

Now Elton hits back at cruel critics

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Record Review

Many critics have proclaimed that Elton John's latest album "Reg Strikes Back" is his best for many years, and having listened to it I find myself in total agreement with them.

Elton's real name is Reg Dwight and in a recent interview he declared that the album was called "Reg Strikes Back" because he is shedding his fancy costumes and reverting to his original self.

Museum

The LP cover confirms this, as it features a photograph of many

of his stage clothes that he is donating to a museum.

He also said that he sees the album as a vehicle for hitting back at the rather cruel press he has received recently.

The LP is packed with good songs performed in a variety of musical styles.

The highlights include "Poor Cow," a sardonic song spiced with a great "silent-movie" piano-riff, "A Word In Spanish" with its flamenco guitar and Latin feel, and "Japanese Hands" which is a very atmospheric, almost ambient ballad.

Tuneful

The general mood is more uptempo than

many of Elton's previous records, as illustrated on "Town Of Plenty" with its propulsive pop feel, and "I Don't Wanna Go On With You Like That" the great comeback hit of the summer.

As usual Elton John composed the music and Bernie Taupin wrote the lyrics, with Chris Thomas handling the production.

One of the best album releases by a Scottish band in recent years has been "The Sea Of Love" by the Adventures.

It has already spawned two excellent hit singles, namely "Broken Land" and the even better "Drowning In The Sea Of Love," a wonderfully tuneful, singalong number.

Many of the other songs have that "rock-anthem" feel to them, especially the last two on Side One.

Fabulous

After the two hit 45s the next best cut is "The Sound Of Summer" which has another fine melody with Terry Sharpe's vocals sounding like Jim Kerr of Simple Minds.

"When Your Heart Was Young" is also performed in a style sounding like Simple Minds and "Hold Me Now" sounds very much like the Irish band U2's music.

But generally the Adventures have crafted a bright new sound that is very much their own trademark.

BBC Records have released a fabulous compact-disc entitled "BBC Sporting Themes" and featuring 18 favourite theme tunes to radio and television sports programmes.

The highlights include the opening and closing sequences for the Wimbledon tennis programmes, "Sportsnight" by the Tony Hatch Orchestra, "Snooker" by the Douglas Wood Group, and "Test Cricket" which is "Soul Limbo" by Booker T. And The MG's.

The CD also includes the current theme to "Grandstand" as well as the original theme used in the late-1950's and the 1960s.

This compact disc has been thoughtfully compiled and should provide enjoyable listening for sport and music fans alike.

Bob Woodhead

LP CHART

1. Kylie (Kylie Minogue).
2. Rank (The Smiths).
3. Hot City Nights (Various).
4. ... And Justice For All (Metallica).
5. Rap Trax (Various).
6. Tracy Chapman.
7. The First Of A Million Kisses (Fairground Attraction).
8. BAD (Michael Jackson).
9. Now 12 (Various).
10. Push (Bros).



Elton John

Reduced from A3 → A4.