

Rob Walker Films Presents

The Pneumatic Tube



No. 2

"Cannibal Free since 2003!"

Introduction

If you're reading this, it means that you have subscribed to *The Pneumatic Tube*. The favorite email newsletter of the beautiful and well-mannered. Welcome back! I hope you folks are having a great week so far. As I am writing this, my family and I have moved into our new lovely,



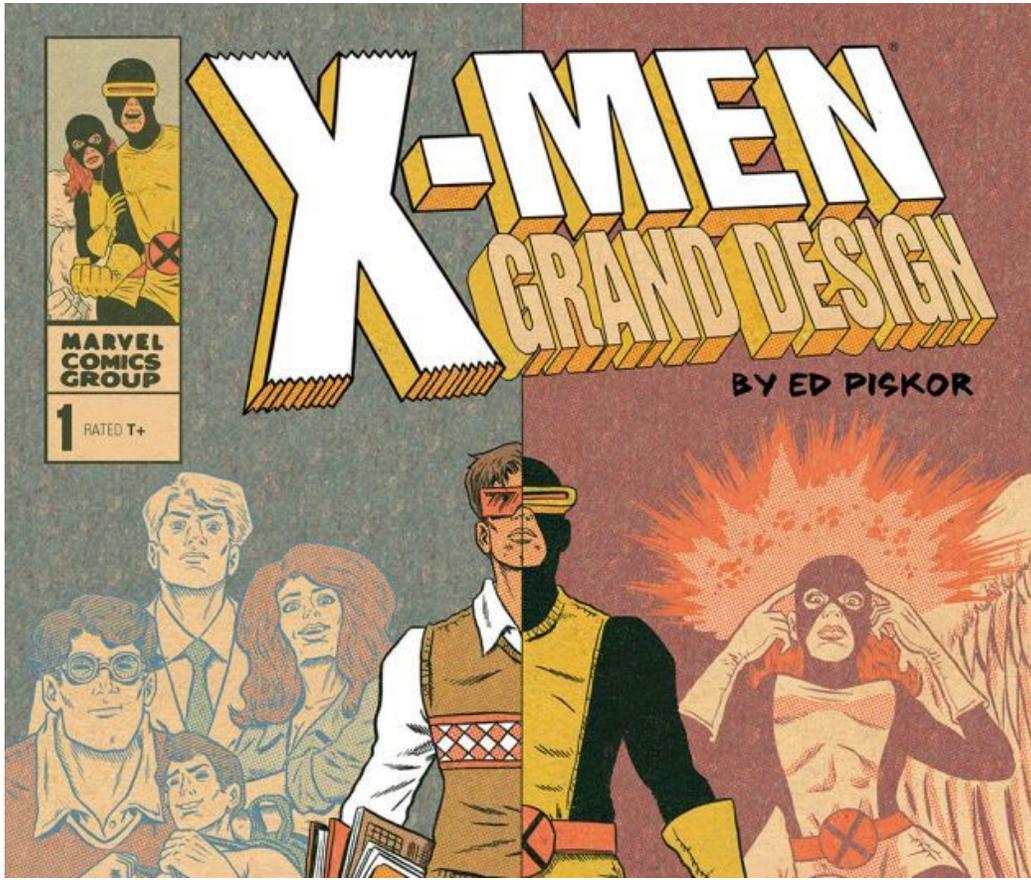
though temporary, living arrangement. Moving this month has been exhausting and frustrating, but you know what they say, "God never closes a door without opening a window...to a smaller and more expensive apartment."

Currently, my wife, our feral child, and I are staying with my sister and brother-in-law which is usually how most 80s and 90s sitcoms begin. Brother gets kicked out of his house only to stay with his sister and wackiness ensues. I'll keep you updated on the wackiness RE: One of us gets sick and is given a bell to ring if he or she needs anything, or we get stuck in an elevator with a pregnant lady or something.

Without further ado, let's kick the tires and light the fires, shall we?

Ed Piskor's X-Men: Grand Design

I first became acquainted with Piskor's work through BoingBoing.net, where his comics were often a feature. His style is a mix of 70s/80s comic books, street art, and punk zines. No one is doing what Piskor is doing right now. Definitely check out his work on *Hip Hop Family Tree* (many of which can be read [HERE](#)) Even if you're not interested in Hip Hop music, his cataloging of its history is fascinating and his art and layouts are always great. And if you're an X-Men fan, or just want to give comic books a try, *X-Men Grand Designs* is a great place to start. Piskor is condensing the convoluted 60-year history of Marvel's Merry Mutants into abbreviated scenelets and tableaux. It's quite good. You can get a preview with commentary [HERE](#).

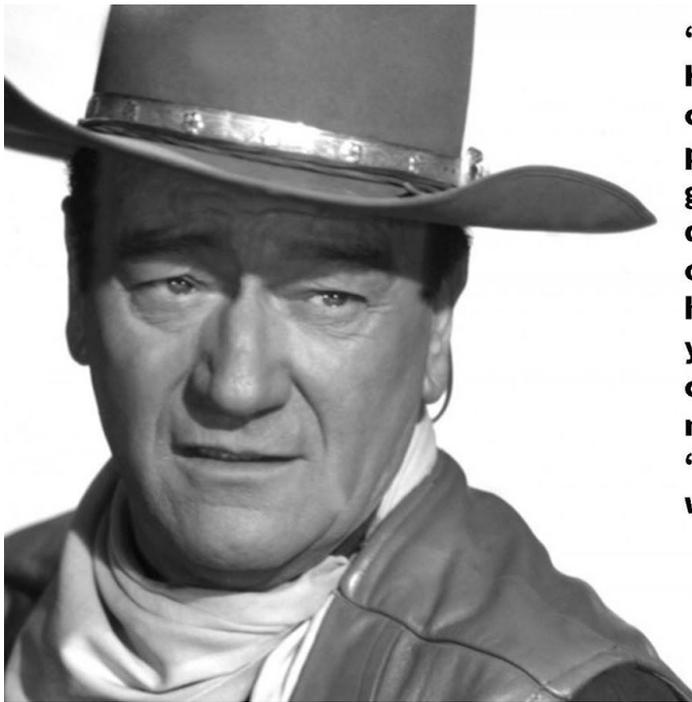


Great Books



In the mid-90s, TLC (then called The Learning Channel) aired a series called *Great Books*. It was essentially a documentary series that explored great works of literature through discussions with academics, current authors, and filmed reenactments. I LOVED IT! Especially the episode on [Dracula](#). Well, some precious YouTube Pirate Angel has put many of the episodes up for streaming. You can watch them [HERE](#) The series draws you in with great performances, production and fun discussions on the authors lives, period context, and the work itself. Now TLC is essentially the visual version of a supermarket tabloid featuring such shows as *Dr. Pimple Popper*, *Long Island Medium*, and *Kitchen Concubines*. Only one of those shows is made up but good luck guessing which one.

A few words of advice from John Wayne



“The very first job I ever got in Hollywood was fighting horses in a cage at Erich von Stroheim’s garden parties. Sometimes they’d give you a stick or something to defend yourself but mostly you were on your own punching a horse bare-handed. I don’t know if you’ve ever fought a horse, but those cocksuckers bite- HARD. Anyway, now I’m riding ‘em instead of fistin’ ‘em in the mouth. Funny how life works, huh.”

-John Wayne

The Memory Palace

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I have been honking off about this podcast since I first heard a sample on 99 Percent Invisible. Host Nate DiMeo takes audiences through beautifully written tales of history, illuminating events with which people may not be familiar. One of my favorite episode is all about the famous acting family, The Booths*. In particular Edmund Booth, who overcame an overbearing father to become the greatest actor of his generation only to suffer at the unkind hands of history...and his own brother. Listen to this episode [HERE](#).

Other favorite episodes include [The Year Hank Greenberg Hit 58 Home Runs](#), [Open Road](#), and [Mary Walker Would Wear What She Wanted](#) Ugh! I could just keep recommending episodes. Anyway, give them a listen. They're short and you will not be sorry.

**Less famous for theatre now, than they are for spawning the man who murdered the president.*

Well, that's it for now. I hope you guys enjoyed this issue of *The Pneumatic Tube* or at least found parts of it useful. Be sure to tell your friends about it and if you want to reach me elsewhere, you can find me at these spaces below.

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Or you can drop me a line at [robwalkerfilms\[at\]gmail\[DOT\]com](mailto:robwalkerfilms@gmail.com)

Take care,

-Rob

“The saddest aspect of life right now is that science gathers knowledge faster than society gathers wisdom.” - Isaac Asimov

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