

# Record Reviews

**Pere Ubu**  
*The Tenement Year*  
Enigma

by Mike Spindloe

Somehow I missed out on Pere Ubu in their earlier incarnation from the late '70's/early '80's, so I can't draw the usual comparisons one makes when reviewing new material by a band that has been around for awhile. *The Tenement Year* is Pere Ubu's first release of new material in six years, an unusually long gap. After hearing *The Tenement Year*, however, I can only hope that the earlier material is half as good.

The line-up of musicians has remained fairly stable, with the core of Scott Krause, Tony Maimone, Allen Ravenstine and David Thomas present. John Kirkpatrick adds some melodeon and Jim Jones has joined on guitar, but the most important addition is that of seminal art-rock wizard Chris Cutler on percussion and "noises".

Right from the start Cutler's presence is strong. Unusual percussive sounds fill out

Pere Ubu's already busy melodic industrial funk sound. The result is a potent mix somewhat reminiscent of the best of Talking Heads crossed with The Clash. And that's just the first track.

Eventually it becomes apparent, however, that these similarities are merely on the surface. Besides Cutler's contributions, Pere Ubu has a distinctive vocalist in David Thomas, who sings in a somehow engagingly syrupy yelp:

What really brings it all together, though, is the groove. It's there in every song, sometimes cloaked in melody, sometimes sitting starkly alone. And no wonder, with two drummers and a bassist in the band; half the ensemble is essentially a powerhouse rhythm section. This all goes to make *The Tenement Year* an eminently danceable album, in an eclectic sort of way, and without an electronic handclap in sight.

In fact, there's hardly a weak track among the 11 on this album. After half a dozen listens, it continues to grow on me rapidly. One of the best albums of the year, for sure, but not for the faint of heart.

**Jimmy Page**  
*Outrider*  
Geffen Records

by Kevin Law

Once upon a time, there was a young guitarist who was considered one of the best of his generation, along with a couple of his peers like Eric Clapton and Jeff Beck.

From the heady days of his apprenticeship with John Mayall's Blues Breakers, he went on to front a monstrous dinosaur heavy rock band, mixing his blues roots with a grinding, swaggering heavy metal sound that became legendary and influenced many.

The man is of course Jimmy Page. The band, Led Zeppelin.

Led Zep was admittedly responsible for many classic tunes of the 70's. But for this reviewer at least, the Zeppelin sound developed by Page often became heavy-handed, grating, and sometimes just plain monotonous, so it was with caution I approached Page's new solo release, *Outrider*.

Sure enough, side one is a heavy-handed, grating, and sometimes monotonous mix of post-Zeppelin sounds. Worse

though, is the fact that they all lack a melodic hook that, thanks to Robert Plant, was often present in Led Zep tunes. But even Robert Plant's co-writing and vocals on a song called "The Only One" cannot raise the level of excitement of side one beyond tedium. Ditto for John Miles' vocals on the remaining cuts, which never rise above high-pitched screaming.

What a disappointment, I thought. But wait. What about side two? Play it I did and I couldn't believe it was the same album. This is heart-felt, chunky blues worthy of Page's long-abandoned roots. Here, Page plays such songs as Leon Russell's "Hummingbird" with depth and control, never swaggering or lapsing into self-indulgence. Chris Farlow's vocals are deep and resonating; complementing Page perfectly to highlight the blues style, a genre that depends so much on feeling to be interpreted properly.

Equally superb is "Prison Blues", written by Page and Farlow. Here, Page demonstrates the real reason he has been considered part of the pantheon of rock guitarists as he stretches, slides, and glides his way across the fretboard with the vitality of emotion that comes from understanding the blues.

Add to this Farlow's booming, emotive voice rolling a mean stutter across the



words "I've been a bad boy baby" and you have pure blues excitement.

"Emerald Eyes", a melancholy instrumental, has Zeppelin overtones that are not excessive but actually listenable, and "Blues Anthem" is just that; an anthem — like showcase for Chris Farlow's vocals

that is somewhat burdened with a swelling symphony background, but enjoyable nonetheless.

*Outrider*, then, presents the two sides of Jimmy Page the guitarist, both rocker and bluesman, and for my money, the "roots" Jimmy Page is infinitely more interesting.

## FM 88

CJSR FM Cable 104.7

CJSR-FM Playlist #576 For The Week Ending September 7, 1988

TW	LW	WO	ARTIST	ALBUM	LABEL/DIST/ORIGIN
1	3	2	Color Me Psycho	Pretend I'm Your Father	Raging Records/CC
2	2	4	Colin James	Self Titled	Virgin/A&M
3	1	5	Nits	In The Dutch Mountain	EPIC/CBS
4	-	1	Michael Doucet & Cajun Brew	Self Titled	Aural/Tradition/Rounder/US
5	9	4	James	Strip Mine	Sire/WEA
6	10	2	Dwight Yoakam	Buenos Noches...	Reprise/WEA
7	-	1	Hunters & Collectors	Fate	IRS/MCA
8	29	2	Eric B. & Rakim	Follow the Leader	UNI/MCA
9	5	3	Pig Farm	Hold Your Nose	X/CC
10	-	2	Various Artists	Married to the Mob (OST)	Reprise/WEA
11	-	1	Clive Gregson	Christine Collister Mischief	Special Delivery/P&C Topic
12	1	1	Northern Pikes	Secrets of the Alibi	Virgin/A&M
13	-	1	Modern Jazz Quartet	For Ellington East West	WEA
14	4	2	Men They Couldn't Hang	Waiting For Bonaparte	Magnet/WEA
15	7	2	Hugo Largo	Drum	Opal/WEA
16	6	3	Joan Armatrading	The Shouting Stage	A&M
17	8	3	Moev	Yeah, Whatever	Nettwerk/Capitol/CC
18	-	1	Schoolly D	Smoke Some Kill	Jive/BMG
19	14	4	Paladins	Years Since Yesterday	Alligator/WEA
20	-	1	E.Q. Zak	Premonition of Reality	Zak Music/Ind/US
21	-	1	Rudiger Lorenz	Morning of the World	Suncord/Eurock/US
22	30	2	Defunkt	In America	Antilles/New Directions/WEA
23	11	3	Tinsley Ellis	Georgia Blue	Alligator/WEA
24	-	1	Harold Budd	The White Arcades	Opal/WEA
25	22	4	D.R.I.	Four Of A Kind	Enigma/Metal Blade/ Capitol
26	-	1	Sam Phillips	The Indescribable Wow	Virgin/A&M
27	21	2	Kenny Neal	Big News From Baton Rouge	Alligator/WEA
28	28	2	Ray Griff & Friends	Honest To Goodness Amigos	WEA/CC
29	12	7	Psyche	Mystery Hotel	Amok/CC
30	18	5	Pere UBU	The Tenement Year	Enigma/Capitol

### SINGLE/EP

1	-	1	Morrissey	Suedehead (EP)	Sire/Reprise/WEA
2	1	3	Scruffy The Cat	Boom Boom Boom Bingo (EP)	Relativity/WEA
3	3	2	Shriekback	Get Down Tonight (12" single)	Island/MCA
4	5	2	Bastro	Rode Hard & Put Up Wet (12")	Homestead/Dutch East India
5	9	2	Raheem	Dance Floor (12")	Rapalot/A&M
6	-	1	Varoshi Fame	Self Titled (Tape EP)	Independent
7	-	-	Victory	Commissar In Charge	Pollution Control
8	-	1	John Newlands	Rain (Tape EP)	Independent/CC
9	2	4	Talking Heads	Blind/Bill (12")	Fly/Sire/WEA
10	4	6	Adrenalin O.D.	Theme From An Imaginary Midget Western	Buy Our Records/US

CC Canadian Content  
- New Entry/Re-Entry  
Compiled by Music Director Ian McGillis

