

Dire Straits' best seller of all time

= Record Review =

Brilliant guitarist Mark Knopfler and his band Dire Straits have recently notched up their three millionth British sale of the album "Brothers In Arms". It therefore consolidates its lead as the country's top seller of all-time and becomes the first record to achieve platinum status ten times over.

Many fans will therefore be disappointed to hear that Mark does not intend to record another Dire Straits album, certainly for the time being. He wishes to pursue his parallel career of working with other artists and on film soundtracks which he has done to great effect on the newly released "Princess Bride".

Splendid

Although the film will not reach the cinemas until the spring the record is already in the shops, having been composed, arranged and produced by Knopfler. It is almost entirely instrumental with superb guitar-playing. Dire Straits' keyboardist Guy Fletcher also worked on the project while the main theme song "Storybook Love" was written and performed by Willy De Ville.

Vince Clarke and Andy Bell, who make up the duo Erasure, have released "The Two Ring Circus" which is an album of remixed versions of their tracks from last year's successful L.P. "The Circus".

The hit songs "Sometimes", "It Doesn't Have To Be" and "Victim Of Love" all sound splendid, as do some of the lesser known numbers, especially "Hideaway" which is a better to dance to. "If I Could", "Spiralling" and "My Heart So Blue" are tunes with a new orchestral arrangement and they are more for sitting down and listening to.

Another duo with a new album in the shops are Double, the Swiss pair, whose record is simply called "Double". This is the second L.P. release by Felix Haug and Kurt Maloo and is much better than their introductory effort from two years ago. Their smooth, avant-garde style really comes to the fore on "Double", particularly on "Gliding" and "Lakes In The Desert". "Gliding" typifies the gentler mood of this record, but there are a few rhythmic, toe-tappers as well.

The best song of all is "Devil's Ball" which was issued as a 45 in November but tragically lost in the Christmas rush, failing to reach the Top 40. It has a delightfully jazzy, melodic refrain featuring Herb Alpert's distinctive trumpet-playing. Haug and Maloo also write and produce their own material on this first class package.

The best new comedy L.P. is "Partners In Grime" by Ivor Biggun who will be more familiar to most readers as Doc Cox on B.B.C. TV's "That's Life". Doc has a wicked way with words and is a clever tunesmith but these songs are strictly for the adults. This is his third album and it features Captain Sensible, Judge Dread and Screaming Lord Sutch who has stood in General Elections as a member of the Official Monster Raving Loony Party! Doc has obviously been greatly influenced by the musical style of George Formby but the highlight here is a hilarious send-up of David Bowie's "Space Oddity".

Even the cover is a send-up of the Beatles "Abbey Road" sleeve.

These were the top-selling compact discs of 1987 according to the B.B.C.:

1. The Joshua Tree (U2).
2. Bad (Michael Jackson).
3. Tango In The Night (Fleetwood Mac).
4. Running In The Family (Level 42).
5. Brothers In Arms (Dire Straits).
6. Whitney (Whitney Houston).
7. Hits 6 (Various).
8. Graceland (Paul Simon).
9. Men And Women (Simply Red).
10. Solitude Standing (Suzanne Vega).

These are the all-time favourite songs of the listeners to B.B.C. Radio One as recently polled:

1. Bohemian Rhapsody (Queen).
2. Careless Whisper (George Michael).
3. Do They Know It's Christmas (Band Aid).
4. Imagine (John Lennon).
5. The Power Of Love (Jennifer Rush).
6. I Just Called To Say I Love You (Stevie Wonder).
7. Relax (Frankie Goes To Hollywood).
8. Without You (Nilsson).
9. Tainted Love (Soft Cell).
10. Last Christmas (Wham).

Bob Woodhead



Mark Knopfler

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Reduced from A3 → A4.