

## Brilliant Piece of work Difford and Tilbrook reviewed

By WILFRED LANGMAID

Difford and Tilbrook - Difford and Tilbrook

Squeeze's existence ended last year with their break-up. They were never a big commercial success, but the songwriting tandem of lyricist Chris Difford and music writer Glenn Tilbrook, the core of the group, got widespread critical acclaim for their creative brilliance during the group's existence. This self-titled album is the first for Difford and Tilbrook outside of the Squeeze framework.

What made Squeeze so memorable is here in abundance on this album of ten finely-crafted numbers which are pop in its true art form. Difford's lyrics are biting, witty, superb imagery-laden, and always insightful. Tilbrook's melodies, meanwhile, certainly make it easy to recognize the participants upon a first listen. However, they have been filled out to some extent compared with some of Squeeze's songs of the past. That notwithstanding, Tilbrook thankfully does not stray into that never-never land of layers of filler. No, indeed; everything is premeditated in the melodies. The fact that

everything is here for a reason, lyrically and instrumentally, is in itself a trademark of the work of these two musicians.

The performances are certainly delightful. Tilbrook's impish tenor voice is at its best, while the instrumental supporting cast is indeed impressive, particularly basist Keith Wilkinson and keyboardist Guy Fletcher who alternates on the ivories with Tilbrook. Guitars are handled very capably by Difford and Tilbrook. As well, string arrangements and, on one occasion a brass arrangement, are just what the doctor ordered.

A big addition to the sound on this album is background vocals. The voice of Debbie Bishop fuses optimally with Tilbrook's. Difford's bassy drone is inserted occasionally enough to be effective.

This British duo shows that they can be funky in the engaging album opener "Action Speaks Faster", but they are without peer at thinking man's pop. Difford addresses in a mature and tasteful manner various personal and interpersonal problems. He is at his best in the dandy "Hope Fell Down", where he has Tilbrook sing of the character

"You're banging your drum/You blow your own trumpet/Your ship came in/and your fanfare sunk it". The poor chap succinctly has things summed up later in the number with "I had my hopes so high/they fell right down". Still Difford characters generally do not throw in the towel. "Picking Up the Pieces" tells the tale of a man whose love has shattered, but he still is saying "(I'm) picking up the pieces" with the positive thought "Maybe they'll fit some day". Similarly, the male character in "Man For All Seasons" is keeping his chin up even though he is unemployed and his wife is now the breadwinner. In fact, he says "All the while I'm learning for/Now I'm no longer earning dear". Typically, this character is making the best of things.

There is nothing optimistic, however, about the chilling album closer "The Apple Tree", where Difford brilliantly writes about the "day after". His post-nuclear halocaust images are simple, yet profound.

This album will not yield a hit single, though any one of "Love's Crashing Waves", "Picking Up The Pieces" or "Hope Fell Down" could very possibly make it commercially.

That is not Difford and Tilbrook's ball game. The album, however, is a brilliant piece of work by these two always-excellent songwriters. As well, it is musically presented in a fashion arguably superior to that of the Squeeze years.

### Woodshed

This weekend promises to be an eventful one, with the debut of two talented performers. Tonight and Sunday, the Woodshed features Gary Landry, a well known folk-rock performer from Halifax. On Saturday, September 29, David Wilson, the effervescent St. Thomas History Professor, will make his first appearance at the Woodshed. As a past member of such notable teams as the "Helsinki Folk Group" and the ever popular "Nearly Famous Folk Group", David's mixture of blues, Celtic and comedy songs guarantees an entertaining evening for all.

October 3rd will mark the return of Open Stage Night. Any musicians, poets or actors who are interested in performing can do so by showing up every second Wednesday, starting this week.

The Woodshed is located in the basement of the Student Union Building, and is open Friday and Saturday nights from 9:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. and Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday nights from 8:00 p.m. to 12:00 midnight.

# upcoming

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

UNB Scuba Club is showing a film "The Wreckhunters" in Room A116, S.M.A. Gym at 8:00 p.m.

Scottish country dancing: beginners class at 7:30 p.m. in Memorial hall. The experienced dancers join the group at 8:30.

UNB Film Society will present "My Brilliant Career" at 8:00 p.m. in Tilley Rm. 102. Admission is \$2. Season passes will be on sale at the door. All proceeds from this film will go to the conference of Women's Issues.

"Ready" for Education: 1st pub of the year. 3:30 - 6:30 in the Marshall D'Avary Cafeteria. Cover Charge \$1.00, emblems to be sold at the door. All welcome.

Print loan in the Art Centre, Mem. Hall. Framed reproduction being loaned free, one per student with UNB ID card from 10-5 p.m.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

Fredericton Folk Collective revives with an evening of original folk music featuring Jon Soderman, Gary Landry, and Tom McAvity. Memorial Hall at 8:30 p.m.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 1

Red Cross Blood Donor Clinic, Lord Beaverbrook Hotel - 1 - 4:30 pm., 6 - 8 p.m.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 2

A bible study on the Topic "A Woman's Workshop on Forgiveness" will be held in the 1st floor lounge of Tibbett's at 1:30 p.m.

UNB Camera Club will be holding its first meeting of year at 7:00 p.m. in Room 26 of the SUB.

The Atair Users of Fredericton will be holding their first meeting of the year in Room 204 of Kearstead hall at 7:30 p.m. New members welcome.

The Fredericton YM-YWCA is presenting their annual fashion show, "Abrams Collection '84" at 8:00 p.m. at the Playhouse, tickets \$6.00.

Red Cross Blood Donor Clinic, Lord Beaverbrook Hotel - 1 - 4:30 p.m., 5 - 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 3

The UNB Scuba Club will have a general meeting at 7:30 in room A116 SMA Gym. The Halifax dive triop will be discussed. All certified divers are welcome.

"Eritage", folk-singing ensemble from Montreal performing the old and new music of Quebec, sponsored by UNB/STU Creative Arts. At the Playhouse, 8:00 p.m. Student admission is \$4 or by subscription.

Red Cross Blood Donor Clinic, French Culture Centre, Priestman Priestman St., 12:30 - 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4

A bible study of the topic "A Woman's Workshop on Forgiveness" will be held in the 2nd floor lounge of McLeod House at 1:30 p.m.

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SUB RM 35

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TOP 30

SEPTEMBER 18, 1984

Compiled By CURTIS BAXTER

- \* Men Without Hats--Folk of The 80's--(2)
- \* Deja Voodoo--Cemetery--(1)
- \* Spoons--Tell No Lies--(3)
- \* Screaming Bamboo--World of Tomorrow--(5)
- Julian Cope--World Shut Your Mouth--(4)
- Depeche Mode--People are People--(7)
- Psychedelic Furs--Mirror Moves--(6)
- Fadgadget--Gag--(16)
- \* Durango 95--Lose Control--(10)
- Mike Oldfield--To France--(15)
- \* Moev--Toulyev--(8)
- \* Bruce Cockburn--Stealing Fire--(9)
- \* Box--The Box--(11)
- \* Teenage Head--Endless Party--(14)
- Roger Taylor--Strong Frontier--(22)
- Neil--Hole in My Shoe (7'')--(26)
- \* Tenants--Visions of Our Future--(18)
- Talking Heads--Stop Making Sense--(New)
- U2--Pride (7'')--(New)
- Flock of Seagulls--Story Of a Young Heart--(21)
- Ultravox--Lament--(17)
- \* Design--Design (EP)--(New)
- Church--Remote Luxury--(New)
- \* Wilfred N and The Grown Men--Riding Double--(25)
- Sacred Cowboys--Sacred Cowboys--(29)
- INXS--The Swing--(23)
- Gun Club--Las Vegas Story--(28)
- La Danza--La Danza--(New)
- Vicious Pink--Vicious Pink (EP)--(New)
- \* Nuclear Eskimo Painting Squad--Freedoms Feast--(New)

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