

Record review of the year

2-11-92
The year of 1991 was dominated by the Canadian singer Bryan Adams and his recording of "Everything I Do, I Do It For You," the theme to the year's top movie "Robin Hood."

In June the record raced straight into the Top Ten, beginning a 21-week residence there, and on July 7 it reached the summit remaining there for 16 consecutive weeks, and shattering the record of 11 successive weeks at the top set by Slim Whitman's "Rose Marie" in 1955.

Apart from Slim Whitman the only record to be at the top for longer than 11 weeks was Frankie Laine's "I Believe" which held the crown for 18 weeks in 1953. However, those 18 weeks were divided into separate spells of nine, six and three weeks respectively.

The key to Bryan's achievement lies in consistency of sales. For example, between his second and tenth week at No.1 sales never rose above 120,000 or fell below 90,000, and he sold more records on his tenth week at the top than he did on his first week! Another factor is the greatly reduced volume of Singles sold nowadays, compared with greater album sales, meaning that the Adams disc is only about 10th in the list of all-time best sellers. He did not sell a million singles until his 10th week at the top, compared with Britain's last million seller "The Power Of Love" by Jennifer Rush in 1985 which needed only five weeks at No.1 to hit the target.

The success of "I Do It For You" was certainly not unique to this country because it was top for seven weeks in America becoming their biggest seller for more than half a decade, and it is the first disc to be the year's top seller on both sides of the Atlantic since "Sugar Sugar" by the Archies in 1969.

Nevertheless, in America

the leading artist of 1991 was Mariah Carey who became the first performer to reach No.1 with her first five Singles, achieving this feat at the age of only 21.

Last year will also be sadly remembered for the loss of one of Rock's most gifted performers - Freddie Mercury. His band Queen had one of their best years with two No.1 Singles and LPs.

Also enjoying great success on both Singles and Album Charts were OMD, Seal, REM, Kenny Thomas, U2, Michael Jackson, INXS and Cher who has deservedly had the most successful year of her long career. The best newcomers were the German outfit Enigma who were top in both Album and Singles Charts last January, with their unique musical blend and spine-tingling sound.

Erasure had a third chart-topping album but still could not manage a top single, and keyboard player Vince Clarke has now had an unprecedented eleven Top Five hits without a No.1. Conversely, the Pet Shop Boys are still without a No.1 album to their name despite having four top singles in previous years! Dance music remained the dominant force in the Singles Chart through artists like The KLF, Salt-n-Pepa and Color Me Badd whose controversial "I Wanna Sex You Up" was my favourite chart-topper of the year. As usual the Album Charts gave us a wider spectrum of music ranging from the hit collection of the Eurythmics to the smooth Soul of Simply Red, and from the powerful vocals of Michael Bolton to the easy style of Oleta Adams. These were the discs that reached No.1 on the Singles Chart in 1991:

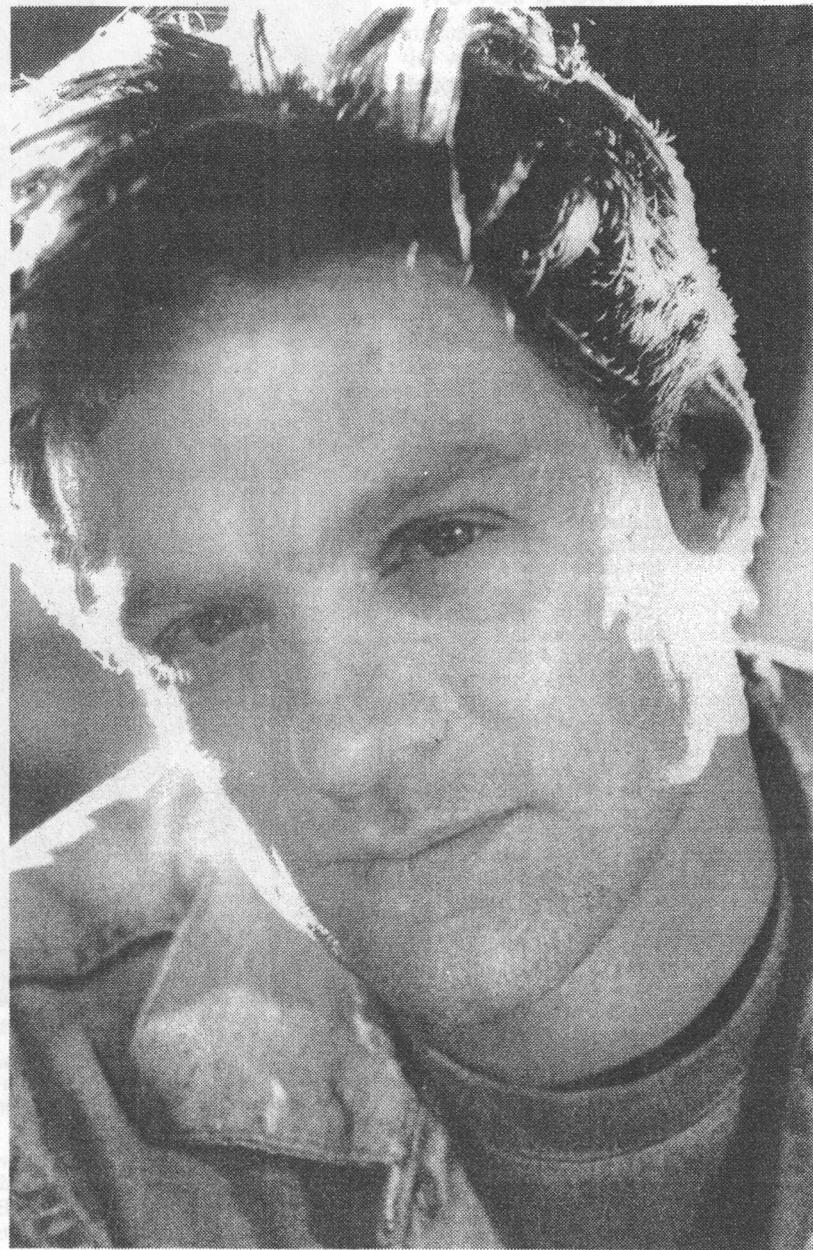
January 13: Sadness (Enigma) one week.

January 20: Innuendo (Queen) one week.

January 27: 3 A.M. Eternal (The KLF) two weeks.

February 10: Do The Bartman (Simpsons) three weeks.

March 30: Should I Stay (The Clash) two weeks.



March 17: The Stonk (Hale and Pace) one week.

March 24: The One And Only (Chesney Hawkes) five weeks.

April 28: The Shoop Shoop Song (Cher) five weeks.

June 2: I Wanna Sex You Up (Color Me Badd) three

weeks.

June 23: Any Dream Will Do (Jason Donovan) two weeks.

July 7: Everything I Do (Bryan Adams) 16 weeks.

October 27: The Fly (U2) one week.

November 3: Dizzy (Vic Reeves) two weeks.

November 17: Black Or White (Michael Jackson) two weeks.

December 1: Don't Let The Sun (Elton John and George Michael) two weeks.

December 15: Bohemian Rhapsody (Queen).

Bob Woodhead.