

Record Review

"Dirty Work" has become the 24th Top Ten album for the Rolling Stones which is a record for a group. The Beatles hold second place with 18 Top Ten L.P.s.

"Dirty Work" is available on the Rolling Stones' own label which is now distributed by CBS. The best track is "Winning Ugly" which opens side two but also featured is their reworking of Bob and Earl's 1969 hit "Harlem Shuffle" and a reggae experiment called "Too Rude".

As usual Mick Jagger and Keith Richards were involved in most of the songwriting but it has to be said that this is probably the least interesting Stones' album to date. They are really stuck with their familiar formula of the Sixties.

On the other hand "Shalamar — The Greatest Hits" (Stylus Music) represents excellent value for money. Stylus began operating last summer and since then they have released a string of imaginative compilation albums. Shalamar's success story began in 1977 with the hit "Uptown Festival" and it continued in 1979 and 1980 with dance hits like "I Owe You One".

In 1981 "Make That Move" gave them more success but 1982 saw them becoming a household name with sounds like "IUU Can Make You Feel Good" and "A Night To Remember". Also included are their later hits from 1983 like "Over And Over", and there is a bonus 12in. remix / megamix single with "A Night To Remember" being the prominent track. This is likely to

become a major success on the Singles chart when it is released.

Culture Club's fourth album "From Luxury To Heartache" is also doing the rounds at the moment. It contains ten songs, eight of which have been co-written by Phil Pickett. The recent hit "Move Away" is featured, as is "God Thank You Woman" which should be available on a 45 at the beginning of next month. Both these songs are featured as extended mixes if you buy the cassette or compact disc versions of the album. The latter song is particularly strong and should do well in the Singles' Chart. Arif Mardin and Lew Hahn have done a fine job in producing a smooth sound on this album.

After an unusually quiet Christmas for album releases by top artists the last month has been really frantic; I cannot remember such a busy period during the "non-seasonal" months of any year. March and April have been like October and November usually are!

L.P. CHART

- 1 HITS 4 (Various)
- 2 BROTHERS IN ARMS (Dire Straits)
- 3 HUNTING HIGH AND LOW (A-Ha)
- 4 PLEASE (Pet Shop Boys)
- 5 WHITNEY HOUSTON
- 6 PARADE (Prince)
- 7 HITS FOR LOVERS (Various)
- 8 NO JACKET REQUIRED (Phil Collins)
- 9 ONCE UPON A TIME (Simple Minds)
- 10 WELCOME TO THE REAL WORLD (Mr. Mister)

Bob Woodhead

Record Review

Back in October, I selected "Chain Reaction" and "Experience" as the two outstanding tracks on the "Eaten Alive" album by Diana Ross, written by the Bee Gees. "Chain Reaction" reached No. 1 when it was released on a 45 earlier this year, so now my fingers are crossed for "Experience," a beautiful ballad which is now in the shops. It certainly deserves to become a Top Tenner.

The next best single is Sade's smooth production, "Never As Good As The First Time," remixed from the "Promise" album. I am also pleased to report that Dire Straits have released "Your Latest Trick," which is my second favourite track from "Brothers In Arms" — the title song being my favourite. For once it is the saxophone that stands out rather than Mark Knopfler's guitar.

The Moody Blues have just released their new L.P., "The Other Side Of Life." It starts off with the single, "Your Wildest Dreams," continuing with "Talkin' Talkin'," an up-tempo, danceable number, followed by "Rock 'n' Roll Over You," which, as the title suggests, is a belting, rock song. "Just Don't Care" is a typical Justin Hayward ballad and is perhaps the strongest song on side one. The title track is a pleasant, mid-tempo affair that opens side two.

On this side, "Slings And Arrows" stands out as the sing-along number that may be chosen as the next 45 release, but John Lodge's slower "It May Be A Fire" also breezes

gently along with all the qualities of a good song. The group still line-up as the familiar quintet with Swiss keyboards wizard Patrick Moraz (at one time with Yes) now well established as Mike Pinder's long-term replacement.

An album that you should definitely not buy is the soundtrack to "Absolute Beginners." It is a double-L.P. featuring three songs by David Bowie with contributions from Eighth Wonder and Working Week among others. There is an uncharacteristically poor song by Sade called "Killer Blow" and also the Style Council's hit, "Have You Ever Had It Blue?" which has been completely ruined by whoever remixed it. Bowie's contributions are also second-rate, but to be fair he does perform a worthy rendition of the Fifties' Eurovision song, "Volare."

Surprisingly, George Michael's "A Different Corner" has been the first chart-topper to be written, arranged, produced, played and sung entirely by one person. On the Network Chart (where "Last Christmas" sneaked a week at No. 1) it is his seventh successive Number One, and on the B.B.C. Chart it is his sixth out of his last seven attempts. No other artist has appeared on as many No. 1 singles in the Eighties.

L.P. CHART

1. Streetlife (Roxy Music).
2. Hits 4 (Various).
3. Brothers In Arms (Dire Straits).
4. Whitney Houston.
5. Hunting High And Low (A-Ha).
6. Once Upon A Time (Simple Minds).
7. Please (Pet Shop Boys).
8. Heart To Heart (Various).
9. Shalamar — The Greatest Hits.
10. Victoria Land (Cocteau Twins).

Bob Woodhead