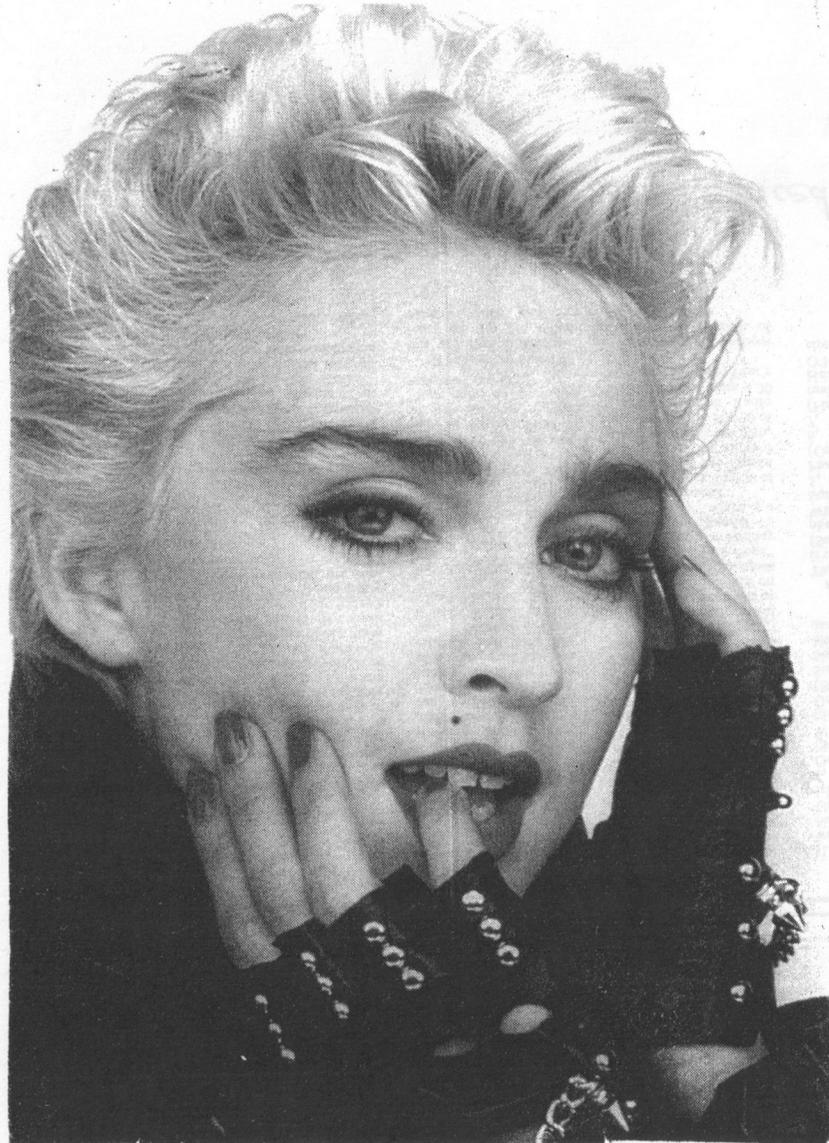


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Record Review



MADONNA

In this column last January I predicted that Madonna would be the most successful artist of 1987, for the third consecutive year, and she has not let me down!

In April the stunning lady became the first female solo performer to have four number one hits in this country, when her infectious, summery "La Isla Bonita" with its Latin rhythms, topped the chart.

In July she had a fifth Number One with "Who's That Girl?" and in the autumn "Causing a Commotion" gave her a 16th Top Ten hit which is a record for a girl singer.

At that point all her Top Tens had also reached the Top Five so she easily beat the Connie Francis' record of eight Top Five hits.

At the beginning of 1987 Madonna was in the Top Five with "Open Your Heart" but her latest hit "Look Of Love" fell short of the Top Five to end that particular record.

Excellent

Her closest rivals in the past 12 months have been the Pet Shop Boys who have had four fabulous Top Ten smashes including two chart-toppers.

Although Madonna has not released a completely new LP for 18 months, she contributed four songs to the "Who's That Girl?" soundtrack and is currently riding high with a splendid album of re-mixed tracks going under the name "You Can Dance."

The seven tracks include one completely new song called "Spotlight" which is excellent, and other favourites are Jellybean's remix of "Holiday," Shep Pettibone's re-working of "Into The Groove" and a new mix of her first club hit "Everybody" which dates back to 1982.

The LP charts were dominated by U2's "Joshua Tree," Whitney Houston's "Whitney" and Michael Jackson's "Bad" which sold 350,000 in its first week in British record shops, achieving the highest one-week sale of any album in the history of our record industry.

It outsold the Number Two album by a margin of more than ten to one and its sales were greater than the remainder of the Top 40 combined!

As many as one in every four albums sold that week were "Bad" and 40,000 of them were on CD.

Johnny Logan, representing Ireland, became the first singer to win the Eurovision Song Contest twice (having previously won in 1980 with "What's Another Year").

Chart toppers

He also co-wrote his 1987 song "Hold Me Now." Britain was represented by Rikki singing "Only The Light." The song came 13th which was our lowest-ever placing.

These records were the chart-topping singles of 1978:

December 23, 1986: Reet Petite (Jackie Wilson) 4 weeks.

January 20, 1987: Jack Your Body (Steve Silk Hurley) 2 weeks.

February 3: I Knew You Were Waiting (George Michael and Aretha Franklin) 2 weeks.

February 17: Stand By me (Ben E. King) 3 weeks.

March 10: Everything I Own (Boy George) 2 weeks.

March 24: Respectable (Mel and Kim) 1 week.

March 31: Let It Be (Ferry Aid) 3 weeks.

April 21: La Isla Bonita (Madonna) 2 weeks.

May 5: Nothing's Gonna Stop Us Now (Starship) 4 weeks.

June 2: I Wanna Dance With Somebody (Whitney Houston) 2 weeks.

June 16: Star Trekkin' (The Firm) 2 weeks.

June 30: It's A Sin (Pet Shop Boys) 3 weeks.

July 21: Who's That Girl (Madonna) 1 week.

July 28: La Bamba (Los Lobos) 2 weeks.

August 11: I Just Can't Stop Loving You (Michael Jackson and Siedah Garrett) 2 weeks.

August 25: Never Gonna Give You Up (Rick Astley) 5 weeks.

September 29: Pump Up The Volume (M/A/R/R/S) 2 Weeks.

October 11: You Win Again (The Bee Gees) 4 weeks.

November 8: China In Your Hand (T'Pau) 5 weeks.

December 13: Always On My Mind (Pet Shop Boys).

Bob Woodhead