

# BRUM BEAT

THE MIDLANDS ENTERTAINMENT MONTHLY

NUMBER 144

CHRISTMAS  
1992



THE  
**JIM ROSE**  
CIRCUS SIDESHOW

**THE LOLLAPALOOZA  
FREAKSHOW  
HITS TOWN**

**THE GREAT DIVIDE**

*with*

ALL THE REGULAR STUFF THAT MAKES LIFE WORTHWHILE

*and*

**BERNARD 'F\*\*\*\*\*G' MANNING!**

★  ★

# REDDINGTONS ARE RECORDS

17 Cannon St (close to Rackhams)  
Birmingham B2 5EN - Tel: 021 643 2017  
**"Rare records, CD's, Programmes, etc Bought, Sold + Exchanged"**

WE STOCK EVERYTHING - OLDIES, PROMO'S PICTURE DISCS, 78'S, BIG BAND, JAZZ, MALE & FEMALE, 50'S VOCALS, ROCK 'N' ROLL, SOUL, DISCO, HOUSE, C&W, FILMS, SHOWS, HEAVY METAL, ROCK, 60'S BOAT ACETATES, TEST PRESSING, WHITE LABELS, PSYCH, PUNK, NEW WAVE, PROMO COMPACT DISC SINGLES, IMPORTS, OBSCURITIES ETC ETC ETC

**Records — C/D wanted for cash or trade**  
**"bring along your unwanted records for compact discs"**

**OPENING TIMES: 10-6 MON-FRI SAT 9-6**  
Spend days on our mind blowing 3 floors of jam packed, racks overflowing, floor to ceiling, sitting on, falling over, can't move for 1000's + 1000's of records.

★ ★

# X CENTRIX

Grooves onto your scene at the Moseley Dance Centre with a fusion of underground dance sounds from the last 3 decades.  
Dj's from the London Club scene head north to funk it with a deeper groove than is usual.  
This Christmas special is all wrapped up in atmospheric lights, party projections and that real 'get down on it' feeling.  
If you do nothing else this month, take a walk on the wild side to a different kind of club.

## X-Centrix

Moseley Dance Centre, 574 Moseley Road, Balsall Heath, Birmingham B12.

**Sat. 12th Dec.**  
£5 waged, £4 concessions (UB40, Nus, Etc)  
For more information, Tel: 021 414 1809.  
(P.S. This is not a Rave!)

**Be seen here call**  
**021-643 8899**

## COMPACT DISCS

Music for all Tastes at  
**Birmingham's 1st all C.D. Shop**

# Off Limits

HUGE SELECTION OF COMPACT DISCS — POP, ROCK, SOUL DANCE, CLASSICAL, COUNTRY, FOLK, BLUES, JAZZ, 50's, 60's, 70's, 80's + FAST ORDERING SERVICE.  
THOUSANDS OF TITLES TO CHOOSE FROM.  
C.D. SINGLES 99p — £3.50

We play discs for you to help you decide.  
Monday-Saturday 9-6

T.D.K. BLANK CASSETTES.

4 POPLAR ROAD, KINGS HEATH, BIRMINGHAM B14 7AD  
**021-444 1243**



# DESIGN FORUM

T-SHIRT DESIGN & PRINTING  
**021 622 2821**

## 24 TRACK STUDIO FOR SALE

As part of the continued rebuilding and expansion program of our Square Dance Nottingham premises we are in a position to be able to put our existing Derby studio on the market. This is a unique opportunity to purchase a complete professional 24 track recording studio with a proven track record of producing commercially successfully quality recordings. Numerous records have been recorded here that have made it into the charts including a UK number one.

**SQUARE DANCE DERBY** has a large acoustically treated 30' x 15' recording area for recording vocals and all types of acoustic instruments, drums, guitars etc. The adjacent specially designed control room has a Toshiba air conditioner and has been spectrum analysed to ensure that the Quested monitors are true and accurate. We are looking for offers for the above equipment as a whole. The Derby Studio building itself is also available to rent and we will consider offers from purchasers of the equipment who also want to rent the building before any others.

**INTERESTED PARTIES SHOULD CONTACT TIM ANDREWS ON THE NUMBER BELOW.**

**SQUARE DANCE STUDIO**  
THE SQUARE CENTRE, 389-394 ALFRED STREET NORTH, NOTTINGHAM NG3 1AA  
TEL 0602 414488 FAX 0602 412277

**ALL YEAR ROUND XMAS CLUB** **JUST GOOD MUSIC**

# MIDDLETONS

JAZZ BLUES + WORLD ROOTS MUSIC  
2 THREE SHIRES OAK TREE RD, BEARWOOD  
TEL: 021-434 3302

**LOTS OF OPENING BARGAINS**  
**JAZZ, BLUES, WORLD & FOLK**  
ON C.D., TAPE & VINYL  
*Second Hand, Deletions + New Releases*

Also Stocking Bargain Cassettes & CDs including:- oldies, C+W + Irish Plus Secondhand Paperbacks.

**FREE DELIVERY SERVICE IN THE BIRMINGHAM AREA ON ORDERS OVER £30**  
(50p charge on Small orders over £5)

Shop situated two doors from the Bear Tavern:,  
Home of Andy Hamilton on Mondays and The Blues on Tuesdays.

**10% OFF MARKED PRICES WITH THIS AD ONLY**  
PERSONAL CALLERS ONLY  
(OFFER ENDS 31ST DEC. 1 COUPON PER PURCHASE)

Buses 120 + 128  
Stop outside the door  
No.s 11, 9, 82, 448, 126, 127, 136.  
stop nearby



## CARING'N'SHARING

**Birmingham is now part of a Shared Earth.** And what with the recent opening of Birmingham Evolution and the already established Turtles and Pure Magick, it appears that the city is finally bristling with all manner of stores dealing in ethnic arts and crafts, alternative literature, incense crystals and everything for the budding Earth Magician. But of those mentioned, the brand new Shared Earth, at 87 New Street, is not only the largest store, it is the latest in an organisation that started in York (originally under the name of One World) in 1986, spreading to Leeds, Bradford and Manchester, where it discovered a similar establishment trading the same name, so Shared Earth was born.

The idea came from Jeremy Piercy who travelled extensively through India, Afghanistan and Nepal in the 1970s and subsequently decided to help the people of the Third World and the environment by paying fair prices to the producers of arts and crafts indigenous to the area. This concerns with trade rather than donations to famine, drought, etc., relief funds seemed a more positive and productive enterprise, encouraging local people to pass on and market their knowledge and talents. The Birmingham store's recent formal opening attracted many curious passers-by to its prime spot in newly-pedestrianised New Street. The Lord Mayor graced us with his presence and we sipped wine while he said a few words about the likes of Shared Earth bridging the gap between Third World and their wealthier brothers and sisters. Jeremy was pleased with his new shop and the turn out for the launch and looked forward to supplying the people of Birmingham with some truly beautiful



SHARED EARTH

examples of Third World arts and crafts.

I myself earmarked one or two items for possible Christmas pressies, namely some striking Moroccan pottery, a couple of wall hangings and my fave wooden crying Buddhas, then squeezed myself out of the jammed store into a brighter, healthier-looking New Street, all the more colourful and heart warming for Shared Earth's presence.

**Mack Dennis**

## THAT REVOLVER FM COMPETITION

**AS YOU SHOULD HAVE read last month the grand prize in our protracted Revolver Studio competition finally went to THE GREAT DIVIDE, who even now are wondering what to do with three full days of 24 track, state of the art digital recording in the region's only residential digital wonderland. An equally pressing problem for the self declared 'Furkin' Great' Lichfield lads is what to do with the Two full days of rehearsal time at ROBANNAS, Brum's fastest growing, dedicated rehearsal centre!**

The prize was awarded after this mag's Editor was locked in the Revolver control room with the

studio manager and representatives of Revolver FM's A&R Dept to sift through literally hundreds of impressive demos. Whittling the pile down to a handful for final consideration was impossible, choosing the winner, a nightmare!

Finally after repeated playing of the tapes The great Divide were the unanimous choice for the gold medal with **SHE CHAMELEON** and **THE PINK DANDELIONS** missing glory by a whisker.

Brum Beat and Revolver are amazed at the range and quality of talent that entered and wish to thank all entrants. Indeed revolver will be sending every act that participated a generous discount voucher to use against studio time. You can call Revolver FM Recording Studio on 0902 345345 for more info on facilities and prices.

## BREEDON BOUNCES BACK

**BIRMINGHAM'S BREEDON BAR, now under new and focused management seem intent on putting the house in order following a period when it seemed that it had rocked its last.**

The relaunch dates from the recent excellent Green On Red and Miracle Legion US guitar extravaganza and continues into December in fine style with Sid Griffin and The Coal Porters (3), Wilko Johnson (4), The Hamsters (5), Blodwyn Pig (7), UK Subs (12), Reverend Brown and The Earlybirds (17), John Otway and Wild Willy Barrett (18), The Groundhogs (19), a Mack And The Boys Christmas Eve extravaganza (24!), Red Lemon Electric Blues Band (26) and the Steve Gibbons Band New Year's Eve blast (31!!!) The Breedon is at 1652 Pershore Road, Cotteridge and they'll happily give you ticket and gig info on 021 459 6573.

## 1993 STARTS IN BRUM

**BIG BEN WILL BE MOVED TO BIRMINGHAM FOR A ONE NIGHT STAND ON DECEMBER 31st.** This will enable the old fella to ring in the new year at Ronnie Scott's Club in the heart of Birmingham. So significant is this gig for the old time piece, that BBC Radio 3 will broadcast his midnight utterances live to its listener. That

poor lonesome old soul, unable to find a party, or even a life, will also be able to share the vibrant rhythms of Como No who will be Ben's support for the programme. The radio listener will be able to share the excitement from 11.35pm to 1am, if he can stand the pace. Real groovers will be at the club from 8pm 'til late, late, late or whenever Brum's licensing police decide cocoa should be served!

Leading up to this, the biggest of all alarm clocks, Ronnie's presents US sax sensation Art Porter (December 1-5); Madeline Bell (7-19) and Como No (21-24).

## CIRCUS FREAKO SUPREMO

**THE JIM ROSE CIRCUS SIDESHOW is set to stun and astonish at Birmingham Uni on Saturday December 12.**

Featuring Matt 'The Tube' Crowley, Slug The Sword Swallower, Bebe The Circus Queen, The Torture King, The Amazing Mister Lifo and Rose himself, this is the troupe that barnstormed the US Lollapalooza tour with acts that defy belief!

Want to see a man suspend bricks from his nipples and heavy objects from, er, intimate parts? Want to walk on a man whilst he lies in broken glass? Want to find out why the show's rider specifies live crickets, jumbo mealworms, nightcrawlers and a skinny carrot... Tickets are now on sale!!!

## LATE NEWS

**CHRISTMAS EVERY DAY**  
WELL MAYBE NOT, but it must be thanks to Santa for the rare gift of a live show from pop legend ROY WOOD. Woody plays Birmingham Rep on December 13th with, no doubt, the audience on backing vocals!!

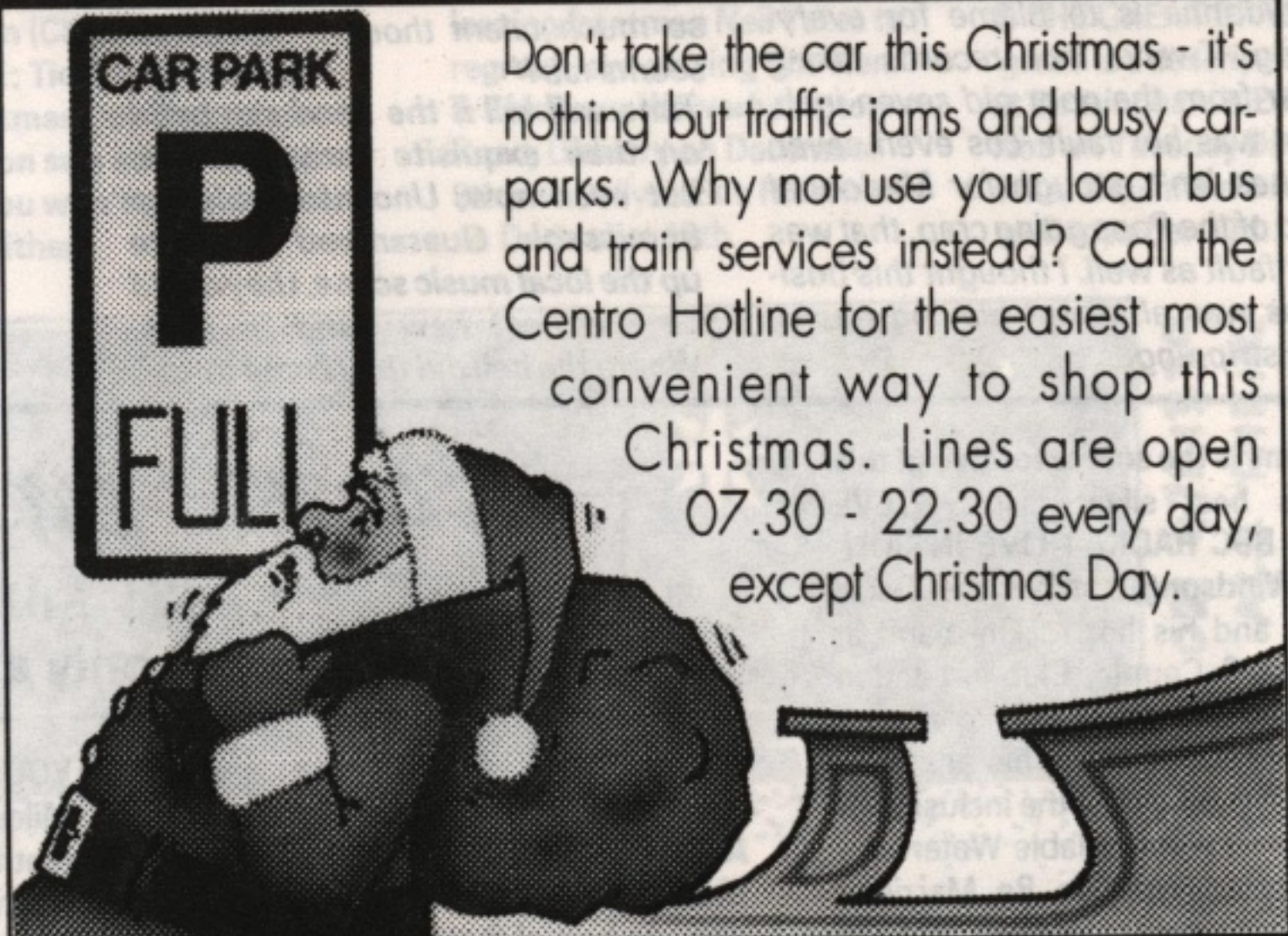
**MORE MADNESS**  
Having completely sold out one night at the venue, MADNESS have added a second NEC show on December 23rd. Tickets are £18.50 from all usual outlets or the credit card hotline on 021 780 4133. If they sell out again seek solace in the excellent 'Madstock' album and video available through Go! Discs and Polygram Video respectively!

**TOREADOR SET TO ROCK**  
THE TOREADOR, in Birmingham's city centre, directly opposite the Rag Market, is set to become a live rock venue. Kicking off the live music initiative are Puppet Regime on December 18th followed by the rather good Jonis Butterfly on the 21st. The venue needs bands, so if you need a gig and you can rock, call Matt on 021-236 4171.

**MARQUEE FOR BRUM**  
THE LEGENDARY MARQUEE CLUB IS SET TO OPEN ITS DOORS IN BIRMINGHAM. Plans are afoot for the illustrious name to grace Central Hall in Corporation Street, near to Plastic Factory. All licences have been granted and the grand opening set for Valentine's Day, 1993.

## THIS CHRISTMAS

Don't take the car this Christmas - it's nothing but traffic jams and busy car-parks. Why not use your local bus and train services instead? Call the Centro Hotline for the easiest most convenient way to shop this Christmas. Lines are open 07.30 - 22.30 every day, except Christmas Day.



**UNRAVEL YOUR TRAVEL**



**CENTRO HOTLINE**  
**021-200 2700**

## LEE FOR THE ROBIN

**LEGENDARY SIX STRING PICKER, ALBERT LEE** has confirmed a rare **Black Country appearance for Wednesday December 9th**. He will be appearing at The Robin, the Merry Hill venue that has been customised for music by respected PA and lighting supremo, Mike Hamblett of Sub Zero Music.

Lee's CV includes session and road work with Eric Clapton, Dave Edmunds, Glen Campbell, The Everly Brothers, Dolly Parton, Emmylou Harris and, hell, we simply haven't got space to list anymore, but you get the picture! Lee is amongst the very best and possibly the only English guitar player to make it to the top of the Nashville session

tree. He'll be picking with Hogan's Heroes who individually have played with everyone from The Doobie Brothers to Jackson Browne to The Proclaimers to... It's definitely not a gig to miss on any count. On Albert's last UK tour the various guest listers and jammers included Willie Nelson, Don Everly, Nancy Griffith and Eric Clapton so, whilst no promises, check the guy next to you on the night!

Call 0384-456679 for ticket details.

## CHARTER FLIGHT

**WHAT COULD YOU HAVE IN COMMON WITH Peter Gabriel, New Order's Bernard Sumner, The Shamen's Colin Angus, The Jesus And Mary Chain, John Cleese and more?**

Well, you could and should be a member of Charter 88, an organisation determined to stamp out violations of human and civil rights in Britain today. Interested, and you should be, contact Charter 88 at Exmouth House, 3-11 Pine Street, London EC1R 0JH.

## HELP THE LEMONS DRUMMER

**RED LEMON skin basher, Neil, has had the following nicked. If you are offered such items or see them anywhere call his manager, Tony, on 0902 762301 and then tell Shaw Taylor.**

Keep 'em peeled for a 22" Cannon Bass Drum in a black La Blonde case; 2 black La Blonde trap cases full of hardware; 2

18x8 tom toms in a combination case. The drums are all Cannon Bird's Eye Maple incidentally.

## FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE

**THAT'S THE WORKING TITLE of a new club night set for early '93 in Brum.** It'll be a weekly happening at The Bear in Bearwood, on Fridays, natch, and will kick off on January 22nd with MACK & THE BOYS. Other acts confirmed for the impressive opening season are CURTIS LITTLE and THE REVEREND BROWN AND THE EARLY BIRDS (double bill value on February 5th), GERRY COLVIN (a must on Feb. 12th) and THE STEVE GIBBONS BAND (Feb 19th).

Organiser Kevan Harrison also plans a regular monthly 'Best Of

Brum' night for top indie bands. If you're interested, you'll have to be top types and get tapes etc. to Kevan at 77 Park Road, Bearwood, B67 5HR or leave a message on 021 420 3439.

## IZZY ILL!

**Izzy Stradlin's Wolverhampton show, set for December 4, has been pulled. Apparently he caught a severe bout of 'flu whilst in Australia which precipitated the cancellation of a handful of dates including Wolves.**

Izzy, obviously a mite psychic when it comes to predictions of recovery, will be well enough to continue the tour at Nottingham's Rock City, mere days later on the 9th!

The Wolverhampton date will be rescheduled for Summer '93.

## The Uncontrollable Noise Explosion

## Andy Tipper predicts The Big Bang!

*The Midlands is currently blessed with an embarrassing supply of happening bands, and the intriguingly titled Uncontrollable Noise Explosion are the latest hot properties to join the success trail.*

*Although their talent is still raw, their brand of red-hot wonderpop could easily 'explode' in popularity as did their closest contemporaries, the Stuffies, Neds and Levellers. Possessing energy and excitement by the bucketload, Uncontrollable have a strange sense of humour too. Lead vocalist and guitarist Nick Page has some bizarre opinions on the state of the music scene, "Madonna is to blame for everything: Twelve inch records taking over from the poor old seven inch, that was her fault 'cos even seven inches isn't enough for Madonna! Top of the Pops going crap, that was her fault as well. I thought this business was all about playing music, not stripping..."*

*Anyway, we're far more exciting than Madonna's fanny so I'd recommend seeing us instead!"*

*Emerging from nowhere, The Uncontrollable Noise Explosion (T.U.N.E) are enjoying the acclaim thrown at them by fans ever since their first gig. Crazy crowd-pleasers from Birmingham, they have a hypnotic groove that belies their name, spilling over into helpless euphoria. "We love to play live more than anything else 'cos it gives the band a stiffy!" T.U.N.E will be playing a lot next year and anything could happen then. Good time should be musical times, and we hope to provide a lot them in '93. I wish we didn't have so much talent though - it hardly seems fair!"*

*Time will tell if the band can build on their exquisite early promise, but even now, Uncontrollable are unmissable. Guaranteed to shake up the local music scene, they could be the best new band in ages. Where the hell did they come from?*



THE UNCONTROLLABLE NOISE EXPLOSION  
(PIC BY GRAHAM HUGHES)

Radio One is the source for two of this month's best silver discs. **STEVE EARLE: BBC RADIO 1 LIVE IN CONCERT (Windsong)** catches the Texas tornado and his hot rockin' band at The Town & Country Club in London on November 29th '88, giving a baker's dozen of tunes his all. Earle collectors should note the inclusion of the otherwise unavailable Waterboys cover 'When Will We Be Married'. Everyone else should note that it's simply great. **NILS LOFGREN: CODE OF THE ROAD (Castle Classics)** is also sourced from auntie's tapes and catches seventy odd minutes of Lofgren's excellent band at The Hammersmith Odeon. All of his best material is within, 'Delivery Night', 'Shine Silently', 'I Came To Dance' and a fine 'Keith Don't Go'. No recording date given though I suspect it was during the **FLIP (Castle Classics)** tour. It's kinda natural that that set should be issued at the same time then, though a recommendation would lean toward the more muscular live album, though

at around £6, buying both is no hardship.

**A CHOICE SELECTION OF STRAWBS (A&M)** is a packed sixteen track, genuine best of that would have been even better as a fifteen tracker! 'Part Of The Union' could have been lost without danger of tears being shed. The balance is pomp-rock infused with Dave Cousins folk sensibility. A strange but charming hybrid. **BRAND X: THE PLOT THINS-A HISTORY OF BRAND X (Virgin Universal)** is the only way you'll catch me listening to Phil Collins these days. In fact Brand X' Weather Report-ish fusion surprised me with a strength I hadn't remembered it as having. Note that whilst sleeve and disc promise 12 tracks, there are only 10!

## SILVER SURFIN'

with Off Limits

Birmingham's only all CD shop

**YOUR STARTER FOR TEN ... (See For Miles)** is a slice of the respected label's tenth birthday cake for £3.99. It's a nourishing, celebratory twenty tracker including bona fide gems from Family, Kinks, Ace, Small Faces, Ronnie Lane, The Zombies and more alongside lesser known temptations.

**AL GREEN: AL (Beechwood)** is simply sixteen of the soul greats very best, say no more. Except that Green's producer once told me that Al didn't think of it as soul; he was trying to make country records! **ROGER CHAPMAN: LIVE IN HAMBURG / LIVE (Castle Classics)** are two slices of solid R&B informed rock from one of the UK's best, and most unique vocal talents. Now ignored at home the Family man is rightly revered in Germany.

**BLANCMANGE: HEAVEN KNOWS** and **A FLOCK OF SEAGULLS: TELECOMMUNICATIONS (both Old Gold/Elite)** are sensibly priced hit sets from soon forgotten eighties aberrations. The former a synth duo as substantial as their name and the latter less remembered for music than that haircut! **Old Gold** also add two more to the excellent Rediscover series of budget doubles **SATURDAY NIGHT'S ALRIGHT ...** is an insubstantial mixed bag of seventies/eighties rock'n'pop that makes bedmates out of Lynyrd Skynyrd and Peter Frampton. **DON'T STOP THE MUSIC** has a better thematic strength, focusing with some precision on class dance oldies; Jim Gilstrap, Trampms, Odyssey and the like.

Finally if you believe Two live Crew style porno rap to be a new phenomenon catch **ADULTS ONLY VOLUME 2 (Trojan)**. Reggae subtleties such as 'Want Me Cock' and 'Play With Your Pussy' make it an essential for the Manning collection!

## SHORTS

● **THE DOVETAILS** combine with **ASPRO DAN** to make up a vital night out at Burntwood's Nag's Head on December 20th.

● **BIRDLAND** provide the pre Christmas rock juice at Tamworth Arts Centre on Sunday December 20th with **Back To The Planet** preceding them on the 13th. Call Tamworth 53092 for more info on the Centre's goings-on.

● The Legend that is **DR. FEELGOOD** cranks up the R&B fever at Coventry's Tic Toc on December 2nd and Derby's Warehouse on the 16th. The band's original line-up, with Wilko Johnson can be seen in concert in '75 on the Grand Records video, 'Going Back Home'. It's in the shops right now.

● **THE RAMONES** will be creating a 'Mondo Bizarro' at B'Ham's Hummingbird on Monday December 14th. Currently massive in Brazil, Chile and Argentina, the ones known as 'da brudders' are on Brum Beat's unmissable list. Support act **Terrorvision** should be seen too. Sooooo; Be early!

● **PICTURE THIS**, a Battle Of The Bands winning and highly touted Birmingham quartet, are hoping that Santa will bring them massive audiences at Walsall's Wheatshaf (December 17) and Birmingham's Breedon Bar (23).

● The High Priest Of Love **ZODIAC MINDWARP**, complete with **THE LOVE REACTION**, takes his Raw And Bleeding tour to Derby Warehouse on December 14th. Zod has a mini album, 'My Life Story', featuring 'Porno Movies' and 'Slut Freak' in the racks courtesy of Musidisc.

● With a number one single and debut album under her cap, **TASMIN ARCHER** sets out to fill Birmingham's Symphony Hall on March 12th 1993.

● **THE SORDID DETAILS** return to Brum after tripping around London, Wales and Aberystwyth, with gigs at The Hib, Selly Park on Monday December 14th and The Jug Of Ale, Moseley on December 29th.

● It may be winter outside but in **The Pot Of Beer** it's **SOMA!** Well it is if you're there on Wednesday December 16th. Incidentally guys, we hope your favoured recording studio are more business like with you than they are with us!

● **BIRMINGHAM TOWN HALL** steers a seasonal course with **THE BOOTLEG BEATLES** (Dec. 7), **THE FABULOUS FIFTIES SHOW** [with Tommy Bruce, Craig Douglas, The Platters, er, send your folks and have a party, OK!] (Dec. 8), **BLACK VOICES CHRISTMAS CONCERT** (Dec. 18) and some power rock in the shape of **MAGNUM** (Dec. 22). The Box Office is on 021 236 2392.

● **THE MONEYGODS**, now with ex Candy Flip and session guitarist Dave Rees on, er, the six stringed beast, are back on the road and Birmingham bound to apply boot to bum at The Hib(ernian) on Pershore Road on December 2nd. They then scurry off to cause mild mannered mayhem in Lichfield's Arts Centre on December 18th.

● Start your new year celebration at a lick with **THE GREAT DIVIDE** at Lichfield Arts Centre on Wednesday December 30th. Call 0543 253367 for ticket info. And hurry, these guys sell out this venue, without fail for one simple reason, they're bloody good!

● **RADIO MOSCOW** have finished work on their second album. Entitled 'Get A New Life', it's due to be among us early in '93.

● **BABY FACE** rock it up with **Dumpy's Rust Nuts** at Rockwell's, Tamworth on December 17th, with **Roughneck and Angels** with **Dirty Faces** at Bidds Club, Longford, Stoke (21) and at the annual **Baby Face Boxing Day Bash** at The Holly Bush, Norton Canes (26).

● The highly acclaimed **EAT** finish their gruelling autumn tour at Coventry Poly (or is it a new fangled Uni?) on December 12th having blitzed Stoke Wheatshaf (Dec 2) and Derby Warehouse (Dec 4) en route. The band's eagerly awaited debut LP is due early in the new year.

● **TANTRUM** and **VOODOO SIOUX** kick-start Rockwell's countdown to Christmas on December 3rd. The Tamworth niterie then builds up the pressure with **DUMPY'S RUSTY NUTS** (6), **ROCK CANDY SLAM / ROUGH NECK / CHANGE OF HEART** (10), **IN PURSUIT** (13), **BEKI & THE BOMBHELLS** (17) and **TAROT** (20). Call 0827 52359 for details.

● **CARTER'S CHRISTMAS PRESENT** comes in the form of an Aston Villa Leisure Centre gig on December 12th and a Wolverhampton Civic Hall encore on December 15th. **Fruitbat** and **Jim-Bob** promise that these OTT events will make "Michael Jackson's Wembley show look like **Leatherface** at The Bull & Gate."

● **THE LAST ASSOCIATION** will be at The Jug Of Ale inendour of The Kyle Of Lockalsh to promote their fine 'Well Bless My Soul' CD at The Holly Bush, Norton Canes (Dec 10); The Turks Head, Newtown, B'Ham (11); The Breedon Bar, B'Ham (17) and The Kings Head, Bearwood, B'Ham (Christmas Day). NOTE: Tickets for the Rev's Christmas Day Bluesblast are now on sale at the venue for £2. You won't get in without one either!

● **ASSASSIN** intend to lay waste, musically speaking, they assure us, to The Kings Head, Hagley Road, B'Ham on December 9th and The Greet, Warwick Road, December 10th.

● **RORY McLEOD**, the legendary folkie whose new **Cooking Vinyl** album, 'Travelling Home', picked up a truckload of raves, appears at The Red Lion, Kings Heath on December 12th.

● **SPLASHDOWN** are at Westfield College on December 5th and December 12th so, if your listening material encompasses both **Hüsker Dü** and **Johnny Burnette**, go and see 'em.

● **THE REVEREND BROWN** and the **EARLYBIRDS** return from the splendour of The Kyle Of Lockalsh to promote their fine 'Well Bless My Soul' CD at The Holly Bush, Norton Canes (Dec 10); The Turks Head, Newtown, B'Ham (11); The Breedon Bar, B'Ham (17) and The Kings Head, Bearwood, B'Ham (Christmas Day). NOTE: Tickets for the Rev's Christmas Day Bluesblast are now on sale at the venue for £2. You won't get in without one either!

● **WIZ / JB's Dudley** / December 10th / with **Emission / Don't Miss**.

● A thoroughly revitalised **ONE GREAT DAY**, the original line up mutineered in January leaving frontman Neil Yates to regroup, are playing The Hen & Chickens, Wolverhampton Road, Oldbury on December 8th and Selly Park's Hibernian on December 12th.

● **LITTLE RICHARD**, touring the UK for the first time in 15 years headlines the best rock'n'roll show to be seen in Brum all year, maybe all decade. See, The Georgia Peach's co-stars are **JERRY LEE LEWIS**, **DUANE EDDY**, **BOBBY VEE**, **LLOYD PRICE**, **CHRIS MONTEZ**, **JOHNNY PRESTON** and **LITTLE EVA**. And if that don't promise good rockin' tonight, nothing ever will. If you're up to it the show plays Birmingham NEC on December 6th.

● **EMMITT TILL** tops the bill at Norton Canes' Holly Bush on Christmas Eve with The Blues Merchants in support. Tickets are on sale at the venue for £1.50. Call 0543 279212 for full details.

● **THE WHEREHOUSE**. Where? Derby. At 110 Friargate. Phone 0332-381169 has a good festive month with **Gary Clail** (2), **A Certain Ratio** (3), **Eat** (4), **Jad Fair** (5), **Alice Do-Nut** (6), **Julianna** [Blake Babies] **Hatfield** (7), **Zodiac Mindwarp** (14), **Dr Feelgood** (16), **Yeah Jazz** (20), **UK Subs** (21) and **Z.Z. Birmingham's Blues Maestros** (22).

● **LONNIE DONEGAN**, may be a cabaret / TV chat show name to many of our readers, but he can lay a good claim to being the father of British roots rock. Ask John Peel. Check for yourself when he graces Birmingham Rep with **Chris Barber's band** on December 20th.

● **THE GREAT DIVIDE**, the 'great' is a description too, are at Birmingham's Edward's No8 on Tuesday December 8th and Lichfield's Arts Centre on December 30th.



FOR MORE INFORMATION PHONE 021 471 1339  
RICH BITCH WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL THEIR CUSTOMERS, AND WISH EVERYONE A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

# COMPETITIONS

## CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS THE DISCOVERY: VIDEO AND T-SHIRT

**BRAVEWORLD'S VIDEO.** 'Christopher Columbus: The Discovery' is one of many movies celebrating the great adventurer. But the very first to make it to your local video library! Billed as a swashbuckling epic, it features Marlon Brando, Tom Selleck, Rachel Ward and Catherine Zeta Jones.

Brum Beat has three of the rental videos, each one wrapped in a t-shirt, to be won. Closing date is January 2nd.

**Q: In which year did Columbus sail off for a bit of discovering?**

## SARA DAVIS: 12" Singles

'Your Keys, Your Coat, Your Hat' Sara Davis' latest Soundcakes 12" is a smooth, cool, jazzy Brickell/R. L. Jones/k.d. lang style kind of thing. A perfect showcase for her vocal and songwriting ability. Brum Beat has three 12"ers to be won. Closing date January 2nd.

**Q: Name any band to have recorded a song entitled 'Sara(h)'.**

## JIMI HENDRIX - A VISUAL DOCUMENTARY: BOOKS

Tony Brown's Omnibus book is simply a record of the Hendrix magic detailed in large format with colour pics and chronological diary of major (and many interesting minor!) events in the Hendrix story. Essential for anyone into Hendrix. Brum Beat has five copies to be won. Closing date January 2nd.

**Q: What is Hendrix' full name?**

## K FUNKY NATION: WAISTCOATS AND T-SHIRTS

To mark the knock out success of The Funky Nation tour, for which K Cider and Acid Jazz records got together to promote the awesome talents of Mother Earth and The Sandals, Brum Beat has two Funky Nation waistcoats

# NO FUNKY

and ten Funky Nation t-shirts to be won. The first two correct cards drawn get the waistcoats, the next ten, a t-shirt each. And believe us, these items are as funky as K Cider and the music!! Closing date January 2nd.

**Q: What colour bottle does K Premium Cider come in?**

## SEE FOR MILES: BIRTHDAY CDs

**SEE FOR MILES** is probably the UK's finest reissue label. Regarded throughout the industry for a massive, excellent catalogue and for the care they put into remastering their product. The label is currently celebrating ten years of restoring classics to the racks by releasing an amazing £3.99 twenty tracker featuring Family, Small Faces, Zombies, Donovan, Kinks and more. Brum Beat has five of these CDs to be won. Closing date January 2nd.

**Q: Where were The Flowerpot Men going in the sixties?**



**John Clarke**

**6" String  
Bass Guitar**

**and**

**Chapman  
Stick Electric  
Touchboard**

I am looking for percussionists, drummers, keyboards players to work out material with (ability to read music would be helpful).

I am also available for sessions or offers from professional groups.

**John Clarke, 113 Croydon Road Erdington,  
Birmingham B24 8JL. Tel: 021 384 6422**

## A VERY SPECIAL CHRISTMAS 2: CDs

A&M Records have issued this follow up to, yup 'A Very Special Christmas 1' to raise more money for the Special Olympics International Fund, which helps to bring sport to people with mental retardation in the world's inner cities. The CD features Tom Petty, Paul Young, Ronnie Spector, Run DMC, Bonnie Raitt, Extreme, Sinead O'Connor and many many more singing seasonal greats! Brum Beat has five copies to be won. Closing date is December 18th so that we can pull the winners and try and get the prizes to them by Christmas Day!

**Q: Ronnie Spector duets with Darlene Love on 'Rockin Around The Christmas Tree'. Who had the original hit with the song?**

## STREET WAR

'Street War' is a gripping and intense tale about friendship, teamwork and the pursuit of justice. Or a ripping good tale in the style of 'New Jack City' featuring Mario Van Peebles from that movie. Brum Beat has three copies of this rental blockbuster too to be won, courtesy of Braveworld Video. Closing date January 2nd.

**Q: Which rapper co-starred with Mario Van Peebles in 'New Jack City'?**

## HOW TO ENTER

★ *Brum Beat* competitions are free and easy to enter. Simply send your answer on a postcard stating clearly which competition it applies to (one postcard per competition please, if entering more than one several postcards can be put into one envelope to save on stamps). Please include your name and address and daytime and/or evening phone number (if possible).

Send to:- **Brum Beat Competitions, Premier House, 43-48 New Street, Birmingham B2 4LJ.**

## DEMO LISTEN

### JOHN SLATER RATES THE TAPES

#### THE MADDING CROWD

If Blandford cavern spent as much time and effort on the music as he has on packaging and the distribution of National Express coach service timetables, then he may be taken more seriously by his peers. I like a laugh too but, because the material isn't anything special, because the jokes backfire onto the joker, the plastic knife he enclosed, is in his own back.

#### KARRERA

This band talk a great demo and play rock in a mid eighties vein. The singer's voice lacks both strength and that distinctive quality which sorts out the stars from the also-rans. Competent pub rock with ex-cabaret leanings or, penis rock without the bollocks.

#### EVOBIRD

A rum name and low budget recording belie the latent of this Selly Park three piece. Elsewhere, fairly accurately described as 'progressive indie-rock' it's feverishly searching for a niche of its own. Not brilliant, but early and encouraging. P.S. Drop the Cure covers.

#### THE SHERBET

Could only have been recorded atop a windswept mountain where the elements pick at raw nerve endings. Can't decide whether this reminds me of T-Rex on the verge of a collective nervous breakdown or The Charlatans after having found the direction they should have been going in the first place, only to lose it in a morass of treble. Neat, though track four is shite.

#### GOOSENEK

Someone appears to have discovered a new drug which, initially, gives the illusion of a young Bono trapped inside his own banal, feedback-ridden dreams. Closer examination however, reveals a Stafford based band with their balls on their sleeves and their heads in a Virtual Reality helmet with the reading, 'Hell - 21st century - sound effects department'. Mental but more-ish.

#### SPLASHDOWN

Following a course of anti-depressants, Splashdown now sound like The Railway Children at 33rpm. Well, not quite, this is a vast improvement. Teardrop explosions, under-developed vocal melodies (though the counter melodies are fine) and overactive drums. I don't know, maybe that's the sound they're going for ..... Maybe they really do sound like The Railway Children at 33rpm ....

**JOHN SLATER works for A&M, Hollywood Records, Hit & Run Music and NOT, BRMB**

Fate's been playing its cruel hand again. No sooner does JENNY JAY's rework of 'Love Child' appear than the Dutch parent label pull the plug on InDisc because they didn't have instant Top 10 hits. RUMBLEFISH meanwhile, continue to experience their unbroken run of label disasters. Despite picking up glowing reviews for the album, EastWest have now shelved it. A spokesperson said, "I think there was something wrong with it." The only thing wrong with it is the fact that the label's marketing and A&R department are run by a bunch of inept tossers who have done absolutely NOTHING to promote the band and are now trying to bury the album entirely. Apparently it's now set for 'sometime in February'. Sure. We all know the politics on this one. Why not just let the band out of their contract and give the album to somebody who can appreciate its worth and knows how to capitalise on good press.

THE KINGS OF SPAIN have signed to Boo Hewardine's appropriately named Haven label and have had their egos nicely buffed by Pete Wingfield's request to produce them. All they need now is money to pay for the studio. Meanwhile, there's a seven track cassette available to serve as a useful introduction to their articulate acoustic talents, twinges of Celtic folk (heard to good Morrison effect on the violin haunted 'Let It be Heard') and vague shades of a UK Bruce Hornsby that surface on 'Crying'. Wise investments can be made for a mere £4 from Life of Man, 11 Simon Court, Alcester Rd, Moseley, B'ham B13 8BE.

## DISCONTENTED

A pittance of plastic around this month but worth grabbing a copy of MACK AND THE BOYS debut single, album sing-along highspot 'Downtime Love' even if all tracks are from the album rather than dropping in the as yet unissued 'Silent Lands'. Birmingham label Little Caesar Records make their debut with Leicester's CALENDER DREAM which, once past the cheesy garage organ R&B of 'Captain Blues' reveals them to be a rather good jangling guitar band with a better line in songs than haircuts. Get someone to play you 'This Long Road' or 'Across The Sun' and you'll see what I mean. On a longer note, as Lawrence turns Denim into retro 70s pop, former Felt colleague MAURICE DEEBANK continues to plough the watery instrumental ambient mood with 'Inner Thought Zone'. Sensitive artist doodles called 'Silver Fountain Of Paradise Square' and 'A Tale From Scriaban's Lonely Trail' are musak for pretentious art galleries only. Further to the esteemed Ed's comments last issue on Coven-

# M I K E DAVIES

try's DEPOT STUDIOS '16 Days' sampler, there's not much to add. With the exception of WILD HEARTS nothing's likely to get A&R cheque books agitated but if you fancy a dip into the grey city's musical tapestry you get everything from floaty cosmic grooves and folksy strummers to industrial techno and venomous thrash. Nothing to inspire anyone to actually live there though.

Advance notice please now for LOST CITY (Tipton not Atlantis), the result of collaboration between local guitar hero Rue Phillips and Kofi Baker (Ginger's son). Set for US release on Jan 15 via Scotti Brothers, Polydor should be unleashing it here in the spring. There's a couple of heads down metal rockers, but it's the likes of 'Barrier' (a complex number rhythmically, reminiscent of 'Time Of The Season'), the Queen influences of 'Believer' and 'Last Crescendo', a gently drifting acoustic 'Shine On', the hypnotic 'Watching You', the stunning Eastern folk-hued 'Tears And T-Cells' and the sensational, sure-fire scarf waving stadium swayer smash that is 'Life', that are going to make it a rock album of the year.

## TAPE DECKED

Demos are equally thin on the ground but thankfully those that lined up to give tape head didn't produce pre-Christmas depression. THIS STATE OF MIND simply get better and better. Unfortunately they also get to sound more like The Wonder with snarling guitars, catchy melodies, a pop-sneer vocal and some excellent cynicism infused songs of the quality of 'Uncle Dad's grubby tale of incest ("I know that dad's the brother of my mom"). However, if there's room in the world for twins then the Stuffies couldn't ask for a better sibling than TSOM.

BIG MOUTH have been busy again, talking up four further examples of excellence that underlines their talent for running Pearl handled Seattle guitar through an English pop filter and coming up with a stand alone identity. Accomplished, assured and assertive now rock. 'Nemesis', 'Simply', 'In On The Outside' and 'Alright Down Here' are

the sound of 1993 cash registers. Be good to think that BLOOD RED would be participating in the plastic exchange too. Their latest 4 tracker is further testament to a long standing solid as a rock talent for writing strong melodic songs and delivering them with a well structured musical aplomb that somehow recalls the days when Big Country were still rich with magic. Ringing guitars, a muscular but well harnessed vocal and classy stadium touch to the articulate likes of 'On The Wire' and 'Always Alone'. Most played in car demo of the month.

PRESENT FROM MARGATE (or Present as the label copy has it) follow up their recent overlooked 'Dust' EP with a pre-production preview of their Jan 1993 EP. Their strongest work to date with some deft playing that slides from fierce intensity to an almost sensual menace. However, their chance for the big one does rather depend on whether the world's ready for a Cockney Rebel revival, even one that harks back to the more progressive art rock of their first album. 'So Long' and 'Summer's Lake' reveal RAGGED GLORY are at least partially well named. Anonymous serious indie rock. Roy Grove splits his guitar time with THE LAST ASSOCIATION who take up the rest of the tape. Which I suppose means he's going nowhere with two bands simultaneously.

THE DOVETAILS are back with their Radio WM session, aptly named Radio Cassette and three tracks of bouncing indie guitar pop that still needs to find stronger hooks to hang label interest on but clearly capable of heading in the right direction. On to VIVARAMA whose video for 'Let's Talk About Love' snaffled the City Of Birmingham award at The Film & Television Festival. Imagine a mix of Fuzzbox, Bolan, The Waitresses (remember them?) and a spikey Bananarama with some bolloxing guitar and you're on the way. Despite fearing I'd be on a pension before I heard a new LOU DALGLIESH tape, along comes a delicious showcase for her hard to pigeonhole talents. Regular gigs at Ronnie Scott's mislead. Dalgliesh has a hint of jazz, but no more than say Tasmin Archer, Kate Bush or Eddi Reader (to whom she has a passing resemblance) but you're better off without musical preconceptions and opening ears to a burgeoning singer-songwriter with an absorbing line in dark tinged lyrics, a serpent-smooth well trained voice and a keen sense of arrangement. She's already built a firm local following, songs of the calibre of 'Shape Of Things', 'Skeleton' and 'Out Of The Window' suggest she's a short step away from national acclaim. Less impish and confessionally/sexually upfront perhaps, but in many ways Dalgliesh has the makings of a British Tori Amos.




KOFI BAKER/RUE PHILLIPS

## SMART DRUGS

Is the next step legal drugs that stimulate the mind and enhance the memory?

For information send s.a.e. to: HDC  
2 Lavender Mews  
Bishops Cleeve  
Cheltenham  
Glos. GL52 4LN  
or telephone:  
0242 677 347 (24 hrs)

## THE NEEDLEWORKS

BIRMINGHAM  MANCHESTER

PROFESSIONAL BODY PIERCING

FACIAL PIERCING: Lips, Cheeks, Tongues, Eyebrows, Unusual Nose & Ear Piercings  
BODY PIERCING: Nipples, Navels and intimate piercing

If you can pinch it we can probably pierce it, call us with your ideas, we enjoy the challenge!!!

All our price include Anaesthetic and the finest grade surgical stainless steel jewellery, unusual jewellery hand made to order, call us for a quote.

A member of the European Professional Piercers Association  
Hygiene and work practices as laid down by the Director of Public Health

0426 955 493

MCP by arrangement with ICM/Fair Warning Present

# TASMIN ARCHER

PLUS SPECIAL GUESTS



96.4  
BRMB

**BIRMINGHAM SYMPHONY HALL**  
FRIDAY 12th MARCH

Tickets: £9.00, £8.00 Available from B/O Tel: 021 212 3333 (Credit Cards accepted).  
Ticket Shop, NEC & Central Library Birmingham (subject to booking fee).

NEW ALBUM *great expectations* OUT NOW

## THE EDDIE RICHARDS ROADSHOW

DISCO  
ENTERTAINMENTS  
FOR ALL OCCASIONS

0902 664884  
0902 674147

## NEED TRANSPORT???

10 SEAT TOUR BUS & DRIVER  
**FOR HIRE**  
LOCAL/LONG DISTANCE/EUROPEAN  
\*RATES START FROM  
**£25.00 + FUEL\***  
**CALL NOW! 021-449 8455**

# SCREEN SEEN ... SCREEN SEEN ... SCREEN SEEN

## SATELLITE

\* **THE SILENCE OF THE LAMBS** is premiered on *Sky Movies Plus* this month, and the festive season needs this Anthony Hopkins/Jodie Foster classic with the BBC and ITV offerings looking so weak. On the wonderful *Sky Movies Gold*, movies such as **The King and I**, **Miracle on 34th Street**, **The Sound of Music** and **Seven Brides for Seven Brothers** are all aired over the festive season. **The Movie Channel** is parading kidsfayre as its main menu with the likes of **Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles**, **Sleeping Beauty** and **Home Alone** leading the charge.

\* **MTV GOES GENESIS** on Christmas Day with a Rockumentary (7.30pm) and **The Hits** (8pm) providing the main highlights. **REM's** classic **UNPLUGGED** goes out on the 21st at 7pm; this show is a must for followers everywhere. The popular **YEAR IN ROCK** prog runs on the 19th (3pm) and this will be the review show of the year for sure. **The Rolling Stones** start the year right with a 25th Anniversary Special on January 1st (7.30pm).

\* **LIFESTYLE** sees one **Rush Limbaugh** host his own show from 23rd December at 10.30am and this man makes **Bernard Manning** look like a liberal! He's a love hate figure but he's also compulsive viewing. Sister sports channel, **Screensport**, features **Nigel Benn's** first defence of his WBC Middleweight crown live on December 12th and football fans will want to see a potential classic showdown when Brazil hosts Germany in a prestige friendly live on the 16th.

\* **BROADCASTING DAILY ON ASTRA TRANSPONDER 23, UK GOLD** is the new BBC/Thames TV satellite channel and good it is too with **Eastenders** and **Neighbours** from day one (Dirty Den, Kylie et al), comedy galore (**Porridge**, **Young Ones**, **Three of a Kind**) and all round good clean Brit drama and fun. (Thanks Mary W. Ed.)

\* **SAD TO REPORT THAT Radio Luxembourg**, the pioneering music channel, will cease broadcasting on its Astra wavelength at the end of the year, thus marking the end of an era.

## VIDEO

### MUSIC

**THE FREDDIE MERCURY TRIBUTE (PMI)** is the April Wembley extravaganza re-edited and remixed from the hundreds of

hours filmed during the live TV broadcast, so it looks and sounds better. It's a double video package running for 207 minutes. It features la crème de la rock crème all of whom have waived royalties so that all profits can go to the Mercury Phoenix Trust for AIDS charities. Watch this do to the video chart what BoRap did to the singles chart last Christmas. And rightly too! **SMOKEY ROBINSON: THE GREATEST HITS LIVE (PMI)** was taped at The Desert Inn, Las Vegas and sadly that says it all. The honey voiced soul god gone cabaret with a worn voice and hammy band. **GARY GLITTER LIVE (PMI)** is a great prospect as a rock panto when the atmosphere carries the day. On tape the cracks gape and with great sound and vision, it's all too apparent that all glitter is not gold but old. **MADSTOCK: MADNESS LIVE AT FINSBURY PARK (Go Discs/Polygram)** is another nostalgia deal all together. Spirited, vibrant and vital. An essential purchase as is the **Go Discs** soundtrack album! Two dozen gems! **AC/DC LIVE AT DONINGTON (Warner Music Vision)** is two hours of aural pile-driver. Beautifully filmed, it's a sane alternative to being there! Crank up the hi-fi for 'Those About To Rock' and terrify the neighbours. **A STARRY NIGHT WITH SIMPLY RED (Warner Music Vision)** has Mick Hucknall rationalising talent, success and more amid performance clips of the band. It's good but lacking in atmosphere and direction. It looks just like the TV documentary it was. **ROD STEWART: VAGABOND HEART TOUR (Warner Music Video)** finds him in superb voice but cast adrift on a totally sterile white stage. Turn the vision off to make a great 110 minute live album! **THE CHIEFTAINS: ANOTHER COUNTRY (BMG Video)** is the companion to the album. Studio and travelogue scenes is the order of the day. **JIMI HENDRIX AT WOODSTOCK (BMG Video)** debuts the whole set for that fest and has the guitar genius in stunning form. The filming is crystal clear and the sound pristine. Sadly it's all too apparent that the band just couldn't keep pace with the maestro. Intriguing though, that were it not for the audacious flares as **1969** set would be as contemporary as **RED HOT CHILI PEPPERS: WHAT HITS!? (PMI)**. The best of the influential funky poppers who have a penchant for cartoon promos and shock. What do their politically correct fans make of 'Catholic School Girls Rule' and do the rubber bands that hold the socks on cut off the blood supply to the Chili's willies? Enfin; **DR. FEELGOOD GOING**

**BACK HOME (Grand Video)** is the great r'n'b outfits original line up in high octane live action in Southend in '75. Stunning too with Wilko strutting like a short circuited mutant and the whole band proving that it was they and not the art school philosophers who initiated the '76/'77 punk outbreak.

### MOVES TO BUY

**THE COMMITMENTS (Fox Video / 15)** is the music movie of the year. Sharply observant and brilliantly scripted its cast of then unproved players strike chords with all who have ever put a band together. Keep watching it and more humour seeps out. Brilliant. **EDWARD SCISSORHANDS (Fox Video / PG)** is a masterful Tim ('Batman'/'Beetlejuice') Burton movie starring Johnny Depp and Winona Ryder. A great imaginative modern fairy tale with a moral and message for all as well as a visual delight. **WALT DISNEY'S CINDERELLA (Walt Disney / U)** dates amazingly from 1949. The artwork and characterisation remains a revelation and though the score may seem a mite, OK, a lot of schlock to our readers, the overall magic is undeniable. Buy it for a niece, nephew, brother or sister - but watch it first. **HOOK (Columbia-Tristar /**

**U)** divided opinion when it hit the cinemas, some loved, some loathed. Maybe it's because Spielberg's perennial message of returning to childhood innocence to improve the state of the world, can only be grasped if the veneer of cynicism is jettisoned first. And how many non-cynical critics are there? But whichever side of the fence you end up on it's hard to dismiss the sumptuous sight of Spielberg's spectacular dream. Finally if **BILLY CONNOLLY: 25BC: THE BEST OF 25 YEARS (VVL / 18)** doesn't have you aching from laughing at this compendium of comic genius, then Jack, you're dead!

### SPORTING TAPES

**OWN GOALS AND GAFFS (VVL)** Danny Baker hosts an hilarious collection of glorious goofs and classic cock ups in football and the real star is Danny Baker who brings it all to life simply by his personality and choice of 1960' kits! **SOC-CER'S HARD MEN (VVL)** Vinny Jones has been pilloried in his role as commentator for this soccer horror show but in truth it's tame stuff with the likes of Billy Bremner, Tommy Smith and Nobby Stiles being showcased as tough men in a tough game. Even Vinny isn't all that bad. (KW)

## THE BRUM BEAT MIDLANDS CHARTS



KNOW HMV · KNOW MUSIC

Supplied by HMV The Pavilions, 38 High Street Birmingham and 134 & 141 New Street, Birmingham

### THE HMV TOP 20 ALBUM CHART

1: ERASURE	POP-THE FIRST 20 HITS
2: GENESIS	LIVE
3: CHER	GREATEST HITS 1965 - 1992
4: SIMPLE MINDS	GLITTERING PRIZES 81/92
5: VARIOUS	NOW 23
6: GLORIA ESTEFAN	GREATEST HITS
7: SHAMEN	BOSS DRUM
8: MADONNA	EROTICA
9: ARRESTED DEVELOPMENT	3 YEARS, 5 MONTHS & 2 DAYS
10: FREDDIE MERCURY	IN THE LIFE
11: MICHAEL BOLTON	THE FREDDIE MERCURY ALBUM
12: TAKE THAT	TIMELESS
13: BOYZ TO MEN	AND PARTY
14: BON JOVI	COOLEYHIGHHARMONY
15: REM	KEEP THE FAITH
16: GARRY GLITTER	AUTOMATIC FOR THE PEOPLE
17: VARIOUS	THE HITS
18: GO WEST	RAVE 92
19: HUEY LEWIS & THE NEWS	INDIAN SUMMER
20: ANNIE LENNOX	THE HEART OF ROCK AND ROLL
	DIVA

### THE HMV TOP 20 VIDEO CHART

1: CINDERELLA	WALT DISNEY
2: THE COMMITMENTS	
3: ERASURE	POP! HITS
4: TERMINATOR 2	
5: HOOK	
6: U2	ACHTUNG BABY
7: BILLY CONNOLLY	25 YEARS
8: LEGEND OF THE OVERFIEND	
9: KINDERGARTEN COP	
10: SIMPLE MINDS	GLITTERING PRIZES 81/92
11: BADDIEL AND NEWMAN	HISTORY TODAY
12: BOYZ'N'THE HOOD	
13: MADNESS	MADSTOCK
14: CINDY CRAWFORD	SHAPE YOUR BODY-WORKOUT
15: VIZ	THE FLAT SLAGS
16: THE BURNING	
17: DANCES WITH WOLVES	
18: VIZ	SID THE SEXIST
19: PREDATOR 2	
20: FERGULLY	

# STAIRWAY MUSIC

WALSALL

**SPECIAL RATES FOR  
DECEMBER/JANUARY**

**2 DAYS £240 INC FREE DAT  
TAPE**

**3 DAYS £330 INC FREE DAT  
TAPE**

CALL ALAN OR PAUL TO SEE OUR 24 TRACK  
AUTOMATED STUDIO - REMEMBER  
BOOK EARLY TEL: (0922) 616244

# ARTHUR WOOD

Completing The Great American Songwriter Festival with a December 3rd date at The Junction in Harborne, is that purveyor of Mississippi Delta Back Porch Blues, RORY BLOCK. At least that's how Dirty Linen, the American roots publication, hailed her work last year. Raised in New York's Greenwich Village during the sixties folk boom [her father owned a sandal shop], Rory left home at the age of 15 to pursue her love of the blues. That was a little over a quarter of a century ago. In the ensuing period, Block has built a second to none reputation as a genuine inheritor and interpreter of Robert Johnson's legacy. That recognition and acceptance was earned whilst working alongside old bluesmen Son House, Mississippi John Hurt and Reverend Gary Davis. Rory's latest album 'Ain't I A Woman' (Rounder/Munich via Topic) merges blues styled numbers with material that sits comfortably under the singer/songwriter umbrella. Block having composed six of the eleven cuts. If you're looking for a comparative niche, it seems to lie somewhere between a jazzy Joni Mitchell and Bonnie Raitt, the late seventies model. I can hardly lay claim to the mantle of blues aficionado but on the strength of this recording, Rory Block may be the one to lead this old hack to the new promised land. Anyone else wanna go? CAPERCAILLIE, standard bearers of traditional Scottish roots music, framed in a contemporary setting [Note: On the strength of their last local gig Runrig have blown it in my book.] are scheduled to appear at the Hibernian Centre on Thursday 10th December. For the uninitiated, that's the Hibernian public house on the Pershore Road, Selly Park. Taking their name from a black wood-



CAPERCAILLIE

land grouse, this band, currently a six piece, was formed in 1984. Following a number of independent label releases in their homeland, last year's 'Delirium' (Survival/BMG) saw the band's national profile snowball. Their latest album, 'Get Out', a specially-

priced collection of live and remixed studio tracks appeared towards the end of October. This eight cut, forty minute recording features new studio versions of band favourites such as 'Waiting For The Wheel To Turn' and 'Fear A' Bhata', alongside a live

interpretation of that anthem to modern day injustice 'Outlaws'. 'Two Nights Of Delirium', Capercaillie's first video was issued midway through last month. Filmed at Aberdeen's Castle Theatre and at an outdoor summer festival in Nairn, the 52 minute video is available via Polygram. Paraphrasing their latest press release, Capercaillie's music is not rock nor folk, not mainstream and certainly not new age. Rhythmically it's an energetic combination of fling and funk, while melodically it's laced with the beautiful, dappled resonances of the North. Based on the foregoing verbal panorama (!), surely you've got little choice but to check 'em out. This may be your last opportunity to fling the light, this side of '93.

ALBERT LEE & HOGANS HEROES are appearing at the Robin Hood in Brierley Hill on Thursday 10th. If you enjoy fast and furious guitar picking, with a country kick, you deserve to see Albert Lee at least once in your lifetime. Didn't I say that last month, about another legendary figure!

Appearances at local folk clubs for December include: Fri. 4th: Singers Night (Market Tavern, Moseley Street), Keith Hancock (Woodman, Kingswinford); Sat. 5th: Isaac Guillory (Red Lion, Kings Heath); Fri. 11th: Derek Gifford (Market Tavern) Singers Night (Woodman); Sat. 12th: Rory McLeod (Red Lion); Fri. 18th: Singers Night (Market Tavern), Christmas Special with Cosmotheke (Woodman); Sat. 19th: The Market Tavern's Christmas Ceilidh with Captain Swing at the Bear Tavern!, Mad Jocks & Englishmen (Red Lion). The local folk clubs are closed over the Christmas period.

## TRIED AND TESTED

**In less than a year Patrick Eggle has created an impact on the guitar market that few companies have achieved in a decade.**

He began building guitars at 15 years of age before spending two years at the London College of Furniture, where he gained a technical diploma in musical instrument technology. And though he acknowledges the scholarship gained in the construction of classical guitars from 150 years ago, he feels it was of little benefit in the real world. "The best way of learning about guitars is to repair them... It's better to learn from other people's mistakes than your own." In October '91 he teamed up with Andrew Selby, who had the business acumen, and 'The Patrick Eggle Music Company' was formed, moving in December '91 to their current premises in Coventry. Unlike the majority of British guitar makers, Patrick doesn't build custom design guitars. All instruments are basically variations on one guitar design, namely the Berlin. "I've always been a Les Paul and SG fan and basically the timbers came out of that. You've got the mahogany neck, mahogany body with maple front, and you've got better access (i.e. uppermost fret access). But it wasn't an instant design, it kind of evolved. It's still evolving now. No one ever says 'we've got it right now'. Every week we build a guitar which is the best guitar we ever built." Particularly critical to the guitar's

## FLY LIKE AN EGGLE

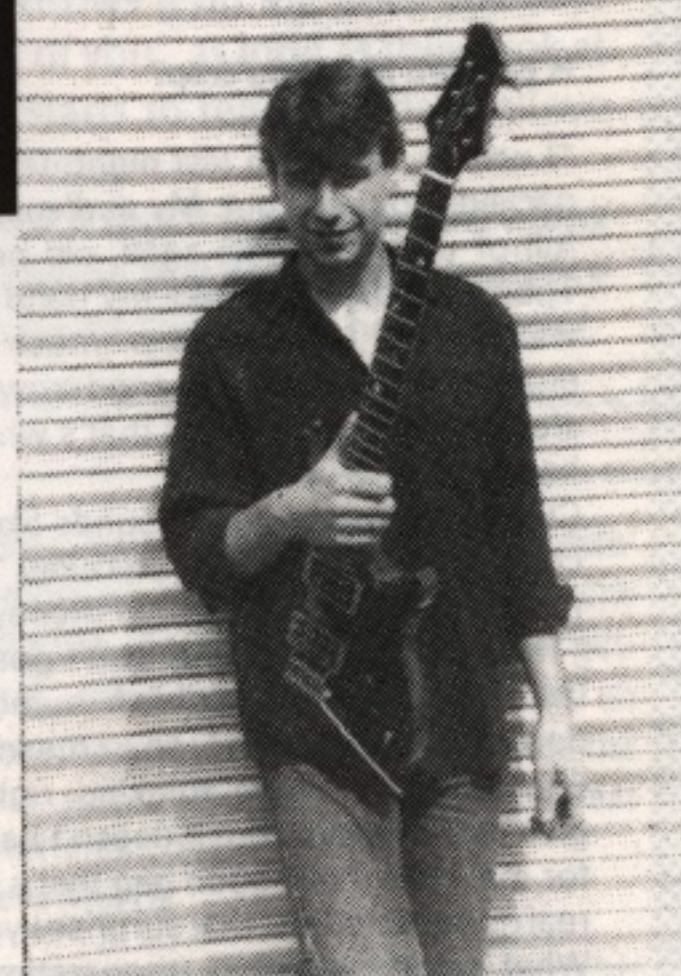
**Mark Hadley Reports On The High Flying Guitar Man**

construction is Patrick's choice of timbers. Mahogany and maple are hand selected at source in Michigan, Canada, some 126 miles from civilisation and 300 miles from the nearest airport. In six truck loads only one log might be considered of suitable quality and whilst the supply of 500 year old trees might not be what it was, Patrick is insistent, from personal experience, that supplies of such timbers are not short.

The Berlin's Honduras or Brazilian mahogany body is laminated to a 3/4" maple cap, far from the decorative slither of lesser guitars the maple adds a toppy character to the sound à la Les Paul. Pickups are custom built by Kent Armstrong to Patrick's specifications, based around Gibson's infamous 'Patent Applied For' pickups of 1957-1962. The switching on the Berlin is simplicity itself, Master Volume and Master tone pots with a 3 way selector each position offering distinctly Les Paul type tones. The guitars sonic palette is extended by the addition of a push/pull facility on the tone pot tapping to the 2 inner coils and offering a nice stratty sound.

Trem systems are the VS100 models by Trevor Wilkinson. Always sceptical about the Floyd Rose trem that appeared on his early instruments Patrick changed to the VS100 as it more suited the vintage style of his guitars. However, whilst vintage in its feel the Wilkinson Trem has the added advantage that it locks up in its resting position, the first trem to do this effectively. The trem also holds its tuning incredibly well.

Production figures have risen from 10 to 35 per week and will shortly top 45 instruments per week. Patrick is still actively involved in the guitar making process himself alongside 19 other production staff and 8 administrative staff. Whilst the Berlin remains the keystone of Patrick's guitar range the Los Angeles and New York offer somewhat of a departure, though not in the quality stakes. The Los Angeles, launched at this year's British Music Fair, is Patrick's version of the strat with and the New York is basically a workhorse version of the Berlin. And, whilst the retail price of this guitar is a mere £399 inc vat, it receives the same attention to detail as the JS Legend at £1600. Amongst the users of these fine instruments (NOTE: There are no



PATRICK EGGLE  
MODELS HIS WARES  
(PIC BY MARK HADLEY)

freebies or paid endorsees), are Def Leppard's Phil Collen (usually totally anti British guitars), John Clarke of Cliff Richard's band (testifying to the authentic strat sounds available from the Berlin - pure Hank Marvin!). Jako of Level 42, Gordon Giltrap and Asia's Vinnie Burns are also champing at the bit to visit the factory.

The instruments are causing such a stir that Raw Power have featured the Patrick Eggle Music Company and America's MTV are due to broadcast a feature to over 26 million people.

Further details of the range can be obtained from The Patrick Eggle Music Co, Bodmin Road, Coventry. CV2 5DB. Telephone 0203 602211.

# Come on Bernard, stop watching the bloody horse racing and talk to me!

## Max-X attempts to lock horns with Manning

"I love me racing."

Would you believe it! I go out of my way to set up an interview with Mr. Offensive himself and I have to compete with the babbling banter of some TV commentator filling Bernard in on how his favourite gee-gee is doing!

Bernard, goddamn it, pay attention! You would have thought that I'd've had a field day with Bernard Manning, what with his reputation amongst clued-up folk for being the most right off comedian around, his recent outrageous behaviour on 'The Word' and the severe chain-whipping he received in 'The Observer'. But no. I found I just couldn't get tough with this sad old fat man. And by 'sad', I'm not falling for the old cliché that beneath every clown's smile there's a lonely manic-depressive, just that he gave me the impression of a somewhat uneducated man who seemed to be completely unaware that what he does for a living is crap and often horribly insulting to anyone who isn't an English, white, male heterosexual. And this after I'd been told he was a sharp, intelligent, articulate wit who would savage me if I gave him an inch. Maybe I caught him on an off day.

### Is Bernard Manning crap?

"I was in Bedworth last night. Did well, packed it out-sell out. My audiences are full of young, middle aged, old people. They all come and shake my hand afterwards and tell me how much they enjoyed it. I always pull a good crowd. My stuff's clever, topical and that's why I've been going 43 years."

Clever and topical, eh? Sounds like you could give the younger, so-called 'alternative' comics a run for their money.

"This alternative comedy can't possibly last. It's ridiculous, childish humour. I don't find any of them funny. I mean, Ben Elton - I just sit there, thinking, right, I'll give him a chance. But it doesn't happen for me. I like a real good gag that's got a real good punch line that surprises you." What is it d'you think, that separates their humour from yours?

"They've not lived long enough. You can't talk about life if you've never lived. Between 18-30 you don't know what it's all about. There's married life, children, grandparents, losing money on the horses, dog racing, playing cards. They've not experienced anything that goes with life."

Yeah, I can see that they could learn a lot from a riveting and packed life like that! That may be unfair, because a lot of people do live their lives doing the kind of things Bernard is talking about. but it's

also unfair that he takes the piss out of or dismisses those that have a different outlook on life.

I've not seen Bernard Manning live - I don't think that I'd particularly want to. I've seen him on TV, but have never found any of his material amusing. Same goes for his heavier club routines I've seen on video. The jokes are puerile nonsense, the audiences seemingly laugh at the amount of 'f\*\*ks' and 'c\*\*ts' contained in them.

"You've got to use those words in the right place. In the wrong place, they certainly wouldn't laugh. But swear words work. For instance, two Irish fellas walking through Rome, one says, "I think that's the Pope." The other says, "I don't think it is." The first one says, "I'll go and ask him." So he goes up to him and says, "Are you the Pope?" And the bloke says, "F\*\*k off!" So the Irish fella goes back to his mate and his mate says, "What did he say?" And the first one says, "He wouldn't commit himself." See? You couldn't put another word in there. The word 'f\*\*k' doesn't make any difference to me - it's just a word. I laugh at it. Others find it offensive."

(I knew that Bernard had just told me a joke, but I didn't find it at all funny. Later he told me another that I didn't realise was a joke until I was transcribing the interview.)

What I really wanted to talk to Bernard about was his new video, 'Banging with Manning', which is supposed to be a send-up of sex videos, but which in fact resembles a shabbily-made (£50 at most, I'd say) soft-porn vid.

"I've not seen it. I don't even appear in any of the sexual send up scenes. The only bits like that I'm in are the scenes in the massage parlour."

### WAS THERE ANY THOUGHT THAT THIS MIGHT ACTUALLY TURN PEOPLE ON?

"Oh no, it'll probably turn people off as a matter of fact!"

Well he's not wrong there. the images of this huge, pasty-skinned man's flesh being kneaded by sorry looking bimbos still haunts me now. The girls often looked embarrassed and awkward.

"Maybe. I don't know. Like I said, I haven't seen the end result. Once I've done my little stint, I'm through the door."

So much then for caring about your work. At the risk of labouring a point, I mentioned that my girlfriend found the video offensive, in that she thought the women were being portrayed as playthings.

"She wasn't in it (!) It all depends on how broad minded you are. Broad minded, you have a laugh, narrow



**BERNARD MANNING -  
COULD HE ACTUALLY TURN PEOPLE ON!**

minded, you don't. Depends on how you're brought up. Those women massaging me - it was a laugh. Absolutely marvellous! I wish it was like that in real life!"

Bernard has this tendency to veer off at weird tangents. I'd been asking him about his reading habits (he'd just finished a biography on Nixon - he couldn't remember who the author was - "I like biographies, like the Kennedys, anyone who's had a real life, taken the ups and downs. Can't read fiction. If it's out of someone's imagination, it's a waste of time.") and then I wondered what music he liked.

"Pavarotti, Frank Sinatra. I'm a family man, me. I've got a son, grandson, me mother's 91. I've got a lovely family - cut one, we all bleed."

Err.... yes, well, thanks for your time, Bernard.

"Good luck, son."

It was this disarming politeness and almost naive honesty that threw me. I'd geared myself up for battle, and it just didn't happen. I could just imagine someone like a bigoted uncle suddenly earning a lot of money from telling the same kind of jokes he used to tell to his mates down the pub and then being asked a whole bunch of socio-political questions about his material and being told, well, sorry you don't like it, mate! And that's it!

**I really don't think there's any room any more for people like Bernard Manning in the Modern World, but as long as there's a Sun-reading audience who'll continue to pack out his shows, then there's nothing to be done. We can't exactly outlaw him now, can we? We'll just have to wait till he err... well, you know...**

**POST**

Dear Sirs,

*It is only very occasionally I write to correct the factual inaccuracies that so regularly suffuse Lord Haw Haw's column, since otherwise Brum Beat would every month need to devote a special supplement to corrections to his Lordship's column.*

*However I cannot let pass his Lordship's extraordinary claim that Simon Rattle wrote me a letter which I promptly consigned to the bin. No such letter ever existed, and though we are in regular touch about a wide range of issues there were no contacts between us over the BBC broadcast whatever. I really think it is time his Lordship reviewed his list of spies, and disposed of a few of the more imaginative ones!*

Yours sincerely,

**Anthony Sargent**  
Head of Arts and  
Entertainments  
Birmingham City Council

### HIS LORDSHIP REPLIES

*As His Lordship has, at immense personal sacrifice, dedicated his life to the pursuit of truth, except of course where gossip makes for a far more interesting story, He was mortified to learn one of his underlinings had mistakenly supplied such grossly inaccurate tattle. Mr. Sargent can be assured that this miscreant has been consigned to a month mucking out the stables and His Lordship can only apologise for suggesting any letter from the illustrious Mr. Rattle, whether it existed or not, would have received such dismissive treatment.*

*One trusts this unfortunate incident will not have caused Mr. Sargent to be struck off Simon's Christmas list. His Lordship is, of course, always glad to establish new, reliable sources of information perhaps Mr. Sargent would come to be considered for membership.*

Pip Pip

~ **TURTLES** ~  
498 Bristol Road, Selly Oak,  
Birmingham B29 6BD

Incense ● Jewellery ● Ethnic Clothes  
● Cards ● Crystals and Minerals  
● Aroma Therapy Oils ● Cheap  
Photocopying on Recycled Paper

**WNE (TAMWORTH)**

CASSETTE DUPLICATION  
& BLANK CASSETTES

INLAY CARDS and ON-BODY PRINTING

Telephone: 0827 310052

# FURKIN' GREAT

Dave Massey finds out what DIVIDES the winners from the others.

The winners of the Brum Beat/FM Revolver Studio competition have been working for the past three years since their formation on spanning the Great Divide between the blood, sweat, tears and poverty of the gig circuit and the vaulted halls of success currently reserved for ravers. Part and parcel of the band's existence is an unspoken ethos that 'He who waits gets naffed off before long' and that to achieve anything in the music business involves extensive use of that dirty four letter word, 'Work'.

Commitment is the band's hinge-pin, as I found out.

"The Great divide has always been our first band, and as a result we've kept an intensity that I think has set us apart from the majority. You get a lot of local bands who stick together for six months and then they split up and join other bands - it's almost incestuous, but we've not been in another band since we were all about seventeen! We wanted to keep that intensity and although we have had problems in the past with other members, we have still managed to stick to our guns and it filters through to the music at the end of the day."

As a band The Great Divide have found themselves ageing along with the rest of the population, all things being relative of course, and as part of that process a new maturity has begun to creep into their music, along with a few new influences. "When you start to get older, you begin to notice a bit more of the musical landscape that's around and to realise that there is some good stuff there. You also begin to look at why bands are successful, bands like Del



Amitri and Primal Scream, and you discover that they have just plagiarised rock and roll - the Stones and people like that. Our own music is hard to define as it is changing all the time, and that's the way that it should be. 'The Box of Frogs' - our last demo tape is a case in point ..."

The box of what? " ... it's an in joke - you should see some of our girl friends. It was just an assortment of songs from last year including a live session from Pebble Mill. We've been referred to as 'Pop-disco-lace-cow punk' by those who have tried to categorise us! Everybody wants to know what you sound like and an Irish DJ called us 'Cow Punk' which we adopted as an entertaining way of saying nothing - you've got to hear us really!"

Promotion is an area which The Great Divide see as being vital to their cause and, as a result, a lot of time and effort goes into it, despite the fact that the six band members all hold down day jobs. They are nothing if not realists. "We went to see The Rocking Birds and they said that every band should have a catch phrase, so we came up with 'Furkin' Furkin' Great' and if anyone asks what we sound like, that's what we tell them. The Pele gig that we did at Edwards was through our own promotion company (Furkin' Great Promotions) and it catches

people's imagination because the immediate reaction is that 'You can't call it that!'. We run our own club too in the Lichfield area called the 'Big Music Club' which attracts about two hundred people every month, and it serves the dual purpose of helping to fund the single that we are planning to release. We want to do things well and to promote ourselves well because there is not much to be made on the gig circuit with a six piece band. It helps to have people working with you who believe in what you do as well, so we've hand-picked the people we work with."

On the 8th of December The Great Divide will be headlining at Edwards No8 and the chances are that you will find members of the band in the area a few days before, handing out leaflets. "If you go down to any big gigs in town you'll probably find us outside, freezing our nuts off with a handful of leaflets! For the Pele gig we did about three to four thousand leaflets! If at the end of the day, someone puts it in their pocket or throws it on the floor and says 'I've never heard of you', as long as they look at the name and it starts to register, that's all we are bothered about."

**One thing we know is that it is going to take a long time, but we also know that with a bit of patience and tenacity The Great Divide will be successful.**

## THE COMPLETE BEATLES CHRONICLE

Mark Lewisohn (Pyramid)

Lewisohn's 'Complete Beatles Recording Sessions' set the standard for detailed rock history/archaeology, allowing Beatlefans to follow the creative process with a degree of insight previously unavailable. This takes it further with Lewisohn putting extra flesh on to those bones. Now it's possible to know at the turn of a page that the Fabs made their last appearance at Birkenhead's Majestic Ballroom on April 10 1963. That of course is a fatuous example giving only a limited flavour. Sure the diary is minutely exhausting but where possible great detail is presented to both justify the approach and bring it alive.

Obviously a necessity for Beatle fans but also a great indicator for wannabes of how rigorous success can be.

Sam Mitchell

## THE GUITAR HANDBOOK

Ralph Denyer (Pan)

An encyclopaedia for the guitar player, whether they be amateur or professional, jazz or rock, classical or blues. This large format book begins with simple chord work and develops, using simple diagrams and photos, into advanced improvisation and eventually, a chord dictionary with over 800 fingerings. Andy Summers and Robert Fripp provide the summary to a book that will quickly establish itself as a market leader.

Kevin Wilson

# print out

## WHAT'S NEW IN PRINT ● EDITED BY KEVIN WILSON

### LEONARD MALTIN'S MOVIE AND VIDEO GUIDE 1993

(Signet)

1522 pages. More than 19,000 entries rated from "\*\*\*\*" to 'BOMB!' The couch potato's ultimate bible for less than £7. Or, to look at it from another angle, the movie buff's argument source book. I mean, 'The Commitments', only \*\*\*1/2! The magnificence of 'Heaven's Gate' only \*\* ...

Sam Mitchell

### THE GUINNESS WHO'S WHO OF: SIXTIES MUSIC / INDIE & NEW WAVE MUSIC / HEAVY METAL / JAZZ

Editor Colin Larkin (Guinness)  
Put simply, these four separately available volumes are invaluable to anyone who needs fingertip biogs of anyone who is or has been influential in their chosen field. They are also a great source of entertainment and enlightenment to the simply interested.

Inevitably flawed by trainspotter standards but impressively up to date, the cut off point is mid '92 for information, by the usual standard of such publications. What's more a casual glance at long lost curios like Lothar And The Hand People really makes you want to hear them.

Perhaps because unlike so many similar volumes the stock in trade here is fact rather than opinion.

Sam Mitchell

### THE LOVERS' GUIDE

Dr Andrew Stanway (Sidgwick & Jackson)

The ideal Christmas present to deal with those, er, frustrating holiday moments, though opening the gift in front of the family could prove interesting and practising the manuals tips in front of the Queen's speech could prove distracting to the loyalists!

Sam Mitchell

### DEATH DISCS

Alan Clayton (Gollancz)

Subtitled 'Ashes To Smashes, An Account Of Fatality In The Popular Song', this gives acclaimed rock biographer Clayton the chance to let his hair down and have fun. That said, his scholarly inclinations have tracked down the first death disc to 1910; 'Don't Go Down The Mine Dad' by Mr Stanley Kirkby on the Zonophone label! After which the flood gates and Clayton, tongue in cheek, mines the subject for all its worth. From Alma Cogan to Napalm Death (about

whom, he sensibly notes, 'Divine Death' comprised twenty seconds of headache inducing electronic distortion and guttural utterances.), no-one with an appointment, real or musical, with the grim reaper remains unscathed. Great entertainment.

Steve Morris



- 1: MICHAEL PALIN  
Pole To Pole (BBC Books £16.99)
- 2: DOUGLAS ADAMS  
Mostly Harmless (Heinemann £12.99)
- 3: MICHAEL CAINE  
What's It All About (Century £16.99)
- 4: STEPHEN FRY  
The Liar (Mandarin £4.99)
- 5: CLIVE BARKER  
The Thief Of Always (Harper Collins £9.99)
- 6: CAMRA GOOD BEER GUIDE (CAMRA £7.99)
- 7: ROBERT PIRSIG  
Lila (Black Swan £5.99)
- 8: SUE TOWNSEND  
The Queen And I (Methuen £9.99)
- 9: SIMON MAYO  
Further Confessions (£4.99)
- 10: STEVEN KING  
Needful Things (New English Library £5.99)



MEGASTORE

# RECORDED delivery

9 8 C O R P O R A T I O N S T R E E T , B I R M I N G H A M

## BON JOVI Keep The Faith (Mercury)

For anyone who thought Jon Bon Jovi and Richie Sambora's solo albums heralded the demise of the band, this both refutes and confirms their fears. Refutes because they're clearly firing on a full tank of high octane and confirms because there are times when you have to check the disc to make sure they've not sleeved a Bryan Adams Greatest Anthems by mistake. Did the team that wrote 'Living On A Prayer' really come up with something as designer stadium as 'In These Arms' or as chewy Tommy James and the Shondells as 'I'll Sleep When I'm Dead'? There's a couple of tough-outs, the grinding but polished metal of 'If I Was Your Mother' and cock-rocker 'Woman in Love', but mostly (most notably on 'Dry County' and 'Bed Of Roses') it underlines JBJ's quest to be both Springsteen and John Mellencamp in the same breath. As mega-platinum sellers go, it's flawless but when a band starts singing something like 'Blame It On The Love Of Rock & Roll' you have to wonder who they're trying to convince.

Mike Davies

## WILLIE NILE Hard Times In America (Polaris [Import])

Once touted as a new Springsteen, Nile's moment of glory came and went with his debut album, since which time he's tried to justify the hype and acclaim with ever diminishing success. This 5 track mini-album shows he's now reduced to ersatz Petty with a formula guitar gunslinger beat and sad excuses for songs. 'Heart of Wonder', part Forbert part John Cafferty, offers a slight reminder of what might have been. Not great.

Mike Davies

## MARY BLACK The Collection (Telstar / Grapevine)

Black has long been championed by connoisseurs of great vocalists and this TV advertised collection should, in tandem with an accompanying video and Channel Four special, convert the sceptical. Black has of voice imbued with

purity, dignity and emotion that combines with her naturally perfect phrasing to make her chosen material more than special.

Whilst most of her material comes from band members and associates her taste is well exemplified by the inclusion of Mary Chapin Carpenter's exquisite 'Moon And St. Christopher', though even such a special song fails to dwarf the home-grown selections.

Pigeon holing the lady is difficult; there is an obvious nod to the folk apprenticeship served in De Danaan and a contemporary country/Nanci Griffith ambience though Black is neither folk nor country. Certainly she is not MOR. Is it, I wonder, sufficient to categorise her as a great, invigorating female vocalist?

Steve Morris

## MIKE NESMITH Tropical Campfires (Pacific Arts [Import])

Reunited with pedal steel maestro Red Rhodes for his first new album in 12 years, Nesmith's clearly lost none of his nous during the corporate time behind a desk or video console.

Along with his familiar droll humour, the musical mood continues the laid lounge-art journey down to Rio. 'Laugh Kills Lonesome' dips into Vegas hula, 'One....' takes an instrumental detour into Spanish romantic guitar while a Spanish sung version of Latin standard 'Brazil' smilingly explains the wry title and sleeve painting (Caribbean atoll in the Nevada (?) desert). Cole Porter gets a couple of look ins with Luis Conte's percussion providing the rhythmic path to a club jazz 'In The Still Of The Night' and a come danzon 'Begin The Beguine'.

Covers aside, there's nine new Nesmiths to savour, ringing the changes between the pop-rock grounded 'I Am Not That', the one world calypso of '... For The Island' (the vocal sequel to 'One...') and the final lilting cowboy desert crooning of 'Twilight On The Trail'. An oasis of delight in a flat American landscape. He should visit more often.

Mike Davies

(Note: This gem should be domestically available on the Awareness label in early '93. Ed.)

## NEIL YOUNG Harvest Moon (Reprise)

If anyone other than Young revisited their most successful formula after twenty years, scoffing would almost certainly be mandatory. So why does Young escape such vilification?

Why, despite his foibles (anyone want to praise 'Trans?') is he 'hip' when erstwhile partner, the equally talented and wayward Stephen Stills is held in low regard?

Well, you'll get no answer here, I just wanted to throw some water onto the current blaze of glory. Not that I'm going to damn the album, I like it in fact as I like Young, it's just that 'Harvest Moon' seems more contrived than natural. Same band, same back up singers, same vibe. The sound of a middle age crisis?

Fortunately Young has come up with material that surmounts such jibes. There are no direct retreads here, though there is the occasional longing for the original era. Maybe it's the underlying sense of taking stock, of opening a diary that saves the day. The feeling that no matter how barmy or questionable the idea is, there's a sense of honesty that makes the songs succeed totally.

Steve Morris

## VARIOUS Psychedelic Years Revisited 1966-1969 (Sequel)

Back when the flowers were fragrant, the smoke was sweet and peace, love and understanding were more hope than song title, this was the soundtrack.

Spanning more than three and a half hours with fifty tracks, this three CD box set demonstrates a number of things. Psychedelic was a marketing catch-all as meaningful as progressive or underground, its two common synonyms; that pop music of that time was far more risky and adventurous and that there was as much bullshit posturing dressed up as insight as at any other time.

The first proposition calls on The Incredible String Band's folk, The Lemon Pipers' pop and The Velvet Underground's proto-punk for evidence; the second, Captain



JIMI HENDRIX AND FRIEND

## JIMI HENDRIX The Ultimate Experience (Polydor)

Beefheart, Jimi Hendrix and Love whilst the final assault is adequately upheld by the pompous pseudo eastern twaddle served up by Quintessence!

Fortunately the overall impression is one of adventure and a freedom to follow individual paths safe in the knowledge that a tacit adherence to the right caftan and the sermons of Father Leary would keep you in vogue.

Sadly all that remains of that era is the mind's movie . . . and this amazing soundtrack.

Set the controls for the heart of the er, CD player!

Steve Morris

## JOHN LEE HOOKER Boom Boom (Virgin Pointblank)

The fact that the almost octogenarian Hooker has signed to a major label to release a hit album that features a cut from a jeans ad in which he stars suggests a previously unreported midnight assignation at a Mississippi crossroads! This is not some crusty old legend grabbing the final dollar, however, this is a man arguably peaking for the umpteenth time. Listen to him 'Boogie At Russian Hill', still rocking for all he's worth. Check out the solo 'Hittin' The Bottle Again' with his vocal and National Steel guitar creating an eerie mood or his voice and Charlie Musselwhite's harmonica crying out on 'Thought I Heard'.

This album will take Hooker into '93, his fiftieth year as a performer in fine style, not relying on an illustrious past but building a great future.

Steve Morris

At home the Hendrix discs file next to the Jeff Healey collection. It's curious then that Healey's 'Feel This' should arrive with this one for whilst Healey's is an excellent album it also justifies the release of yet another Hendrix best of more than two decades after his death. To use a crude analogy; whilst Healey and others have perfected a kind of inspiring free fall technique, Hendrix alone used electric guitar to discover the secret of man powered flight. Thus the twenty track 'Ultimate' set is as fresh as the day the music was made from the outstanding blues of 'Red House' to the astonishingly spacious atmosphere of 'All Along The Watchtower' (the best ever Dylan cover?) and the undoubtedly fine art of 'The Star Spangled Banner', surely the most political instrumental ever.

Fine though the set is, I have one gripe: The track listing refers 'Purple Haze', 'Hey Joe' and 'The Wind Cries Mary' as coming from 'Are You Experienced'. They did not come from the album that Hendrix recorded under that title, but from the US bowdlerisation that has seemingly usurped it for all time!

Steve Morris

## MAXI PRIEST FeReal (Ten)

Priest is a terrific vocalist with a smoky sensuality that suits reggae perfectly. Consequently when the production of this album turns to the harder machine driven rhythms that all but obliterate that feel, he sounds too lightweight. It's on the more traditional cuts, 'Promises', 'Amazed Are We' and 'Hard To Get' that he gels with the track to sublime effect. It's not that the remaining tracks are fundamentally bad, he's too skilled a performer to leave them devoid of some attraction but the machine rattle is beyond even his humanising touch.

Steve Morris

## INTA SOUND PA.

PA HIRE/INSTALLATION/SALES/BACKLINE

Suppliers of professional sound systems/services to the entertainment industry

NEW HIRE STOCK AVAILABLE

Introducing: DB AUTO SYSTEMS, CREST AMPLIFICATION, SOUNDCRAFT CONSOLES + ATC, BSS, DRAWMER, KLARK TEKNIK, DBX and YAMAHA OUTBOARD

VOCAL and CONCERT SYSTEMS FROM 2KW

INTA SOUND PA - (0905) 840400

Business Hours: 9am-6pm Mon-Sat (24-hour Answerphone)



## THE ATTIC STUDIOS Recording & Rehearsals

SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY RATES

£130 FOR A 3 TRACK DEMO

MASTERING AHB 24:16:2 CONSOLE

16 TRACK ON 1in DIGITAL

HOURLY RATE £7.50

FULLY EQUIPPED REHEARSAL ROOMS

£5 per hour and £4 per hour Off Peak

15 PRINCESS ALLEY, WOLVERHAMPTON

Tel: 0902 717049

## THE SAW DOCTORS All The Way From Tuam (Solid Records / Warner)

Ireland's finest do little more than consolidate their greatness with their second album.

Now that might sound contrary but whilst others might be tempted by a major label link-up to go for watered down commercial gain with a fashionable production cosmetic, the Docs simply do what they do best.

And that's to deliver fourteen more perfect pop pieces that proudly reflect a love of The Beatles, Buddy Holly, folk and country melodies. Play 'em with humour, harmony and a guitar sound Hank 'n' Duane would love and you have something profoundly unfashionable that'll provide the perfect mixer for your Guinness and Bushmills this coming party season.

Steve Morris

## JOE HENRY Short Man's Room (Mammoth)

Henry's fourth album is, I believe, the first one to be issued in the UK. It's also the best of the three I've heard (his debut set remains unearthed).

Henry is unashamedly country rock; indeed this set finds him using The Jayhawks, augmented with fiddle, mandolin and banjo, as his band. What makes him special is the quality of both performance, he has a great lived in voice and the strength of his songs. Lyrically they burrow deeper than expected of the musical genre yet retain appealing melodies, commercial without being crass.

Without doubt one of the year's most satisfying albums.

Steve Morris

## KRISTINA OLSEN Kristina Olsen (Philo / Topic)

Ten of the eleven tunes here were penned by Olsen. The exception being the old blues standard, 'John Henry'. On this cut, the California based acoustic musician drops her voice a couple of octaves, as she growls her way through the lyric.

As well as the here and now, on a number of cuts, Kristina's words capture the prequel and sequel to various relationships. The positive and negative aspects of each affair. Musically, the folksy feel of 'Cry You A Waterfall' contrasts with the slow, smoky, late night jazz that is 'Practising Walking Away'.

Kristina accurately captures with her lyrics, the temporary nature of friendships and imbues them with an appropriate and worldly wise poignancy.

The finely observed and gently reflective 'My Father's Piano' draws inspiration from those ancestral links which are irrevocable and impossible to sever. Anxiety is a common experience for many airline passengers. It bubbles to the surface in 'I'll Be Home Tonight' while the seemingly understated lyrics to Olsen's anti-war song 'Shades Of Grey' strike the target with the devastating accuracy of a laser beam.

Not that all is totally serious in the world of Olsen. When, in 'Lousy Night For Music', she says that she's about to "put my tongue in

your ear, I'm going to taste what you're going to hear", you know that she has an off beat angle on humour.

Another fine songwriting discovery from the House of Philo. Seek and engage for pleasure.  
Arthur Wood.

## ROY HARPER Death Or Glory (Awareness)

There's a sense of folly in 'reviewing' a Roy Harper album. For one thing initial impressions have a habit of coming back to haunt you when, at a later date you hear the material mean something else and for another it should be enough to know that he has a record out. Critical coercion should not be needed to get you into the store.

Fortunately Harper himself has, perhaps unwittingly, provided the key in recently describing himself as "sometimes moody about the state of the world and himself in it", for that sensibility informs the album. What makes it special is that Harper has both the lyrical and musical resources to ponder the subjects with dignity and inspiration. That said there is little self serving literary delusion or muso indulgence. The recording process dictated a certain discipline on the latter possibility and Roy's coming to terms with a severed relationship seems to have focused the former, though the album does not wallow in 'divorce' songs.

If you fancy engaging both brain and emotions next time you listen to an album, try this one.

Steve Morris

## BOB DYLAN As Good As I Been To You (Columbia)

Twenty five years after his eponymous debut, Dylan returns to his roots with a largely misguided attempt to do it all again. Which is to say this is an acoustic album of traditional folk numbers in the Guthrie/Leadbelly moaning folk-blues vein. Now it does have some good moments, most notably 'Tomorrow Night' and a version of 'Hard Times' but much of it just sounds old, tired and pained as Bobby slurs the words back up his nose and punctuates things with rasping harmonica. Too often it sounds like someone's parodying him. And the choice of material isn't anything like as inspired as that angry debut. It opens with a version of 'Frankie and Johnny', inexplicably restyled as 'Frankie and Albert' and closes with a painful, interminable hash of nonsense folk tune 'Froggy Went A' Courtin'. By the time he ends with, "if you want anymore you can sing it for yourself", it'll be only the most ardent devotee who won't find themselves wishing they had.

Mike Davies

# SOUNDBITES

**RAMONES / Mondo Bizarro / (Chrysalis)** Da Brudders seem to have refound some form. Johnny's guitar slashes, whilst Joey gives it his best shot in ages. Certainly shows the young tykes a scuffed pair of heels. We'll give 1-2-3-4 stars eh? **SM**

**BLACK UHURU / Anthem & Chill Out / (Island)** Two seminal reggae sets given mid price rebirth. Hard, agile, soulful and unique. Shows just how cold-hearted current 'digital' trends are. **SM**

**GODDESS / The Sexual Album / (Epic)** Don't let the title fool you. This is second rate Euro disco of sub Boney M proportions with some naff bimbo playing pussy-pout with cum-on titles like 'In My Bed', 'Lingerie' and 'X-Rated'. As erotic and useful as limp dick in a harem. **MD**

**BERT JANSCH / The Best Of .... / (Schanachie)** Here's a quarter century of cuts to complement the Demon/Transatlantic 'Best of Jansch' All the hits are here. 'Needle of Death', 'Angie' and 'Reynardine'. How can you resist. **AW**

**SLY'N'ROBBIE / Taxi & Crucial Reggae / (Island)** The great riddim team in production mode on two essential mid price reissues. Sublime 'n'sexy dancing a promise. **SM**

**ALL ABOUT EVE / Ultraviolet / (MCA)** Back to such a vintage Gothic-folk sound you can almost hear the cobwebs spinning across the dark stones and gnarled trees as Julianne Regan weaves those bewitching vocals over the layered, burning guitars. A pagan beauty of a record and No 1 in Glastonbury. **MD**

**IAN McNABB / Truth & Beauty / (Fat Cat)** Former singer with The Icicle Works, this is in their great tradition of Scott Walker-ish vocals and majestic guitar pop, full of crafted melodies and Beatles/Byrds influenced songs. The haunting 'Presence Of The One' and 'That's Why I Believe' are stunners and how the world could overlook the glorious anthemic pop of 'Great Dreams Of Heaven' is beyond comprehension. **MD**

**PETE TOWNSHEND / Who Came First / (Rykodisc)** From the time when all rock stars made albums for their gurus. Notable for Townshend's attractive solo versions of the Who's 'Pure And Easy', 'Let's See Action' and 'The Seeker' as well as a cover of Jim Reeves' 'There's A Heartache' a fave of the guru, it seems. Surprisingly, perhaps, this stands up well as both an album and a picture of The Who's driving force as writer and performer. Have a listen. **SM**

**VARIOUS ARTISTS / A Very Special Christmas 2 / (A&M)** Assorted stars do their festive thing. There's some complete dross (Randy Travis) but also real treats, notably Vanessa Williams' silky jazz 'What Child Is This', Ann & Nancy Wilson's country 'Blue Christmas', Sinatra and Cyndi Lauper swinging on 'Santa Claus Is Coming To Town' and unlikely yuletide warblers Extreme. The stand-out though is Sinead O'Connor whose song about being mocked and rejected for your beliefs now has an ironic personal significance. **MD**

**JEFF BECK / Frankie's House / (Epic)** The instrumental soundtrack from the TV Vietnam mini-series, Beck plays some guitar hero moody licks but in the end they don't call it 'incidental music' for nothing. **MD**

**THE 4 OF US / Man Alive / (Columbia)** Ireland's answer to INXS. Only even more boring. **MD**

**PENTANGLE / Early Classics / (Schanachie)** Over sixty minutes of music cover the fourteen tracks here, cut during the period 1968-72. This acoustic quintet aided by the unique voice of Jacqui McShee, were there at the birth of fusion music. Return with us now, to those heady..... **AW**

**CHARLES BROWN / Someone To Love / (Munich/Topic)** Veteran jazzy/R&B man who has been covered by Springsteen in the past. Now dueting with Bonnie Raitt and co-writing with Elvis Costello. For bourbon hazed late nite perfection. **SM**

**FRIENDS / Bluishness / (Summerhouse)** Perfectly acceptable but unmemorable rustic rock bed-sit indie guitar pop with reference points to Orange Juice and early Pale Fountains. With a trumpet. **MD**

**OMAR / Music / (Talkin' Loud)** A eclectic but hugely accomplished set of black soul grooves that slide between Latin, reggae, funk, hip hop and even big band lush jazz, framed by jingle bursts of doo wop throughout which his incredibly adept, richly textures voice oozes sophistication and style. **MD**

**SIMPLE MINDS / Glittering Prizes / (Virgin)** From angry art wave to majestic stadium melodrama with a didactic platform, this career retrospect's at its best as a reminder that the Minds were more satisfying when they wanted to provoke thought rather than preach. **MD**

**VANESSA PARADIS / (Polydor)** The French jail bait who sang 'Joe Le Taxi' is now an award-winning film star and makes stupefyingly mixed bag albums that wander between hippie dippy pop like 'Sunday Mondays' to a lascivious, under age sex version of 'Waiting For The Man'. Totally written and produced by Lenny Kravitz, it says more about his vanity and hang-ups than her common sense. **MD**

**TWO TUNES / Raindrops Talking / (Brambus)** If you like Sting, you'll love these guys. You might even think you've heard it all before. So why are they called Two Tunes? **AW**

## A.C.L. LIGHTING

Light Hire / Installation / Sales  
Any size Rig available with  
Smoke, Strobes, etc  
Engineers included with all  
systems

0203 452025



- Digital 24 track studio
- Cut price for unsigned bands giving you master quality for a demo price.
- Accommodation if required

Phone Mark on 0902 345 345  
for a good haggle

## WHITE RABBIT MUSIC STUDIOS



20% Discount on minimum booking 2 days or more with this ad.

**24 TRACK**  
RESIDENTIAL RECORDING STUDIO  
FOR QUALITY RECORDING  
AT AFFORDABLE RATES

St. Leonard's Close, Bridgnorth,  
Shropshire. Tel: (0746) 764046  
Mobile Phone: (0831) 639280

Contact Pete or Oriole



CALL  
DAVE PANTON

ALL THE BEST FOR  
CHRISTMAS AND THE  
NEW YEAR TO ALL  
OUR CUSTOMERS

REAL TIME CASSETTE DUPLICATION  
PLUS: BLANKS ● DAT TO DAT ● CD/VINYL PRESSINGS  
● EDITING & SPECIALISED LOCATION RECORDING

021-558 8338

PLEASE CALL AT REASONABLE TIMES

# LIVE REVIEWS

## BRMB/KIT-KAT 'MAKE THE BREAK' COMPETITION REGIONAL FINAL The Institute Birmingham

Who won? Well, the DIZZY POPPERS did, earning themselves a place in the final at The Underworld, London, where a glittering prize of £3,000's worth of gear (or the equivalent in studio time) awaits. God knows who they're up against down there, but there's no doubt about it - they were the best of the bunch tonight. Yeah - and? the night kicked off with the utterly faceless Ty, who caused no-ones foot to tap and who couldn't be heard above the nattering that went on throughout his set.

DIABLO GO put more effort into their stage craft, but at times, the singer seemed to run out of poses to strike. Their material sounded familiar in that 60s psychedelic kind of way.

CORNERSTONE are the archetypal pretty-boy smooth rock band, who, if they can round up that most loyal of audiences - the rock crowd - will have it made. A bit un-inspiring to these ears though.

Max - x

## METALLICA NEC Birmingham

Perhaps one of the most ridiculous events I've ever witnessed. But also one of the most impressive. Ridiculous because of the pomp and bombast. Even if you're a stadium rock band, is it really necessary to indulge in stage trickery like a snake pit (and don't be fooled, those who chose to view the show from this neck-craning position were like meek, caged hamsters - all the savage moshing was going on out front), catwalks, video screen and two (count 'em) moving, singing, dancing drum kits (all they lacked were eagle eyes and gripping hands). Even Lars Ulrich can only play one at a time.

But how much more powerful could a band be? The answer of course, is none more powerful. Three hours of 'thinking man's metal' (?), the sound and



## METALLICA'S HETFIELD (PIC BY MARK HADLEY)

feel of which is big, muscular and brilliantly executed ("It's alright ma'am - we're musicians"), from the early gnashing of 'Seek And Destroy' to the polish of 'Wherever I May Roam'.

So I'll let all the silly bits like a guitars on sticks, bass solos and pyrotechnics (though I have to say, some of the explosions took me back to my Vietnam days...)[Wha' Ed!!!] pass, because my hair ended up looking like that guy out of 'Eraserhead' and I later found my socks stuck to the back wall of the NEC. Powerful stuff.

MAX - x

## RUBBER MONKEY Pen And Wig Birmingham

The originality expressed in the name Rubber Monkey, disappointingly, did not extend to their visual or musical performance.

Although this three piece band firmly refused to be categorised, claiming to be influenced by various styles from funk, new age and folk, there was a strong musical bias towards an indie feel tempered with overtones of mainstream rock.

Whilst my attention was kept throughout their performance, their vocals, reminiscent of The Cure, tended to be suffocated under a mass sound of standardised heavy-thrash guitars.

However, one song emerged in contrast to a previously mundane set, 'See Through You', a vibrant and infectious track comprising of melodic vocals and tight musicianship. This was also a firm favourite with the small but loyal crowd.

Rubber Monkey produced a fairly impressive set considering they have only been together for four months.

Lisa Evans

## MOTHER EARTH THE SCANDELS Snobs, Birmingham

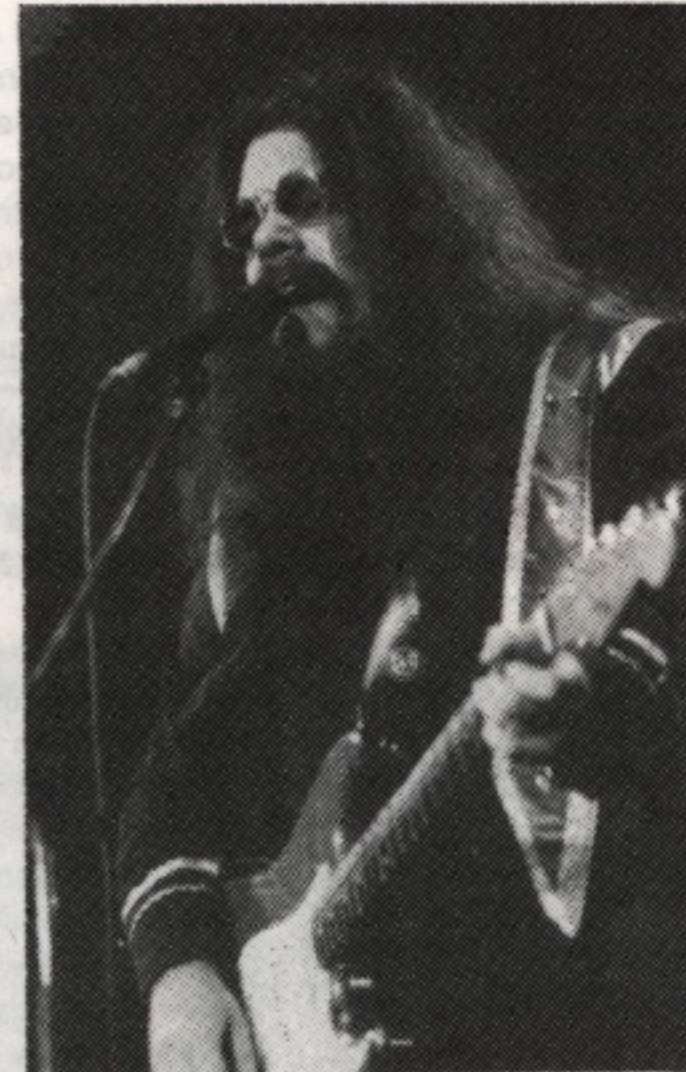
This was the Birmingham let of the Funky Nation tour, sponsored by K, featuring acts signed to the Acid Jazz label. I thought, yeah, I could do with a laid-back wind-down after being clubbed about the head and shoulders by Metallica at the NEC.

So I descended into the murky depths of Snobs and found a weird, underground scene going on. But laid-back it was not. Instead, I hit upon a lively, jumping, healthy groove, where everyone was dancing! Shit, you just couldn't help it!

Sure, The Scandals were sort of Ozric-y in a freeform, spontaneous, jazzy kind of way, checking each other out, no-one seeming to know where a number ought to end, but it was exciting, y'know? It wrapped itself around you and drew you in. Heady, man.

But where The Sandals were loose, Mother Earth were tight! Tight as a leather strap round a bucking bronco's balls (bastards!), so all you can do is kick out! Dance or die. They reminded me of Sly & The Family Stone - 70s funkypsychedelicsex - dig? Names? Songs? Who cares? Just don't miss out on this. It'll make ya wanna go, oooooooooooooooooooooo.....

MAX - x



## ROY WOOD (PIC BY MARK HADLEY)

## BARNADO'S BANDWAGON APPEAL NEC Birmingham

Opening the event was the under-rated RUBY TURNER, in fine vocal form and, considering the quality of her performance, a surprising choice for opening act. TOM ROBINSON's acoustic set followed, not particularly inspiring, but appreciated by the NEC audience. I can't remember the last time EDWIN STARR performed live: hopefully the audience's reaction will ensure that this performance was not a one-off. KINDRED SPIRIT tempered the pace of the evening with a set performed around backing tapes. Consisting of Debbie Peterson, former drummer with The Bangles and Siobhan Maher, former lead singer with River City People the duo performed a selection of home-grown material including their debut single 'Here In My Eyes'.

Having formed his band specifically for this event some 3 weeks prior to the show, ROY WOOD took the NEC by storm. Reviewing and photographing live bands on an almost daily basis can seriously detract from the magic of live performance and the enjoyment gained from it. For me Roy Wood rekindled that sense of excitement; energy and vibrancy reeling off hit after hit from The Move's 'Flowers In The Rain' to Wizzard's 'See My Baby Jive' and 'I Wish It Could Be Christmas Everyday'. From the first note the entire audience was on its feet, the atmosphere overwhelming. It has apparently been six years since Roy Wood performed live: criminal considering his talent.

ELECTRIC LIGHT ORCHESTRA PART 2 were in grave danger of being overshadowed by Roy Wood's set, however their contrasting musical styles and highly polished and well-rehearsed set drew the evening to a close in style.

The final encore featured all of the evenings plus JASPER CARROTT, who had acted as compere and Black Sabbath's TONY IOMMI.

Credit should go to all artists who participated free of charge and in particular to ELO II's Bev Bevan who made the whole event possible.

Mark Hadley

## THE ORB Institute Birmingham

And out of the hollow, relentless, damp squib of a couple of hours of 'dance' music, slid The Orb, shrouded in blue-grey smoke, dwarfed by two huge video screen and immense inflatable sphere, while a slowly rotating gold star, in conjunction with 'Spanish Castles', hypnotised the throng.

This was no band. This is no band review. But its still rock'n'roll, because The Orb have a soul that you can feel, sending out signals, touching on the various nerve ending of heavy duty dub reggae, Gong, Ozrics, Hawkwind and more, but gathering, mutating into a fascinating and altogether new ambient experience.

I think it's a shame that Paterson and Thrash feel the need to come and do anything on stage. I'd be quite happy, and it would be perfectly justifiable, for them to just plug in some tapes and knob off, because we funky sponges were there to soak up the whole psychedelic atmosphere and not simply watch a band.

It was a sensuous, pulsating, tiring, satisfying sensation, ending in a rendition of 'Singing In The Rain'. I would've stretched out on the floor and let the whole thing wash over me, but you know what happened in the Summer of Love..

MAX - x

# Audio AD Duplication Services

- ★ High Quality Real Time or Loop Bin Cassette Duplication from a variety of Formats including DAT & 1/4" Stereo Masters
- ★ Cassettes supplied with On Body Printing or Adhesive Labels if required.
- ★ Economy or Four Colour Inlay Cards available
- ★ Short Runs Undertaken
- ★ Competitive Prices and Prompt Service

021-475 8759



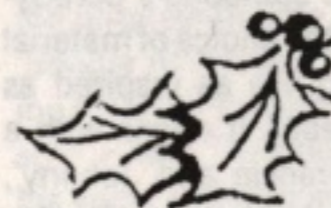
## Muthers

14 REA ST SOUTH  
DIGBETH, B'HAM

The season of good will has started! Fully equipped studios during December from £2.00 p/Hour  
More discounts for U.B.'s and students  
We may not be big.

(So phone now **622-7110**)

We will help fill your stockings  
MERRY CHRISTMAS




# VOO DOO

## Clothing

For all your Alternative and Ethnic  
Clothing and Accessories  
Jewellery • Hats • Bags • Gifts

44 Silver Street, Leicester (0533) 623159


**FAR HEATH STUDIO**

Only 45 Minutes  
from Birmingham!

**24 TRACK 38 CHANNEL  
SOUNDCRAFT 6000** with Full Automation

DAT MASTERING

SPACIOUS AIR CONDITIONED CONTROL ROOM

ACCOMMODATION CAN BE ARRANGED

Rates per hour ▶ £10 Weekdays inc V.A.T.  
£12 Weekends inc V.A.T.

Telephone Angus (0604) 740739


**STUDIO 42  
RECORD A  
QUALITY DEMO**

at £8 p/h

REDUCTIONS AVAILABLE  
FOR DAY/WEEKEND etc.  
SESSIONS  
CALL NOW FOR FURTHER  
INFORMATION  
FULL DETAILS AVAILABLE BY POST  
Tel: 021-475 7888

# CRYSTAL P.A.

Professional Sound Reinforcement System 1½K  
to 3K FOH, 1½K monitoring  
24 Channel Soundcraft Desk, Share/AKG Mics  
Live Cassette/DAT Recording  
**TEL: 0203 449052**  
**MOBILE: 0850 772876**

## WOLF P.A.

1k Vocal Rig  
2k Budget Mike Up  
3k Off Stage Mix  
Lighting + Effects  
**772 1047**

## STRAND WEST P.A.

**VOCAL P.A. FROM £30**

2K P.A. PUB GIG MON-THURS  
SPECIAL LOW-COST

MOBILE 0386 786405  
**0827 50380**

*The*  
**REPTILE HOUSE**   
*Studio Complex*

**DECEMBER TO JANUARY  
3 DAY STUDIO TIME: £199**

**PRICES STUDIO:**

MON-FRI .....£79 P/DAY  
SAT-SUN .....£99 P/DAY  
LOCKOUT MON - FRI .....£350

**TOTALLY PRO.  
16 TRACK STUDIO  
DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE  
ON BLOCK BOOKINGS**

**REHEARSALS:**

EVENINGS/WEEKENDS .£5 P/HR  
WEEKDAYS .....£3 P/HR

**P.A. HIRE:**

VOCAL RIG includes two full Range  
Cabs/4 Channel Mixer Head/Mic &  
Stand .....£25 P/NIGHT  
DRUM/GUITAR LESSONS .....£5 P/1/2HR  
(All prices include V.A.T.)

PHONE: LICHFIELD (0543) 263116  
For brochure or to arrange a visit

# ULTIMATE MUSICAL SERVICES

## Music Tuition

Piano/Keyboards  
Theory of Music  
Home Recording  
Sound Engineering

Studio Hire  
Keyboard Session Work  
Composition

**ANDY MURTAGH**  
STUDIO 021-766 8549

UNIT K4  
DUDLEY CENTRAL  
TRADING ESTATE  
SHAW ROAD  
DUDLEY  
WEST MIDLANDS  
DY2 8QX  
Tel: 0384 456679  
Fax: 0384 239024



SUB ZERO MUSIC

## PA & LIGHTING HIRE

**NEW HIRE STOCK NOW AVAILABLE**

- ★ **CONCERT SOUND REINFORCEMENT 2K -12K**
- ★ **PEAVEY 36-8-2 F.O.H. MIXING CONSOLES** are now available on all our Concert rigs (24 Ch Consoles also available)
- ★ **F.O.H. EFFECTS RACKS** on all our Concert rigs are now comprehensively equipped as standard with - 2 x ½ Octave E.Q. for F.O.H. - Cass. deck - SPX900 - Dig. Rev. - Dig. Delay - Drawmer Dual Noise Gates & Compressors (Other Effects on Clients request)
- ★ **PEAVEY HDH PROCESSED SOUND REINFORCEMENT** - We now have two of these superb P.A. Systems available in 2K-12K Formats.
- ★ **ON STAGE MONITOR SYSTEMS** - are now available on all Concert rigs in either 24-8 or 36-8 Formats 31 band EQ on all sends - Lots of quality wedges and Fills available to suit Clients requirements.

### OTHER SERVICES AVAILABLE

- ★ **D.I.Y. P. A. & LIGHTING SYSTEMS HIRE**
- ★ **D.I.Y. DISCO P.A. & LIGHTING SYSTEMS HIRE**
- ★ **D.I.Y. SPECIAL EFFECTS** - Inc. Smoke Machines/ Followspots/Strobes U.V.'s/Mirror balls etc. etc.
- ★ **RADIO MIC.SYSTEM HIRE** - Hand-held or Lapel types
- ★ **SALES** - All types of P.A./Lighting and Disco equipment. Anything from a Jack plug to a complete system/D.I.Y. Flightcase hardware.
- ★ **INSTALLATIONS** - All types of P.A./Lighting/Disco Systems. Also Background/Foreground Systems.
- ★ **CUSTOM BUILT FLIGHTCASES** - Top quality Flightcases manufactured to customers requirements.

PA & LIGHTING HIRE

PA & LIGHTING HIRE



# ROBANNAS REHEARSAL STUDIOS

Fully equipped quality practice rooms  
In the City Centre

Soundproofed, carpeted + tidy

We aim to provide the best possible  
equipment at a realistic price.

Discounts for students and  
All-day Saturday Bookings

IE - 12 hours-£30

Zildjian Cymbal Hire - £1 p/h

Synth/Keyboard Hire - £1p/h

Fender Bass/Guitar Hire - £1p/h

*Sticks + Strings Available*

Live recording facility

All our studios are £4 p/h.

Phone Rob or Anna

**333 3201**

**0836 694747**

**ONE OF THE BEST KEPT  
SECRETS IN MUSIC IS IN  
DUDLEY'S HIGH STREET**

## M & M MUSIC

AN INCREDIBLE RANGE OF  
MUSIC STOCKED AT  
GREAT PRICES.

OVER 100,000 ITEMS IN  
STOCK!!

**NEW AND USED MUSIC  
BUY, SELL OR  
EXCHANGE!!**

LPs from 50p SINGLES from 10p  
RACKS AND RACKS OF BARGAINS

**169 HIGH STREET DUDLEY**

(OPP. TOP CHURCH)

TEL: 0384 250935

FAX: 0384 238865

## CALLING ALL ROCK BANDS

NEW VENUE AT

### THE TOREADOR

BIRMINGHAM CITY CENTRE

NOW BOOKING FOR JANUARY & FEBRUARY

RING **021-236 4171**

AND ASK MAT FOR FURTHER DETAILS

# ECLIPSE LIGHTING

INCORPORATING

**QUANTUM P.A.**

- ANY EVENT •
- GOOD RATES •
- 2 1/2 - 5K RIGS.

**16/24 CHANNEL FRONT  
20 INTO 8 MONITOR  
AKG SCHURE MIKES**

Tel: (0203) 459677/451231

Fax: (0203) 717071

Mobile: (0836) 539497

1 Kensington Road,  
Earlsdon, Coventry

THE

## PEN & WIG

PRIORY RINGWAY

MASSHOUSE CIRCUS, BIRMINGHAM B4 7LN

021-236 4171

**DECEMBER**

Tue 1st	Caution Horses + Crazy Beat Demons	£1.50
Wed 2nd	New World Explosion + Under a Couch	£1.50
Thurs 3rd	The Pale Blue Jelly Babies - Cola Head	
Sun 6th	Sean Brooks + The Vanessa's	
Mon 7th	Brothers Grin	
Tue 8th	Dolphin	£1.50
Wed 9th	Little Red School House	
Thurs 10th	Brilliant colour	
Tue 15th	Dangerous Age	
Thurs 17th	SpellBinders + The Siren	
Mon 21st	Jonis Butterfly	£1.50
Tue 22nd	T.U.N.E.	
Wed 23rd	Haywires	
Sat 26th	Warlord	
Tues 29th	Shoot The Moon	
Wed 30th	Wounded Spirit + Baby Blue (ex-Foot First)	

DOORS OPEN 8.30pm

NOW BOOKING BANDS FOR JANUARY &  
FEBRUARY PLEASE SEND DEMOS & DETAILS TO  
THE ABOVE ADDRESS OR CALL IN AND SEE US!



15-17  
CORPORATION  
STREET  
BIRMINGHAM  
Telephone  
021-643 6039



STRATFORD  
ROAD  
SHIRLEY  
Telephone:  
021-745 8690

**FRI 27th NOV - THURS 3rd DEC**  
**WHOPPER**  
**20% OFF**

**FRI 4th DEC - THURS 10th DEC**  
**BEANBURGER**  
**20% OFF**

**FRI 11th DEC - THURS 24th DEC**  
**BACON DOUBLE CHEESEBURGER**  
**BUY ONE GET ONE FREE**

**FRI 18th DEC - THURS 24th DEC**  
**FRIES**

FREE REGULAR FRIES WITH ANY WHOPPER OR BEANBURGER

**JUST SHOW THIS AD**



You got it. *Go for it.*

# SHARED EARTH

*Third World Crafts, clothing and jewellery  
World and New Age Music  
Recycled Stationery  
T-Shirts  
Cards, calendars and books*

**NOW OPEN AT**  
**87 NEW ST., BIRMINGHAM**

**10% Discount for Students, unwaged, OAPs\***



*Systems*

# WORKSHOP

Tel: 0691 658550 Fax: 0691 658549  
24 Church Street, Oswestry, Shropshire SY112Sp

## AUTUMN WINTER 1992 SPECIALS

(ALL PRICES INCLUDE V.A.T. AT THE CURRENT RATE)

TASCAM MSR24S MULTI TRACKER .....	£6500	ADA MP-1 PROG TUBE GUITAR PRE-AMP .....	£395
DYNAUDIOACOUSTICS MI MONITORS .....	£999	ADA MC-1 FOOT CONTROLLER.....	£155
LEXICON LXP-1 .....	£335	DIGITECH GFX-1 TWIN TUBE PEAMP .....	£385
LEXICON LXP-5 .....	£359	GALLIEN-KRUEGER 100MPL.....	£545
SENNHEISER HD480 CLASSIC HEADPHONES .....	£39	GT SPEAKER EMULATOR .....	£329
SENNHEISER HD50 HEAPHONES.....	£17	HAFLER T-2 GUITAR PRE-AMP £209	
APPLE MAC CLASSIC 2/40.....	£629	PEARCE G2X.....	£399
APPLE MAC POWERBOOK 100 W/FLOPPY .....	£795	STARFIELD SVA1 STEREO VALVE PRE-AMP .....	£349
APPLE PERSONAL LASER-WRITER .....	£589	STARFIELD VPA100S STEREO POWER AMP .....	£309
GT DT1 TUBE DIRECT TUBE.....	£295	TUBEWORKS REAL TUBE 11 PRE-AMP.....	£235
JBL 4208 STUDIO MONITORS .....	£275	LBC MIDI MITIGATOR RFC-1 .....	£289
FOSTEX 280 MULTI-TRACKER.....	£495	P&R ACTIVE DI BOX .....	£29
ALESIS M-EQ230 GRAPHIC EQ .....	£149	TOA F-150G SPEAKER/PAIR .....	£89
BEHRINGER STUDIO DENOISER - 8CH .....	£289	NOVATION KEYBOARD .....	£99
ROCKTRON 300A COMPRESSOR .....	£179		
ROCKTRON MULTIPLEX.....	£155		
SOUND SCULPTURE MC-8 MIDI CROSSPATCH.....	£459		

All the items offered above are ex-demonstration stock. Carriage is not included in the prices quoted. All items are subject to availability, ie "first come first served"  
We regret that we are unable to accept telephone Credit Card orders  
All prices include V.A.T. at the current rate