

Joe Jackson's best yet

By WILFRED LANGMAID
Brunswickan Staff

Ever since the release of his debut album *Look Sharp!* a few years ago, Joe Jackson has been considered by most music observers to be a talented artist showing great potential. That potential has come to fruition on his latest album *Night and Day*.

There is no question that *Night and Day* is Jackson's finest album to date. Never before has he had such interesting and pertinent things to say, and his music acts as the perfectly-accentuating showcase for his ideas.

The two sides of this album are dubbed "Night Side" and "Day Side", and they are easily distinguishable from one another. On the decidedly

more upbeat night side, Jackson gets a big boost as he steps into "Another World" by the work of Sue Hadjopoulos, who adds a great deal to the song with her xylophone and percussion talents.

One the night side, Jackson's view of the future is not a pleasant one. He envisions a time where you "shake my hand then gun me down" in "Target", and his "TV Age" is pure Orwellian 1984.

The highlight of this first side is "Stepping Out", the first single from the album. An intelligent song which sounds great, it has the catchiness to get the AM listener's ear, but it is also a cohesive track which seems a safe bet for FM rock and adult contemporary success.

As the last song on the night side, "Stepping Out" is the

perfect bridge to unite it with the day side. If side one gets a label of enjoyable, the day side can be called nothing but delightful - one of those special musical continuums which yields a different favourite from amongst the four included cuts upon virtually each listening.

Take "Breaking Us In Two," for instance. Here, a couple is dissatisfied with their relationship, but the man realizes that lonely solitude is an even less desirable prospect. He is clearly displeased with the little things which make them fight and keep doing as the song's title implies. The listener automatically emphasizes as he asks "Could we be much closer is we tried?" with confused frustration.

As in all of the tracks on the day side, the backbone of "Breaking Us In Two" is Jackson's great piano work. The almost exclusive choice of acoustic piano rather than electric piano, organ, and synthesizer on the day side is one of its chief characteristics



which distinguishes it from the more electronic night side.

"Real Men" questions the established norms for manhood where, with the macho/gay dichotomy "Now and then you wonder who the real men are", while in the lovely "A Slow Song", Jackson echoes the thoughts of many when he says "And I get tired of DJ's / Why is it always what he plays/ . . . Play us a slow

song". Even "Cancer," a Latin pop number, displays a questioning and probing Jackson who has obviously matured.

Night and Day is, to put it simply, a great album. The quality of the material and the strong performances by the musicians are reinforced by the impeccably crisp and clear recording. All told, *Night and Day* is a quantum leap forward for Joe Jackson.

John Hansen at Acadia

John Hansen is a recent appointment to the position of Artist-Teacher in Piano at Acadia University. He was a member of the Piano Faculty and Board of Examiners at the Royal Conservatory of Music of Toronto for several years. He

holds the Artist Diploma and the Degrees of Bachelor of Music in Performance and Master of Music in Performance and Literature from the University of Toronto where his teachers were Anton Kuerti and Patricia Parr. Mr. Hansen has also studied, with Canada Council assistance, in New York City and Aspen, Colorado

with the American pianists Jeaneane Dowis and Samuel Lippman and in Paris, France, with Raymond Trouard. He has also studied in Italy with the renowned Italian pianist Guido Agosti.

Mr. Hansen has appeared as soloist with the Seattle and Vancouver Symphony Orchestras and has appeared in

many recitals throughout Canada, the U.S. and France. He has been heard as recitalist on CBC Radio and has won numerous competitions in Canada and the U.S.

Art Centre celebrates

The Tenth Anniversary of the Art Centre's Christmas Choice Craft Sale will be held Sunday afternoon December 5th from noon to 5 p.m. We will have all of the Memorial Hall Auditorium filled with displays, overflowing into both Art Centre Galleries.

Each year crowds of people come looking for Christmas suggestions or just to enjoy the displays, and the crowds and

the social occasion.

At the same time the two galleries are hung with work by local artists. This exhibition will continue until Dec. 19, open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. from Monday to Friday, and from 2 to 4 on Sundays.

Over twenty craftsmen will be showing pottery, batik, weaving, jewellery, enamelling and pewter. Paintings, drawings, prints and fabric

hangings by forty-one Fredericton area artists will fill the Studio and Gallery.

Most of the exhibitors will be familiar to regular Fredericton gallery-goers, but there are several exhibiting here for the first time in New Brunswick. Some are professional artists, others are devoted amateurs trained in art schools and eager to become known in the local art scene.

By MIKE MACKINNON



"Give peace a chance"

On December 8th, 1980, David Chapman brutally murdered John Lennon, ex-Beatle. Two years have passed since that day. Posters, buttons, T-shirts and other memorabilia flooded the market, record companies pressed and promoted many copies of old Beaties and Lennon records. Here was another opportunity for money mongers to cash in on the untimely death of another famous artist.

Only things were different in the case of John Lennon. Those that like Lennon and his music did so because of what the man and his music stood for. Sure he was a Beatle and part of the greatest song-writing team that ever existed but his death did not serve to increase his popularity. His first recording effort in five years was already well on its way to becoming a best seller. One does have to admit that his death did help to increase the sales at a quicker rate but it did not make the record something that it was not. It cannot be denied that the Lennon material on the album is quality music, Lennon at his best.

What made Lennon so popular as a musician? It was a result of the message in his songs, a plea for world peace. His cynicism and pessimistic thoughts were often tempered by his naivety. Lennon was able to recognize that there were grave problems with the world and, despite being a cynic, believe that there was some hope. He believed that what man had caused man could correct. Some would call that unrealistic.

Those that were outraged at his death called vehemently for the execution of his killer, David Chapman. Those people were not the Lennon fans but the Beatle fans. A true fan of Lennon would have realized that revenge was not what he was about. Those saddened deeply they did not call for Chapman's death. Instead they forgave.

The world situation is no better now than what it was two years ago. We still are creating weapons to wipe out man and are still fighting with our neighbours. A good sign is the increased awareness of what dangers we face and the growing outrage that nothing is being done about it. Peaceful demonstrations and marches are suddenly on the increase and apathy on the decrease. What Lennon sang and talked about is now being practiced.