

Film

Eyes wide open

Howard Hawks' *The Big Sleep* (1946) is a special kind of movie classic. It doesn't make much sense. (Even scripter William Faulkner — yes, that William Faulkner — confessed he didn't fully understand the story.) It doesn't need to, however — it's so full of perverse little treasures that "arbitrary" scenes justify themselves.

Humphrey Bogart, at his peak, portrays Raymond Chandler's private-eye con-coction; **Lauren Bacall** is a society slut, and even cult-fave **Elisha Cook Jr.** is here — in addition to a thumb-sucking nymphomaniac, a shady bookseller and assorted corrupt types.

This is, above all, a study of human corruption, covered up by money or emotional blackmail. In the center of all this — smoking and cracking wise — is Bogie's private-dick figure, a knight-errant in a corrosive, hangover-ridden world where everyone — but everyone — has something (or someone) to hide.

The dialogue is double-entendre, and scriptwriter Faulkner has a field day tweaking the (blue) noses of film censors. Look and listen carefully; over in some aural or visual corner, something naughty is happening — and being gloated over just a bit. Good fun. —Bob Green

Movie Museum, 3566 Harding Ave.: Sun 1/3, 3, 5:30 & 8 p.m.; Mon 1/4, 5:30 & 8 p.m. \$5 general, \$4 members. 735-8771.

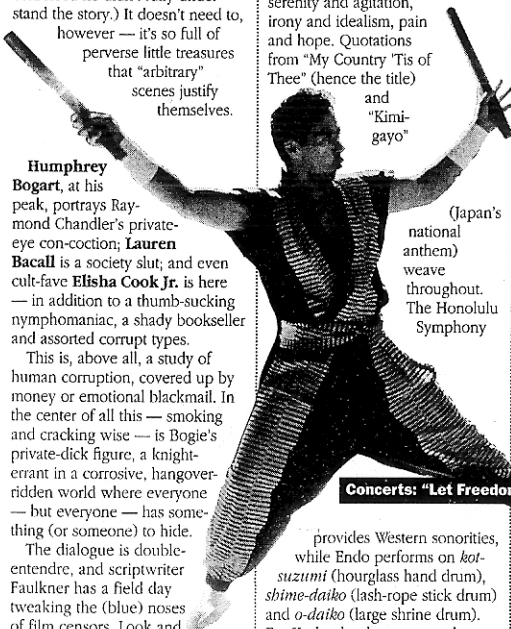
Concerts

Ring in the year

Along with the usual *ozoni* and *kadomatsu*, New Year's week brings to Honolulu the much-anticipated world premiere of **Takeo Kudo's** brilliant new composition for taiko and orchestra, "Let Freedom

Ring." Written for taiko master **Kenny Endo**, the piece explores Kudo's and Endo's shared interest in East-West musical fusion. It also allows Endo a rare chance to perform with full orchestral backing, reinforcing once again why he is one of Hawai'i's leading musicians in any genre. And it allows Kudo, one of our leading composers, a great vehicle with which to examine the inherently dramatic theme of Japanese-American internment.

Divided into three sections, the piece expertly contrasts serenity and agitation, irony and idealism, pain and hope. Quotations from "My Country 'Tis of Thee" (hence the title) and "Kimi-gayo"



(Japan's national anthem) weave throughout. The Honolulu Symphony

Concerts: "Let Freedom Ring"

provides Western sonorities, while Endo performs on *kot-suzumi* (hourglass hand drum), *shime-daiko* (lash-rope stick drum) and *o-daiko* (large shrine drum). For Kudo, the drums are at the center of the work. They serve as powerful symbols of cultural resilience and the human heart yearning to be free.

Endo spent most of 1998 on the road. He is especially happy to come home for this project. "I have a lot of respect for Takeo as a musician and as a friend," he says. "I'm really honored he would write something for me. It's a really incredible composition. I just want to do justice to it." Although it comes so early in the year, the debut of "Let Freedom Ring" promises to be one of 1999's highlights. Don't miss it.

Also on the program: Berlioz's explosively Romantic masterpiece, "Symphonie Fantastique." Inspired by DeQuincey's "Confessions of an English Opium Eater" and the composer's own obsession with an actress, the piece is a marvel of orchestration and emotion. The gorgeous main theme (reworked in

all five movements) and the swirling, hysterical climaxes in the allegro help make it enormously popular, even with the "Just Say No" set, who miss most of the hidden meaning. —J.W. Junker
Blaisdell Concert Hall, 777 Ward Ave.: Sun 1/3, 4 p.m.; Tue 1/5, 7:30 p.m. \$15 - \$50. 538-8863.

Mighty Aphrodite

Well, party hats off once again to **DJ G-Spot** and the fine folks at Double-O-Spot productions for landing another International Man of Musicry (or somethin' like that). This week, G and Co. bring on **Aphrodite**, the London based boy-wonder producer/DJ specializing in the "jump-up" style — that is, hip hop-influenced street jungle (this, as opposed to the better known — or at least better hyped — "intelligent" jungle acts like Grooverider, Goldie or Photek.)

Joining Aphrodite for his Honolulu stop are locals **Core-e, 4est** and **Masc, Bassment Addicts, Danny Boy, Murillo, Spy Hunter** and others.

Atomik, 142 Mokauea St.: Sat 1/2, 10 p.m. - 4 a.m. \$10 - \$15. 591-3500.

The Scene

Like, it's 1999

You may be asking yourself how we, the arbiters of style, taste and good table manners for the greater Honolulu area, are planning to welcome in the New Year. Blowing stuff up? Possibly. Gettin' jiggy with our various and sundry love bunnies? Absolutely. Atoning for our past year's transgressions? Heeeyek no!

Actually, most of the swinging *Weekly* staffers are going to spend the night at home with a few close friends — "home," in this instance being the Chinatown area, which not only serves as home port for our little ship of fools but also for at least two of the cooler



Concerts: Aphrodite

events of The Eve.

You want style, you want taste? Celebrate the opening of **Fashion Victim II**, Sisu Gallery's newest installation, at the show's informal (also formal

and semiformal) opening party. Part of the reason we're big on the show is that it delves into the assorted meanings underlying our fashion choices; part of it is that Sisu has gone nonprofit and deserves the support. But mostly, it's just a very strong collection, and it features works by a few of our extended family of contributing

writers, artists and photographers, along with people we just plain think are cool: **Lynda Hess'** giant (61- by 84-inch) "Bloodlines" is a show-stopper, the surreal oil-on-unstretched-canvas ode to Princess Di (complete with a thorny crown of blood-oozing cameras) being reminiscent of the work of Frida Kahlo. More: a fine oil-on-wood piece by **Linda Fong**; a chakra-inspired set of bronze sculptures by **Kim Duffett** (in which the various power points on the naked statues are represented by drawers that open to reveal some fine surprises); a **Pegge Hopper** painting you might not expect; a steel sculpture by **Tae Kitakata** that gives a new meaning to the term "fashion plate"; and too much more to mention.

You've seen us

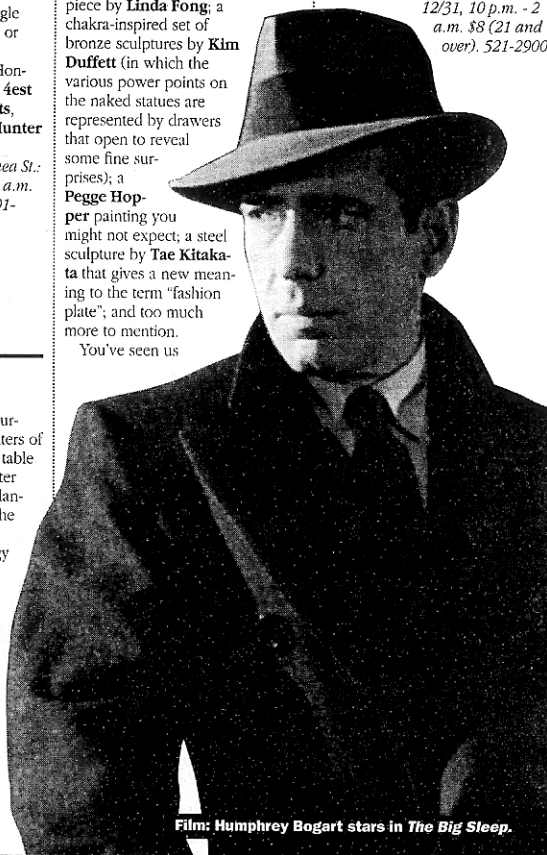
rave about last year's show in these pages before. Suffice it to say that half the fun of the installation is scoping out the various fashion statements made by artists and hangers-on at the party — according to the invite, all are encouraged to "dress however they deem appropriate, from T-shirts to Haute Couture."

Mere stumbling distance from Sisu (important, given our love of unseeable shoes) is **The Green Room II**, featuring two rooms, the indoor/outdoor lanai, two bars (important, given our love of unseeable libations) and music from **DJ Daniel J, Scottie Soul, Erotic** and our very own **Mark Chittom**.

Finally, a New Year's admonition for those on a mission: We love you — now leave the car keys at home.

Fashion Victim II — Sisu Gallery, 1160A Nu'uamu Ave.: Thu 12/31, 10 p.m. - 1 a.m. (Show hangs through 1/15). \$3 requested donation. 537-5880.

Green Room II — Indigo Restaurant, 1121 Nu'uamu Ave.: Thu 12/31, 10 p.m. - 2 a.m. \$8 (21 and over). 521-2900.



Film: Humphrey Bogart stars in *The Big Sleep*.

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