

Le Fantastique au Cinéma et à la Télévision

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Review from French Xpose .24 magazine
(September edition) by Tony Crawley

Translation HISTOIRE D'UN IKON

Ultimate treat at Cannes was the Market unveiling of Chris Leavens' *I DON'T KNOW JACK*, a fascinating documentary on the life, career and brutal death of an ikon called Jack Nance. He was the star of *ERASERHEAD* in 1972 and various other David Lynch works including *TWIN PEAKS*, *BLUE VELVET* and *SAILOR & LULA.*, plus outside jobs like *HAMMETT*, *THE BLOB* re-make and *THE HOT SPOT*.

It is sad to see the young Nance (a surprisingly handsome fella), full of vim and vigour, gradually crawling inside the bottle. He got sober and was looking great during his second marriage. Then, his bride committed suicide while he was away on allocation. He never recovered and never stilled his often intemperate mouth - although this was no reason for the two, three (more?) young guys to beat him up that morning, the 29 december 1996, at a Pasadena do-nut shop. (How Lynchian can you get!). He was found dead the next day; his killers have never been found. Fortunately, there is also much humour in anecdotes from Nance, himself, his family and friends -David Lynch, Dennis Hopper and his first wife, the *TWIN PEAKS* Log Lady Catherine Coulson.

"I suppose 53 is a young age to die," says Lynch. "Jack didn't think he'd last that long. Nor did his friends. I had many future roles in my head for Jack. Now I cannot think of anyone who could fill his shoes."

In Cannes, producer Donna DuBain told me she was worried about the length of the film.

That's when David Lynch said: "Do NOT cut it!"
TC

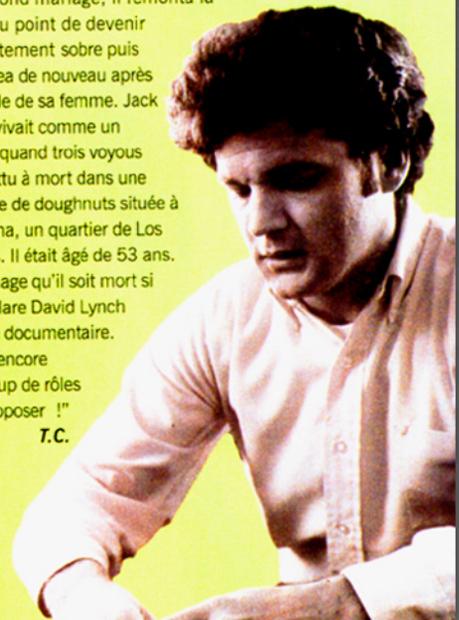
Eraserhead effacé



Au marché du dernier festival de Cannes, un documentaire a fait sensation. Il s'agit de *I Don't Know Jack*, un film qui retrace la carrière de l'acteur Jack Nance, bien connu des fans du réalisateur David Lynch. Il fut en effet la vedette du très culte *Eraserhead* avant d'apparaître dans *Twin Peaks*, *Blue Velvet* et *Sailor et Lula*. Dans ce documentaire, on découvre que cet homme au physique étrange fut plutôt beau dans sa jeunesse avant de sombrer dans l'alcool. Après son second mariage, il remonta la

penne au point de devenir complètement sobre puis replongea de nouveau après le suicide de sa femme. Jack Nance vivait comme un zombie quand trois voyous l'ont battu à mort dans une boutique de doughnuts située à Pasadena, un quartier de Los Angeles. Il était âgé de 53 ans. "Dommage qu'il soit mort si tôt, déclare David Lynch dans ce documentaire. J'avais encore beaucoup de rôles à lui proposer !"

T.C.



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