

SHIFT

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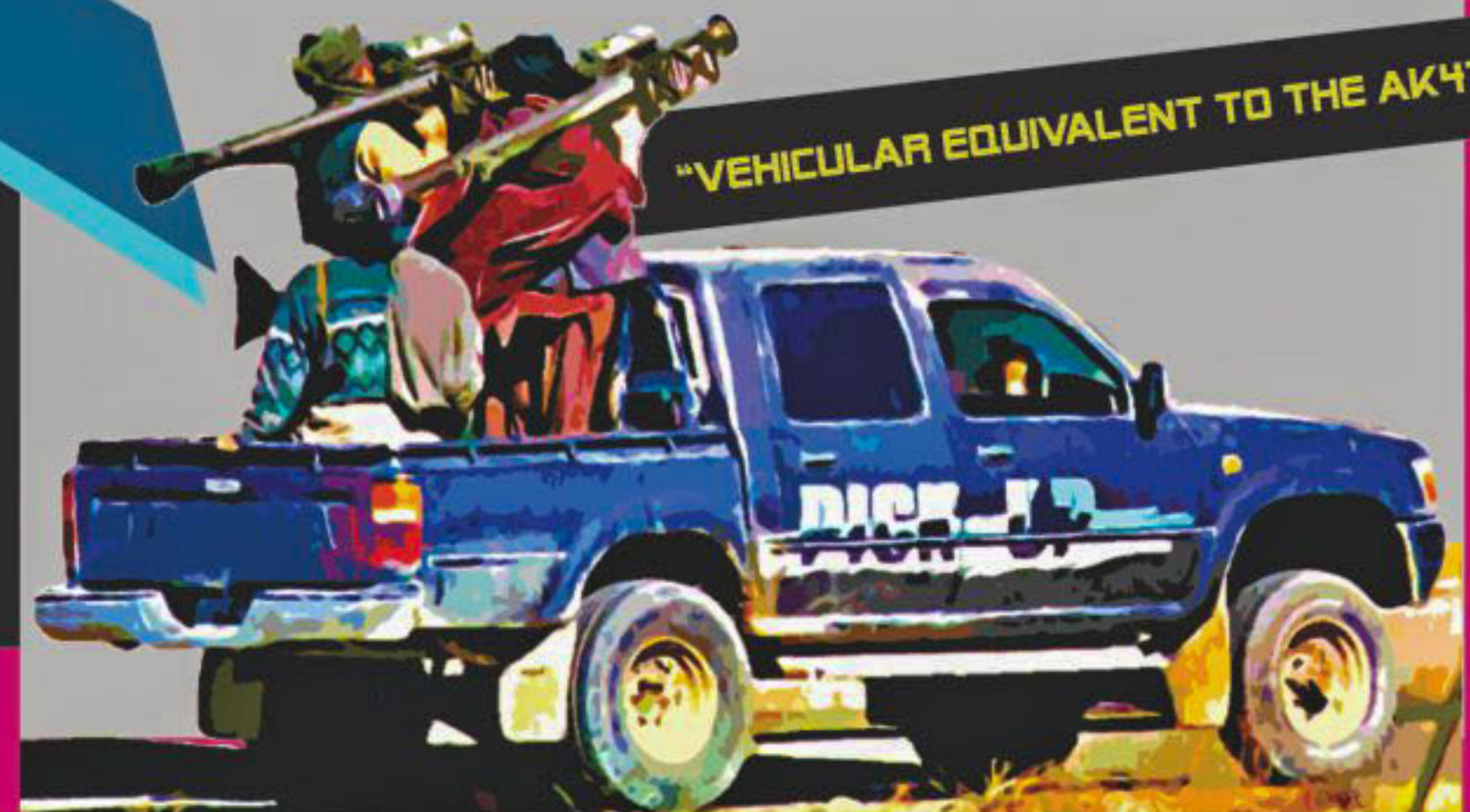
ACTION HERO SURF



The Toyota Hilux line was launched in 1968 as a spin off of the successful Land Cruiser series, and continues to be produced today, although it wasn't called 'Hilux' for all of its lifespan. With a rugged approach to off-roading and load carrying, the Hilux/4Runner/Toyota Pickup gained a reputation for being one of the most reliable, dependable and easy to fix vehicles in the world. Here's our tribute to the Hilux on its 50th birthday, plus tips on buying one.

OPERATION GLOBAL DOMINATION

It turns out being extremely reliable and near about indestructible makes sure a car sells well. Even in places where you'd think Toyota would refuse to sell - destabilised states like Afghanistan, for example. Unless you lived under a rock for much of the 2000s, you would've seen footage of these technicals - Hilux pickups with ex-goat herders in the back, typically wielding 50cal. machine guns. Yikes. Maybe see it as stamp of reliability?



THE ONE TO BUY

1991-1994 Hilux Surf SSR-X
Cool name. Sounds like a Gundam robot. Has a wide-body kit from the factory, along with 3.0 V6 motor. Cheap-ish to buy, although not cheap to maintain. Will run forever (probably). Just don't set fire to it - might have survived Top Gear's destructive programming but lets not try drowning/blowing up what might be a future Jap classic.

50
YEARS OF
THE HILUX

The Toyota Hilux is a pop culture icon in its own right, and absolutely a product of the 80s. Even the ones from the 2000s.

DARLIN' YOU GOT TO LET ME KNOW
SHOULD I STAY OR SHOULD I GO?

THE CLASH
THE PERFECT SONG TO CRUISE
AROUND IN A SURF WITH FRIENDS



AUTO NEWS

MINI'S NOT-SO-CLASSIC ELECTRIC CONCEPT

Debuted at the 2018 New York International Auto Show, the Mini Electric Concept sadly won't be a production model - the concept previews an all new zero emissions electric Mini model, set to be launched in 2019. That falls in line with the 60 year anniversary of the original Mini, which was widely considered to

be the perfect car for sustainable motor-ing for the masses in addition to being a cult icon. Pop-culture references aside, we're wondering what an all-electric Mini with that classic body draped over modern suspension would be like - forget the "all-new" model, Mini, build this one. Please.



GENESIS ESSENTIA

Featuring a carbon monocoque structure and the first battery powered performance electric drivetrain underneath a beautifully flowing body, the Essentia Concept is Genesis' way of letting people know they're serious about making desirable cars. Hyundai's luxury sub-brand launched very recently, but they're moving fast and making waves. If they keep this up they might reach a status held by the likes of Lexus, Acura and Infiniti in just half a decade. Let's hope the concept actually leads to something concrete.

CAR SPOTTING

We celebrate 50 years of the Hilux by bringing you some of the more interesting ones spotted on the road.

PHOTOS: SHADMAN AL SAMEE



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