

TIME

INTERNATIONAL

MULTIMEDIA

Camp and Commerce

Reference

BERNARD OF HOLLYWOOD'S PIN-UPS
Corel; CD-ROM for PC and Mac; \$24.95;
fax: 1-613-728-9790

YOU HAVE TO ADMIRE THE ORGANIZING principle of this disc: searching by blonds, brunets and redheads beats the heck out of alphabetical order. But flitting around Pin-Ups will be more rewarding if you start with the long-forgotten starlets of the 1940s and '50s than with such reign-

containing 25 arcane and campy U.S. industrial, educational and advertising films from the 1930s to the '60s illustrate what Prolinger calls the "darker side" of capitalism. They're sure to delight any sociology student looking for a thesis topic; for the rest of us, this slickly produced and easy-to-navigate jaunt is surprisingly entertaining. One 1957 promo follows a housewife dancing her way through a gallery of refrigerators while a narrator hypes our brilliant future as consumers. The dual message throughout: conform and buy.



JUST SAY CHEESECAKE: The Bernard of Hollywood CD-ROM doesn't skimp on dishing up starlets—witness Lily St. Cyr

ing beauties as Marilyn Monroe and Gene Tierney. The photos are mostly terrific, and the brief video clips alternate between rote and revealing (the voluptuous Lily St. Cyr in a scene from 1955's *Son of Sinbad*). But the rest, including mock newspaper articles and trivia quizzes, seems superfluous.

Fine Art

**ESCHER INTERACTIVE:
 EXPLORING THE ART
 OF THE INFINITE**
*Byron Preiss Multi-
 media/Abrams; CD-ROM
 for PC; \$39.95;*
fax: 1-212-645-9574

WITH THEIR DIMENSION-bending paradoxes and interlocking figures, M.C. Escher's drawings and paintings open up a dizzying world; and this mesmerizing CD-ROM acclimates you to that strange universe and then provokes your own creativity. Visit the gallery of more than 600 Escher works; browse a biographical slide show complete with two video clips of the Dutch artist;

master the aptly titled "impossible puzzles" based on Escher's geometric labyrinths. You'll then be ready to create your own variations on Escher in an amply toolled paint space. The disc falls short as art criticism, but the interlinking of the many geeky fun features is, well... Escheresque.