

Dance your fears away

# Simple Minds is highly listenable

**Simple Minds**  
*Once Upon a Time*  
Virgin

review by Hans Beckers

Trundle, trundle, trundle. Over dale and under bridge I go — an anthropologist's work is never done. It's been 15 years (since 2862 AD) that I've been searching for the last great lost tribe remaining on this global ping-pong ball of ours. Trundle, trundle, trundle, over a big rock I climb. . . Suddenly, I hear a sound — The sound of music! I redirect my footsteps towards it. Being a specialist in late 20th century popular music I realize it's not by one of the masters of that era (Eno, Morrison, or Davies). It is, however, highly recognizable. My curiosity aroused, my intellectual trot becomes an all out gallop — my mind is racing. . . Who can this be? Frantically I run in the general direction of the music, and finally, huffing and puffing, I reach a cave — The music's point of origin!

I grab my laser-flashlight, turn it on and enter cautiously. The ground beneath me is slippery, above me hang clusters of glow-in-the-dark bats; a product of a past generation's foolishness. Throughout, the music blares and becomes louder, and louder, and louder, until . . . I strike something with my foot! Oh my gosh! At the base of my exceptionally well built and evenly tanned body lies a now long obsolete compact DISC player (complete with equalizer and depth button!). With my curiosity bubbling like champagne from its bottle, I reach inside the player to see what's playing. . . The Simple Minds', 19. . . 84. . . No, it must have been 1985, yes, their late 1985 *Once Upon a Time* Now it all comes back to me. In 1982, The Simple Minds released an extraordinary album entitled *New Gold Dream*. In 1983, they unleashed the critically acclaimed *Sparkle In The Rain*, and after a smash hit ("Don't You. . .") in the summer of 1985, they released this little gem.

I put the laser DISC back in its player, find a spot to sit, turn off my laser-flashlight and listen in the dark. Jim Kerr's voice, as always, is glorious — every word he sings is enveloped with sincerity, urging you to sing along with him. Kerr's adrenaline packed voice

combined with intense piano and keyboard structures, imaginative drum stylings, and powerful guitar work make the album highly listenable and certainly, memorable. If I recall, at least, three or four songs ("Alive and Kicking", "Come a long way" and "Once Upon a Time", come to mind) received deserved airplay on the. . . Oh, what did they call those things? Oh, yes. . . The radio! Lyrically, the Minds repeatedly turn to religion as in "Sanctify Yourself" where Kerr sings, "Well I hope and I pray/That maybe someday/You'll come back down here/and show

me the way." — goodness knows that in those troubled times they must have needed something to believe in.

And I think of the politics of that era; the two world wars, the endless revolutions, the two superpowers, the Middle East, and I think of. . . How it must have been horrible! I can just imagine people dancing their fears away while listening to this album. If only Reagan and Gorbachev had listened when the Simple Minds sang, "Sweet hours to live, not time to kill". . . If only! What a shame. . . What an album!

The last song comes to an end, as does my daydreaming. My musical curiosity appeased, more urgent thoughts arise — who put this compact DISC player here? And who turned it on before I came? I click on my laser-flashlight and continue further into the cave; having rediscovered one great lost treasure and hoping to find what I had originally set out to find; the last great lost tribe remaining on this global ping-pong ball of ours. The search continues. . .

A more hit-than-miss comedy album

# Billy Crystal is simply Mahvelous

**Billy Crystal**  
*Mahvelous!*  
A&M Records

review by Mike Evans

Billy Crystal has struggled for a long time to get to where he is today. He gained some fame and notoriety several years ago for his portrayal of a homosexual father on the "first prime time soap", *Soap*. But when that series was cancelled, so too it seemed was Crystal's career. That is, of course, until his debut on *Saturday Night Live*.

His impersonations of famous characters in the soup of popular culture have made him one of the hottest new comedians on the block. In particular, his Fernando character is responsible for thrusting Crystal into the limelight, and the appropriation of "You look mah-velous" into common usage has assured Crystal's reputation for at least one year (the masses are fickle).

However, Crystal has taken advantage of the public adoration currently afforded him and cut a comedy album called, naturally enough, *Mahvelous!*. It contains routines starring the characters that Crystal has made famous through *SNL*: Fernando, Sammy Davis Jr., Face, Howard Cosell.

It opens with a rap version of the exchange that is all the vogue on *SNL* between Crystal and Christopher Guest as the two masochistic, semi-moronic delivery boys, Willie and



Billy Crystal

Frankie, discussing some of the most imaginative methods of self-immolation known to man. And it's funny.

That is followed by a recording of Crystal live at The Bottom Line and contains some genuinely funny, innovative bits on adolescence. In particular, Crystal makes fun of his own adolescence when his, well, his uh, sexual appendage seemed to have a "mind of its own". Though the subject matter would

suggest this routine is toilet humour, it is successful without being vulgar.

The same cannot be said about the bit immediately preceding "A Mind of its Own" which deals with Crystal's deaf grandfather's inability to recognize or control his flatulence. This piece is simply stupid.

Side two contains a wonderful parody of Sammy Davis Jr. doing the 'We Are the World' routine for the benefit of starving Africa. It is inventive, frequently subtle and sometimes simply bang-over-the-head-with-a-two-by-four funny.

There is also a short routine on side two, performed by Buddy Young, Jr., which is a pleasant surprise. The Buddy Young character on *SNL* has been, for the most part, abrasive, obnoxious and very unfunny. That is part of the Buddy Young character, Crystal's bad small-time club comic, but on the album he becomes an endearingly bad comic, and therefore much more sympathetic and funnier.

Of course, Crystal has included a Face monologue, his tribute to the jazz musicians of his childhood. This piece is not really comedy, but it still belongs on the album.

*Mahvelous!* is a more-hit-than-miss comedy album. Though the shelf life of any comedy record is short, if you collect them this is a worthwhile purchase.

Oh yes. The short-lived AM radio dinky-hit "You Look Marvelous" is enclosed.

## Student Ombudsman Service

NEED HELP?  
Consult the Ombudsman. . .

- If you require information or assistance in appealing a grade, an academic decision, or an admission decision, etc.
- If you feel that you have been unfairly or inequitably treated by a University or Students' Union employee.
- If you consider yourself the victim of discrimination or unfair treatment based on race, national or ethnic origin, color, religion, sex, mental or physical disability or political ideology.
- If you are unsure about which University policies, procedures or regulations apply to your situation.
- If you want advice on any other University related matter.

ROOM 272, SUB  
432-4689 (24 hrs.)

Paul Alpern  
Office hours  
M.W.F. 9-10  
T.R. 10-2

J. Shah Pemberton  
Office hours  
M.T.F. 1-2:30  
W. 5-6  
R. 12-1:30

If you are unable to meet during these hours  
leave a message to set-up a convenient time.

## sub theatre

Information Line: 432-4764  
S.U. BASS Box Office: 432-5145  
OPEN Weekdays  
11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

THE VANCOUVER



PRODUCTION OF  
Shakespeare's  
TWELFTH  
NIGHT  
or, What You Will

Thursday, November 21  
8:00 p.m. SUB Theatre

### UPCOMING S.U. PRESENTATIONS

LA LA LA HUMAN STEPS January 23 & 24, 1986

TH PHILIP GLASS ENSEMBLE Jubilee Auditorium, April 23.

Presented by The U of A Students' Union

Tickets for all shows are at all BASS outlets.

Charge-by-phone: 451-8000

co-sponsored by Alberta