 3325, 3326, 3327, 3328, 3329, 3330, 3331, 3332, 3333, 3334, 3335, 3336, 3337, 3338, 3339, 3340, 3341, 3342, 3343, 3344, 3345, 3346, 3347, 3348, 3349, 3350, 3351, 3352, 3353, 3354, 3355, 3356, 3357, 3358, 3359, 3360, 3361, 3362, 3363, 3364, 3365, 3366, 336



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# highway robbery

## GONE IN 60 SECONDS

### GRAND THEFT AUTO

The original *Gone in 60 Seconds* is a 1974 action film written, directed, produced by, and starring former stuntman and would-be actor **H.B. 'Toby' Halicki**. It follows a group of likeable anti-hero car thieves and the 48 cars they must steal in a matter of days. The film is famous for having wrecked and destroyed 93 cars in a 34-minute car chase scene. This original indy movie has since become a cult classic, particularly amongst muscle car lovers – as it has become a time capsule recording all the classics; Challengers, Cudas, Chargers, Mustangs, Camaros, Firebirds, Chevelles, Corvettes and Grabbers back in their day.

Maindrian Pace (Halicki) is an intelligent, respectable insurance investigator who runs a quality auto chop shop in Long Beach, California. What very few know is that he is the leader of a group of professional car thieves who steal cars around town and sell them remodelled for a good price. One day, a South American druglord arrives at Pace's office and offers him \$400,000 to steal 48 specific cars to be delivered to his place within five days. The cars are all very high-end, ranging from Mustangs and Cadillacs to limousines and race vehicles, making the order quite difficult to fill it under the time limit, but Pace still wants to get the money.

Mapping out a basic strategy, the gang begins to scout out their targets which have all been given female names. One example is of course the now famous yellow 1973 Ford Mustang Mach 1, receiving the code name "Eleanor". Being an insurance man himself, Pace does have one small idiosyncrasy when it comes to stealing: all of the cars stolen by the gang must be insured, because Pace wants to make sure the owners get the insurance for the cars.

The thieves carry out their plan easily at first but run into a couple of obstacles. First, a white Cadillac that the gang steals is revealed to have several kilos of heroin stashed in the trunk. Against his brother-in-law Eugene's suggestion to sell the heroin on the side, Pace has the Cadillac and its contents burned at a remote location. Then they discover that the "Eleanor" they stole is not insured after its owner posts a notice on the local newspaper. After pleas from his fiancée he decides, much to the chagrin of his buddies, to return it. After that, they manage to get 47 cars stolen and delivered.

On the day before the deadline, a disguised Pace spots another "Eleanor" at a radio station in Long Beach and prepares to steal it, but is unaware the police have been alerted after his brother-in-law sells him out anonymously following a fight over the stolen Cadillac. As a result of the tip-off, two detectives confront a disguised Pace as he is about to drive out of the carpark. This results in a

lengthy 34-minute car chase (in which are 93 vehicles destroyed) that spans from Long Beach to Carson. During the chase, Pace drives a battered "Eleanor", which belongs to the radio DJ of Constant Country K-Fox who is giving updates on the chase but doesn't know it's his car, into a 30-foot jump over a prior car crash, losing the police in the process.

Pace is now desperate because the car is almost destroyed. Minutes later, Pace spots another yellow Mustang pulling into a car wash. He asks for his car to be washed and then dupes the owner of the other Mustang into reporting to the manager's office. He subsequently leaves the car wash with the other Mustang, switching the license plates and removing his disguise. The Mustang owner faints at the sight of the wrecked "Eleanor" exiting the car wash machine while the manager is arrested by the police, who mistake him for Pace.

*The Junkman* is the 1982 independent follow-up that took two years in production. To make the film, H. B. Halicki used his own personal collection of over 200 cars, rare toys, and guns – including "Eleanor", the star of his 1974 cult classic *Gone in 60 Seconds*. *Junkman* and movie-maker Harlan Hollis struggles to stay alive when a jealous partner in his company hires goons to kill him. Again there are lots of amazing car chases and fantastic crashes.

*The Junkman* is the second instalment of Halicki's film trilogy. It presents *Gone in 60 Seconds* and a third film *Deadline Auto Theft* as films within a film. The opening car chase sequence, which involves a 1974 Bricklin SV-1, is part of the eventual storyline of *Deadline Auto Theft* which followed in 1983, made up of scenes from *Gone in 60 Seconds* and *The Junkman*, as well as new material featuring **Hoyt Axton**. *Deadline Auto Theft* really was just a piecemeal effort by Halicki to incorporate the opening chase of *The Junkman* into the film *Gone in 60 Seconds*. Essentially a trimmed alternate cut of his 1974 cult classic but with a new subplot featuring Axton. The chase from *The Junkman* was depicted in this third film as the making of a car chase picture – the footage incorporated into the plot, essentially making this film the movie that was being produced in *The Junkman*. After the attempted theft of his daughter's husband's car, an LAPD Captain (Axton) declares war on master car thief Maindrian Pace. Meanwhile, Pace is hired to steal 48 cars, and must do so without being caught.



So the plot is virtually identical to that of *Gone in 60 Seconds*, with the addition of the character of Gibbs.

Only months after he married his wife **Denice** in 1989, Halicki began to shoot *Gone in 60 Seconds 2*. Preparing for the most dramatic stunt sequence in the film, during which a 49m water tower would suddenly topple, a cable attached to the tower snapped. The cable sheared off a telephone pole, which fell on and instantly killed him.

In light of the incomplete *Gone in 60 Seconds 2* project, and their recent marriage, there were a number of legal challenges to Halicki estate. After seven trials, in 1994 the court released Halicki's films and the associated copyrights to Denice, but she was forced to sell the famous car and toy collection to pay the legal fees.

In 1995, Halicki's widow finally agreed to a contract with Disney and **Jerry Bruckheimer** for a big-budget blockbuster remake again called *Gone in 60 Seconds*. With Denice as Executive Producer, the redux came out in 2000, starring **Nicolas Cage**, **Giovanni Ribisi**, **Robert Duvall** and **Angelina Jolie** – although this remake has a slightly different premise and motivations, and has more of a character-driven plot than the pure carfest that was the original. However it's a great flick in the mould of *The Fast and the Furious* especially if you love nice cars, action and beautiful women.

The popularity of the second film revived the popularity of the "Eleanor" (now a 1967 Ford Mustang, not a 1973 model as in the original). A number of car shops started to produce "Eleanor" tagged replicas, which Denice again had to resort to legal action to protect the trademark. In 2008 she won a case against Carroll Shelby, who had been selling replicas as "continuation models" of his original Shelby cars. As of 2009, however, Classic Recreations ceased manufacturing Eleanor Mustangs after entering into a licensing arrangement with Shelby to produce the GT500CR, as a new continuation of his original Shelby cars.



Chop Shop 101 with HB Halicki. The original *Gone in 60 Seconds* is virtually a biopic doco on how to steal cars and then pass them off as another to on-sell. The Bruckheimer remake had higher production values, boasting an ensemble cast following a much more professional script...





### MORE CARSPLOITATION FLICKS

Following on from the previous issue, we'll continue our look at *Carsploitation* films. Some of these movies today are cult classics, some are very strange or just plain dumb, while others have been long forgotten and aren't even worthy of a rotten tomato. But, as we said before, this is all about the cars that became the stars.

**Two-Lane Blacktop** is a 1971 road movie starring singer-songwriter **James Taylor**, Beach Boys drummer **Dennis Wilson** and **Laurie Bird**. Although once declared as the movie of the year for 1971, the film was not a commercial success at all – but it has since become a cult classic. **Brock Yates**, organiser of the Cannonball Baker Sea-To-Shining-Sea Memorial Trophy Dash (better known as the Cannonball Run) cites *Two-Lane Blacktop* as an inspiration for the creation of the race. The movie is a time capsule of Route 66 during the pre-Interstate Highway era, and with its stark footage and minimal dialogue is often compared to similar road movies with an existentialist message from the era, such as *Vanishing Point* and biker odysseys like 1969's *Easy Rider* and 1973's *Electra Glide in Blue*. As such it has become popular with fans of both custom and counter cultures.

The premise involves two street racers who live on the road in their highly-modified 1955 Chevy "One-Fifty" two-door and drift from town to town, making their income by challenging local residents to races. The movie follows them driving east on Route 66 from California. They pick up a female hitchhiker in Arizona and in New Mexico they encounter their nemesis in a 1970 Pontiac GTO, who they challenge to a cross-country race to Washington for 'pinks'. A very hippy film, the characters are never identified by name; instead they are named "The Driver," "The Mechanic," "GTO," and "The Girl". The movie follows the group east through small towns in Oklahoma, Arkansas and Tennessee, but no character makes it to Washington during the film. The film ends during a drag race at an airstrip in Tennessee. As the Driver speeds down the runway, first the sound drops out, then the film slows until the frames of the film seem to catch in the projector's gate, catching on fire and melting away.

Tough guy **Robert Blake** earned many accolades for his performance as a gritty cop on TV's *Baretta*, landing him his first big-screen role in the 1972 movie *Corky*, about a rebellious young mechanic who tries to make it big as a stock car racer. Look out for his '69 Barracuda with a Superbird wing. Of course Blake then went onto his most famous big-screen part as a motorcycle cop in the poignant *Electra Glide in Blue*.

Blake's contemporary and fellow biker hero **Peter Fonda** became big at this time too. Fonda was Mr Cool, landing some big gigs after his performance in *Easy Rider*. *Dirty Mary Crazy Larry* (1974) is a road movie with real attitude. Today a cult car chase film, it stars Fonda, **Susan George**, **Adam Roarke**, and **Vic Morrow** and was directed by **John Hough**. Two NASCAR hopefuls, driver Larry Rayder (Fonda) and his mechanic Deke Sommers (Roarke), successfully execute a supermarket heist to finance their jump into big-time auto racing. They extort \$150,000 in cash from a supermarket manager (**Roddy McDowall**) by holding his wife and daughter hostage.

In making their escape, they are confronted by Larry's one-night stand, the sexy Mary Coombs (George). She coerces them to take her along for the ride in their souped-up '66 Impala. The sheriff, Captain Franklin (Vic Morrow), obsessively pursues the trio in a dragnet, only to find his patrol cars unable to catch Larry, Mary and Deke after they ditch the Impala for a '69 Dodge Charger R/T 440. Larry then bails into a walnut grove, wherein the trees provide significant cover from aerial tracking, and the many intersecting roads ("with sixty distinct and separate exits") making roadblocks ineffective. The trio evades several Dodge Polara patrol cars, a specially-prepared high-performance Dodge Monaco interceptor, and even Captain Franklin himself in a Bell JetRanger helicopter. Nearing the border and believing they've finally beaten the police, our fugitives meet their doom when they randomly collide with a freight train.

**Race with the Devil** is a 1975 occult thriller and action film starring Peter Fonda, Warren Oates, **Loretta Swit** and **Lara Parker**. This was the second of three films Fonda and Oates would star in together (*The Hired Hand* was their first and *92 in the Shade* was their third). A hybrid of the horror, action and car chase genres, the film tells of two couples heading off in an RV for a ski trip in Colorado. They decide to camp en route in central Texas, where they witness a satanic ritual human sacrifice. After barely escaping with their lives, they report the incident to the local sheriff, who investigates their report but shrugs it off as just hippies killing an animal. When the couples refuse to accept the sheriff's explanation, it becomes clear that he is a member of the cult too. They leave peacefully, but as the four head towards Amarillo, they are pursued by a steadily increasing number of Satanists, networked throughout numerous small Texas towns. Eventually, after getting a shotgun the travellers stage a showdown with the cult members during a high speed chase that pits their RV against a convoy of trucks. They manage to kill or wound all of the attackers and escape, stopping to celebrate when they pick up a radio signal coming from Amarillo. In the middle of their celebration however, the couples hear chanting outside their RV and find themselves surrounded by cult members. The film ends as the cult lights a ring of fire around the vehicle, trapping the couples inside.

Around this time **David Carradine** also became a big screen star – going from TV's *Kung Fu* to 1976's *Cannonball*, also known as *Carquake*. Look out for a huge ending when a black '68 Charger falls off an incomplete section of highway. This film is one of two released in 1976 (the other being *The Gumball Rally*) that were based on the real illegal cross-continent road race for a number of years in the US. This topic later became the basis for subsequent films *The Cannonball Run* (1981), *Cannonball Run II* (1984) and *Speed Zone!* (1989). The plots of all these movies were inspired by the story of **Erwin G. "Cannonball" Baker** (1882-1960), who travelled across the US several times, and by the Cannonball Run event he instigated, to protest against the 55mph speed limit. The only rule was, the first to finish is the winner. Naturally, anyone driving 55 wasn't going to win so they needed to drive a little faster than that. Well actually, a LOT faster!

Another moonshine tale is the 1977 movie *Bad Georgia Road* starring **Gary Lockwood** and **Carol Lynley**. The story follows a New York City woman who inherits a moonshine farm in the deep South. The movie features a '70 Roadrunner with fat steelies as a moonshine runner, and look out for an opening chase scene in which the cops pilot a '68 Charger.

The 1978 movie *Hi-Riders* is a story about a group of drag racers and a young boy and girl who join them. This flick is full of muscle cars (most with 4WD ride heights) and well worth watching for the car spotting alone. One of the main protagonists drives a tough '68 Charger which sadly gets smashed. Another standout scene is the bad guys smoking up an awesome Chevelle.

Most people might not remember the shortlived sitcom *California Fever* – following a couple of suburban LA teenage blokes enjoying disco, surfing, cars and the rest of the Southern California lifestyle. Musical Vince runs an underground radio station and mechanical Ross is into custom cars. He drives a TransAm with a psychedelic paintjob which wouldn't be out of place amongst the ricers at today's AutoSalon shows. But around this time the culmination of the beach and the street machine spawned a number of 'coming-of-age' movies with a similar gimmick. Amid the seventies panel van craze came *The Van* (1977), starring **Stuart Goetz** and **Deborah White**. This nostalgic flick is a real teen party movie, in which a young dude named Bobby blows all his college savings on a custom van in order to get the girl of his dreams. A wild time with Bobby and his friends. Despite the song "Chevy Van" by **Sammy Johns** appearing throughout the soundtrack of the film, the "van" is actually a very cool '77 Dodge B200 Tradesman. *Corvette Summer* followed suit in 1978, starring **Mark Hamill** – who had just cracked the big time in *Star Wars* – and **Annie Potts**. Hamill's Ken loves to design and build exotic cars and when the high school shop class project car, a fully tricked out dream Corvette, is stolen, he begins searching for it. His search leads him to Las Vegas, where Vanessa, a teenaged prostitute wannabe, helps him try to track it down. The same year, carsploitation veteran **Chris Mitchum** returned in a somewhat copycat-themed action flick called *Stingray*.

Everybody already knows of the **Blues Brothers**, an initially fictitious blues and soul revivalist band founded in 1978 by comedians **Dan Aykroyd** and **John Belushi** as part of a regular musical sketch on *Saturday Night Live*. Belushi and Aykroyd, respectively in character as lead vocalist "Joliet" Jake Blues and harmonica player/backing vocalist Elwood Blues, fronted the band which was composed of well-known and respected musicians. It soon began to take on a life of its own beyond TV, eventually releasing an album, *Briefcase Full of Blues* in 1978, before a Hollywood film created around these characters, *The Blues Brothers* was directed by **John Landis** in 1980. Everybody should know the story of the film, where Jake Blues, just out from prison, joins his brother upon an epic "mission from God" to reform the old band to raise some big money to save the Catholic orphanage where the boys were raised.





At first celebrated as an awesome soul and blues musical, this movie is just as well remembered now for its amazing driving stunts in and around the city of Chicago. Of course Jake and Elwood spend a lot of the movie behind the wheel of The Bluesmobile, a 1974 Dodge Monaco sedan. In the film it is described as a used Mount Prospect police car that replaced a Cadillac which Elwood Blues traded for a microphone. The Bluesmobile was equipped with the "440 Magnum" squad car package that was offered by Dodge for the Monaco. Aykroyd, co-writer of the film, stated that he chose the 440 Dodge Monaco because he considered it to be the hottest car used by police during the 1970s. The Bluesmobile had the ability to perform seemingly impossible stunts, such as jumping over an open drawbridge, flipping backwards in midair and even "flying" for very brief periods of time.

After the extended chase from their concert gig, which was a 171km trip to Chicago and then through the streets of the city pursued both by the police and Neo-Nazis driving a Ford Pinto, the Bluesmobile collapsed seconds after crashing through a shopping mall and arriving at the council offices. Director Landis claimed that the famous mass car-chase scene beneath Chicago's iconic elevated traintracks, which briefly showed the car's speedometer with a reading of 120 miles per hour (190 km/h) was actually filmed at that speed. Landis also states he re-shot some of the scenes with pedestrians on the sidewalks, so viewers could see that the film had not been sped up to create the effect of speed. Wow!

But be warned – don't bother renting out the 1998 sequel **Blues Brothers 2000** at all... It's so horrible we're not even going to mention it any more here.

**The Hitcher** (1986) is a brilliant road trip come horror thriller with a few similarities to **Duel**, starring a very scary **Rutger Hauer** with **C. Thomas Howell** and **Jennifer Jason-Leigh**. A young man named Jim Halsey narrowly escapes the clutches of a murderous hitch-hiker and is subsequently stalked, framed for the hitcher's crimes, and has his life made into sheer hell by the same psycho he escaped from. This film will keep you on the edge of your seat. A sequel called **The Hitcher II: I've Been Waiting** followed in 2003, but without the powerful presence of Hauer

in the title role it virtually went straight to video. Howell returned as Jim Halsey, with **Kari Wuhrer** as his girlfriend, and **Jake Busey** as a different psycho hitchhiker. This sequel explores how fifteen years after Jim's horror filled trip through Texas at the mercy of a crazed murderer, he never got over it. Now working as a policeman, he has recently been suspended for using excessive force on a kidnapping suspect. While in its day the original first film didn't set the world on fire at the box office, **The Hitcher** must've been good because it was remade in 2007 almost down to the last word in the script, starring **Sean Bean**, **Sophia Bush**, and **Zachary Knighton**.

Another good musclecar drag racing gang movie to check out is the 1986 action/science fiction film **The Wraith**, starring **Charlie Sheen**, **Sherilyn Fenn** and **Randy Quaid**, which obviously draws from movies like **Mad Max**. Look out for a spirit of vengeance piloting a mysterious black Dodge M4S Turbo Interceptor.

As we approach the 21st century, pure carspolitation movies fade out, probably in favour of more bigger action blockbusters, which feature some cool and trick cars, but not as central components to their stories. However, there are still a few honourable mentions.

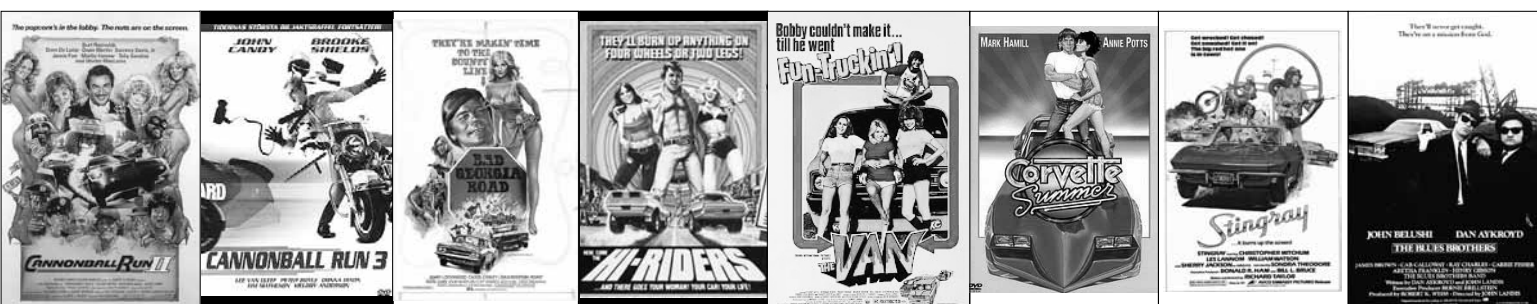
**25th Hour** is a 2002 drama directed by **Spike Lee** starring **Edward Norton**, **Philip Seymour Hoffman**, **Rosario Dawson**, and **Anna Paquin**. It tells the story of Monty Brogan's last 24 hours of freedom before going to prison for dealing drugs. The '70 Superbee is one of Monty's symbols and as he says: "...I make money, so I can afford to drive a vintage muscle car..."

**Speed Demon** (2003) is a quirky movie about a mysterious driver in a muscle car with a demonic hood ornament who hunts down a gang that has taken over a small town. When Jesse returns home from college following the suspicious death of his mechanic father, he hooks back up with his brother Mikey and members of a muscle car-driving gang he used to hang with. Otto, the leader of the gang, has in his possession a "speed demon," an ancient demon bound in an amulet. Mikey challenges Otto to a race and is killed when his car explodes. Grief-stricken,

Jesse discovers another speed demon amulet in his home and remembers his father performing a ritual with it. Jesse performs the ritual and one by one the members of Otto's gang are killed by a mysterious black-clad helmeted driver. As his gang dwindles and desperate to cement his hold on power, Otto challenges Jesse to a showdown. He believes that Jesse has tapped the power of his speed demon. Actually, it's Jesse's girlfriend who's been acting as the masked driver all along. She destroys Otto.

From the director of **The Hitcher**, another strange tale is 2004's **Highway Men** starring **Jim Caviezel** and **Rhona Mitra**. Rennie Cray embarks on a bloodthirsty rampage to avenge the death of his wife, who was struck down years before by a serial killer known as Fargo, who hunts and kills women with his 1972 Cadillac Eldorado. After Cray, a doctor, collides with Fargo's car on the highway, Fargo is hospitalized for the next 18 months and much of his body is replaced with prosthetics. Cray is imprisoned for three years. When Cray is released from prison, he begins tracking Fargo who has made the Eldorado into an extension of his own artificial body. Fargo continues with his hit-and-run spree, disguising his murders as accidents. When one of Fargo's victims, Molly, escapes alive Cray protects her. Cray hunts down Fargo in a 1968 Plymouth Barracuda SuperStock 426 Hemi, 4 speed with a pistol grip Hurst shifter. Meanwhile, state traffic investigator Will Macklin pursues Cray while Fargo plans to kill Cray at last.

The comedy **Joe Dirt** (2001), starring **David Spade**, is a piss-take of bogans a la **My Name is Earl**, and in doing so the producers put the title character getting around in an old beat-up metalink Daytona. Of course the great unwashed of uninitiated non-Moparheads out there will only see a car like that as daggy and ugly retro – but we all know better... Speaking of rednecks, much in the same vein as the **Dukes of Hazzard** movie is **Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby**, a very funny payout of the mentality of NASCAR from the **Saturday Night Live** stable. This 2006 comedy stars **Will Ferrell**, **John C. Reilly**, **Amy Adams** and **Sacha Baron Cohen**. Real life NASCAR drivers like **Jamie McMurray** and **Dale Earnhardt Jr** also make







cameos as themselves, as do the broadcasting teams of NASCAR on Fox and NBC. Some cool racetrack scenes were shot at Charlotte Motor Speedway in North Carolina, using a Porsche Cayenne outfitted with camera mounts on all four corners of the car. Have a giggle at yourself.

The Fantasticar, driven by the superhero team the Fantastic Four in the 2007 franchise release *Fantastic Four: Rise of the Silver Surfer*, is a much sleeker version of the original vehicle drawn in the comicbooks. Not only is it able to travel from New York to Siberia in a matter of minutes on autopilot, can be summoned by a palm top computer and splits into three sections, but watch very closely to catch an element of product placement. The Fantasticar has a Dodge badge on its front grille, prompting Johnny Torch to ask if it is powered by a Hemi. Mr Fantastic's answer, "Of course!"

While on the subject of superheroes, the coolest sidekick of *The Green Hornet* is his car. The masked crime-fighting vigilante used a weapons-laden '65 Chrysler Imperial Crown, nicknamed Black Beauty, in the original 1966 television show. And when the show was remade into a cinema feature in 2011, car coordinator **Dennis McCarthy** had to find twenty nine '64 to '66 Imperial Crowns for the new movie.

"We had two hero cars that were basically pristine, with a fully functioning interior, and they weren't used by the stunt department," he says. "Then we had cars that had no motor in it for some kind of gag. What really ate the cars up the most, though, was final chase sequence—the car just goes through various degrees of destruction, and we had to have multiple cars for each degree of damage." The hunt took him from San Diego to eastern Canada. Most of

the cars were in terrible shape—more rust than steel—so the crew stripped them to the frames and added Chev ZZ454 V8s, Race Trans Turbo 400 trannies, Ford diffs and four-wheel disc brakes. Body parts for the 1965 Crown Imperial are no longer manufactured, so McCarthy got the pieces from an unlikely source. "We found a very eccentric 80-year-old guy in Washington who had a whole collection of these Imperials," McCarthy says. "And the guy would not part with them. He would not sell us a complete car under any circumstances. He would only sell us parts."

When the cars were complete, it was time for the stunt department to add the weapons: machine guns, missiles and a flamethrower. McCarthy estimates that his team fully rebuilt 15 cars. "Black Beauty is just an Imperial on the outside," he says. "Under the skin, it's a race car." By the end of production, 26 cars were wrecked; only three survived in pristine shape. "We definitely took a big chunk out of the remaining Imperials on the planet," McCarthy says. "If there's a sequel, it's going to be hard to find 25 more cars."

The Time Police in the 2011 sci-fi blockbuster *In Time*, starring **Justin Timberlake** and **Amanda Seyfried**, drive a number of futuristically treated '70 Dodge Challengers, a Dodge Ramcharger as well as a Lincoln Continental. The sci-fied new trim is actually not too bad styling.

Recent comedy *The Dilemma* (2011) starring **Vince Vaughn**, **Kevin James** and **Winona Ryder**, is actually a romantic comedy so no car movie – but its story does revolve around Chrysler. Savvy businessman Ronny, cruising around in a sexy 426 Chally convertible, and his mate genius engineer Nick are working on the project of their life – developing an audio solution for electric cars to sound like muscle cars – and Dodge is the client!

Other cars that also get a lot of screentime include a new Charger and a '69 Dodge Charger with a 426.

Of course so many cars appear all the time in movies and tv shows as incidental to the story, but here are a couple of other final mentions of Mopars to remember. A very tough '70 R/T Coronet collects **Sylvester Stallone** from prison in *Lock Up* (1989), **Mel Gibson** flogs a black Roadrunner in the 1999 movie *Payback*, *The Punisher* upgrades to a '68 Plymouth Satellite, and who could forget the vampire-hunter's tough black Dodge Charger in the *Blade* trilogy starring **Wesley Snipes**. There's regularly a fine '73 Dodge Charger in the TV show *Burn Notice*, and of course, the '67 Chev Impala is a famous star itself of the TV show *Supernatural* – but in season 7 the boys had to hide their regular ride and opt for a few different musclecars, including a street-brawling Roadrunner and a crispy Dodge Challenger.

One final hilarious mention is the classic offbeat sitcom *Married With Children*. Who could forget Al Bundy's 'Dodge' which he regularly confided in, from within the sanctity of his garage (sound familiar?). It's actually a Plymouth, so it's ironic to hear Al say "I don't want a Plymouth, Peg, I want my Dodge, dagnabbit!" but it's definitely a '72 Duster with a vinyl top. You can tell by the taillights, and when you look at the engine, it looks like a 340 4 barrel small block – quite the opposite of what the show's writers make us believe about Al's car being such a sluggish and clapped out lemon!

There are millions more, and way too many to try and fit in here, but if you're keen on Mopar spotting check out the *Allpar.com* website for vast comprehensive lists of instances of Mopars appearing in movies and TV shows. Have fun!



# racing for pinks and booty

## THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS TRILOGY

DONCHOO KNOW I'M LOCO, ESEP

**The Fast and the Furious** trilogy is a hugely successful series of action films which centre on illegal street racing and heists. Produced by Universal Studios, the series was established in 2001 with the original first instalment, which has since been followed by four sequels, and two short films that tie into the series.

If you love modern auto salon cars (with the occasional cameo of a real muscle car) and beautiful women, then these flicks will be right up there with 2000's **Gone in 60 Seconds**.



**The Fast and the Furious** (2001) is based on a magazine article entitled *Racer X*, about gangs that race rippers late at night. It stars **Vin Diesel**, **Paul Walker**, a then little-known **Michelle Rodriguez** and **Jordana Brewster**. An undercover cop infiltrates an underworld subculture of LA street racers looking to bust a hijacking ring, and soon begins to question his loyalties when his new street racing friends become the prime suspects. Detective Brian O'Conner (Walker) hooks up with a gang led by ex-con Dominic Toretto (Diesel) and his girl Letecia (Rodriguez) who have been spectacularly robbing semis in motion out on the open highway. Naturally, he falls in love with Dom's beautiful sister Mia (Brewster), becomes his best mate and is welcomed into the gang, before he is eventually forced to reveal himself to save his new mates' lives from armed truckers. Dom is quite angry about it all, but the two eventually pull together again to chase down rival gangbangers who murder one of their crew. Enter Dom's late father's modified 1970 Dodge Charger. They force the villains' motorcycles off the road and Brian eventually shoots the murderer dead. Afterwards, Brian and Dominic engage in an impromptu street drag, narrowly avoiding a passing train. Dominic collides with a semi and rolls his car twice, injuring himself, and rendering the Charger undriveable. But instead of arresting him, Brian hands over the keys to his Supra and lets Dominic escape, using the line "I owe you a ten second car". After the credits, Dominic is seen driving through Baja California, Mexico in a '70 Chevelle SS.

Sans Vin Diesel, **2 Fast 2 Furious** (2003) follows now former cop Brian O'Conner being finally arrested after letting his leader escape the law. Customs Agent



Monica Fuentes (**Eva Mendes**) offers Brian a deal, to go undercover again to bring down drug lord Carter Verone (**Cole Hauser**) in exchange for a clean record. Brian recruits Roman (**Tyrese Gibson**), an old racing mate just out of jail and under house arrest, to help him. The highlight of this movie is when Brian and Roman finally catch the bad guy by jumping a Camaro off a ramp at high-speed into a yacht as it sets sail.

The third (and perhaps the weakest) film in the franchise is called **The Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift** (2006), and doesn't follow Brian O'Conner. Without the full cast, instead we're introduced to Sean Boswell (**Lucas Black**) who in order to avoid a jail sentence, heads to Tokyo to live with his military father. In a low-rent section of the city, Sean gets caught up in the underground world of drift racing. To save his girl (Aussie beauty **Nathalie Kelley**), Sean proposes a race against the reigning Drift King, a mob prince backed by the yakuza, to determine who must leave Tokyo. Sean and his father build a smoking hot Mustang from various spare parts with which they win the climactic race. So Sean becomes the new Drift King – when he is challenged to a race by an unnamed driver. This driver turns out to be none other than Dominic (Vin Diesel in a surprise cameo).

The fourth instalment, **Fast & Furious** (2009) brings us back to Dominic and Brian. Brian, now working as a fully-fledged agent for the FBI in LA, reunites with a begrudging Dom – who with a new crew have been hijacking fuel tankers again in the Dominican Republic – to bring down a heroin importer by infiltrating his operation and avenge the apparent death of his girlfriend Letecia (Rodriguez). Dom returns in his Chevelle at a street drag and gets out his big black Charger again for the ultimate sting at the end of the movie. Predictably, as police choppers start streaming in to apprehend fugitive Dom, Brian tells him to leave, but Dominic refuses, saying he's tired of running. Despite Brian's request for clemency, the judge sentences Dominic to 25 years to life. Dominic boards a prison bus. But as the bus drives down the road, Brian and Mia (along with some of the guys from the Dominican Republic team), arrive in their cars to intercept it.

**Fast Five** (2011) unites all of the original cast, as Dominic and his crew find themselves on the wrong side of the law once again, trying to switch lanes between a ruthless

druglord (**Joaquim de Almeida**) and a relentless federal agent (**Dwayne 'The Rock' Johnson**) named Hobbs. Mia, Brian and Dom escape to Rio de Janeiro where they're hired to join a group of other professionals to steal three cars from a train. The job goes awry when Brian and Mia discover the train is carrying DEA agents and that the cars are in fact seized property. When Dominic arrives he realises that the whole job is a smokescreen for the other professionals who are only interested in stealing one car – a Ford GT40. The druglord wants this car back bad because it is carrying a valuable and incriminating computer chip which could bring down his entire empire. In the end our anti-heroes side with the Hobbs to bring the kingpin down. The agent refuses to let Brian and Dom go free, but unwilling to arrest the team, he agrees to give them a 24-hour head start to escape. The gang split the mob money, and they go their separate ways. In a post-credits scene, Hobbs is given a special file by USA Customs agent Monica concerning the hijack of a military convoy in Berlin. In the file, Hobbs discovers a recent photo of Letty Ortiz (Michelle Rodriguez), Dominic's presumed-deceased girlfriend, revealing she survived the events of *Fast & Furious*.

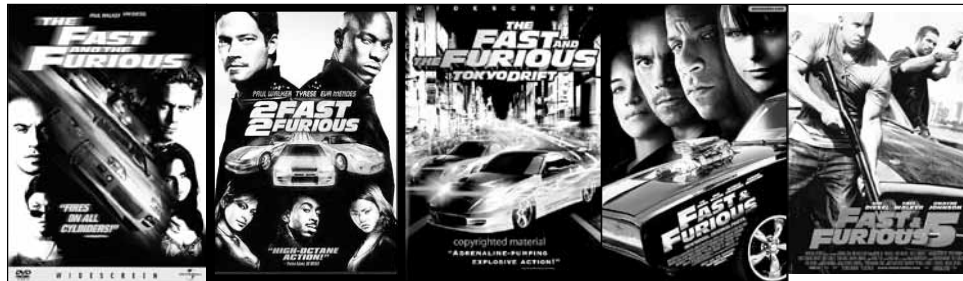


**Fast Six** (2013) will be the sixth instalment with Dominic, Brian and the crew trying to pull off a high-octane heist throughout Europe – with federal agent Hobbs hot on their tails as a new continuing protagonist in the franchise.

Also check out the short films.

**Turbo-Charged Prelude** (2003) follows Brian's street racing exploits while he's on the run after the first movie, leading into *2Fast2Furious*.

And **Los Bandoleros** (2009) which follows the Dominican republic crew's adventures breaking one of their guys out of jail – featuring the unexpected reappearance of Dominic who is surprised by the arrival of Letecia, who has tracked him from Mexico. The two drive together to the beach, where they rekindle their relationship, leading into *Fast & Furious*.











The Chrysler Club of South Australia held their *Midyear Dinner* on the 21st July 2012 at the **Joiners Arms Hotel**, Manton Street Hindmarsh.

All members were invited for pre-dinner drinks at 6.30pm. We gathered like raggedy old sheep because parking was a little difficult. The Entertainment Centre had **Disney on Ice** playing. I drove down Manton Street the wrong way, looking for a park, and not realising till I was half way down that it was a one way street! I think a few of us did it (trust me to do that). Once the 43 of us arrived, we moved into the newly renovated dinning room where the entree took no time to arrive.

The hotel did an alternate drop of prawn cocktail and honey sesame chicken for the first course. Next course was the main. They used the same method with chicken or roast beef with vegies. Service was quick and smooth. We followed with a choice of four desserts and coffee. The club generously contributed to the cost of our meals. This was a wonderful gesture so we all have to thank **Jason**, the events coordinator, for making this all possible. The conversation varied from the **Steve's** headlights to **Tony's** Charger on the dyno and there were lots more stories flying around the room to which you could hear plenty of laughter. The evening was a great success and everyone went home thinking about their Chrysler!

- Lesley Little





### ALVIN RIDES IN A CHARGER

**Alvin Purple** was a 1973 Australian comedy starring **Graeme Blundell**, written by **Alan Hoggood** and directed by **Tim Burstall**. Despite receiving largely negative reviews from local film critics, it was a major hit with Australian audiences. **Alvin Purple** became the most commercially successful Australian film released to that time. The score and now famous title theme were composed by singer-songwriter **Brian Cadd**. The trilogy also boasted some of Australia's most beautiful actresses, including sex symbol **Abigail** and beauty queen **Chantelle Contouri**.

The premise is a sex-farce which follows the misadventures of a naïve young Melbourne man Alvin (Blundell) whom women find irresistible. Working in door to door sales, Alvin unsuccessfully tries to resist legions of women who want him. Alvin is so worn-out he seeks psychiatric help to solve his problems. His psychiatrist is, of course, a woman. Alvin ultimately falls in love with the one girl who doesn't throw herself at him. She becomes a nun, and Alvin ends up a gardener in the convent's gardens.

A 1974 film sequel **Alvin Rides Again** toned-down the sex scenes and nudity, adding more camp comedy. The irresistible Alvin discovers he is identical in appearance to gangster Balls McGee. When Balls is killed, Alvin is forced to take his place. This was followed by a short-lived 1976 ABC sitcom series titled **Alvin Purple**. Blundell reprised the title role in both, as well as in the 1984 movie **Melvin, Son of Alvin** which was probably so bad nobody remembers it.

Contemporary in the 'Hey Charger!' days, the Alvin character was synonymous with his purple Valiant Charger, although the filmmakers made a couple of mistakes with it. In the first movie **Alvin Purple**, there's a pretty good car chase featuring Alvin behind a red VJ Charger, which somehow becomes a burgundy VH at the end of the film! Of course then in the second movie he drives a beefier VK purple ducktail with flutes.



And its here we find a close local connection via our very own **Paul Cronin** (through his father **John Cronin**) and PC's cousin **Rob McIntyre**. In the second movie, Alvin moves up to a more trick ride. The polaroid here (left below) is of Rob standing next to the said machine in early 1975. John, who worked in movie distribution, drove this baby down from Sydney to promote the second Alvin movie. He recalled how they smashed the windscreen at Hay and lost 3 hours waiting for it to be replaced.

And then there's this little gem from Paul himself (right below). John's road trip was a fundraiser for the Cyclone Tracy appeal which would date this snap at an Adelaide beach probably early 1975. A real piece of Oz automotive and pop culture history here, and we believe that's PC as a kid in this photo as a matter of fact!





### CARSPLOITATION DOWN UNDER

After the **Mad Max** films, probably the next most well-known local flick revolving around Aussie musclecars would have to be 1982's **Running on Empty**. Released in America as **Fast Lane Fever** to avoid confusion with the **River Phoenix** film of the same name, it stars **Terry Serio**, **Deborah Conway** and **Max Cullen**. Mike (Serio) is the owner of a Ford Falcon GT-HO Phase III. When he and his best mate, mechanic Tony, aren't working at the steel mill, they're out racing. A dude named Fox is the top street racer of the area in a tough Dodge Challenger; no one dares cross him and his gang, and he is currently unbeaten. When Fox wins a race against an unnamed racer in an HK Monaro – who then following the race loses control of his car in anger and ends up perishing in a fiery crash – no one has the stomach to race... Fox is now facing a drought of racing – and therefore money.

Mike fancies Julie (Conway) who is seemingly involved with Fox, so Fox takes advantage of this weakness – if he wants what's his he has to race him for it. Mike loses the first race to Fox when his car just isn't fast enough. They decide to go out to the country to race easy wins to make enough money to build up the engine (a 351 Cleveland) of his Falcon to beat Fox. Between playing "spotto" on the way and scamming service station attendants, you'll spot a nice VC but we only really see them racing once versus a bunch dumb bogans in an EK Holden, who they knew they would beat and go on to do so. They agree on a double or nothing race for the next day. The next morning they find themselves at Rebel's garage, who they crossed paths with the day before, and they realise that Rebel (Cullen) is blind, but still has a great passion for life and cars. He still drives his prized blown '57 Chevy coupe, with the help of his wife Joan.

Mike then sets out to find the racers from yesterday, with them leading Mike, Tony and Julie into a trap, where the racers threaten to kill them unless they give them back their money that they lost the day before. They proceed to get angrier dousing the car with petrol and then setting it on fire. Mike attempts to drive away and in the process rolls the car a few times, but he manages to start it up again and drive into a shallow lake to quench the fire. They arrive back at Rebel's, with the car barely moving, and Rebel allows them to stay just as long as it takes to get it fixed. Over a few weeks, Rebel, Mike and Tony repair the car back to its former glory, and after testing and tuning it with nitrous they return to the city to race Fox once again.

Raceday, and as they set off from the start line and reach redline speed, in what seems like a setup, a truck pulls out in front of Fox and Mike during the race, destroying the Falcon and injuring Mike. After Mike's recovery in hospital, it seems he has given up – until Tony is bashed by Fox's head thug for riding a bicycle after Fox told them "no wheels and off the street". Mike confronts Fox and challenges him to one last race. Mike plans to race and bet Rebel's Chevy, he knows it will beat the Dodge – he just has to get it.

Mike heads back to Rebel's and asks him for the car. After Rebel's reluctant agreement, teaching Mike to drive it and handle the car properly, they head back to the city once more, only to have Fox – realising that he has no chance against the Chevy over the quarter mile – decide they will run a mile long race at Kemps Creek, figuring that he has the speed advantage. After the eventful race through Kemps Creek and Mike's eventual victory, there is a dramatic sort of stand-off between the two, and Fox, possibly coming to terms that he lost, drives the Dodge full speed into a wall, killing himself and destroying the car, as if to make the point that Mike would never have his car. The movie kinda ends strangely with Mike's not so fussed reaction to this event, fading into the credits.

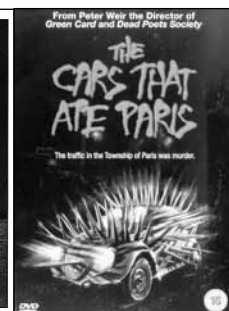
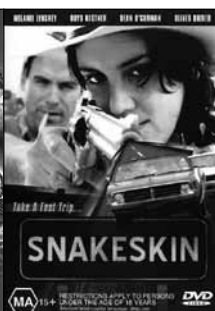
Odd? Well, how's this for something completely different? **The Cars That Ate Paris** is a 1974 Australian horror-comedy directed by **Peter Weir** in his first feature film. The film is set in the fictional rural town of Paris where most of the inhabitants appear to be directly or indirectly involved in profiteering from fatal accidents to visitors driving through. The townsfolk collect items from the luggage of the deceased passengers whilst survivors are taken to the local hospital where they are given lobotomies with power tools and kept as "vegies" for medical experiments by the creepy town surgeon. The young men of the town salvage and modify the wrecked vehicles into a variety of strange looking 'character' cars designed for destruction – such as the famous 'porcupine VW Beetle'. Curiously, B movie whacko **Roger Corman** was given a print of this movie just before he directed **Death Race 2000**, although the film wasn't released in the States until 1976 – under the title **The Cars That Eat People** with added on narration and other differences. In 1992, it was adapted into a musical for theatre, believe it or not!

Still on weird Aussie films, **Dead End Drive-In** is a very violent 1986 New Wave film about a teenage couple who sneak off with a '57 Chevy, only to be trapped in a near-future drive-in theatre, which turns out to be a fascist government's concentration camp. The inmates, many of whom sport punk fashion, are fed a steady diet of junk food, music, drugs, and bad movies. The prisoners don't really try to escape because they have a place to live which is, in most cases, probably better than the outside world in decline. Crabs (**Ned Manning**) and his girlfriend Carmen (**Natalie McCurry**) are put into the camp but all Crabs wants to do is escape. This film is quite daft, but it's a real time capsule of bad haircuts and daggy music.

**Roadgames** is a 1981 Australian film directed by **Richard Franklin**. The film stars Hollywood's **Stacy Keach** as a truck driver, and **Jamie Lee Curtis** as a sexy hitchhiker. This truckie plays a cat-and-mouse game with a mysterious serial killer who uses the young female hitcher as bait to lure victims on a desolate Australian highway.

**Snakeskin** is a pretty strange kiwi indy movie from 2001 starring **Melanie Lynskey** (who later made it big in Hollywood as the ditz neighbour Rose from **2 1/2 Men**), **Boyd Kestner** and **Dean O'Gorman**. It follows Alice, who lives in the suburbs of a South Island town. A romantic nostalgic with an obsession for American pop culture, she would rather be living on Route 66, as she imagines it from her film and TV images. Joined by her best friend Johnny who secretly has the hots for her, they set off west on a roadtrip to the sea in a VJ hardtop chopped to a convertible (sadly - but it's still a tidy car).

There were actually two chopped VJ hardtops used in this movie – one for the mounting of the cameras and the other proper car which tragically later gets destroyed. They pick up an American hitchhiker named Seth (who epitomises Alice's dream Marlboro Man) with snakeskin boots and a trail of enemies who provide an adventure that may be a bit more than Alice expected. A trippy flick, when Alice and the cowboy drop some acid, reality blurs with the kids' Americana obsession – so you don't know quite what's real and what's dream. Perhaps the cowboy is actually the devil, as he seems to create chaos and temptation wherever he goes and whatever he does – and when he 'dies' it's definitely supernatural, as he passes on his 'badness' to the girl. Or is this still an effect of the acid? Check it out.







**Midnight Spares** is a well-known drive-in favourite from 1983 starring **James Laurie**, **Gia Carides** and **Max Cullen**. After discovering that a group of car thieves may have something to do with his father's untimely death, Steve pursues the criminals and attempts to capture them as well as prove his prowess as a racecar driver. What about the red Charger that was stolen and parted out in a warehouse in this movie? And a VJ hardtop that would've had quite a few option codes on the compliance plate!

**The Big Steal** is a 1990 Australian caper film starring **Ben Mendelsohn**, **Claudia Karvan** and **Steve Bisley**, which won three AFI awards. To impress a girl, a shy teenage bloke buys a used Jaguar, but the crooked owner of the caryard swaps the engine over for a dud after he buys the car but before he picks it up. The Jag shits itself but the kid gets back at the yard. Steve Bisley plays the greasy salesman getting around in a sweet Phoenix.

**Red Dog** is a 2011 Australian family film based on a true story from the novel **Red Dog**, about the so-called **Pilbara Wanderer** (c.1971–1979) a Kelpie/cattle dog cross that became famous for his travels through WA's Pilbara region. Filmed in the northwest, the movie was a hit internationally, cleaning up at the AFI awards, and today there is a statue in his memory in Dampier, which is one of the towns to which he often returned. Of course the movie features a VC wagon (now owned by CCCSA member **Gary 'Chuckie' Baxter** who races V8 utes also) as well as a gnarly old Wayfarer ute.

**The Wog Boy** is a 2000 comedy starring **Nick Giannopoulos**, **Vince Colosimo**, **Lucy Bell**, **Abi Tucker**, **Stephen Curry**, **Hung Le** and **Derryn Hinch** as himself. Steve (Giannopoulos) is a second-generation Greek Australian. He's unemployed but manages to get by,

helping out here and there. His pride and joy is his VF Valiant Pacer. Whilst helping out a neighbour, Steve has a minor car accident involving the Minister for Employment, vampily played by **Geraldine Turner**. The net result of this encounter is twofold; Steve gets to meet Celia (Bell) whom he is instantly attracted to but who initially hates him, and he is then outed on national TV by Derryn Hinch as the worst dole-bludger in Australia.

Steve manages to turn this around to his advantage, and becomes famous as The Wog Boy, spearheading a campaign to improve the employment status of the country. In the interim, he makes variable progress with Celia. Steve drives a dark blue 1969 VF Valiant hardtop during the movie, which was allegedly given to him by his father. During the film, it is said that the car's original engine was a 245-cubic-inch (4.0 L) 6-cylinder hemi, which was later replaced with an 8-cylinder engine. There was a 2010 sequel to **The Wog Boy** called **The Wog Boy 2: The Kings of Mykonos** with the same cast in the Greek Islands, but it's a very lame movie – apart from Steve racing a Pontiac against a Porsche 911.

Cult-favourite comedy **Pizza** was an off-beat local TV show on SBS. The series has a spin-off feature length movie, **Fat Pizza**, released in 2003, and a best-of highlights DVD that featured previously unreleased footage and a schoolies exposé, released in 2004. In addition to this, a theatre show entitled **Fat Pizza**, starring several characters from the show, toured the Australian east coast. Through ironic and self-conscious references, **Pizza** involves themes of ethnicity and stereotypes, cars, sex, illicit drugs, and violence to produce its sometimes mean-spirited dark humour. The show was noted for its frequent cameo appearances of numerous Australian celebrities of all varieties, including actors, comedians,

professional athletes, and other public figures. **Pizza** quite often featured some nice cars – mostly the ricers that we tend to associate with Lebanese-Australians, but a tough yellow VG hardy often starred as a pizza-delivery ride.

And of course we can't go without mentioning the many police TV shows from the seventies that starred Chryslers, which back in the day predominated the government fleets. Remember the VH sedans in **Division 4**? Love the Police horn! And **Matlock Police**? Sure, the original series featured a Monaro hardtop when **Grigor Taylor** was in the series, but come '72 onwards, as per the credits, it was "Valiants Supplied by Chrysler Australia". It seemed that Crawford Productions not only had a stable of actors that appeared as different characters at different times, there was also a stable of cars that seemed to reappear at different times.

Yesteryear, during the daytime repeats of **Matlock**, you'd always see the Honda CB750 Four cop bikes and Ranger station cars. Fortunately some of these episodes are on YouTube and two in particular are worth a look. "Blow-ups Happen" features an XR or XT GT owned by an obsessed bloke (sound familiar?) who escapes from the VH Ranger on a wet road, nearly bringing the VH to grief. And there's an episode called "The Son" featuring a Charger XL being driven at speed by a young bloke who at the end comes to grief by whacking into a roadside marker post.

And one last honourable mention is 1975's **The Man from Hong Kong**, an action film that was the first Australian-Hong Kong co-production being filmed in both nations. The film was also the first Australian martial arts film, starring **Jimmy Wang-Yu** and **George Lazenby**. This movie is a cornucopia of 70s aussie cars.

Happy viewing!



## GEORGE BARRIS, CUSTOMISER TO THE STARS...

Many of us would already be familiar with some famous car customisers who have made a mark in showbiz. Names such as **Boyd Coddington**, **Chip Foose** and **Jesse James**, entertaining us with their limitless imaginations, and teaching us all about working on cars with their excellent skills (and limitless budgets!) through shows like *American Hot Rod*, *Overhaulin'*, *Monster Garage*, *American Chopper* – and probably the original instigator of the renaissance of this scene, MTV's *Pimp My Ride*. However long before this particular genre of infotainment show in this age of cable TV, the earlier hotrodding and drag racing scene had already given us world-famous 'old skool' gurus in blokes like "**Big Daddy**" **Ed Roth**, **Robert Williams** and behind many of the most memorable cars of Hollywood – the one and only **George Barris**.

George Barris (born January 2 1925) is a world-famous rodder and custom designer. George and his brother **Sam** (1924–1967) were born in Chicago in the 1920s before their father sent them to live with an uncle and his wife in California following the death of their mother. Their aunt Edith encouraged them to take interest in art, drama, music, and design. George was fascinated with model aircraft, and pursued the hobby seriously in his teenage years, winning professional competitions for his models.

The brothers worked at a restaurant owned by their family, and were given a 1925 Buick for their help. Although it was not in good shape, they swiftly restored it to running condition, and began to experiment with changing its appearance. This became the first Barris Brothers custom car. They sold it at a profit to buy another project vehicle. Before George had graduated from high school, demand for their work was growing, and they had created a club for owners of custom vehicles, called the Kustoms Car Club. This was the first use of the spelling "kustom," which would associate the scene forever with Barris.

Sam entered the Navy during World War II, while George moved to Los Angeles. Sam joined him there after being discharged. The two built their "kustom" designs for private buyers, and George also built and raced his own cars



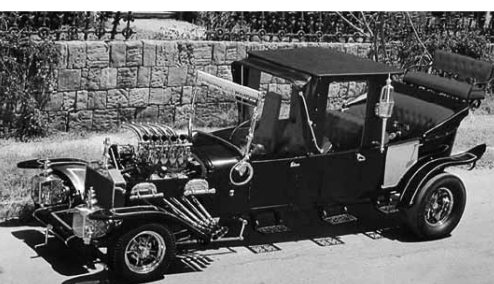
briefly. These activities brought them to the attention of the movie industry, and they were soon asked to create cars both for personal use by the studio executives and stars and as props for films, their first being used in 1958's *High School Confidential*.

They also met **Robert E. Petersen**, founder of *Hot Rod* and *Motor Trend* magazines and, much later, of the *Petersen Auto Museum*. His car shows further publicised the Barris style, as did the car customising how-to articles George wrote for Petersen to publish.

In 1951, Sam had customised a new Mercury coupe for himself, and a customer who saw it ordered a similar car. This vehicle, known as the Hirohata Merc for its owner, was shown at the *1952 Motorama Auto Show* and was so popular it overshadowed the best work of Detroit's top

designers. It also established the early 1950s Mercury as a popular basis for custom car design. In addition, Sam built Ala Kart, a 1929 Ford Model A roadster pickup. After taking two AMBR (America's Most Beautiful Roadster) wins in a row, the car made numerous film and television appearances, usually in the background of diner scenes.

Sam decided to leave the business in the 1950s, but George had married and he credited his wife Shirley with major assistance in continuing the company, which eventually became Barris Kustom Industries. It began to license its designs to model car manufacturers such as *Aurora*, *Revell*, *MPC* and *AMT*, which spread the Barris name into every hobby, department, and discount store in the United States, and also into the minds of millions of eager model builders. In the early 1960s, Barris, along with other well-known customisers like **Gene Winfield**,







Dean Jeffries and the Alexander Brothers, reworked production cars for Ford's "Custom Car Caravan" and "Lincoln Mercury's Caravan of Stars". The traveling exhibits were designed to appeal to younger car buyers, both current and future.

According to Barris, some of his first film work consisted of making soft aluminum fenders for a Ford police car that crashes into the rear of a Mercedes Benz convertible driven by Cary Grant's character in *North by Northwest*. The idea was to give the collision a comedic quality while also preventing serious damage to the expensive Mercedes. After supplying cars for *High School Confidential* George loaned some of his customs for the "future" scenes in the 1960 film adaptation of H. G. Wells' *The Time Machine*. Other Barris-built film cars included a modified Dodge Charger for *Thunder Alley*, a Barracuda for *Fireball 500*, the futuristic Supervan for a film of the same name, a gadget-filled Mercury station wagon for *The Silencers*, and a sinister rework of a Lincoln Continental Mark III for *The Car* (reviewed last issue).

In the 1960s, the Barris firm became heavily involved in vehicle design for television production. At the beginning of the decade, Barris, who loved extravagant design, had purchased the Lincoln Futura, a concept car of the mid-1950s which had been built by Ghia of Italy. It remained in his collection for several years, until he was rather unexpectedly asked to create a signature vehicle for a new Batman television series. Time was very short as filming would begin in a few weeks, leaving insufficient time for

a new design from scratch. Instead, Barris decided the Futura was a perfect base on which to create the Batmobile. Barris hired custom builder Gene Cushenberry to modify the car, which was ready in three weeks. The show was a hit, and the car gained notoriety for Barris.

Other television cars built by Barris Kustom Industries include the Munster Koach and casket turned dragster (the Drag-U-La) for *The Munsters*, an Oldsmobile Toronado turned into a roadster used in the first season of *Mannix*, a 1921 Oldsmobile touring car turned into a truck for *The Beverly Hillbillies*, the fictional '1928 Porter "living" car for the comedy show *My Mother the Car*, updated KITTs for later seasons of *Knight Rider* and replicas of 1914 Stutz Bearcats for *Bearcats*. Discover some others, pictured.

Barris also personally created trick novelty cars for various celebrities. He created a customised gold Rolls Royce for actress Zsa Zsa Gabor. The golden Rolls included hand-etched glass for the windows of the car designed by glass artist Robb Rich, decorated with butterflies, roses, and hummingbirds among the vines. Other radical custom jobs included golf carts for Bob Hope, Bing Crosby and Elton John; and 25 modified Mini Mokes for a record company contest involving the Beach Boys.

Barris would also modify regular cars for Hollywood stars and celebrities. Some examples include a Cadillac limousine for Elvis Presley; custom Pontiac station wagons for John Wayne, and a pair of "his & hers" 1966 Ford Mustang convertibles for Sonny and Cher. With the cooperation of American Motors, in 1969 he modified

an AMX coupe into the AMX-400 show car which was later used in a 1972 episode of the TV mystery series *Banacek* and a Cadillac Eldorado turned into a station wagon for Dean Martin.

Between 2002 and 2006, as a mentor Barris also designed two custom Cadillac hearses for episodes of the cable television series *Monster Garage*. Today, Barris' company often builds replicas of non-Barris designed vehicles from other TV series, including *The Monkees* (Monkeemobile), *Starsky and Hutch* (Ford Gran Torino), *Power Rangers* (Rad-Bug, Turbo Vehicles, and SPD Cars), and *Knight Rider* (KITT).

In 2005 The New York Times challenged Barris to customise a Toyota Prius, one of the most popular cars in the U.S. yet according to the newspaper, one of the most unattractive. The budget was \$10,000, and a further condition was not to chop the body or interfere with the hybrid mechanics in any way. In April 2010, the special George Barris design edition of the 2010 Chevrolet Camaro Spirit was introduced to the public for the first time at a VIP media event at Community Chevrolet, one of the largest Chevrolet dealerships in the US.

Barris' unique imagination and excellent engineering skills – behind such radical customising for so long – has been cited as the inspiration behind *Pimp My Ride* and subsequently the current wave of car customising TV shows. Of course, many of his cars are now famous and instantly recognisable in movies and TV, in model kits and even exclusive *Hot Wheels* toy cars. Pretty cool...







## PENTASTAR GOLD RUSH

This year's Queens Birthday June long-weekend saw the **Central Victorian Chrysler Club** host their *6th Annual Midstate Mopars* show and shine. A club formed in Bendigo in 2005 as a social club, it has since grown to have more than 50 financial members that all share a passion for the Chrysler marque.

In recent years the show has turned into a two day event with the Saturday motorkhana held out of town at the livestock exchange. This year saw 40 drivers put 36 vintage and modern Chryslers through their paces. This is then followed by the now legendary twilight cruise and dinner at the Bendigo RSL.

The Sunday show and shine sees several streets in the heart of the Bendigo CBD surrounding the city council chambers closed. CCCSA members **Andrew Kloot** and **Pat McGrath** joined entrants and spectators from all over Australia who started arriving not long after first light.

By mid-morning the surrounding streets were lined with the prized vehicles of this years 352 entrants (up from last years 307). The standouts being **Tim Miller's** freshly restored Regency Blue 1971 VH 770 Valiant Regal fitted with a 340 4 speed, and a 1970 Plymouth Barracuda fitted with a 360 4 speed owned by **Adrian and Barbara Cornish**.

A fine selection of Chrysler memorabilia was on display in the Bendigo town hall, entry was via a gold coin donation which benefits a nominated charity. \$426 was raised.

Shows like *Midstate Mopars*, where you take over streets in the middle of a city of 100,000 people require an enormous amount of planning. Congratulations to the committee and the army of volunteers who make this truly unique event a huge success.

Thoroughly recommended. If you have not been before, make sure you put *Midstate Mopars 2013* on the to-do list.

- Pat McGrath







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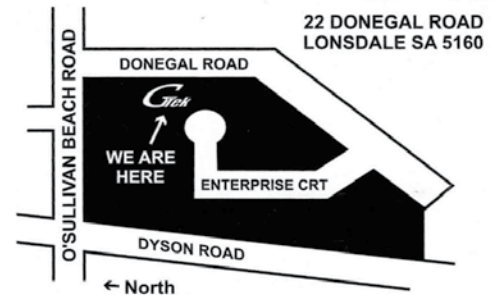




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Tue, 11-Sep-12	7:30 PM	Club Meeting, Model T Rooms Guest Speakers :- Chryslers at Carlisle & MoPar Mania	CCCSA 0412 426360
22-Sep-12	7:00 PM	Sat Evening Cruise Meet at Welland Plaza, Port Rd, 6:30PM	
Tue, 9-Oct-12	7:30 PM	Club Meeting, Model T Rooms Short Film night	CCCSA 0412 426360
Sun, 21-Oct-12	All Day  9:30 AM	MoPar Mania Drag Race Meeting MoPar only Drag Racing ! Adelaide International Raceway, Virginia Meet at Clubrooms to Cruise out to AIR	Racing-Onn prodns <a href="http://www.racingonn.com.au">www.racingonn.com.au</a>
Sun, 4-Nov-12	9:30 AM	Picnic Run, combined with Chrysler Restorers CRC Clubrooms, Clark Tce, Glandore Heading to Southern areas	CRCSA/CCCSA Our rep: T Lennell 0417 806 144
10, 11-Nov-12	4pm-> late	MoPar Rumble, Show & Shine, Drags & Dyno Eastern Creek, Western Sydney, NSW Details <a href="http://www.moparrumble.com.au">www.moparrumble.com.au</a>	Regals Car Club 0407 212222
Tue, 13-Nov-12	7:30 PM	Club Meeting, Model T Rooms	CCCSA 0412 426360
Sat, 24-Nov-12	7:00 PM	Sat Evening Cruise Meet at Welland Plaza, Port Rd, 6:30PM	
1, 2-Dec-12	All Day	CCCSA Christmas Run Destination South, Lunch, Dinner, maybe overnight !	CCCSA 0412 426360
Tue, 11-Dec-12	7:30 PM	Club Christmas Meeting, Model T Rooms	CCCSA 0412 426360

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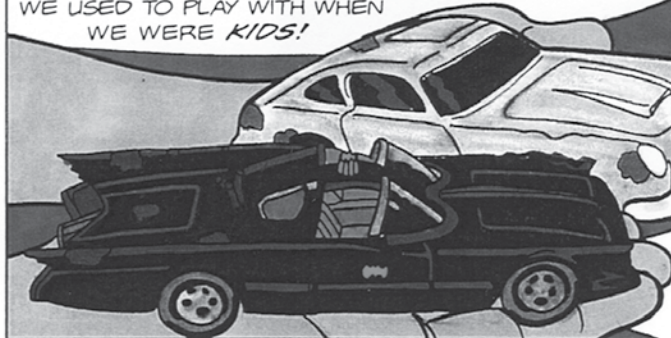
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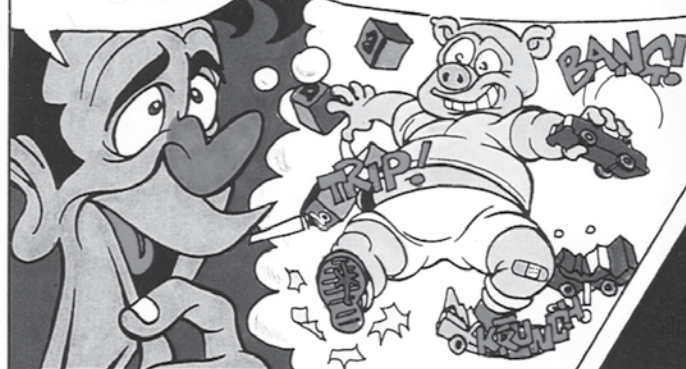


IT CAN'T BE! THE ORIGINAL BATMOBILE & JAMES BOND'S ASTON MARTIN! THE ONES WE USED TO PLAY WITH WHEN WE WERE KIDS!



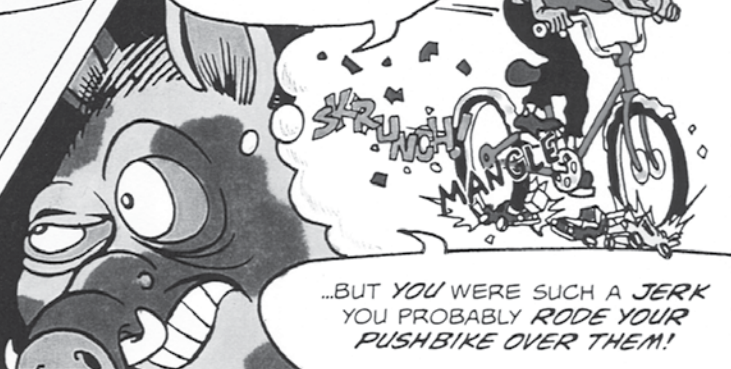
PITY THEY'RE SO BUSTED UP. HOW DID WE DO THAT?

FOR THE LIFE OF ME, I CAN'T REMEMBER...



...BUT KNOWIN' WHAT AN UNCO KID YOU WERE, YOU PROBABLY TROD ON 'EM!

YEAH? WELL MY MEMORY'S A BIT FOGGY TOO...



...BUT YOU WERE SUCH A JERK YOU PROBABLY RODE YOUR PUSHBIKE OVER THEM!

COME ON, PIG. YOU WERE THE FAT CLUTZ ALWAYS BREAKING EVERYTHING!



AAAH, NOW I REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED.





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