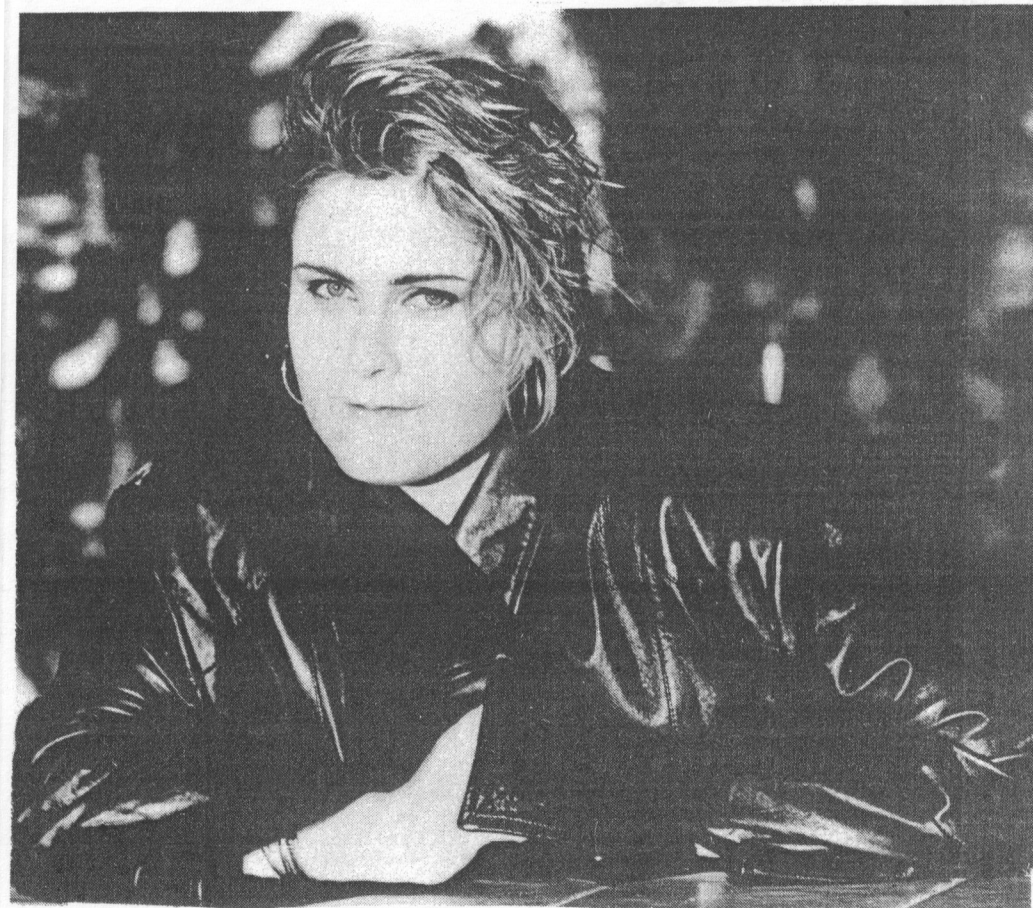




Record Review

by Bob Woodhead

Two and a half years after the release of "Alf" Alison Moyet is back with her second solo album entitled "Raindancing". Its release date was postponed several times due to her re-recording and perfecting the tracks until they were acceptable to her. Because of this I was expecting to hear something very special and am therefore disappointed with the outcome.

"Raindancing" is undoubtedly a good album but it is not in the same league as "Alf" which had the magical writing and production skills of Tony Swain and Steve Jolley who had previously worked with Imagination and Spandau Ballet. The production on this new set of songs is just as good, but many of the

compositions are very average.

The best song is probably "Is This Love?" which has already been a number three hit single. "Weak In The Presence Of Beauty" has also been a Top Ten hit, and the uptempo "Glorious Love" and "Ordinary Girl" may well be chosen as future releases on the smaller format. Of the slower numbers "Blow Wind Blow" and "Sleep Like Breathing" stand out as the best. The rest of the songs tend to drift past without really catching the listener's attention.

The promotional video for Herb Alpert's comeback single "Keep Your Eye On Me" is not to be missed and neither is the L.P. of the same name. Four out of the ten tracks (including the title song) have been produced by the hot partnership of Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis. The strongest of these is "Diamonds" with Janet Jackson on lead vocals and this is destined to become a mas-

sive hit single in the months ahead. They have also produced a couple of slower songs — "Making Love In The Rain" featuring Lisa Keith and Ms. Jackson again, and "Pillow" featuring Mr. Alpert and his wife Lani Hall on vocals. Lani was responsible for the vocals on the beautiful "Never Say Never Again" 1983 James Bond theme. Apart from these tracks there are some excellent trumpet-dominated numbers from the former Tijuana Brass leader like "Hot Shot", "Our Song" and "Rocket To The Moon".

The best of the current compilations is "Move Closer" featuring Phyllis Nelson's soulful title-song which was THE ballad of 1985. It was on its way to number one this time two years ago so can be heard on Sunday's Radio 1 Old Record Club with Jimmy Savile at 12.30 p.m.

At six minutes and eight seconds "Let It Be" by Ferry Aid is the second longest single ever to top

the charts. The longest was another Beatles song "Hey Jude" at seven minutes and 15 seconds in 1968. Apart from the obvious charitable benefits it is good to see many of the record's lead vocalists enjoying their first chart-topper, especially Jaki Graham, Level 42's Mark King and soul veteran Edwin Starr who does a lot of work for charity. He was back in Chichester last week performing at Thursday's nightclub in aid of the Queen Elizabeth Foundation for the Disabled.

L.P. CHART

- 1 Now 9 (Various).
- 2 The Joshua Tree (U2).
- 3 Running In The Family (Level 42).
- 4 Sign Of The Times (Prince).
- 5 Men And Women (Simply Red).
- 6 Circus (Erasure).
- 7 Move Closer (Various).
- 8 Whitesnake.
- 9 Graceland (Paul Simon).
- 10 Into The Fire (Bryan Adams).