

Special mix of punk and reggae

Record review by David Marples

The new album by a British group, The Specials, has been released after two years in the making. It was finally cut due to the efforts of its organist Jerry Dammers, who has almost single-handedly engineered the success of the group in the British Isles after several rejections from record companies.

The Specials combine punk with reggae in irresistible fashion. The lead singers are both black and many of the songs owe more to the influence of the West Indies than to the new wave syndrome. Ten of the fifteen songs have been written by Dammers, an art graduate who was born in India.

The first side begins with "A Message to you Rudy", a song more notable for the horn playing of Rico Rodriguez and Dick Cuthell than for its lyrics. The tempo is accelerated for "Do the Dog", a brief ode to urban violence, after which the reggae beat is maintained for the remainder of the side.

On the second side, the songs are diversified. "(Dawning of a) New Era" returns to the rock and roll style of the late fifties. "Blank Expression" is benevolently cynical and "Stupid Marriage" concerns a divorce case, set in a court-room, presided over by Judge George Roughneck, a veritable paragon of evil and tyranny. Dammers' "Too Much Too Young" is a more wistful story of a young mother:

*You've done too much, much too young,
Now you're married with a kid,
When you should be having fun
With me.*

"Gangsters" is the highlight of the album. Initially, it was brought out as a single and it epitomizes the unique Specials' sound; a hard, driving beat, dexterous guitar playing by Roddy Radiation, and organ backing by Dammers. The second side ends with a more restrained and pleasant reggae tune

Giving women Gere's

Movie review by Marni Stanley

Richard Gere plays a whore with a heart in *American Gigolo*, Paramount's latest release.

Gere is Julian Kaye, a young man who has refined and educated himself into a very marketable commodity. He does his body building exercises while learning foreign languages (the better to pick up foreign ladies) and dresses in just the right combination of Giorgio Armani suits and Roots shoes. He knows antiques and has acquired a nice collection of art and ceramic pieces for his own apartment — "gifts" for services rendered we are to assume. He even has scruples; he prefers not to do "kink and fag" tricks.

As a gigolo he plays whatever role he decides his client likes but always with a slightly petulant thrust to the lower lip and a decidedly pelvic walk. He seems to have adopted a rather peculiar, almost missionary-like, attitude towards his profession, explaining at one point that he felt a sense of accomplishment after spending three hours bringing a woman to orgasm. Apparently the pleasure of knowing that he takes the time and does it right (his sentiments, not mine) is about the only pleasure he gets. At least, until Michelle Stratton arrives on the scene.

Michelle (Lauron Hutton) is the beautiful and unhappy wife (is there any other kind in Hollywood) of a California politician who looks like a long lost member of the Kennedy clan. She seeks out Kaye and the rest is the stuff movie scripts are made of — or at least could be. Writer-director Paul Schrader (writer of *Taxi Driver*) has decided to busy this one up by having Kaye framed for the murder of a client.

The addition of the second plot only distracts from our interest in the two main characters. We end up finding out about the murder but not about Kaye's

Getting ready for dance motif

Orchesis, the U of A Creative Dance Club, whose name is derived from the Greek "orchesthai" meaning "to dance", will present its annual Dance Motif performance next week from 14 to the 16 SUB Theatre.

The group has over forty members, both men and women, representing almost all the faculties at the University. Some arrive at Orchesis with no previous dance training, others with several years experience, mostly in ballet. Basically, Orchesis welcomes any student interested in a cooperative effort at performing modern dance.

Under the direction of Dorothy Harris, the group presents a performance each year consisting of pieces choreographed by instructors who improvise in collaboration with the students participating in the dance. Most of the group's work can be classified as modern dance with elements of ballet, jazz and character added according to the taste of the choreographer.

Most of the members dance in more than one piece. Non-dancers contribute by making costumes or by arranging light and sound for the performances. Very different kinds of music and sound effects are used to accompany the variety of dances.

THE SPECIALS



"You're Wondering Now":

*You're wondering now,
What to do,
Now you know this is the end.*

In listening to the Specials, one recognizes that the group has no profound message to offer. The anger of the punk era is left behind, yet, on the other hand, the group shies away from the exposure craved by the Boomtown Rats. Instead, the album portrays seven witty and irreverent youngsters who play for sheer enjoyment. The songs, produced under the direction of Elvis Costello are fundamentally dance tunes, played with exuberance and style. In itself, this is refreshing.

personal dilemma and that surely makes us his first dissatisfied customers.

The script itself is given to cliches like "I'm not what I used to be" that Gere attempts to throw away in the hope of our not noticing them. It does not work. Hutton, although she appears somewhat better on screen than her model-actress predecessors like Adams, Shepherd and Fawcett, is not given much to work with either. The result is a rather stiff performance with lots of chic.

Another irritating feature of this film is its sophomoric images. There are a few too many shots of Gere at the wheel of his Mercedes driving long stretches of road (seeking something perhaps?). In one of his most violent moments, he man-handles the young aid Mr. Stratton set on him, in front of an oversized billboard for *The Warriors* — vandalized no less.

I also had trouble with the scene where Kaye expounds upon his theory of life, a kind of primal platonic philosophy where certain people know they're above the law. "How do they know this?" the detective asks. "They ask themselves," Kaye says. Figure it out for yourself.

By the way, the officer in that scene is Detective Sunday, an excellent supporting role played by Hector Elizondo.

In the end, what saves this movie, beyond Gere's physical presence, at any rate, is John Baily's photography. It is precise, dynamic and by far the most sensual aspect of the film.

Look at it this way, Kaye often charges a client a thousand dollars: at four bucks you're getting a bargain although, admittedly, not quite the same service.



Some of the music is composed by local musicians specifically for individual dances. Orchesis has even promised a wandering sax player on stage during next week's performance.

Tickets to Orchesis' "Dance Motif '80" are available at the SU Box Office or from Orchesis members.

Thursday Thursday

MUSIC

The Orange Hall, 104 St.- 84 Ave.

Feb. 9, 8 pm. The South Side Folk Club presents Alan Roberts and Dougie McLean from Britain. Supporting sets by Ian Bowden. Tickets are available at Keen Kraft Music. For more information call 432-1042.

Dinwoodie

Feb. 9, 8 pm. The U of A Golden Bear Rugby Team presents a beer social with the Rex Barley Band. Tickets are \$3 in advance and \$3.50 at the door.

The Palms

Feb. 6-9 The Edmonton Jazz Society presents the Lew Tabackin Trio featuring Billy Higgins and Charlie Haden. Tickets, Wednesday and Thursday, \$5 for EJS members and \$6 for non-members. Tickets Friday and Saturday, are \$6.50 for EJS members and \$7.50 for non-members.

SUB Theatre

Feb. 13, 8 pm. The Edmonton Chamber Music Society presents The Alban Berg Quartet. The quartet members are all professors at the Academy of Music in Vienna. They will be playing works by Schubert and contemporary Polish composer, Witold Lutoslawski. Call 439-6823 for more information.

Convocation Hall

Feb. 10, 3 pm. The Edmonton Youth Orchestra with conductor Michael Massey. Admission is \$2.00 for adults and \$1.00 for students and seniors. Tickets are available at the door. For more information call 432-3263.

Feb. 6-9, 8:15 pm. The U of A Mixed Chorus with conductor Ronald Stevens.

CINEMA

SUB Theatre

Feb. 9, 7 - 9:30 pm. *Klute* with Jane Fonda and Donald Sutherland.

Feb. 10, 7 and 9:30 pm. *North Dallas Forty* with Nick Nolte.

Provincial Museum, 12845 - 102 Ave.

Feb. 10, 4 and 7 pm. *Birth of a Legend*. This is the second of four nature films that will be presented by Alberta Culture. *Birth of a Legend* is about an orphaned coyote pup, a sheepdog and their misadventures with man. Admission is free.

Edmonton Public Library, 7 Sir Winston Churchill Square, 423-2331

Feb. 9 - 10, 2 pm. Pete Townshend's *Tommy* interpreted by Ken Russel. This film is free and continues the Library's film series on "Rock Music of the Seventies".

Edmonton Film Society

SUB Theatre

Feb. 11, 8 pm. *Women* (Hungary, 1977, English subtitles). About the friendship between a young rebel and an older woman. International Series, admission by series ticket, \$8.

Tory Lecture Theatre

Feb. 13, 8 pm. *The Thing* (1950). Sci-fi classic about an alien creature thawed to life. "1950" series admission by series ticket, \$10.

Arts 17

Feb. 13, 7:30 pm. *Jane Gleibt Jane*. Free admission.

THEATER

SUB Theatre

Feb. 7-8, 8 p.m. Two evenings of Alberta Mime featuring MimeLight Theatre on Thursday and Alberta Mime on Friday. Tickets: \$5 for one performance, \$8 for both; available at the SU Box Office and all BASS outlets.

Walterdale Theatre

Until the 9, *Shikata Ga Nai*, the story of the treatment of Japanese-Canadians during WW II. Tickets are \$4 from BASS, the Bay or by calling 432-0121.

Feb. 7 - 16, 8 pm. except Sunday matinee Saturday 2 pm. Studio Theatre Stage '80 presents *Birthday Party* by Harold Pinter. For times and ticket information call 432-2495 or 432-2271.

Edmonton Art Gallery Theatre, 2 Sir Winston Churchill Square

Feb. 6-24. Workshop West Playwright's Theatre presents two comedies by Michel Tremblay, *Surprise* and *Johnny Mangano and his amazing dogs*. Call 436-7378 for more information.

RADIO

CJSR

Feb. 8 - 9, 8 pm. Live coverage of the Golden Hockey team as they take on the U of C Dinosaurus in Calgary.

Feb. 10, 4 pm. Probe, CJSR's newsmagazine examines the issue of Indian Affairs and presents interviews with people involved with the recent A.C. Telerama.

Feb. 10, 5 pm. Tempo, the classical music show features the works of Handel, Haydn and Puccini.

Feb. 7, 9:10 pm. Murray McLaughlin live at Orpheum in Vancouver.