

THE ULTIMATE GUIDE TO THE ONLINE VIDEO UNIVERSE

WIRED

MAY 2006 USE SUNSCREEN

CLIMATE CRISIS!

THE PRO-GROWTH, PRO-TECH FIGHT
TO STOP GLOBAL WARMING

AL GORE
& THE RISE OF
NEO-GREENS

8 PEOPLE &
TRENDS TO WATCH

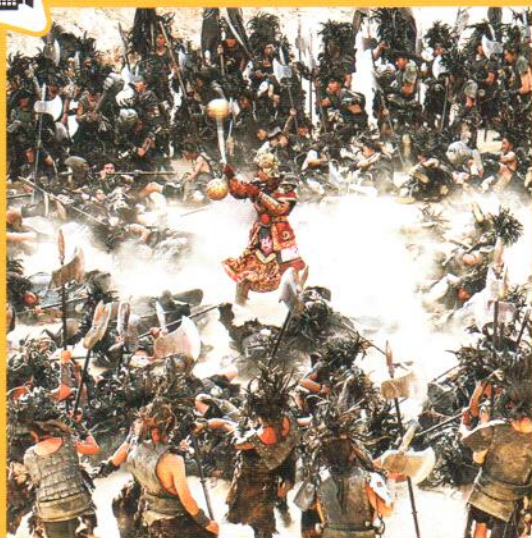
12 D.I.Y. WAYS
TO GO GREEN

ROBBED BLIND
Smartcards & the
New RFID Hackers

SPEED DEMON
Can You Survive the
Fastest Boat on Earth?



0 75110 08459 2



THEATERS

An Epic Hack Job

The Promise

Months before *The Promise* was in the can, it was a hot property at the Cannes Film Market, the financial mosh pit behind the festival's glittering stage. The thinking: Give Chen Kaige, the Palme d'Or-winning director of *Farewell My Concubine*, a \$35 million budget – the biggest ever for a Chinese production – and he'll create a work of George Lucas proportions. *The Promise* is indeed epic, replete with flying swordplay and crystalline imagery. Too bad the imperial palace looks like Styrofoam and the stampede scene is digital bull. Couple the crude f/x with Chen's disdain for character development and coherent story lines, and you have *Star Wars* without ILM. Still, if all that stands between *The Promise* and *Star Wars* is another \$35 million, Lucas should watch his back. – **Frank Rose**

playlist

What the *Wired* gang is into this month

Star Trek: Fan Collective, Time Travel

Watch out, Kirk! Don't sleep with your mom! 20,000 Trekkies voted on the 12 best time-travel episodes for this DVD set.

World's Smallest Web Site

Get minimal on Guimp.com, where Space Invaders, Pong, Asteroids, Pac-Man, and other classic games are shrunk down to fit in a 16 x 16-pixel grid.

Numb3rs: The Complete First Season DVD

CBS had us at Ridley Scott. Then it cast David Krumholtz and asked Caltech to check his math. The result: 13 sexy, smart episodes.



The Streets

► *The Hardest Way to Make an Easy Living*

Success hasn't affected this British B-boy's bouncy, blippy beats or lyrical wit, but it has skewed his subject matter. On *Hardest Way*, Mike "the Streets" Skinner takes on vacuous celebrities, media busybodies, and bootleg merchandisers. – **Eric Steuer**



Pretty Girls Make Graves

► *Élan Vital*

Staccato guitar, dub bass, and syncopated drums build an exquisite tension on opener "The Nocturnal House." When Andrea Zollo weaves in her slightly behind-the-beat vocals, it's indie rock nirvana. Except for the tritely populist "Parade," *Élan* is an inventive, intricate treat. – **Jon J. Eilenberg**



PC

Rise of Nations: Rise of Legends

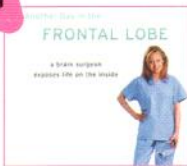
In 2003's *Rise of Nations*, you shaped actual civilizations from Stone Age to space age. This follow-up features a Roman empire with da Vinci-like tech, a magic-fueled Arabian kingdom, and Mayans with ties to aliens. Beautifully conceived, beautifully constructed, just plain beautiful. – **Kieron Gillen**



GAMECUBE

Odama

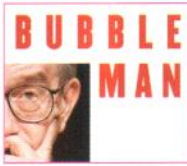
This bizarre mashup combines military strategy with ... pinball?! Use flippers to bounce the giant *odama* into enemy strongholds on a feudal Japanese battlefield. You can drop rice balls to distract foes, or use the included microphone to shout commands at your troops. – **Chris Kohler**



Another Day in the Frontal Lobe

► *Katrina Firlík*

Neurosurgeons are gearheads, too! In her macabre and quirky memoir, Firlík devotes a whole chapter to noggin-busting tools, gushing over a prized cranial drill. Her snappy prose makes a brain doc's daily grind an absolutely riveting read. – **Michael Reilly**



Bubble Man

► *Peter Hartcher*

If Alan Greenspan is so smart, why didn't he pop the tech bubble in 1996? Hartcher unearths Fed transcripts revealing that after one attempt to prick it with the "irrational exuberance" remark, he put politics before the economy and let it grow – and blow. – **Josh McHugh**