

7/4/88

More than just a hit maker

Record Review

British-based soul performer Billy Ocean has released a ten track album of new songs entitled "Tear Down These Walls". He has been recording successful pop-orientated soul songs for 12 years now, and judging by the quality on this new L.P. his popularity is likely to continue for years to come.

He co-wrote all ten tunes, kicking off with three up-tempo dance numbers with funky backbeats and rhythms.

These are all potential hit singles, especially "Gun For Hire". There is a brave, experimental change in musical direction on "Calypso Crazy" which needs to be heard several times to be appreciated.

Side two features the recent Top Three hit "Get Outta My Dreams, Get Into My Car" and another splendid dance track with a catchy melody called "Pleasure". We have to wait until the final cut for the best of the ballads, namely "Here's To You". The only criticism I would make of Ocean's music in

the past is that some songs come across as banal and bland but this album establishes him as a first class writer and singer, and more than just a "hit-making machine."

Differences

Only six months after the break-up of the Smiths, their lead singer Morrissey has released his first solo album "Viva Hate". It has 12 songs co-written with Stephen Street who also produced the record and played bass and guitars. As one would expect, the emphasis is

very much on Morrissey's powerful lyrics and vocals, and much of the musical style is similar to that of his former band, but there are subtle differences. "Little Man, What Now?" stands out as the best tune on side one while the recent hit "Suedehead" is the album's highpoint on the second side. The most interesting number is "Angel, Angel, Down We Go Together" with its staccato violins like the Beatles' "Eleanor Rigby". However, despite his worthy effort Stephen Street's guitar playing and composing do not compare with Johnny Marr's unique style.

One of the most promising new groups to have emerged in 1988 are So, whose debut L.P. "Horse-shoe In The Glove" has recently been released. Vocalist Mark Bell and guitarist/keyboard player Marcus Long form the nucleus of the band, and they composed all the eight songs. Walter Turbitt was responsible for most of the production, and if the quality of this L.P. is anything to go by we should be hearing plenty more from So in the future.

Highlights

Also worth hearing is Sinitta's self-titled album featuring her string of

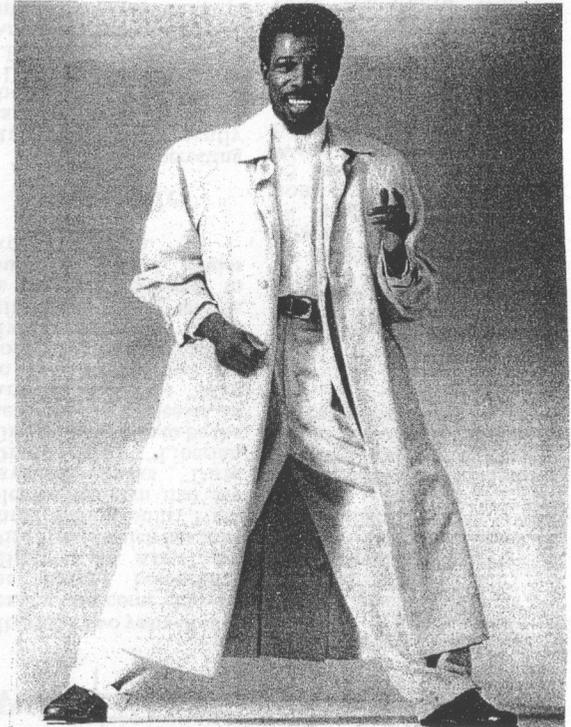
Stock-Aitken-Waterman produced hits like "Toy Boy", "G.T.O." and best of all her current 45 "Cross My Broken Heart". The record also includes her early hit "So Macho" and a couple of first-rate Paul Hardcastle productions.

The latest in the "Now That's What I Call Music" series of various-artist compilations is "Now 11" packed with 30 chart hits of the last four months. The highlights include "Come Into My Life" by Joyce Sims, "House Arrest" by Krush, and the chart-topping "I Should Be So Lucky" by Kylie Minogue. No. 1 hits by the

Pet Shop Boys and Belinda Carlisle also appear. Single of the week is the new Pet Shop Boys record "Heart" - a new version of the song that appeared on their "Actually" album.

- L.P. chart
1. Now 11 (Various).
 2. Best of OMD.
 3. Popped In, Souled Out (Wet Wet Wet).
 4. Viva Hate (Morrissey).
 5. Naked (Talking Heads).
 6. Introducing The Hardline According To Terence Trent D'Arby.
 7. Story Of The Clash, Vol. 1.
 8. Live In Europe (Tina Turner).
 9. Hearsay (Alexander O'Neal).
 10. Turn Back The Clock (Johnny Hates Jazz).

Bob Woodhead



Billy Ocean

Reduced from A3 → A4.