

Record Review 11/7/85 by Bob Woodhead

One of 1985's best albums has been "Mr. Bad Guy" by Freddie Mercury, and he has just released a second single from it. Unfortunately, it is one of the weaker songs on the set entitled "Made in Heaven."

Orchestral Manoeuvres In The Dark released their second single from a recent

LP on Monday also. Theirs is called "Secret," and it is taken from "Crush." In a poor week for new releases the only other 45 to watch out for is Third World's "One To One." Nowadays their music has moved slightly away from a reggae-sound, into a disco/soul vein.

Viewers to B.B.C. TV's "Wogan" last week will have seen the exclusive announcement that 21-year-old disco singer Shelley Preston from Dorset has replaced Jay Aston in Bucks Fizz. She also made her first appearance with the group.

German band Propaganda have issued the LP "Propaganda's Secret Wish" (on ZTT), hot on the heels of their hit "Duel," and this package of classy pop songs deserves to do well. Meanwhile, California's answer to Billy Bragg, Jonathan Richman has a newly released album (on Rough Trade) featuring the Modern Lovers, entitled "Rockin' And Romance."

Jonathan has more or less faded into obscurity since his two hits back in the punk-era of 1977 (namely "Roadrunner" and "Egyptian Raggaee"), but when you hear some of these 13 tracks you will wonder why.

For example, the open-

ing number called "The Beach" has a catchy tune with some amusing lyrics. "My Jeans" continues in much the same way, but it is unlikely to receive air-play as it mentions all the different brand names of denim-jeans! "Down In Bermuda" featuring female singer Ellie Marshall, is blatantly commercial, but it works and it just beats "The Beach" as the best track.

The record then goes into a decline apart from the odd gem like "Vincent Van Gogh" (not to be confused with Don McLean's "Vincent"). Side Two is disappointing apart from "The Fenway" and the closing song "Now Is Better Than Before."

LP CHART

1. Born in the U.S.A. (Bruce Springsteen).
2. Misplaced Childhood (Marillion).
3. All Through the Night (Aled Jones).
4. The Dream of the Blue Turtles (Sting).
5. Brothers in Arms (Dire Straits).
6. Cupid And Psyche 85 (Scritti Politti).
7. Songs from the Big Chair (Tears for Fears).
8. Boys and Girls (Bryan Ferry).
9. Suddenly (Billy Ocean).
10. Out Now! (Various).

Record Review 4/7/85 Bob Woodhead

Released at the beginning of June 1984 and now in its 56th week on the L.P. Chart, Bruce Springsteen's "Born In The U.S.A." is enjoying its highest placing at No.2. Last week it was held off the top by Bryan Ferry, and this week by Marillion's new entry, but when sales of the latter tail off I think Bruce may well have his first No.1 album.

On the Singles chart Sister Sledge have had their first No.1 with "Frankie," which in my opinion is their worst-ever record. Still, someone, somewhere must be buying it! Apparently, the song was inspired by Frank Sinatra and not Frankie Goes To Hollywood as some people have suggested.

Stevie Wonder, who seems to be contributing harmonica-solos to everyone's records at the moment, has turned the trick again on the Eurythmics' new release called "There Must Be An Angel," which is a quality track taken from their recent album.

Don Henley has re-issued "Dirty Laundry" with its hard-hitting lyrics about the antics of the press, and Animal Nightlife have re-recorded their late-1982 Nightclub hit "Love Is Just The Great Pretender." Also due for release tomorrow is the Smiths' "That Joke Isn't Funny Anymore" taken from one of the best L.P.'s of 1985 so far, "Meat Is Murder." The 12-inch version contains four "live" recordings on the "B" side, so it is well worth the extra cost. The release coincides with the group's return from a highly successful, sold-out American tour.

Bob Dylan is back with his best album since 1976, entitled "Empire Burlesque" (on C.B.S.). The opening track "Tight Connection To My Heart" is one that will have you hum-

ming its lines after a couple of hearings. The L.P. continues in a fairly up-tempo mood on tracks like "Clean Cut Kid" (the "Subterranean Homesick Blues" of '85), and "When The Night Comes Falling From The Sky" on Side Two. This is my favourite number on the set, and he has proved that he can move with the times while retaining the raw-edge to his music that won him legions of fans in the Sixties.

There are some slower tracks like "I'll Remember You" and "Dark Eyes," but generally these are not as effective as their faster counterparts, with the exception of "Emotionally Yours." This cut shows that he can write a great love song as well as the protest songs for which we all remember him. All ten songs are Dylan compositions.

L.P. CHART

1. Misplaced Childhood (Marillion).
2. Born In The U.S.A. (Bruce Springsteen).
3. The Dream of The Blue Turtles (Sting).
4. Boys And Girls (Bryan Ferry).
5. Cupid And Psyche 85 (Scritti Politti).
6. Brothers In Arms (Dire Straits).
7. All Through The Night (Aled Jones).
8. Out Now! (Various).
9. Songs From The Big Chair (Tears For Fears).
10. Little Creatures (Talking Heads).

Tony Blackburn's book "The Living Legend" has now been published, and this is a compelling read for those interested in the broadcasting and music-scene of the last 20 years.

Disco mania comes to Bognor

Teenage disco enthusiasts will get a chance to dance to their hearts' content when Bognor Regis Centre goes pop for the summer. For a series Friday night specials have been arranged throughout the season, starting with a Breakdance next Friday, July 12.

Hot on the heels comes a beach party on July 19, and the Centre remembers the '60s at Mods' night on July 26.

Family disco night is on August 2 and the Birdman Rally preview is on August 9.

Head-bangers can show off their dance technique on August 16 at the Heavy Metal Crash 'N' Brash, while Reggae fans can shuffle to the Centre on August 23.

Countdown to Christmas night is on August 30 and the Breakdance and Body Popping championships round off the summer nights on the disco floor.