

Best from Britain in last five years

T. Rex climbs from obscurity to top

By STEVEN DAVEY

"A roar grew in the wrestling room of daybreak. Blackhat tittered with prideful delight. Mine he moaned, the melting water scurried down the appropriate channels. And now where once stood water stood the reptile king, Tyrannosaurus Rex reborn and bopping."
— Marc Bolan, Lupus Music.

Marc Bolan is five feet tall, has shoulder-length hair in appropriate curls, wears only yellow and burgundy silk clothes and matching lime green little-girl shoes. Unlike Jagger and Stewart and Cooper who appeal primarily to males, Bolan is a mystical, innocent-sophisticate who appeals to both males and females. Besides selling more records than anyone else last year, he is also Britain's best-selling poet (his only book is called *The Warlock of Love* and is unavailable in North America). Sort of a cosmic Dylan!



Marc Bolan of Tyrannosaurus Rex.

A year ago Tyrannosaurus Rex was an obscure, cultist, folk duo singing equally obscure songs of warlocks and magic and elves. And now, twelve months later, they are the most successful band to come from Britain in the past five years. Still unknown in North America, they are about to ravage the young mind.

Now, with their name shorted to T. Rex and plugged into 220 volts, Marc Bolan and company have exploded. Their popularity grows. They have had four number one hits on the Continent, three number one selling albums, two sell-out tours of Britain, and in Marc Bolan have produced the next super-star.

T. Rex differs greatly from such teen and pre-teen appealing groups as the Osmonds and the Partridge Family, in that they are good! Long a favorite of the underground, they have altered their direction with the addition of volume. And now millions of girls scream and the mums and dads think they are nice lads.

It points right back to the 1964 Beatle days! Paul McCartney and John Lennon both have said in interviews that T. Rex have already taken over from the Beatles. As was most important with the early Beatles and Stones is the necessity of an image.

Coupled with this incredible image is some of the best music being laid down today. Their first electric album "Beard of Stars" (Polydor BTS 18) is a pastiche of psychedelic production and Troggs-like simplicity. Very heady. Their first album in the T. Rex rocker vein is T. Rex (Reprise RS 6440) and is a trip through Tolkien imagery and the music of 1958. It includes their first hit "Ride A White Swan".

Their newest and best album to date is *Electric Warrior* (Reprise RS 6446). Bolan is backed by partner Mickie Finn and various Mothers and King Crimson members. At all times their music is danceable, catchy, original, and sexual. What else could you ask for?

But why haven't I heard of them?

The FM doesn't understand what they are about, and the AM thinks they are too strange. T. Rex are the opposite, though. No group since the Beatles has had such potential to combine the expansion of rock with an ever-widening audience. Nothing can hold Marc Bolan and T. Rex from taking the seventies, like Elvis the fifties, and the Beatles the sixties. They're right up there already. In six months I can say I told you so.

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