# TRACKS

#### Singles, 45's and over Squeeze A & M Records

### Ian Pedley

Remember Queen's greatest hits? Squeeze have pulled the same trick. Take a greatest hits album and add one new song. Then, hope the single becomes a hit so people will want the album. Their new song, "Annie Get Your Gun", won't make you want the album.

Squeeze have released some very catchy, insightfull songs in the past, taking the same direction as Elvis Costello with songs such as "1empted", "Pulling Mussels from a Shell" and "Another Nail In My Heart", but seem to have fallen into the trap of rewriting one song too many times. As for the L.P., there's a warning: if you buy it because you have no other Squeeze albums, you may find yourself buying the others and making this one obsolete. - A must for D.J.'s.

#### **Oh No! It's Devo** Devo **WEA Records**

### Ian Pedley

Oh, ves! Devo strikes again. The band from Akron, Ohio have made another L.P. that will sustain their reputation as the kings of Genetic electronics.

Produced this time by Roy Thomas Baker of Cars and Queen fame, Devo packs a punch with some very up-tempo dance songs filtered through synthesizers and strange effects. Best cuts are "Time Out for Fun", "Out of Sync", "That's Good" and "Speed Racer". This album is worth picking up. Next time you pass a record store, look for the L.P. with people in potato suits.

### Special Beat Service The English Beat **WEA Records** Ian Pedley

I couldn't believe my ears. The Beat has discovered A.B.C. and the look of Disco. This prominent English ska band has built a reputation on a mixture of reggae and up-tempo dance rock. This new L.P. focuses on the dance element and, in the process, loses some of the raw "beat" sound that had won them acclaim. The album's graces are "Jeanette" and "Spar Wid Me"-two songs that still retain the English beat.

Other tracks such as "I Confess" and "End of the Party" are great to get your hair cut to.

### **ENTERTAINMENT**

## The Crystal is Spring based on work of Orwell

#### W. Hurst

Harbourfront's first mime series has become a popular and critical success. Montreal's Carbonne 14 and the San Francisco Mime Company drew rave reviews and audiences. Toronto's Mime Co. Unfimited, the third group presented, opens tonight, Dec. 9 at 8:00 p.m. and should maintain the excellence set by the two earlier groups.

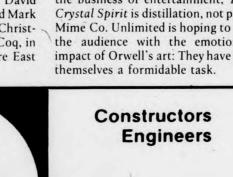
Entitled The Crystal Spirit, the Mime Co. Unlimited show is based on the work of George Orwell. By transposing literature to mime, the company director, Ron East, would seem to be taking a risk. However, East, who wrote the show, is not presenting a literal Orwell. Instead, he is culling some of the writer's emotionalism and social commentary.

The success of The Crystal Spirit depends not only upon the script, but also upon the performers. East is using two artists he has personally trained, Derek Scott and David Longlois. And he has also hired Mark Christman and Martha Ross. Christman and Ross trained at Le Coq, in Paris, the mime school where East also studied.

East does not perform in the current show, which has just toured Western Canada. As founder, director and stage designer for Mime Co. Unlimited, he just doesn't have the energy. In preparation for Harbourfront, East has slept two hours in two days.

Although East wrote the final version, The Crystal Spirit is not his creation alone. Two sociology professors, David Kirk of Waterloo and Murray Paulin of Ryerson, were instrumental in theatricizing Orwell's work. All three men wanted to explore the relationship between private troubles and public issues. Although he is not personally interested in polemics, East admits that he has become more politicized as a result of being "involved" in the show. This attitude is similar to Orwell's own. Orwell wrote passionately about class struggle and imperialism, but he abhored the doctrinaire of formal socialists.

And although East's company is in the business of entertainment, The Crystal Spirit is distillation, not pap. Mime Co. Unlimited is hoping to hit the audience with the emotional impact of Orwell's art: They have set



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