



THE MISSING LINK is a perverse insult, for it asks of the recipient to make an intellectual effort which might slow down his reflexes during a period of time directly proportional to his anthropological background; enough in any case to send him flying into an elm tree if he's driving at normal speed.

(The expression used by Darwin in his classic work, *On The Origin of the Species by Means of Natural Selection*, where he attempts to establish a relationship between the great anthropoid apes and the first prehistoric men. It should be clearly noted that the person to whom this appellation is herein applied is to be considered as halfway between an ape and a man).

The Dictionary of Insults

Given the generally accepted scientific theories, PICHA looks at Genesis and evolution in a new and satirical light. He suggests that, far from being the favorite during the obstacle course of evolution, man was, in fact, a nag, a loser, so limited and stupid a species that next to him the amoeba seemed sophisticated, he even had to watch the other animals copulate to understand the laws of reproduction; grouped in a tribe resigned to eating stones (or one another), incapable of hunting or moving about. But then came OH...

SYNOPSIS

It's the oldest story in the world : the voyage of the hero in quest of his identity, who returns rich with wondrous discoveries.

An odyssey, but set in the comic world of PICHA

It is not the epic tale of Ulysses, but of that mysterious being who played such a crucial role in our history. THE MISSING LINK, the tie between man and beast, the inventor of the skills the human race used to dominate the world; none other than he who opened Pandora's box and set loose the evils upon the Earth...

His name was OH.

Wednesday, May 25, 196,303 B.C, the wife of the CHIEF of a tribe of degenerates, the animal kingdom calls «men», is giving birth to a revolting little brat with a three-day beard and skin the color of mud, hailed by the tribe with an admiring «Ah» as a descendant worthy of their chief. But the mother lets out a shriek of horror, «Oh», several minutes later, when she gives birth to the twin brother, an adorable pink creature, who closely resembles what we call today a «baby». The CHIEF hugs AH, his heir, to his breast, and kicks OH, this error of nature, out into the dark gloom of the prehistorical fauna.

OH's rejection, of course, is ultimately his salvation. Adopted by a brontosaurus named IGUA, OH spends his childhood in the amazing prehistoric world, surrounded by strange, wonderful animals, some friendly, other ferocious, whose existence is certainly not recognized today's textbooks on natural history.

IGUA, slowly but surely, becomes enormous, but remains totally devoted to his tiny baby, whom he feeds, nourishes, protects, and even teaches the rudiments of language (for in our version of prehistory, all animals speak the same language, only man, at the very bottom rung of the ladder, doesn't know how to communicate).

For OH, IGUA, becomes both father, mother, even a plaything. Of course they don't always agree, but, whatever happens, IGUA is his friend for life. We can therefore say that it is really thanks to this faithful brontosaurus that OH evolves differently than the rest of his tribe.

IGUA, however, is not the only one to take an interest in OH. There is also CROAK, a wild bird, half-pterodactyl, half-crow. It is important to note that no sooner does CROAK break out of his shell than he offers to take OH flying around with him... CROAK is just the opposite of IGUA : Mister know it all», a show-off, a cross between Pangloss and Donald Duck. A pontifical scientist one minute, a man of the world the next, an adventurer or bureaucrat still the next, always the victim of his own folly, but with a heart of gold, just as devoted to OH as IGUA, causing some jealousy between the two rival protectors.

One day, however, OH, led on by CROAK, realizes that he in no way resembles IGUA, and decides to go in seek of his own family. After a bitter argument with poor IGUA, OH sets off to discover the world and others, unleashing thereby a process whose consequences will affect him, all those he will encounter during his travels, his tribe when eventually he finds it, and ultimately, the entire planet.

For OH is incapable of not getting into trouble. He recklessly enters into a world full of surprises, both violent and incomprehensible, even grotesque, a world as of yet untouched by human hand, where marvelous creatures coexist in a delicate balance beyond all logic.

Wherever he goes, either because his curiosity, his low extraction, or simply because he cannot adapt, OH endangers this balance, and in consequence finds himself tracked, insulted, chased, and altogether terrorized.

CROAK, still just as misinformed or uninspired as ever, doesn't make things any easier. While IGUA, out of faithfulness, seeks out OH through wind, fire, and ice, he is still too far off to help.

Yet, at each encounter, OH learns something and though what he makes of it sometimes disturbs the balance of nature, OH becomes the first man of science, the first technocrat, the first MAN.

OH's adventures, as crazy as they are incredible, lead him to the NO-LOBES, pink-colored, pear-shaped, effervescent invertebrates, surrounded by objects round like themselves. OH wants both to love them, and to learn to put to work the wheel, whose principle they have discovered.

Next there are the cat-like FELINES, a tribe of self-sufficient Amazons, who seduce larger, but slower animals with but one object in view : feasting on the most succulent parts. One of them captures OH. But something resembling a feeling springs up between them. They decide to run away together, much to the fury of the others for whom every and any male is strictly taboo.

As for the ANTS, they kidnap OH and take him to their hidden city. But Oh destroys it, then stands up towering like a pink version, in miniature, of King-Kong...

The YETIS, however, are covered with blond hair and speak with a Swedish accent; while the DRAGON has stomach problems and can't seem to breathe fire out of the right hole.

Not to forget EL GORILLA, the ape, who paints like Michelangelo.

OH, even inadvertently witnesses ADAM and EVE as they are chased out of Paradise.

Finally (thanks to a FLYING SHARK), OH finds his tribe again. But the CHIEF, his father, instead of sharing his joy, drops dead at the sight of him, still traumatized by the color of his skin.

AH, OH's twin brother, now grown up into a vindictive adult, means to put his rights as Chief into practice. OH, on the other hand, teaches the others (not without some difficulty) everything he has learned. The two brothers finally confront one another and AH comes out the winner. Under his leadership, the men spread out over the Earth, to conquer the world with their new knowledge.

And, as the last NO-LOBE remarks before dying : «It has to be admitted, war is hell».

The world is consumed by fire and destruction.

The Earth's crust cracks. The continents separate and drift apart.

A green spot on the Pacific : Easter Island. An elderly man and an aged brontosaurus are looking peacefully out over the Ocean, while their old friend, the bird, is trying in vain to sculpture, for the 93rd time, with just his beak out of an enormous mass of rock, the head of the man who ultimately bears responsibility for the whole ghastly mess : «OH, THE MISSING LINK»

PRODUCTION CREDIT & CASTING

PRODUCERS	JENNY GERARD and MICHEL GAST for SND PRODUCTION PICHA for PILS FILMS
DIRECTOR	PICHA
WRITTEN by	TONY HENDRA
FROM AN ORIGINAL STORY by	PICHA JEAN COLLETTE PIERRE BARTIER
ADAPTATION	PICHA JEAN COLLETTE CHRISTIAN DURA MICHEL GAST
with the collaboration of	
VISUAL ADAPTATION, STORY BOARD, and ORIGINAL CHARACTERS CREATED by	PICHA
SONGS PERFORMED by	LEO SAYER
ORCHESTRAL MUSIC SCORE	ROY BUDD
EDITING	CLAUDE COHEN
CREATION OF THE SOUND TRACK	ROY BAKER
BACKGROUNDS	JEAN LEMENS CLAUDE LAMBERT JEAN-JACQUES MAQUAIRE

ANIMATORS

**BORGE RING
VIVIAN MIESSEN
JOSE ABEL
PATRICK COHEN
CLAUDE MONFORT
JAN SANCTORUM
ARTHUR BUTON
BOB MAXFIELD
MARCEL COLBRANT**

VOICES OF THE CHARACTERS

OH
IGUA
CROAK
NO-LOBES

English

**RON VENABLE
JOHN GRAHAM
BOB KALIBAN
CHRISTOPHER GUEST
CLARK WARREN
BOB KALIBAN**

French

**RICHARD DARBOIS
GEORGES AMINEL
ROGER CAREL
JACQUES FERRIERE
WILLIAM SABATIER
GEORGES AMINEL
ROGER CAREL
PHILIPPE NICAUD
JACQUES DACQMINE**

DRAGON
NARRATION

**Anonymous
MARK SMITH**

DUBBING MIXERS

**DOUG TURNER
BOB JONES**

A Franco-Belgian coproduction : SND - PILS FILMS
Running time : 1 hour 35 minutes
Color process : Eastmancolor
Recorded in DOLBY STEREO

IN COMPETITION - FESTIVAL DE CANNES 1980

THE DIRECTOR : PICHA

CURRICULUM VITAE

Jean-Paul PICHA

Born on July 2, 1942, in Brussels

Unmarried, one child.

Two years of study at the Institut Saint-Luc in Brussels

- 1960 - At the age of 18, he works on the satirical revue, «PAN», on the dailies «LA LIBRE BELGIQUE» and «DE NIEUWE», on «HARA KIRI» in France, «VRIJE NEDERLAND» in Holland, «VERGREEN», «HARPERS» and «TIME MAGAZINE» in the U.S.A.
- 1964 - First Prize at the Exposition Internationale de l'Humour in Heist
- 1965 - First collection of drawings : «PICHA par PICHA».
- 1966 - Works for «SPECIAL» in Belgium and «PARDON» in Germany.
- 1967 - First Prize for political cartoons at the Salon International de la Caricature in Montreal
- 1969 - Animated cartoon for 12 shows on TV : «VIBRATO» for Belgian Radio-Television.
- 1970 - Second collection of Picha's drawings : «PICHA'S WIT BOEK» published in Holland.
Travels to the U.S.A. where he contributes to the «NEW-YORK TIMES», «LAMPOON», and «OUI MAGAZINE».
- 1971 - Third book : «PICHA AU CLUB MEDITERRANNEE», published by the Editions Albin Michel in France and by the Editions Voaker in Belgium.
- 1972 - Coproduces and codirects with Benoit LAMY : «CARTOON CIRCUS», a 35mm, 65 minutes, color film, which won the Prix du Public at the Festival de Deurne.
- 1973 - Leaves «SPECIAL» after seven years of collaboration and halts production of his political cartoons the day after Nixon's trip to Peking and the peace agreements in Viet-Nam.
Publishes at Calmann-Lévy «AU SECOURS» with DESCLOZEAUX, SINE, and PUIG ROSADO.
- 1973 - Publishes with Pierre BARTIER a guide to Brussels : «BRUXELLES TENDANCIEUX», a best-seller on the Belgium book market for 1974
- 1975 - Writes and directs his first feature film animated cartoon (1h 20m) : «SHAME OF THE JUNGLE»
- 1976/1978 - Contributes again to the «NEW-YORK TIMES».
- 1977 - Publishes in Belgium a parodical pamphlet : «DEMOCRATIE BELGE»
- 1978/1980 - Writes, directs, and coproduces his second feature film animated cartoon : «THE MISSING LINK» (LE CHAINON MANQUANT).

LEO SAYER

«THE MISSING LINK» features songs co-written and sung by LEO SAYER, one of the greats of the international popular music scene whose records sell in millions, and this is Leo's first venture into the film world.

Leo started out playing music on the streets, imitating his hero, Bob Dylan, by playing the harmonica. He became known as Gerry the Harmonica Player (he was born Gerard Hugh Sayer, in Sussex, England). He played with folk groups, blues bands and soul units, as well as solo, but his big break came when Roger Daltrey of the «Who» group, heard some of his songs and built an entire album around Sayer songs. Excitement about Sayer the songwriter soon became excitement about Sayer the performer and Leo's first album was an instant hit.

American success came a little slower although the Three Dog Night group had a hit with the Sayer competition «The Show Must Go On». It wasn't until the «Just a Boy» album, his second, that Leo hit home in the USA with «Long Tall Glasses» and America's influential «Rolling Stone» magazine labelled him «the perfect star for the 70's». Leo's «You Make Me Feel Like Dancing» and «When I Need You» won him even wider acclaim - «Dancing» won the «Rythm and Blues Grammy Award» for him in the USA - and Leo followed these successes with such world hit as «Thunder in My Heart» and «I Can't Stop Loving You». In 1979, his album, «The Very Best of Leo Sayer» shot to Number One in country after country.

His concert tours are always sell-outs; both the BBC and Independent television give him the accolade of his own TV series and specials.

The strange mixture of clown and deep sensitivity in Leo's writing and singing make-up made him a perfect choice to add his very special talents to a cartoon feature that also combined humour with depth. Immediately he was shown advance clips of «The Missing Link», Leo jumped at the challenge of devising his own touches to complement the film. The result is something very special in the way of cartoon music - adult songs for an adult cartoon, with the songs adding their own pointed musical commentaries to the film's story line. In addition, Leo co-wrote the haunting theme for Igua in the film. But he had another natural affinity to the cartoon field - before he became a world singer - songwriter star he was professionally - a commercial artist.

ROY BUDD

At the age of 18 months, ROY BUDD crawled to a piano and picked out the melody «Home Sweet Home» on it. By the time he was four years old, he was playing by ear, and at six, he appeared at the famous London Coliseum Theatre !

The youthful Roy Budd played all kinds of music-classics, boogie-woogie, pops, jazz, and at the age of nine was even giving impersonations of Liberace, but it was jazz that really captivated him and made him decide to become a professional pianist. At 19, he started to appear on some of Britain's biggest Tv shows; and recorded his first LP, swiftly earned the reputation as one of the world's finest jazz pianists appearing at international concert venues such as the Royal Festival Hall, in London. He even dueted on TV with the great Oscar Peterson. But the crucial step in his career occurred in 1970, on his 23rd birthday, when he signed to write his first film score and composed the music for the fabulously successful «Soldier Blue» starring Candice Bergen. His next film produced another screen score - The Michael Caine starrer «Get Carter», and soon his film scoring experience led him to conducting symphony orchestras including the Royal Philharmonic. Today, Roy ranges for jazz to writing for and conducting symphony and concert orchestras. He has composed scores for almost every major international film company and his film composing credits include :

«Catlow», starring Yul Brynner; «Kidnapped», with Michael Caine and Trevor Howard; «The Carey Treatment», James Coburn and Jennifer O'Neil; «The Stone Killer», starring Charles Bronson; «Drabble», Michael Caine, and another Caine Thriller - «The Marseilles Contract» with Michael Caine and James Mason; «Paper Tiger», with David Niven and Toshire Mifune; «Diamonds», starring Robert Shaw and Richard Roundtree; «Sinbad and the Eye of the Tiger»; «The Wild Geese», starring Richard Burton and Richard Harris, Roger Moore, and he has just completed the music for another Roger Moore action epic - «The Sea Wolves», with also stars David Niven, and Gregory Peck.

Roy has worked with many great international directors including films by Don Siegel, Ralph Nelson, Michael Winner, Andrew McLaglen, Blake Edwards, Delbert Mann, Robert Parrish.

«THE MISSING LINK» is his first involvement with cartoon, and he contributed all the orchestral music featured in the film.