

Record review 22/6/89

Accomplished Shadows give perfect show

The Shadows brought their 30th anniversary tour to the South last week, with shows at the Brighton Centre and Southampton's Mayflower Theatre.

I was lucky enough to be among the sell-out audience at the latter performance. Being primarily an instrumental show the band held the stage for an hour and three-quarters giving the onlookers more than full value for money. So many artists have to step down after an hour with the obvious strains on their vocal chords. It is rare nowadays to see such accomplished musicians providing such a perfect show.

Hank Marvin on lead-guitar (right of picture), Bruce Welch on rhythm (centre) and Brian Bennett on drums (left) were ably supported by Cliff Hall on keyboards and synthesizers, and Mark Griffiths on bass.

During the evening I only heard them make one mistake when young Mark miscued slightly on some solo-bass notes on the 1961 hit "Kon-Tiki," but like true professionals they continued as though nothing had happened.

Great

The show featured most of the really big hits from the early 1960s like "Frightened City," "Wonderful Land," "Dance On," "Foot Tapper" and best of all "Atlantis," which sounded even better than the original recording if that is possible. Cliff Hall's synthesizers imitated Norrie Paramor's original orchestra almost to perfection.

They performed a few vocal numbers like "If You Don't Know Me By Now" and included a tribute to Buddy Holly in which Bruce showed us that he is among the better 1960s

vocalists and could have done well in a vocal group.

Other highlights included a fantastic version of Booker T's "Time Is Tight" and a newly composed drum solo by Brian Bennett "Captain Haddock Has Gone Missing" on which he displayed his acrobatics on percussion while the other band members took a break.

The show finished with a re-arranged "Apache" and they encored twice, with Jean Michel-Jarre's "Equinox" with great lighting effects, and finally "F.B.I."

I spoke to the trio after the show, and Hank told me that they will be going on a grand tour of Australasia at the end of the year, which he is looking forward to as he now lives in Australia.

Bruce said they are looking forward to two shows with Cliff Richard at the end of this month at Wembley Stadium, while Brian told

me that he has been writing the musical score for "The Ruth Rendell Mysteries" on TVS.

Those hoping for a recording of Shadows' hits should look no further than the 1977 compilation "20 Golden Greats" which should also be available on CD in the near future. Their latest album "Steppin' To The Shadows" features their own interpretation of recent chart hits, the odd classic "oldie," and three of their own new compositions.

These are so strong that I cannot understand why they have not used more of their own material on their 1980s albums.

They performed the best two of these new tunes "Mountains Of The Moon" and "Stack-It" at The Mayflower, to great applause. The former, written by Brian Bennett, has a strong lead-guitar refrain backed by an African-style tribal-rhythm, while the latter (composed by all three) has

an attractive, contemporary rhythm and superb melody on the lead-guitar.

The Shadows arranged and produced all 16 tracks on the new album.

LP CHART

- 1 Ten Good Reasons (Jason Donovan)
- 2 Raw Like Sushi (Nenah Cherry)
- 3 Flowers In The Dirt (Paul McCartney)
- 4 Club Classics, Vol. One (Soul II Soul)
- 5 The Miracle (Queen)
- 6 The Other Side Of The Mirror (Stevie Nicks)
- 7 Don't Be Cruel (Bobby Brown)
- 8 Watermark (Enya)
- 9 Appetite For Destruction (Guns N' Roses)
- 10 When The World (Deacon Blue)

Bob Woodhead



The Shadows

Reduced from A3 → A4.