

One dumb debut album

Dark City mindless bop

Dark City
Dark City
Virgin

review by Dragos Ruiu

This record should have stayed in the dark. Dark City are a British Reggae Pop group and *Dark City* seems to be their debut album. That's all you'll ever need to know about this album. Now forget about them.

These guys make sanitized teeny-bopper pop music. They have the requisite talent, the requisite synthesizers, the requisite crying singer, and the ever-important mindless lyrics like "Don't get me wrong, I love you. I don't ever want to let you go." They are

somewhere on the intellectual level of Wham, and indeed it seems as if they are in direct competition for the girls-in-puberty audience.

The only possible redeeming values of this album are the good horn solos hidden in-between the dumb lyrics on songs like "Indecision" and "Forever" and the slight reggae twist they take to in some songs. But the mindlessly up-beat, high on life, juvenile lyrics whined out by the lead singer is enough to make you want to pass around the air-sickness bag.

Buy this record for your elementary school kids if you want them to become chartered accountants.

Non-sappy soft rock

Take It Or Leave It
Jimmy Nail
Virgin

review by Dragos Ruiu

Jimmy Nail looks like he belongs singing with the Pogues; he looks that weird. So when you put his album on the turntable and you get vocal soft rock, the first reaction is "Holy ----, is this the right album?"

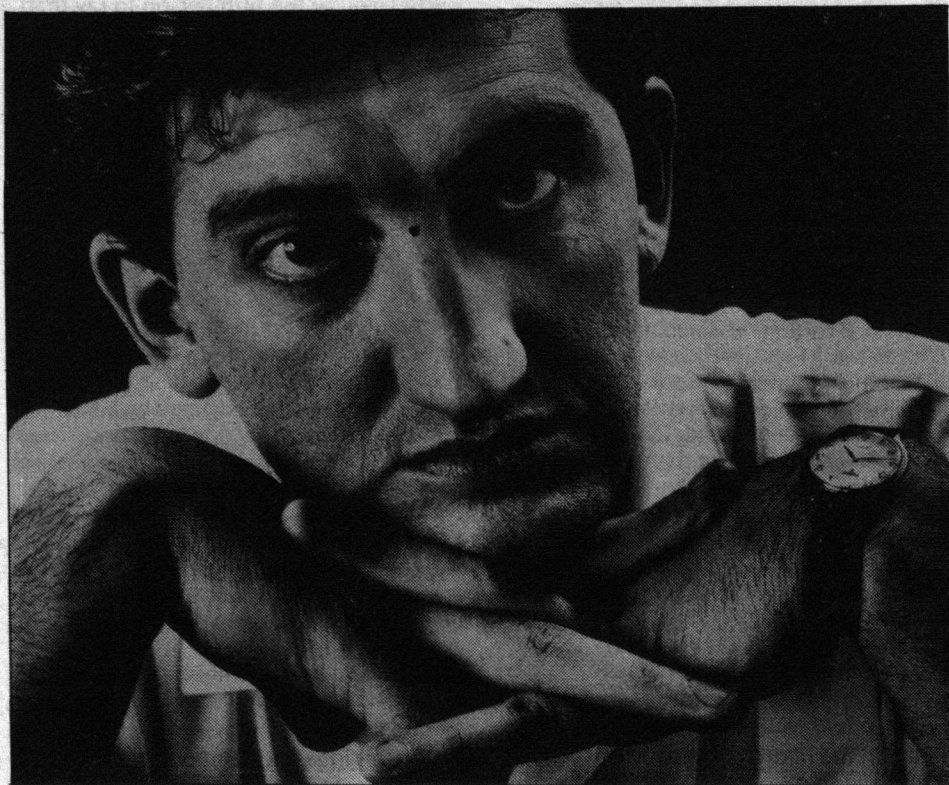
When you go and check, you find that the record is labeled with two side twos! All of a sudden you can identify with all the people who got Lawrence Welk instead of their Sid and Nancy soundtracks.

The great thing is that once you get used to getting soft rock from the speakers, it's a good album. The music is mellow, romantic, and very relaxing. Nail has a great voice, smooth and lyrical, and the music is well written.

The songs are thoughtful and pleasant. It isn't a driving, frenetic sound, but this is great music to listen to while cuddling in front of a fire along with your significant other. The music, with titles like "That's the way love is", "Walk Away", and "Love don't live here anymore", (if you can't guess it) tends to be of the broken heart variety — but deft guitar work spices it up.

There is one very interesting anti-apartheid song named "Ladies and Gentlemen of South Africa" that sort of stands out from the rest. This album never relies only on vocals to carry songs. The drums pursue captivating, if subdued, rhythms and Nail makes effective use of keyboards and guitars.

Nail avoids becoming sappy (a definite rarity here!), and conversely, doesn't do any boy-meets-girl-under-silvery-moon-which-then-blows-up songs. This is a nice soft rock album with interesting songs . . .



Jimmy Nail a lovable mug



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
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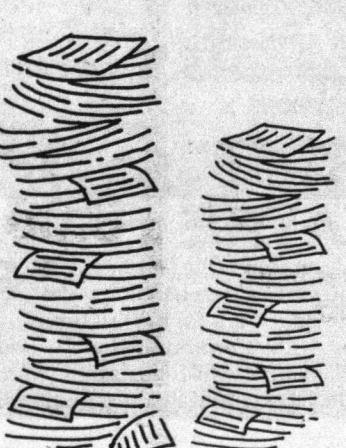
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