

# A year to remember

22/12/89

1988 will be remembered as the year of Acid-House music which is a culmination of several different styles that have evolved over the last few years.

The Acid-House style is primarily based on Rapping, Hip Hop and House music originating from cities like Detroit, New York and Chicago. However, it was a "watered-down," more publicly acceptable rendering of this music by British singer Yaz and the Plastic Population that helped her record "The Only Way Is Up" become the best selling single of the year, having been top of the charts for five weeks throughout August.

## Shaped

Yaz was one of many new faces in our charts in a good year for new talent breaking through the success barrier. Others included Eighth Wonder, Mica Paris, Taylor Dayne, and Mac Band, the Pasadenas, Krush, Danny Wilson, Brother Beyond, Breathe, Debbie Gibson, Tracy Chapman, Fairground Attraction and the teenager favourites Bros.

The latter did extremely well in the singles charts which are predominantly shaped by teenager record-buyers nowadays. The comedy record of the year "Loadsamoney" was also performed by a chart newcomer, Harry Enfield. The title of his song went on to become the catchphrase of 1988 as well!

## Record Review

Of all the newcomers my personal favourite is Will Downing whose music depends on the emotional power of the human voice - a tradition once threatened by the dominance of disco and its later forms. Downing's superbly crafted album represented the return to this enduring value in American black music. It was a slick, soul album of the highest quality.

While the general pop album releases of 1988 were not as strong as last year's (with a few exceptions like Erasure) those in the soul category were the best ever in my opinion, and they will take some beating in future years. Sade and Loose Ends, who both issued sensational albums, are likely to be among those who will take up the challenge, proving that British soul and funk can compete on equal terms with the Americans.

These are my particular favourite records of 1988:

### Albums

1. Will Downing (Will Downing).
2. The Real Chuckeeboo (Loose Ends).
3. Stronger Than Pride (Sade).
4. The Silver Collection (Dusty Springfield).
5. The Collection (Barry White).

### Tracks

1. A Love Supreme (Will Downing).
2. Siempre Hay Esperanza (Sade).



Will Downing

3. Good Love (Anita Baker).
4. Circle In The Sand (Belinda Carlisle).
5. Nite And Day (Al B. Sure).
6. The Only Way Is Up (Yaz And The Plastic Population).
7. Come Into My Life (Joyce Sims).
8. Divine Emotions (Narada).
9. Happy Ever After (Julia Fordham).
10. Teardrops (Womack & Womack).

You can hear the Top 30 best selling albums of 1988 on Radio 1 in stereo on Christmas Day at 5 p.m., and the best selling singles on Holiday Monday, January 2, at 5 p.m. The Top Pops of the year will be on B.B.C. 1 on Christmas Day at 2 p.m., and there will be a Silver Jubilee edition of "Top of the Pops" at 5.20 on New Year's Eve with more clips on Channel 4 that same evening.

Bob Woodhead