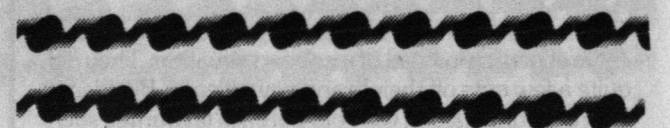


Gnu Wax



New LP by Noir Desir

Noir Desir
Veillez rendre l'ame (a qui elle appartient)
 Barclay

by Mehboob Rahemtulla

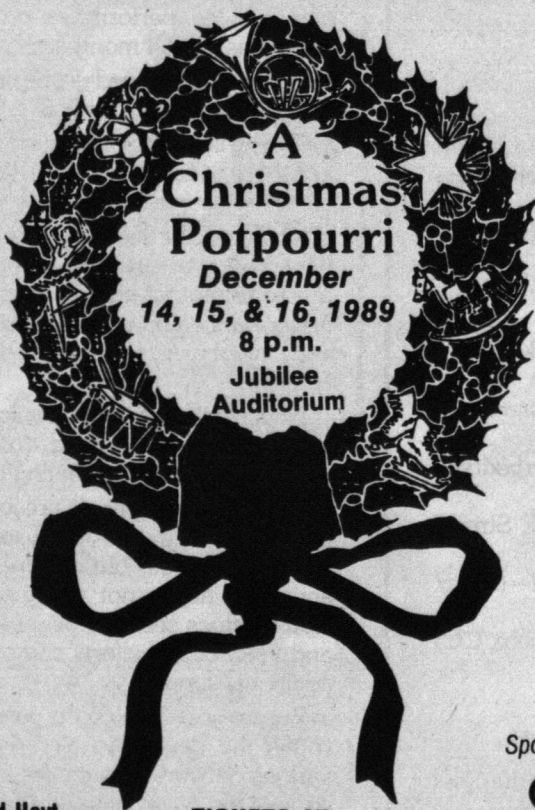
For years the French music industry has been trying to pass off the likes of **Johnny Hallyday** as rock made in France. It was always a question of extracting and transferring the essence of British or American music to create watered-down copies of the originals. It is not surprising then, that **Noir Desir** (as well as most of France's best young bands) have played and developed their music away from the trendy Paris music scene, which isn't well known as a centre for developing promising new talent.

Noir Desir are a basic four-piece from Bordeaux who's current lineup has been together for four years. Their latest release, *Veillez rendre l'ame a qui elle appartient*, is more than just a breath of fresh air. With maturity and the nurturing of Liverpool producer **Ian Broudie** the band has become more focused. Whereas the 1987 debut was a kind of emotional and musical catharsis, on *Veillez*, the passion is more controlled, running beneath the music. The result is a tension that sometimes explodes into violent frenzy on the deft guitar work of **Serge Teyssot-Gay**, but is nonetheless maintained throughout the album.

Although the band hints that inspiration for the lyrics comes from European culture (particularly French and Russian poetry and literature) musical influences seem quite Anglo/American in nature, primarily rock with a helping of blues mixed in. These combinations come together on a number of occasions, particularly on "Aux sombres heros de l'amer," "Apprends a dormir," "Joey" and "les ecorches."

Veillez is a powerful album, which showcases well the talents of one of France's best new bands. Definitely something to keep in mind as a stocking stuffer for the holiday season.

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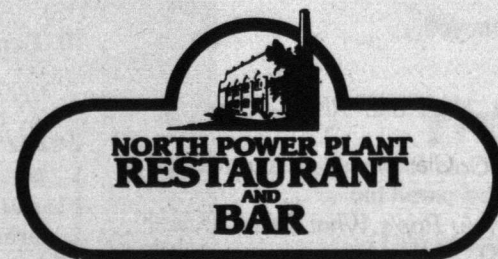
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