28/4/88

Successful duo

The popular duo Erasure have released their third album entitled "The Innocents" to coincide with their European tour.

This tour includes a performance at the Brighton Centre on Tuesday. Singer Andy Bell teamed up with Vince Clarke in the latter part of 1985 but the twosome achieved little recognition until the end of the following year when "Sometimes" (from their first L.P. "Wonderland") reached number two.

Their second L.P. "The Circus" sold consistently throughout 1987 and it spawned several hit singles. Vince Clarke often refers to himself as "Mr. Ex" as he has been the cornerstone in so many successful outfits. He is, of course, ex-Depeche Mode, ex-Yazoo and ex-Assembly, but his partnership with Andy Bell is proving to be so inspired and successful that many of us are hoping that he will not be "ex-Erasure" too soon!

Erasure have undoubtedly reached their artistic peak on "The Innocents" and my prediction is that the album will enter the charts directly at number one and become one of the Top 15 best sellers of 1988. "Ship Of Fools" has already been a major hit single, and there are at least five other potential smash hit songs that they could lift from the L.P. "Chains Of Love" with its quiet introduction, bursting into a pulsating dance beat, terrific melody and awesome vocal delivery has "Number One" written all over it, as does "A Little Respect". Both these songs are superior to any of the duo's previous outings.

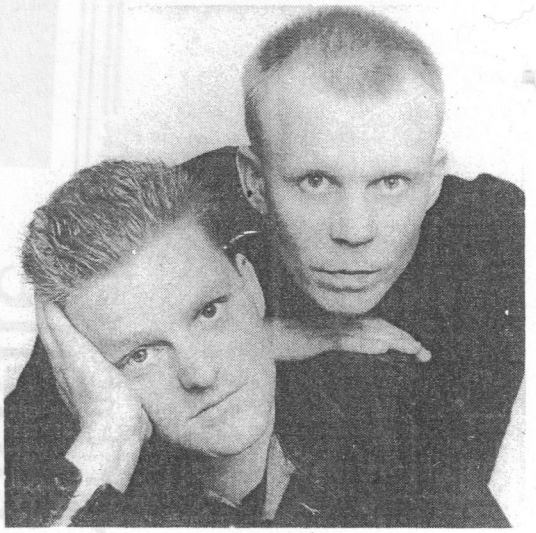
Tracks two, three and four on side two are all very strong. "Heart Of Stone" has a catchy, melodic hook, "Yahoo!" is memorable for its "Yahoo, ah higher, higher, higher" chorus that will have you singing along in no time, and "Imagination" is another pulsating, digital dance tune.

"Ship Of Fools" can almost be described as a ballad, but the other slower numbers are better described as mid-paced. They are interesting and the lyrics are of a high standard, but they never seem to work as well as their dance cuts despite Andy Bell's vocal excellence. Bell and Clarke wrote all 11 tracks, and Stephen Hague took the helm on the production.

Danny Wilson (who are an interestingly named group rather than a person) have added credibility to the old saying "if at first you don't succeed, try and try again" by taking their tuneful pop song "Mary's Prayer" into the Top 40 at the third attempt, after two failures with it last year. Although sales of singles are very low there are some very good records in the shops at present, especially the Kane Gang's "Don't Look Any Further" derived from last year's album.

It is a pleasure to see local girl Julia Fordham, from Hayling Island, causing quite a stir with a song called "The Comfort Of Strangers" (on Virgin Records). She has already performed on BBC TV's "Wogan", and the disc has been played on Radio One. Julia has an appealing vocal style with a voice that could be described as vaguely similar to Alison Moyet's.

The "Old Gold" record label specializes in re-releasing old chart hits and despite their massive catalogue they are still serving up a generous helping of classics each month. Their April releases include two Walker Brothers' ballads on one record, namely "First Love Never Dies" and "Make It Easy On Yourself", and two early-Eighties dancefloor favourites "Love Town" by Booker Newbury and "Don't Stop The Music" by Yarborough And Peoples, also available on 12in.



Erasure

L.P. CHART

1. Seventh Son Of A Seventh Son (Iron Maiden).
2. Now 11 (Various).
3. Push (Bros).
4. Tango In The Night (Fleetwood Mac).
5. Best Of OMD.
6. Popped In, Souled Out (W Wet Wet).
7. Dirty Dancing – Soundtrack.
8. Hip Hop And Rapping In The House (Various).
9. Actually (Pet Shop Boys).
10. Bridge Of Spies (T'Pau).

Bob Woodhead