DECEMBER 1997 No. 174 U.K. £2.70

## 

Kate
RUSBY

Plus...
Bohinta
Steven Feld
Harry Smith
Tara Records
Emer Mayock
Martin Sexton
Lucy Kaplansky
larla O'Lionaird
U.S. Immigrants
...and more!





## PAUL BRANDT

Outside The Frame Warner Reprise 9362-46635-2

## **DANA ROBINSON**

**Midnight Salvage** Alcazar Productions [import] ALC131

On the front and rear liner photograph, this callow pretty boy is wearing a hat. Like a badge, an emblem, an indication of the musical clan to which he bears undying allegiance – a person of the country [music] persuasion, and no mistaking. Producer Josh

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Leo has been around soundboards long enough to know how to capture a slick, pop flavoured product. After one complete circuit, there's no doubting that this decade long song trip is one of those. Numerically, it features half a dozen Brandt writing collaborations and one, yes one, song penned entirely on his own. A trio of covers complete the head count. Qualitatively, this is totally innocuous stuff – all rib cage and no meat, way outside any frame of reference that would qualify it for the accolade memorable. As for the final cut which features a four minute reprise of the album contents, including snippets of session conversations, 'silly' comes to mind. Eject.

Vocally, Dana Robinson's wavering tenor is reminiscent of the long silent Cat Stevens. Materially, on his second solo offering, there's a decade of mostly acoustically driven Robinson originals plus the guitar instrumental *Edge Of The Woods*. Lyrically, his traditionally tinged, contemporary slanted material reflects on subjects as diverse as a visit by the Stateside equivalent of our wintertide robin [the redpoll], a love-hate relationship, the joys of being a journeyman folk musician, self-determination and finally, the life of weasels. Honest. Available from Alcazar Music, P.O. Box 429, Waterbury, Vermont 05676, U.S.A. 1Tel. 1-800-541-9904].

Arthur Wood