

# BRUM BEAT

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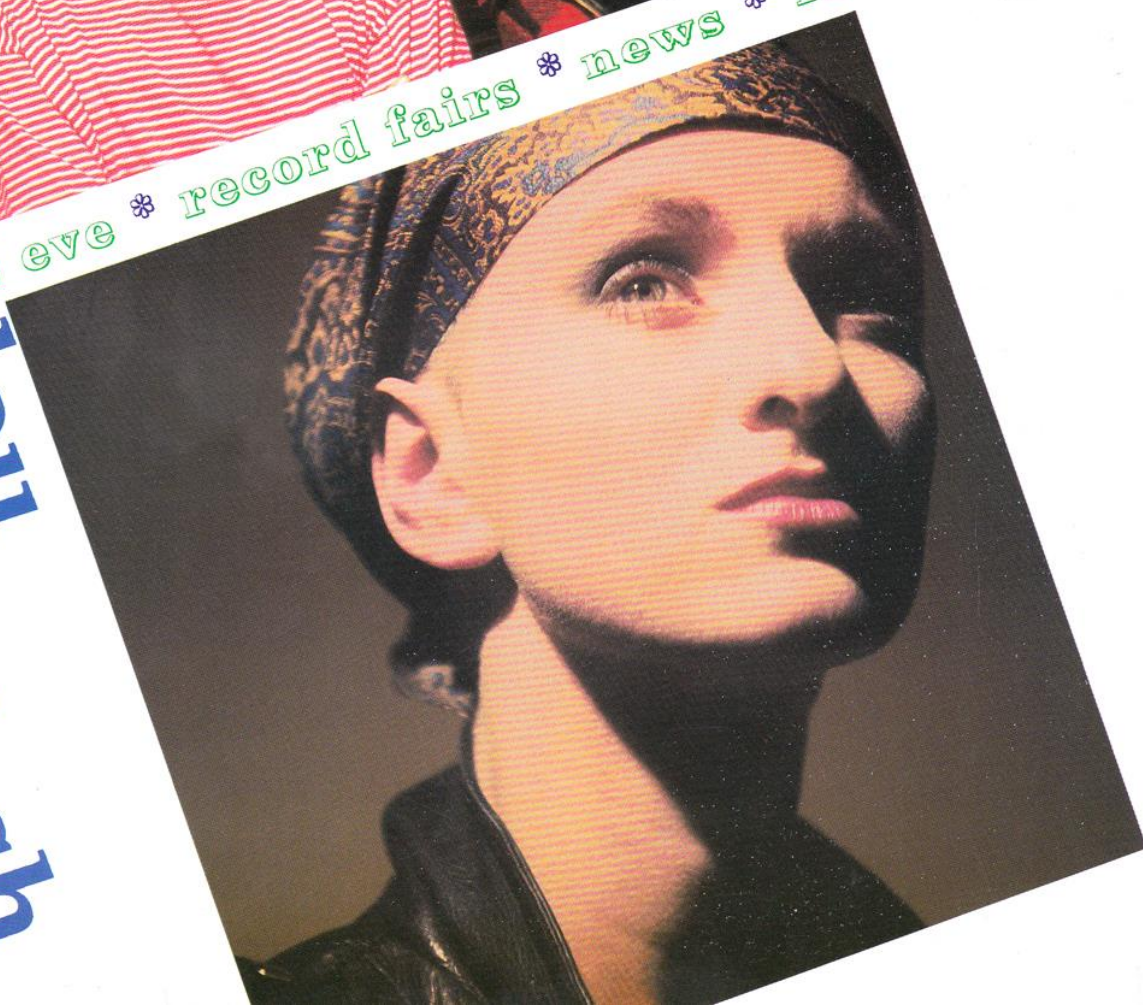
NOVEMBER 1992



**PLEASE**  
expect fireworks

\* all about eve \* record fairs \* news \* reviews \*

**you**  
**dalglish**  
prestige season





Under the banner of 'The Great American Songwriter Festival', a stream of performers from across the Great Pond will be visiting the upstairs room at The Junction in Harborne, through November and into December.

Thursday is the normal Good Time night at that venue. You'd better note, that some of the GAS events take place over the weekend.

First on the Festival bill is **John Stewart**. The date, Sunday 1st November. Now signed to Shanachie Records, Stewart has just released a new album containing a decade of tracks. For the record, if you're a Big John addict, you'll probably already own at least one recorded version of the material featured. The cuts having previously appeared between 1986 and 1991 on 'Secret Tapes II', 'Neon Beach' and 'Deep In The Neon'. The foregoing quartet of releases consisted of demo tapes and live recordings, and were released via Stewart's own Homecoming label. 'Neon Beach' was also released by Line Records in Germany. With 'Bullets In The Hourglass' (Shanachie), you finally have the opportunity to hear the studio polished versions.

Back in the seventies, numerous Stewart compositions subjectively drew their inspiration from the wind, fire and horses. With the advent of the eighties, a political strand began appearing in Stewart's lyrics. During the sixties, there had been a significant degree of optimism about the future of our planet. John campaigned vigorously on behalf of the Kennedy dynasty during that period. The latter experience has been indelibly stamped on his psyche; listen closely to 'Irresistible Targets' and 'Looking For Jack', on his latest recording for the evi-

dence. In fact the album draws its title from the latter cut.

Now in his fifth decade as a troubadour, 'Bullets In The Hourglass' contains snapshots of the world at the close of the twentieth century, according to the thoughts and words of John Stewart. Considering the enormous volume of self penned material which he can draw upon, you deserve to see John Stewart in concert at least once during your lifetime. Here's your chance.

As I sit penning this month's contribution, **David Halley** is esconced in an Austin, Texas studio putting the finishing touches to his second solo album. A Lone Star, the new roots based subsidiary label of the Clifford Antone blues empire, has just issued Halley's debut set 'Stray Dog Talk' Stateside. Demon Records released it in the UK during 1990. If all goes well, David's next album should be available around the end of this year. I just trust that he decides to include his own 'Man Of Steel' and Jo Carol Pierce's 'Loose Diamonds'. He featured the latter pair of tunes, both spine chillers in my book, during his debut UK set at The Junction earlier this year. Sharing the bill once more, is our own **Terry Clarke**. 'Rhythm Oil - The Sessions' (Mindoka), finds Terry teamed with

guitarslingers Mike Messer and Jesse 'Jake' Taylor, and should be in your neighbourhood record store soon. Most material has been penned by Clarke, and I can confirm that the title cut contains some rowdy, white hot electric picking and over the edge lyrics. In the meantime, the mouthwatering prospect of these two symbiotic songwriters sharing a stage once more, makes this my gig of the month. Many of you weren't present last time around and should be thoroughly ashamed of yourselves. Don't Foul up on your next chance. It arrives on Saturday 14th November.

The final American at The Junction during November, is **Steve Young**. The date Thursday 26th. The pride of Brentford, Demon Records, issued his Anderson Fair Retail Restaurant, Houston 'Solo Live' set here, late last year. A country rock legend from the dawn of the genre; make that with a twist of good ol' southern blues, Young is a true original, who has very much walked a path independent of his contemporaries. One other Junction date for your diary. Guitar virtuoso **Kevin Brown**, is there on Thursday 5th with his band.

The Red Lion folk club temporarily sets up camp at the Town Hall on the first two Friday nights during this month. On the

6th, there's yet another opportunity to catch one of the best live bands currently gigging in the UK. Who? **Alias Ron Kavana**, of course. If the latest edition of Dirty Linen is to be believed, Kavana is about to build a substantial following in the States. Catch these Irish flavoured roots rockers, while you still can.

With his new Awareness album 'Death Or Glory' now available, **Roy Harper** embarks on 'The Ready For Love' tour. Check out the lonely hearts slant to the new album advert in the monthly glossies and the working title for Harper's tour will become clear as daylight. Harper is at the Town Hall on Friday 13th.

At the Wulfren Hall, Wolverhampton, there's a couple of Wulfruna Folk Club dates during the month. **Rev Hammer** of The Levellers in a solo performance on Tuesday 10th. On the following night, it's legendary singer/songwriter, **Ralph McTell** and his Silver Celebration '92 Tour.

**November bookings in the local folk clubs are,** Sun 1st, Singers Night (Clarendon, Chapel Ash, Wolverhampton); Fri 6th, **Dick Gaughan** (Woodman, Kingswinford), **Syncope** (The Market Tavern, Mosley Street); Sat 7th, **Mitch & Maxie** (Red Lion, Kings Heath); Sun 8th, **Les Barker** (Clarendon); Fri 13th, **Wizz Jones** (Woodman), Singers Night (The Market Tavern); Sat 14th, **Coelbeg** (Red Lion); Fri 20th, **Chris Wood & Andy Cutting** (Woodman), Singers Night (The Market Tavern); Sat 21st, **R. Cajun & The Zydeco Brothers** (Red Lion); Fri 27th **TBC** [Tel. 0384 273868] (Woodman), **George Faux** (The Market Tavern); Sat 28th, **Alan Taylor & Mike Silver** (Red Lion); Sun 29th, **Brian McNeil** (Clarendon).

# ARTHUR WOOD

## print out

### WHAT'S NEW IN PRINT • EDITED BY KEVIN WILSON

#### THE ROUGH GUIDES TO BRITANNY AND NORMANDY / PROVENCE / AMSTERDAM & THAILAND (Penguin)

OK so not many of us will be setting out for Thailand in the months to come, but the other destinations are bound to figure in our plans. Thus the relevant Rough Guide should be mandatory in the planning and back-pack. Why? Simply because they provide plain common sense guides to everywhere you're likely to tread; they take the hit and miss out of finding accommodation and places to eat whilst drawing your attention to facets of town and country that the holidaying eye might miss. At £7.99 a throw they more than pay for themselves.

**Sam Mitchell**

#### THE HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY

**Douglas Adams (Pan)**

Coinciding with the appearance of the fifth part of this famous trilogy, the first four thirds are bound together in one heavy ten quid paperback. Amazingly, despite the rigours of birth on Radio Four, a multi repeated TV series and sub-

sequent video release, the bathmat and Zaphod Beeblebrox soap on a rope, they've kept their sense of humour in tact.

In fact the only thing against the HHGTTG is that its revelation of the answer to life, the universe and everything apparently, in some small way influenced and spurred on Level 42.

**Sam Mitchell**

#### DOWN THUNDER ROAD / THE MAKING OF BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN

**Marc Eliot with Mike Appel (Plexus)**

This is the history of the Boss pre mega success, told from the perspective of a spurned manager. Mike Appel invested much in the fledgling Springsteen career all the way up to 'Born To Run'. At that point Bruce, disgruntled at his less than generous contract provisions fired him. Appel argues that his star was seduced by another, the star, naturally disagrees. And that is the thrust of the book. Except that it's a seemingly honest work with Appel not attempting to hide shortcomings and Springsteen coming over as rather naive in business affairs. In short, the story of rock'n'roll. An essential read.

**Steve Morris**

#### JAMES DEAN: AMERICAN ICON David Dalton & Ron Cayen (Sidgwick & Jackson)

Dean has of course transcended any consideration of his worth as an actor to become the representation of youth angst. The permapress teenage misfit who, by dint of early 'glamorous' death never failed the fans by blowing it by getting old. 'American Icon' examines such thoughts better than many other volumes in its text.

But it's in the picture content it beats all comers. I can't believe that a more comprehensive collection of Dean pics has ever been, or is likely to be, published. A definitive volume? Stands a good chance.

**Sam Mitchell**

#### BOY AND GOING SOLO / COLLECTED SHORT STORIES OF

**Roald Dahl (both Penguin)**

Dahl may be best known for kidstuff such as Willie Wonka but his grown up stories can be bleak foreboding affairs with brutal twists. The collection is a great value seven hundred plus pages of wit, wisdom and an odd imagination. 'Boy and Going Solo' puts two volumes of autobiography into one paperback and explains the genesis of that imagination. There's real life twists here too. Consider the fate of Dahl's public school headmaster who relished blood drawing beatings. He became an Archbishop of Canterbury!

**Sam Mitchell**

#### AMONG THE THUGS

**Bill Buford (Mandarin)**

This is the result of Bill Buford's time with the soccer hooligans of Britain as they travel around the UK and abroad in search of the drug they crave, mindless violence. Be prepared for the shocking language and the tales of physical abuse heaped upon innocent fellow human beings, as well as the gang warfare between people of like (sic) minds. I thought I could 'stomach' most of what Buford details, but even I felt sickened and totally repulsed by the incident where a skinhead called Harry sucked the eyeball out of a policeman's face and bit it off. Things can only get better, I hope.

**Kevin Wilson**

#### ROCK'N'ROLL COLLECTABLES

**Hilary Kay (Pyramid)**

Hilary Kay is The senior director of Sotheby's who initiated the auctioning of rock memorabilia. Thus her book is a visual feast of the cream of those very lots and more. It's a fascinating, if expensive at £25, volume, if only for the fact that it's puzzling to see so many things that you considered to be 'ordinary' staring at you from the pages. Concert tickets and programmes, club membership cards, badges and gig posters. The moral seems to be: keep everything. For certain, if these items were priced I'd be in the attic this very minute! Now where did I put that Bay City Rollers tour t-shirt ...

**Sam Mitchell**





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## IRIS DEMENT Infamous Angel (Philo / Topic)

The folk'n'country reference points and lay lines are legion. Close on twenty years back the late Gram Parsons' final album was called 'Grievous Angel'. A young Emmylou Harris duetted with Parsons throughout that recording. On 'Infamous Angel' she provides the harmony vocal on 'Mama's Opry'. Seems that Flora Mae DeMent, Iris' mom, once had dreams of singing at the old Ryman, where Emmylou cut her most recent solo album.

In Iris producer Jim Rooney has found a voice which at turns is reminiscent of Emmylou on those high country 'C's and Nanci Griffith when things get folksy.

There's a charming naiveté about DeMent's lyrics. Shades of happier days and simpler ways; 'When Love Was Young' and there was 'Sweet Forgiveness' in 'Our Town'. This album was recently awarded ten stars in CMP. I began to wonder if I had listened to the same album. For a debut it's a fine set but preferably without the off-key cataclysm which is 'Hotter Than Mojave In My Heart'.

Come to think of it, the Mojave is only a stone's throw from Joshua Tree where Gram Parsons drew his last breath. You know what, it's always been a circle.

Arthur Wood

## WAYNE SMITH Sleng Teng PRINCE JAMMY Computerised Dub (Greensleeves)

Another 2 for the price of 1 bargain package with Wayne Smith's innovatively catchy 'Under Mi Sleng Teng' resurfacing from a 1986 hibernation to inspire Prince Jammy to get all technical as a producer and hit the dub buttons for all they're worth on 'Computerised Dub' and hit the dancefloors with cuts such as '256k Ram', 'Interface' and '32 Bit Chip'.

Bargain of the year? Get it.

Kevin Wilson

## FLACO JIMINEZ Partners (Warner Brothers)

Partners in this instance means Stephen Stills, Dwight Yoakam, Linda Ronstadt, John Hiatt, Ry Cooder, Emmylou Harris and Los Lobos.

A sure fire recipe for the star to be overshadowed by the guests it would seem. Not so. For it's Flaco's spicy accordion that adds the flavour to all cuts, be they traditional or, as in the case of Stills, Cooder and Los Lobos, reworks of material associated with the guest performer.

A fine album indeed.  
Steve Morris

## JOHN MARTYN Couldn't Love You More (Permanent Records)

In which Martyn acknowledges a quarter century at the top of division two by revising his greatest, er, hits.

A recipe for disaster? A drying up of talent?

No way. Enlisting aid from The Floyd's Dave Gilmour, class drummer Gerry Conway, revered saxman Andy Sheppard and on bv's, everyone's Phil Collins, he's made a totally satisfying job of it. The languid feel given to most tracks, imbues the music with a mature sensuality that many aim for and miss. Check 'Sweet Little Mystery', 'Solid Air' and a great version of 'May You Never'.

Steve Morris

## CANNIBAL CORPSE Tomb of the Mutilated (Metal Blade)

Anyone who may be offended by such song titles as, 'I Cum Blood', 'Addicted To Vaginal Skin' or 'Entrails Ripped From A Virgin's C\*\*t' shouldn't worry unnecessarily, because Chris Barnes' vocals are treated in that tried and tested Death Metal fashion (i.e., in that they resemble a grosser version of the poor, wee possessed lass in the 'Exorcist'), so that they are completely unintelligible. How anyone could be offended by such ridiculous bedsit mind-meanderings anyway is beyond me. Now, I'll defend anyone's right to release any book, record, video, whatever, as long as it doesn't physically or mentally harm anybody else, but 'Tomb Of The Mutilated' is crap, utterly devoid of any power, groove or style.

Max-x

## REIN SANCTION Mariposa (Sub Pop)

One of the more unimaginative Sub Pop releases that seems to have the label's 'feel' in that a track like 'This Town' bears a surface resemblance to something The Smashing Pumpkins might do, but as soon as you turn your attention away from 'Terry And Julian' on T.V. and realise, 'Jesus! I left the goddamn record on!', and look deeper into Rein Sanction (I think the name MAY have been coined by an American friend of mine who called HIS band, Royalty In Exile...), you realise that there isn't much substance there at all. There is, however, a fine, drunken, stumbling-over-rocks-in-your-unlaced-para-boots reworking of Hendrix's 'Ain't No Tellin'', which could well be the highlight of their live set. This all may be a mite unfair, as I suspect better production would have helped, but all-in-all, a mighty uninspiring slab.

Max-x

## PANTERA Vulgar Display Of Power (Atco)

Now this, ah yes, this is worth getting out of bed for! A no-pulled punches, bloodied lip, let's - see - you - step - over - that - line - muthafukka, sonic boom of an album!

'Mouth For War' has to be single of the year and the ultimate mosh fave. I tell you, man, this would get me on some death trap of a dance floor! ME! Who won't step one foot on one unless it's for the Stooges, JB, Jane's Addiction or the Chili's! Loud and proud (apparently, the boys sent it to the Guinness Book of Records to see if it was the loudest platter ever made, but the category was dismissed as it was considered too dangerous!), but with moments of powerful melody, as in 'This Love'. But even this suddenly breaks out into a rip-roaring anthemic chant! That's real soul music for ya!

Crisp and hard. Give it plenty of room, volume and time to annoy the toupees off anyone within a mile radius.

Max-x

## STACY DEAN CAMPBELL Lonesome Wins Again (Columbia - Import)

With country once again sidelined as a novelty care of the redneck Chippendale, it's maybe no surprise that this remains unreleased in this neck of the woods.

Campbell plays country well rooted in the traditional but aware enough to use the skills of Judds' studio mastermind Brent Maher. The songs too, reflect that mix with Campbell's own, rubbing shoulders with material from Nashville hitman Don Schlitz and neo traditionalist Jamie O'Hara.

Mix in some snappy playing and a class voice (not to mention good looks, BRC fans) and you have a great album.

Now let the people hear it!

Steve Morris

## EXTREME Three Sides To Every Story (A&M)

Truly, Extreme are the monsters of modern rock and this is living proof as they assemble a collection of rock songs of magnificent riff'n'harmony proportions.

'Rest In Peace' is a classic song that only gets out manoeuvred by a sassy 'Colour Me Blind' before 'Seven Sundays' blasts in and overkills all that has gone before by mixing alive lyrics and catchy chorus in a sad song that is gloriously resonant.

Extreme may well be the 90's answer to Zeppelin meets Boston.  
Kevin Wilson

## SUZANNE VEGA 99.9F0 (A&M)

'Luka' apart, I've never been able to get to grips with Suzanne Vega. Her subject matter, melodies, performances and production always coming across as bloodless.

So imagine the surprise at having enjoyed an anonymous 'Blood Makes Noise' only to find out it was her. What's more I guess that a few Vega fans will be wrong footed by this two and a half minute, lyrically off the wall gem. After all, miss bedsit folkie sounds like prime time industrial Devo!

And it doesn't stop there, producer Mitchell Froom has added textures and hard edges to Vega's more pastoral soft centre throughout. Seemingly this approach has freed her to consider the material too; it is, in its own way rather intriguing. As always, wrong to condemn anyone on past performance. It pays to keep your ears open at all times.

Steve Morris

## THE CRICKETS-The Chirping Crickets BUDDY HOLLY-Buddy Holly (both Sequel)

Two more slices of the Holly legacy. Remastered from first generation masters and brought to you at budget prices.

These discs are not only vital to old rockers and nostalgists, but to collectors, rock historians and music anthropologists.

Listen without prejudice and this music could be now. Indeed a band coming along in '92 that sounded like this with this quality of material, would have music writers looking for a star in the east. Despite original release dates of 1957 and 1958, the two dozen tracks on display here remain fresher than tomorrow, reinforcing once more my beliefs that modern music started with Buddy Holly and that great music has no 'sell by' or 'best before' date.

Steve Morris

## VARIOUS Stiffs Live Stiffs (Mau Mau)

An audio verite of perhaps the best rock package of all. The '77 Stiff Tour with Ian Dury, Wreckless Eric, Nick Lowe and more. Great booze soaked dance party stuff. A nod to an era when sophistication in pop meant drinking from a glass!

Ah! Memories of Leeds Uni ... and the continuing question of what exactly Nick Lowe and Dave Edmunds were doing in that cupboard muttering Stella to one another.

The album? It's essential for Costello's 'I Just Don't Know What To Do With Myself'.  
Steve Morris

## TISH HINOJOSA Taos To Tennessee (Munich-Network/Topic)

The genesis of this set is something that our man Arthur Wood can supply in a plain brown envelope. Suffice to say that in essence it's a US cassette release from '87 made CD and given UK release in '92.

Hinojosa may be unknown here but that shouldn't last long. She's a singer songwriter firmly plugged into her Spanish-American roots tho' for this set it's the latter heritage she concentrates on with tunes from her own pen and those of Peter Rowan, James McMurtry and Irving Berlin. There's also a touching version of 'Cowboy' C. Scott Boyer's 'Please Be With Me', a song better known in the Eric Clapton version.

Tish's interpretations of both her own and others material is delightful, demonstrating both her skills as a musician and her ability to evoke atmosphere. If you are smitten with the Nanci Griffith / Mary Black school of music, search this one out. You'll soon be on the track of her other four albums.

Steve Morris

## JETHRO TULL A Little Night Music (Chrysalis)

Seventeen Tull treasures reinterpreted, live on tour across Europe in the summer of '92. And good they are too. Ian Anderson may lack whatever cred it is that he's supposed to have, but the Wolverhampton show earlier this year was a cracker and the bulging walls of the Civic Hall suggest that Tull, i.e. Anderson, still has a course to run.

Incidentally, if you want to hear a truly great rhythm team, listen here to Fairport Convention's Daves Pegg and Mattacks. Faultless.

Steve Morris

## THE GOLDEN PALOMINOS A History Vol. 1 & Vol. 2 (Mau Mau)

The Palominos seemingly exist to allow the only two 'members' Anton Fier and Bill Laswell to indulge in musical day trips with all manner of friends and acquaintances. Such an approach means that these two discs run the gamut from on the edge jazz fusion, to left field country, to charming pop. No real surprise when a glance at the guest list reveals the scattered presences of John Zorn, Michael Stipe, Richard Thompson, Jack Bruce, Syd Straw, Matthew Sweet, T-Bone Burnett, Sneaky Pete Kleinow and more.

Are you brave enough to take this musical trip?  
Steve Morris