

Rod & Faces tour

Shortly before the opening of The Faces' current North American tour, Rod Stewart admitted to the press that this tour probably would determine whether or not he and the band could carve a permanent niche for themselves in rock's proverbial hall of fame.

From the looks of things thus far, they're succeeding. Not only have they kept themselves in the news with rumors about Rod's non-existent romance with Susan Ford, but they've been selling out most every date. Not only have they been winning good press reviews, but they've been delighting crowds with a stage show that even Mick Jagger could envy.

Rod's dancing and theatrical movements - he covers every inch of the stage - were particularly effective at their San Francisco stop. So were such gimmicks as their stage entrance made to the tune of David Rose's "The Stripper" and the dropping of hundreds of glimmering rubber balls into the crowd. Working as a tight unit, Rod, Ron Wood, and band communicated well with the sold out house of almost 15,000 in San Francisco.

Rod's voice, Ron's guitar work, and Ian McLagan's drum solos were all inspired, and it was obvious they all wanted this tour to be something to remember.

While they did not perform Rod's admittedly favorite song "Mandolin Wind," their repertoire concentrated heavily on his solo recordings. Among the crowd favorites were a surprisingly up-tempo version of "Maggie Mae," as well as "Every Picture Tells a Story," "Bring It on Home/You Send Me" and hard rockers "Twistin' the Night Away" and "Stay With Me."

Association back

The Association, one of the most popular and respected bands of the late 1960's, is hoping to make a recording comeback. They've just signed on with RCA Records, which is rush releasing their first single "One Sunday Morning." The current Association line-up consists of original members Ted Bluechel, Jim Yester, and Larry Ramos and more recent additions Maurice Miller, David Vaught, and Dwayne Smith. Terry Kirkman left the group a while back to pursue a solo career.

Vallie's comeback

Frankie Vallie, lead singer for The Four Seasons a group that has sold more than 80-million records worldwide says that his group is not through yet.

In an interview with *Melody Maker's* Allan Jones, Valli explains why we've heard so little from the Four Seasons in recent years. "For three years," says Valli, "we were in litigation with Philips Records. So in that period of time we were not legally able to put out any records or records for anybody." Now untangled, the group has signed with Motown, and Frankie is simultaneously pursuing his solo career on the Private Stock label.

Frankie's return seems assured now that his latest single, "My Eyes Adored You" has become a top-thirty hit. And, the group, he says, is more professional than ever. "Music has gone through a very mixed-up era where we went through protest music to acid and hard rock music which were... an indication of things happening in the world. The Four Seasons have survived," Frankie explains, "because we've geared ourselves to being an entertainment entity."

The Seasons plan soon to repackage some of their old hits and re-release them for a new audience. They're also planning to continue performing as a group and will keep on recording new tunes in hopes of another hit record. Whether they get it or not does not seem particularly important to Valli: "People often wonder why certain performers continue to do well whether they have hit records or not," he says. "It's a combination of a lot of things. It's charisma, it's love for what they do. It's making the audience feel an actual part of what is happening." The Four Seasons, says Valli, love what they do, so they'll keep on doing it.

Mounties versus Roxy

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police raided the hotel rooms of British rockers Roxy Music in an unsuccessful effort to find drugs during their recent concert stop in Toronto.

Both the group and their manager Mark Fenwick are still fuming over the incident which took place about 2 in the morning. All six band members' rooms were searched and the Mounties reportedly made

reference to hidden heroin.

Group leader Andy Mackay, the first member hit, told *Melody Maker*, "These guys started pounding on the door so I let them in. They went through all my stuff, making snide remarks all the time.... This kind of thing has never happened to us anywhere. People don't associate us with drugs."

Roxy's Phil Manzanera said: "I'd been told never to unlock the door for anyone in America. They kept pounding and tried to break the chain lock. I was on the phone (calling the hotel desk), and they smashed the whole bloody door down." The Mounties told Manzanera not to try to "pass" any of the British pound notes he was carrying in his wallet, and they accused Mackay of running a gambling operation with his backgammon set.

The Mounties found no drugs, and the band has found no satisfaction. Says manager Fenwick, "I intend to pursue this matter." One Roxy aide accused the Mounties of associating every rock group with hard drugs.

Roxy Music currently is winding up their 21-date North American tour.

Hendrix's controversy

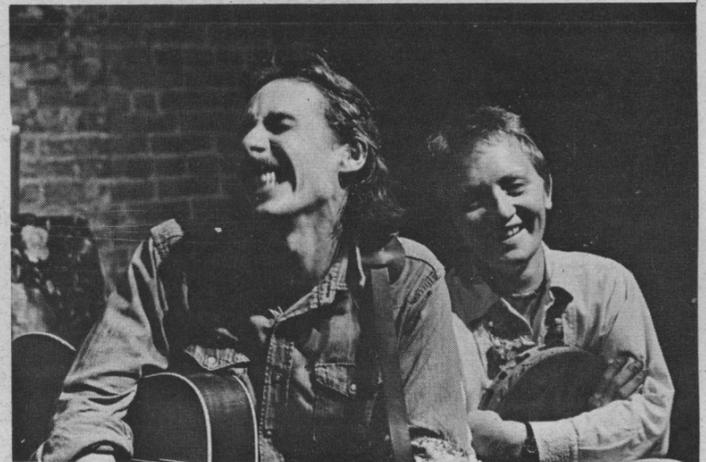
Some of Jimi Hendrix's fans are pretty irate about producer Alan Douglas' decision to cut

basic new tracks for the early March release of "Crash Landing". Although original Experience members Mitch Mitchell and Noel Redding played on nearly half of the 1000 hours of Hendrix tapes, Douglas felt their performances were of poor quality.

Participating in the new recordings are Alan Schwartzberg on drums, Bob Babbitt on bass, Jeff Mironov on second guitar and Jimmy Maeulin on percussion. According to Douglas, the end result is close to what he felt Hendrix would have done himself.

The recently discovered tapes represent nearly the entirety of Hendrix's output during 1969 and 1970, and reportedly show him moving into different areas of music than those he popularized with The Jimi Hendrix Experience.

In a related and unprecedented move, Warner/Reprise Records is recalling several previously issued Hendrix albums in hopes of making the Hendrix collection of consistent quality. The best cuts from the recalled albums will eventually be issued in a "Smash Hits" format.



Fraser and deBolt, Columbia recording artists, will be appearing at the 'Hovel' coffee house this Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 9:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.

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