

# New Aztec Camera LP

by Andrew M. Duke

**L**ove is the new album from Scotland's Aztec Camera, the band formed in 1980 by singer/songwriter Roddy Frame.

Their first LP in two years, *Love* (Sire/WEA) has Aztec Camera sounding bigger, though not necessarily better. "Glitter, glitter everywhere" (from "Working in a Goldmine") was not written to describe the LP, but it does the job. Employing various "hit-maker" producers and new players (none of the original members remain) has resulted in an extremely accessible sound that hides all traces of the past Aztec Camera. The over-production of almost every track and multitude of background vocalists cannot be termed, "progressive".



"Somewhere in my Heart" actually has an electric guitar solo, though the real saxophone (as opposed to programming) is a

nice touch. Former Floy-Joy vocalist Carol Thompson tries to help on "One and One" but only adds to the mess. "Killer-

mont Street" has to be the best track as it harkens back to the clean, acoustic sound of their *High Land, Hard Rain* debut.

## Talking with Grapes of Wrath

by Scott Neily

**I**f you've been watching the charts lately, you might have noticed the resurgence of folk-rock. Artists like Suzanne Vega, the Grateful Dead, and R.E.M. have all contributed to the success of various melodic, harmonious, acoustic guitar-based songs. Riding high on this current trend is Vancouver's Grapes of Wrath.

The band visited Halifax a few weeks back, and Tom Hooper, the bass player and one-third of the group (brother Chris and Kevin Kane are the others, playing drums and guitars, respectively), dropped into CKDU's studios for a chat.

Their new album *Treehouse* is doing very well in Our Native Land, and is also opening a few eyes for Capitol Records in the States. The single "Piece of Mind" is getting regular airplay on the radio, and MuchMusic has taken kindly to the video, giving it some sporadic rotation. Thankfully, though, the frequency has been low enough to prevent that horrible *ad nauseam* feeling too much repetition causes.

The band was more or less formed ten years ago when all three members were in school. After a few years, they went in different musical directions, with Kane taking an experimental route and the brothers moving into hardcore. Eventually,

the exploratory phase wore off and they got back together.

After a series of weekly name changes, they finally settled on their current moniker. Tom explained, "We didn't have a name and our first gig was two weeks away. My brother had this

movie book. We looked through it, wrote down a bunch of names, and finally zeroed it down to the Grapes of Wrath. I've never seen the movie or read the book, so there's no meaning behind it. It's just a name."

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