

"Police" master art of arresting music

by Gisele Marie Baxter

Review: The Police, "Zenyatta Mondatta" (A&M SP 4831)

"Zenyatta Mondatta", which takes its title from a compilation of foreign words, follows an extremely successful world tour which took the Police to such countries as Egypt, India and Japan. The experience has proven valuable. Guitarist Andy Summers, drummer Stewart Copeland, and lead singer/songwriter Gordon "Sting" Sumner, who elevates bass playing to the art it should be, have produced a fresh, exciting record of reggae, pop, and rock'n'roll which ranks with the best of the year anywhere.

The topical range is broad, the musical range is incredible and the singing is marvellous. This band is rarely derivative—it has created a unique "Police sound" against which other bands will be judged. True, much has been made of the band's photogenic, bleached-blond image (especially now that Sting is making movies) but the music always transcends the image. It is fascinating and infectious, proving that musicians can be serious and also have fun.

The songs are all good, and range in theme from the rigors of touring ("Man in a Suitcase"), to a deceptively light look at revolution ("Bombs Away"), to political opportunism ("De Do Do De Da Da Da").

"Behind My Camel", an instrumental, gives the listener an Andy Summer's composition which sounds like film music for a 1980's version of "Arabian Nights". The guitar slinks and winds Nile-style around the pronounced bass and percussion.

One of the album's best songs, "Don't Stand So Close to Me" has become the first single and one of 1980's best pop songs. From its haunting bass introduction to the excellent counter-melody sung on the final chorus, it convincingly tells through a pop-reggae tune the bittersweet tale of a teacher and a schoolgirl, each of whom has a crush on the other. The lyrics are tense and to the point: "Loose words in the classroom/So hard they try and try/Strong words in the staffroom/The accusations fly."

"Canary in a Coalmine", a crisp, fast-paced rocker, is sung to a neurotic who insists on making the worst of every situation: "Now if I tell you that you suffer from delusions/You pay your analyst to reach the same conclusions/You live your life like a canary in a coalmine/You get so dizzy even walking in a straight line."

"De Do Do De Da Da Da" employs a tight, danceable rhythm while singing of social elements which take advantage of people; it has a biting yet infectious lyric. Either "Canary" or this song

should be the follow-up single; both have an immediacy too often lacking in Top-40 music.

The reggae-flavoured "Voices Inside My Head" takes a somewhat experi-

mental approach, effectively countering the bass and guitar, with the drums tying the two into a rhythmic whole. The vocals are placed in the background, and the result is hypnotic.

My only regret regarding "Zenyatta Mondatta" is that there is no lyric sheet in the album package, which will nevertheless add several pictures to your Police file. However, that is a small point. This record is full of arresting music, which will brighten up the coming winter considerably. "When the world is running down/You make the best of what's around" is the title and chorus of one song. From songs like "Roxanne", "I Can't Stand Losing You" and "Message in a Bottle" through to this, their third record, the Police prove that they have mastered the art that song suggests very well.



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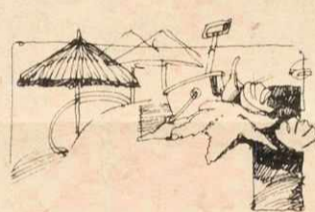
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MOVIE LISTINGS

Thursday, Oct. 23 at the McInnes Room a double bill of **Urban Cowboy** and **Every Which Way But Loose** is showing at 7:30. Also on Thursday, a German film (in German), **Muder Tod** is showing at 8 p.m. in room 2805 of the Life Sciences Building. **Woodstock** plays at the Cohn Sat. 25 at 8 p.m. The Murder Mystery Series presents **The Maltese Falcon** (1941) with Humphrey Bogart, and **Farewell, My Lovely** (1975) with Robert Mitchum, on Monday 28 at the Cohn. Wednesday 29 sees the French silent film **Joan of Arc** at NSCAD Bell Auditorium (Duke St.) at 8 p.m., part of the series "Films By and About Women". The German Film **Caligari** is showing in the MacMechan Rm. (Killam Library) on Thursday 30 at 8.

Paramount 1 is holding over **Ordinary People**, while its brother #2 opens with **The First Deadly Sin**, starring Sinatra and Dunaway. Scotia Square opens Friday with **The Elephant Man** (profusely recommended). At Penhorn, #1 holds over **Private Benjamin**, #2 starts **Raise the Titanic**, and #3 opens with **Oh God, Book II**. At Downsview, **Motel Hell** opens at #1, **Cheech and Chong's Next**

Movie stays at #2, and **She'll Follow You Anywhere** appears at #3. The Cove also starts **Motel Hell**. The Oxford begins showing **Loving Couples** on Friday, while the Hyland starts **It's My Turn** and the Casino opens with **Terror Train**. Wormwood has **Onibaba** Friday 24, Chaplin's **Limelight** Saturday and Sunday, and the early 1900's **Dawson City Collection** on Wednesday 29. The NFB has **Profile of NFB Animators 1** on the 23rd and **Real Estate Vs. the Family** on the 30th (free). The Albanian film **The Last Winter** is in the MacMechan Auditorium Oct. 25 at 2:00 p.m.

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