

BRUM BEAT

THE MIDLANDS ENTERTAINMENT MONTHLY

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MAGNUM



Chase The Spirit
with Paul Rees

Win
a
Goldfish

MARILLION ★ LILAC TIME
JOHN SLATER GOES EVEN MORE DEMO CRAZY
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ARTHUR WOOD

BITCHIN'

Having casually slipped in a mention for Patty Larkin and Christine Lavin last month, unless it was edited it out, in which case the following will make no sense whatsoever; for that matter, when does this column ever make sense? ... Whatever, I can't let the opportunity pass undeveloped. The aforementioned duo, plus two, deserve some extensive exposure. And the reason? Current favourite on my playlist is a live recording titled,

'Buy Me, Bring Me, Take Me: Don't Mess My Hair!!! - Life According To Four Bitchin' Babes' (Philo). Although an import, the CD is available through Topic in London, at the thoroughly sensible price of 11.00, including postage.

Stateside, Lavin has released five albums via the Philo label, with titles as diverse as 'Future Fossils' (one of the neatest eighties album titles), 'Beau Woes And Other Problems Of Modern Life' and 'Good Thing He Can't Read



PATTY LARKIN, PIC BY ARTHUR WOOD

My Mind'. The title song from the latter set appears here, being a paean to the act of standing by your man, despite the tiresome tribulations of having to attend the opera, go skiing and eat sushi. Love by the principle of one man's meat is your good lady's poison. Then again, love has always conquered all. Hasn't it? If not already apparent, Lavin is into a waspish form of lyrical folk humour. Larkin also delivers her percentage of biting words, while toting the meanest line in Ms guitar licks this side of Nina Gerber. In her own words, "Not Bad For A Broad." 'In the Square', the latest addition to Patty's trio of Philo releases, is also an in concert set. Sadly, Larkin's normally loose, manic - OK, over the top stage presence, must have remained in the dressing room on the night it was cut. The whole disc smacks of that infernal red demon on the shoulder: "Hey gal, get uptight. Remember that you're cutting a live one tonight." Shame. With three other sounding boards to hand on 'Bitchin' Babes' Patty is at her outrageous best.

Completing this 'Bitchin' quartet is Sally Fingerett of Columbus, Ohio and from that windy city Megon McDonough. The latter weighs in with a quartet of

tunes, including her own 'Painless Love' and from the astute pen of Rod McDonald, 'Every Living Thing'. And there's more. Vocally, Megon possesses the mightiest set of tubes to boom out of my loudspeakers in many a long day.

The 'Babes' kick off their night of outrage at the Birchmere in Washington DC, with the humorous 'Prisoners Of Their Hairdos'. Therein, the spotlight initially falls upon the tonsorial delights of Crystal Gayle, Don King and not unnaturally, Lyle Lovett. If you're into hair, you'll grasp the follicle. That other sixties feminist anthem, 'These Boots Are Made For Walkin' closes the hour long session. On the strength of this effort, let's hope that in a few years time, this recording will be listed as 'Bitchin' Babes Volumes 1.' Lighten up, hold hands 'cause folk music was also meant to be a fun experience.

A YOUNG TASTER

On the homefront, and as a taster for his forthcoming early October date at the Breedon, it may be relevant to mention that Steve Young has just had his 'Solo/Live' recording released by

those Demon boys from Brentford. Originally issued this Spring by Austin based, Watermelon Records, this thirteen track live recording was made at Anderson Fair Retail Restaurant in Houston. 'Solo/Live' captures this veteran of the renege/outlaw movement in a reflective mood. Don't believe what you may have read in other reviews, as the only new songs are Steve's arrangements of the traditional songs 'Don't Miss Your Water' and 'Go To Sea No More'. Elsewhere, it's a case of leaning heavily on eleven earlier classics, drawn from five albums which span twenty years of this young man's music. Consummation with pieces of steel and wood plus a voice.

You may recall a couple of months back, I mentioned in this column that Jay Turner, fresh from a Canadian trip was about to go into the studios to cut his third album. Titled 'Atmavictu (The Breath Of Life)' the album was released on Jay's Gypsy Records last month. Favourite cuts to date are the 'Brighton Movies', 'A Night On The Town' and 'Ghost Dancing'. The first of those tracks describes a modern day 'Brief Encounter', while in the latter Jay relates the white man's zealous descimation of the Lakota nation. That growth area of the eighties, cardboard cities, come under the spotlight in 'A Night On...' and now we're the three time losers. Next month venuewise we should be firmly astride the saddle.

Till then, hi ho silver.

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