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NUMBER 148

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they, listed. It's the beauty of people ...





# RECORDEDdelivery

MEGASTORE 98 CORPORATION STREET, BIRMINGHAM

## KATY MOFFATT The Greatest Show On Earth

(Round Tower)

### Indoor Fireworks

(Red Moon - Swiss Import)

'Indoor Fireworks' is Katy Moffatt's second album for the Swiss Red Moon label. Supported by a five man band, The Great Unknown - who consist of the cream of Austin's support players (being Messrs Glasse, Neubert, Muse, Heath and Starr), they turn in a workmanlike set. On the other hand, 'The Greatest Show On Earth' on Round Tower, co-produced by Katy and Tom Russell, is a whole other sack of gold. I'd even go as far as to suggest that it's the best thing which Ms. Moffatt ever recorded. Although a fair percentage of the material on 'Indoor Fireworks' sources from the writing team of Messrs Moffatt & Russell, all of the songs on 'The Greatest Show...' were penned by the duo, individually and together. Overall the Round Tower album has an engaging acoustic feel, with Katy's aching vocal well to the fore where necessary, underscored as usual, by Andy Hardin's tasteful guitar work. Standout tracks on the latter set being 'This Heart Stops for Railway Crosses', 'Born With A Broken Wing' and 'Billy Collins'.

Arthur Wood

## JIMMY LaFAVE Austin Skyline

(Bohemia Beat - US Import)

This seventy five minute long, sixteen track live recording, merges around a decade of self penned originals, with a handful of cuts from the pen of Bob Dylan, plus a couple of songs by other writers which we'll check out along the way. The recordings source from four Austin, Texas venues - hence the title - and find LaFave cov-

## PICK OF THE MONTH

### SHAWN COLVIN

Fat City (Columbia)

Though her record company largely pissed away the brilliant debut, and live appearances were protected by the official secrets act, they're going to find it hard to keep this second album under wraps, even if it's appearing several months after the US release. Colvin's reputation as a literate singer-songwriter of frightening talent is growing by the day and the eleven tracks here offer ample evidence as to why. Vocally and stylistically several comparisons sit comfortably on her shoulders, most strikingly Janis Ian ('Polaroids') and Joni Mitchell ('Round Of Blues').

Though at her best with reflective melancholy, as for example the sparse piano ache of 'Monopoly' (which also conjures up shades of Tori Amos) and the wide open spaces evening-desert moods of 'Orion In The Sky' and 'Set The Prairie On Fire', as 'Tennessee' and 'Object Of Affection' illustrate, she can also up the tempo to memorable effect. Thematically she raids the female emotional psyche to great effect, offering assorted shades of observation on the complexities of the heart and head, reaching some kind of apotheosis in the outstanding 'Kill The Messenger' and the closing, spine-shivering beauty of 'I Don't Know Why', a simple confessional of love and humility that has classic written all over. An essential album.

Mike Davies



ering the rhythmic spectrum from loud 'n' rowdy, through to gentle 'n' reflective. LaFave's achingly emotional interpretation of the latter song category amounting to a lethal weapon. In the former group, rests the hard edged 'Thru The Neon Night' and 'Deep South 61 Delta Highway Blues.' In the tenderness stakes, the arrangement and interpretation of the Left Banke hit 'Walk Away Renee,' entrusts the old evergreen with a whole new lease of life. Add to that LaFave's own 'Only One Angel' and 'Measuring Words,' and we're talking major new talent. A couple of pivotal axemen, deserve a mention in despatches. In the electric lead stakes, it's Larry Wilson; while on the acoustic front, Brian Wood's contributions are a restrained delight.

On the strength of 'Austin Skyline', Jimmy LaFave's career deserves to head skyward at the speed of light.

Available on CD and cassette from P.O. Box 2500, Austin, Texas 78768.

Arthur Wood

## HEAVEN 17

### Higher and Higher- The Best of Heaven 17

(Virgin)

Both versions of 'Temptation' are here; the spiced up ravey version (courtesy of The Brothers In Rhythm) which this time around features a wonderful Spanish-influenced intro and of course the classic original. The spookily appropriate 'Fascist Groove Thang' with its 'right on' political message, which was recently brought bang-up-to-date by The Rapino Brothers, is also included in both glorious techno-colour and in its original early 80s monochrome.

Listening to this album whisks you off into a time warp, and conjures up images of smooth yuppies strutting their 'ever-so-suave' stuff at the local night-club/winebar.

Whether or not songs such as 'I'm Your Money' and 'Contenders' still have a place in today's chart scene who can say, but don't be fooled by the clean up of their last two

singles, this album is for the true synth popsters out there who can remember Heaven 17 from the first time, not the clubbers of today.

Tina Allen

## STEINAR ALBRIGTSEN

### Bound To Wander

(Round Tower)

This album sold in excess of 100,000 copies in Albrigtsen's native Norway. Think of the size and population of that land and the achievement seems staggering; especially as it's an authentic sounding country



STEINAR  
ALBRIGTSEN

album sung in perfect English!

Now, I have to admit that my interest focuses around four new Tom Pacheco songs that Steinar handles admirably here; they're not among Tom's greatest moments in that they're not as fiery as the ones that drive his own albums, but they are substantially better than those that regularly fill the mega selling hat act albums. Riches beckon if Nashvillians hear this album, I guess!

Let's not detract from the performer though, who also displays great taste with the inclusion of a Hugh Moffatt song; he sings well throughout and appears to play guitar, though given that my copy of the album is Norwegian, the sleeve notes are impenetrable!

And there lies the rub, given the style mafia that attempts to control country music taste, Albrigtsen's nationality might prove to be too big a hurdle for the weekend cowboys to jump. If he'd changed his name and pretended to come from the US he'd be in rotation on CMT by now.

Steve Morris

## THE RED DEVILS King King

(This Way Up)

Produced by Rick Rubin, The Devils are a kick ass R'n'B combo with links to the legendary Blasters. Recorded live they run through a set of self penned and classic material that'll turn your living room into The Marquee and have your CD player dripping sweat.

Like The Fabulous Thunderbirds with whom they share a spirit, The Red Devils aren't made to write about, they're made to experience. They're also hot which is gonna give Lynyrd Skynyrd a helluva challenge when The Devils open for 'em at Symphony Hall later this month.

Steve Morris