Subject: Black Cat, White Cat
Posted by lon on Fri, 04 Feb 2005 23:29:24 GMT
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Just remembered this one and it ranks really high on the wierdness meter. Black Cat, White Cat introduces an idea early in the film which is pretty funny. But the viewer has to ask,"Why do they tell us about something which they can'tpossibly show?" Later in the film, they do it.Adhering to my admonition to try things you know nothing about,I picked one up today called "Songs From The Second Floor."The jacket description was irresistable but New Yorker Videohas put out some of the most boring garbage I have ever feda media player. Stay tuned.
Black Cat, White Cat

Subject: Re: Black Cat, White Cat
Posted by Manualblock on Sat, 05 Feb 2005 01:04:53 GMT
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O'kay; I'll find it. That is three now, keep you posted.

Subject: Re: Black Cat, White Cat/ Songs From The Second Floor
Posted by lon on Mon, 07 Feb 2005 18:19:04 GMT
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re: Songs From The Second Floor (import from Sweden): Danger Will Robinson, Stay Away, Stay away! My opinion of anything on New Yorker Video remains unchanged.That thing I said about Songs From The Second Floor-- forget it. I am looking for fresh meat again.I spent a good chuck of the weekend with the special features onthe Dark City dvd: Both analyses totalled about 4 hours worth. The original film is so fascinating, these background interviewsand film references were not a waste of time. It'll likely stand as a classic, even if it doesn't get a lot of press.
Dark City

Subject: Re: Black Cat, White Cat/ Songs From The Second Floor
Posted by Manualblock on Mon, 07 Feb 2005 23:20:37 GMT
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Does the film use that vague; Blade Runner cinematography?

Subject: Re: Black Cat, White Cat/ Songs From The Second Floor
Posted by lon on Tue, 08 Feb 2005 02:13:51 GMT
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Nope. I guess you'd call it that Bergmanesque heavy on the symbolism, underplayed on the acting style. Even if you actually like seeing 65 year old women undressed,it's pretty feeble. If you want to really get into Nordic Strangeness(c) thenyou'd have to look up a copy of "Leningrad Cowboys Go America"by Aki Kaurismaki. That one is a _bewt_. What exactly is vague about the cinematography in Bladerunner?Or did we blend into talking about Dark City? Ok. as to Dark City, it's strongly influenced in cinematic styleby the German Expressionistic films of the 20's like The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari and the world of Fritz Lang(Metropolis) and F.W. Murnau ("M"). Dark City is so dense even4 or 5 hours of explication leaves q's. Dark City is a noir murder mystery set in a science fictionnightmare.
Leningrad Cowboys

Subject: Re: Black Cat, White Cat/ Songs From The Second Floor
Posted by Manualblock on Tue, 08 Feb 2005 14:14:51 GMT
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The vagueness; it's like when the colors run into each other and it appears as if a mist softens all the sharp edges, is that what you mean by The German Expressionist Films of the 20's, I have noticed a similarity to each other. I once tried to watch M.; Emphasis on tried.I am keeping the list Dark City no. 5.I like Bergmann; although I am sure he is Passe'.And Wim Wenders also. That movie with the narration by the guy who rides the subway a lot.

Subject: Re: Black Cat, White Cat/ Songs From The Second Floor
Posted by lon on Tue, 08 Feb 2005 18:18:02 GMT
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I'm familair with Wenders from Until The End of the Worldand the angel films. They are superb and I consider themclassics. Wenders tarted to weaken with things like an End To Violence and the Hotel one. Plus the Buena Vista Social Club is one of the worst made films I've ever seen. For Latin Music and Cuban in particular look for Jam Miami andCalle 54. With my new dvd playere, I'd like to find Calle 54 again:all the greats on there: Chu Chu Valdez, Micahel Camilo and Chico O'Farrel, plus Tito of course. But I'm off the subject. German Expressionism features settings that are more like paintingswith sharp angles and unusual lighting effects. So in Dark Citythe street scapes and everyting else is rarely shot straight on, but rather at an angle: diagonal or below or above. I only really recall where soft focus is used in Bladerunnerduring the scene where Decker looks at his photographs and seesthe woman in the reflection. There is no noticeable soft focusin Dark City. Last night I was watching the extras from Minority Report onthe builds and effects for that Spielberg film. In MR they useda film bleaching technique to give

everything that bluish cast.DVD's have so much more detail of the films. And even though all those extras are prob'ly designed to sell to cable tv, they are still interesting. The Sky Captain one must be a hoot. I saw thaton the old vhs player, unfortunately.

Subject: Re: Black Cat, White Cat/ Songs From The Second Floor
Posted by Manualblock on Tue, 08 Feb 2005 23:29:27 GMT
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I don't know if soft focus is what I mean, more like a mist, think of the scenes on the street in the noodle shop, misty. "Think of A Turtle".Love Chico O'Farrill.

Subject: Re: Black Cat, White Cat/ Songs From The Second Floor
Posted by lon on Wed, 09 Feb 2005 04:34:33 GMT
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Only original Chico O'Farrill tune I really know is from airplayand this is called "Igor's Dream" which he wrote about his cat. Other fave Latin style tune is Clifford Brown's Joy Springdone by Tito Puente

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