

# Cyndi just wants to have fun



by David Lutes

With *She's So Unusual*, Cyndi Lauper has established herself as one of rock's brightest new faces. Though her infectious and danceable brand of synth-pop has been done many times over, what makes Lauper unique is her vocals. She combines the sound of early sixties girl groups with just enough emotion to keep the listener interested.

The material to which Lauper applies herself is about as broad a selection as you find in new music today. This diversity is both good and bad. While it allows us to see how great Lauper's range is, sometimes a song misses the mark. Not that any of the cuts are really bad, it's just that the occasional misfire brings my overall opinion down.

Side one is almost perfect. This could be four of the strongest cuts I've heard in a while. Lauper starts off with a great version of "Money Changes Everything," a tune originally done by some guys called The Brains. Lauper manages to inject just the right amount of pain and power into her voice to make the tune work. Her vocals and the band's gutsy dance interpretation make this one a minor classic.

The next cut should be Cyndi's theme song. "Girls Just Want To Have Fun" is the album's best cut and sums up what she is all about. Using her best Betty Be-bop voice, Lauper imparts the exact amount of off-the-cuff humour to make this one funny and endlessly enjoyable.

Cyndi goes electronic on the next song, a cover of Prince's "When You Were Mine." The quirky, sighing melody perfectly completes the song's theme of unrelenting love, and the lack of gender change in the narrative is a neat little touch. This is quickly followed by "Time After Time" the album's first single as well as the best of Lauper's self-penned tunes. Though at first listen it sounds very middle-of-the-road, "Time After Time" manages to grow on you.

The flip side of *She's So Unusual* is just that. It's a much more eclectic mixture of tunes that don't quite meet the promise of side one. It starts off pretty strong

with a tune entitled "She Bop," a jumpy little dance cut. After that things get a little spotty.

Along with the synth-type songs that have showed up so far, there's a couple of slightly weird ones. "Witness" is Lauper's gratuitous example of a reggae-influenced song and it doesn't quite make it. Despite the fact that it is a likeable number, Lauper's vocals don't quite fit the style.

The strangest cut is "He's So Unusual," originally done in the late 20's. Lauper brings her best burlesque-style interpretation to

the piece, leaving us with a pleasantly confused feeling.

What becomes apparent is that Cyndi Lauper is at her best singing other people's work. Three of the most powerful cuts are cover versions and the weakest moments are her occasionally cheesy originals. *She's So Unusual* is still a pretty well-rounded record and remains a thoroughly entertaining listen.

For an in-depth review of this record, be listening to CKDU on Wed., March 7 at 8:00 p.m. for *Hot Off the Presses*.



## ALTERNATIVE THIRTY 11-24 February 1984

WOC	LC	TC	ARTIST	TITLE	LABEL
6	1	1	Palace At 4 a.m.	Untamed World	Collective Ego
2	-	2	Mark Isham	Vapor Drawings	Windham Hill
2	-	3	Sturm Group=	Sturm Group	Green Fuse
16	16	4	Euthenetics=	Euthenetics (cassette EP)	-tape-
4	20	5	Durutti Column	Another Setting	Factory
4	3	6	Cocteau Twins	Garlands	Envelope (UK)
8	5	7	Klaus Nomi	Simple Man	RCA
4	6	8	Siouxsie And The Banshees	Nocturne	Polydor (UK)
4	7	9	The Cramps	Smell of Female	Enigma (US)
2	-	10	Cocteau Twins	Head Over Heels	4AD
4	2	11	Nina Hagen	Angstlos	CBS (Neth)
12	8	12	Bodeens=	Live	-tape-
2	-	13	Jah Wobble/The Edge Holger Czukay	Snake Charmer	Original Snd
1	-	14	Howard Jones	New Song (EP)	WEA
2	-	15	Death Cult	Brothers Grimm (EP)	Situation (UK)
6	10	16	Eva Everything=	Boob Tube	Great Shakes
2	-	17	The Creatures	Feast	Polydor (UK)
2	-	18	MDC	Multi-Death Corporation	Radical (US)
2	-	19	Godley & Creme	Birds of Prey	Polydor (UK)
4	12	20	20th Century Rebels=	Rebelution	Rebelution
4	13	21	Public Image Ltd.	This Is Not A Love Song (EP)	Virgin (UK)
4	29	22	Butthole Surfers	Butthole Serfers	Alternative Tentacles
2	-	23	Pretenders	Learning to Crawl	Sire
4	3	24	Public Image Ltd.	Live in Tokyo	Virgin (UK)
4	11	25	Blaire Petrie=	NREP	Obfuscate
4	9	26	David Bowie	Ziggy Stardust Soundtrack	Perimeter
6	22	27	Clock DVA	Advantage	RCA
6	28	28	Howard Devoto	Jerky Versions Of The Dream	Polydor (UK)
2	-	29	Sisters of Mercy	The Reptile House (EP)	IRS (US)
6	23	30	The Coconuts	Don't Take My Coconuts	Merciful Release (UK)

=Canadian/WOC: weeks on chart/LC: last chart/TC: this chart  
Compiled by John McMaster, Music Director




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