

## Record review

By Bob Woodhead

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David Bowie has released a new album on the E.M.I. label entitled "Never Let Me Down." It kicks off with the recent hit single, "Day-In Day-Out," which is one of the weaker cuts in my opinion. After hearing the other tracks I was left puzzled as to why this was ever selected for single release. The other four songs on side one and the first two on the second side are all really strong.

The new 45, "Time Will Crawl," is a well-produced uptempo number and "Beat Of Your Drum" is similar to the music of Bowie's "Ashes To Ashes" period. "Never Let Me Down" is sung in effective falsetto style, and closing the first side is "Zeroes," a belting song where he sounds like Bob Dylan does on some of his more frantic numbers.

Opening side two, "Glass Spider" is the best track on the album. It has an eerie, spoken intro that develops into a delightfully catchy tune. Following on, "Shining Star" has a percussive beat just like the old Gary Glitter records and another infectious melody up front. However, I found the last four songs were somewhat mundane and tedious. Because this is a value-for-money, 11-track disc, Mr. Bowie can perhaps be excused this lapse at the end.

Also on release from Picture Music International is a new video from Bowie selling at £7. Running for 18 minutes, it features the seven-inch and the extended dance versions of "Day-In Day-Out" (which is the title of the video) and "Loving The Alien." The

former tracks were directed by Mr. Bowie with Julian Temple, who also worked with him on last year's feature film, "Absolute Beginners," and the latter was co-directed by Bowie and David Mallet, well known for his work with Tina Turner and Freddie Mercury.

Telstar have come up trumps with another first-class compilation of "Tom Jones — The Greatest Hits" to cash in on his renewed success with "A Boy From Nowhere." That song is not on this record, but there are 18 of his big hits that charted between 1965 and 1974. Tom's success was more sustained than that of Engelbert Humperdinck, whose hit-making streak only lasted from 1967 to 1973, and his "Greatest Hits" easily

beats the recent "Engelbert Humperdinck Collection."

Apart from the re-released No. 1 from 1965, "It's Not Unusual," you get "The Green, Green Grass Of Home," which was top for seven weeks over Christmas, 1966, "Delilah" and "What's New Pussycat," which you just cannot help liking despite its corny lyrics. There are, of course, a whole string of Tom's powerful ballads as well.

One of the best singles around at present is Tina Turner's "Break Every Rule," which is the title track of her hit album reviewed in this column last autumn.

The Norwegian trio A-Ha have released their theme to the new James Bond film, "The Living Daylight," while the Pet Shop Boys are back in business with "It's A Sin." It is

also a pleasure to see Joyce Sims back in the charts with the Jazzy Edit of "Lifetime Love," but the Def Edit on the B-side is even better.

### L.P. CHART

- 1 (1) Whitney (Whitney Houston).
- 2 (2) Live In The City Of Light (Simple Minds).
- 3 (4) The Joshua Tree (U2).
- 4 (5) Solitude Standing (Suzanne Vega).
- 5 (8) Keep Your Distance (Curiosity Killed The Cat).
- 6 (3) Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band (Beatles).
- 7 (7) Licensed To Ill (Beastie Boys).
- 8 (6) It's Better To Travel (Swing Out Sister).
- 9 (23) Raindancing (Alison Moyet).
- 10 (23) Friends And Lovers (Various).

