



British pop whiz, the man behind "Tainted Love," is back with a less synthesized album. He's also perhaps the only artist with enough good taste to cover two Peter Hamill songs.

Almond: Intelligent pop

Marc Almond
The Stars We Are
Some Bizarre/Capitol

by Greg Pohl

Marc Almond was the singing half of Soft Cell, a British pop duo whose talents ran much further than "Tainted Love," their only North American hit. Like Yello, they proved that synth music could be done with feeling.

This album isn't as experimental and synthesized as Soft Cell, but it has the same basic feeling. I'm not sure how to describe it, except to say that everything flows smoothly. This is the perfect backdrop for Almond's lyrics, which tend to be about examining one's life in a melancholy sort of way. In "These My Dreams Are Yours," for example, he looks back on his life and says:

"And if one day I don't wake up
Remember I was good upon reflection.
And if they say I was a fool
Be cool but demand correction."

Not the deepest lyrics imaginable, but certainly better than much of the "boy meets girl" pap out there. Like the instrumentation, none of the lyrics jump out

to the forefront, since everything blends together so well.

Highlights on the LP are the title track, "The Sensualist," and "Something's Gotten Hold of My Heart." Other songs of note are a duet with Nico called "Your Kisses Burn," and "Tears Run Rings"; a song getting some dance club play. Overall, a fine collection of seamless, intelligent pop songs. Perfect music to relax to on these cold winter nights.

Don't Let the Fruit Rot on the Tree
Various Artists
9-B South Records

by Rodney Gitzel

From the sounds of this record, the sixties have not been lost on Edmonton bands! Very few of the tracks on this recent compilation do not owe some debt to early Who, or to psychedelia, or to — literally, in some cases — Spiderman music (does anyone else still watch that show?), or to who knows what else. Perhaps it suffices to note that there seem to be quite a few Farfisa organs kicking about town.

The bands included on the album belong to the more obscure side of the local alternative scene, and there isn't a synth band in the lot of them. Cadillac of Worms is probably the most known of the ten bands, but also familiar are Big Inc., the J. Jonah Jamesons, Kentucky Church Bus (KCB), Rex Morgan, B.C., and Colour Nine. Personally, I'd never heard of She Said... She Said, Love Things, Foes of Respiration, or The Hunted Mind, but they're all here, too.

There are fifteen songs in total, and most of them are very good, which is not something one usually expects from a compilation. Personal faves are tunes from the Cadillac of Worms, Big Inc., the Foes of Respiration (who are more to the thrashy side of things), and, of course, "Jack Lord is Cool," from Rex Morgan B.C. The contributions from The Hunted Mind and Colour Nine, along with KCB's "Summer's Over", are the yawners of the

record, but everything else ranges from not bad to pretty good. KCB make up for their dog with "Evil Angela" (love that title!), while Love Things deliver the great line, "The best thing about love, you know, is that I get to wear all of your clothes." And nobody will want to miss (guess whose) "Parker! Get in Here!!"

Siouxsie's E

Siouxsie and the Banshees
Peepshow
Polydor

by Greg Pohl

"Two-Tone Steve was on a bass he picked up for the first time the night before. Sid Vicious was on drums.

He had one rehearsal. A mature gent called Marco was guitarist... Against this corrugation of sound, Siouxsie, with the grace of a redeemed ghoul, rifles the senses with an unnerving, screeching recitative of The Lord's Prayer..."

- from a Melody Maker review of the Banshees debut performance in 1976.

It's hard to believe that Siouxsie and the Banshees have been with us for over 12 years now. *Peepshow* is the band's 11th album since that primeval beginning in London. Everything on this album is unmistakably Siouxsie, but the songs cover many different styles. From the cutup collage of "Peek-A-Boo," to the slow and wierd "Carousel," to the harmonica on "Burn Up," there's a lot of

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