

The Charm of Intimate Strangers

By STEPHEN SEABROOK

Well this week I felt like telling you about a new band called "Intimate Strangers" and their album "Charm".

This five man group has a variety of different sounds and different session musicians to play them. For example we have three people playing the bass guitar, three different people playing the sax and two people doing drums and percussion. Don't get me wrong. I like the band, but let's at least have some consistency with the musicians.

The members of the band are: Richard Spellmar (Vocals), Nigel-Ross Scott (Bass), Sear Lyons (Guitars), Pickford Sykes (Keyboards) and Richie Stevers (Drum Program and Percussion). I won't ever get into the session musicians that play on this album.

Anyways, or with the album. They start off with a bang, and a good one at that. The song is "Let go", an up beat, song with a good beat. The sort of song that could make the top ten of the Canadian university radio stations.

Next, we have "In the Wilderness" (my favorite). Again an up beat dance track which has a chorus that can get you a hoppin'. Then there is "Flame On". A tune that is different from the first two. This sounds like the background vocals from the Thompson Twins with the lead singer of a reggae band (not bad). This is followed by "Deliverance", now the beat slows down and Spellmar has to start showing the listeners that he can actually sing. Well he may have a chance in the music business if he can get a couple lessons from a real veteran (don't worry he has some promise). "Child of the Dust" is again slow but now has a female helping out in with vocals, or at least tries.

Okay, now lets flip to the other side.

"Struck By Lightning" leads off the second side or at least tries to with a drum machine. I don't think much of drum machines. However, the song

picks up and is not that bad. "My Brilliant Career" comes up next but shows that his brilliant career is not as brilliant as he thought. "Raise the Dragon" is now upon us, it's not bad but will never be

very memorable. Well the rest of the album "Th Blue Hour" and "What are You Waiting For" is okay, but nothing special.

Overall the production of the album is satisfactory yet

patchy. The band is not destined to go far and will end up playing universities, but for a first album it is not bad. Out of a possible ten I would give Intimate Strangers a six.

Record Reviews

Here are some more record reviews off the cuff of your Uncle Stevie. You better get used to them, after next week the Berk who used to run this section will be gone. But don't worry your uncle will take care of you next year. Until next time, boys and girls.

Uncle Stevie.

Age of Chance

'Crush Collision'

Wallop! This is what all the hep cats are groovin' to in Blighty pals! Age of Chance, post industrial HERBERTS with a desire to get your feet a tappin' without using reference to el disco, release this EP which should be snapped up now.

Although I hate using those 'combine X with Y' analogies, add a little melody to the PRO-CREATION between 'Test Dept.' and 'The Jesus and Mary Chain' and you may just come up with 'The Age of Chance.' this becomes even more interesting when you learn that they do a (far superior) version of PRINCE'S 'Kiss' which slams along at a wonderfully staccato thumping pace. If that's not enough they also shred to bits the Trampp's 'Disco Inferno' (Burn Baby Burn) in an orgy of sonic reduction. It'll make your ears bleed but hey! -that's what it's like to be young, right kids? (But you're 23! - Ed.)

Tangerine Dream

'Underwater Sunlight'

More lightweight bavarian electro pop from Europe's favourite dull people. Music to be used again and again on channel 13 for documentaries about the feeding habits of snails and artificial insemination.

Endless synth arpeggios filled in with any number of electronic quirks. Quite frankly I wish they'd use less percussion and furthermore somebody should destroy Edgar Froese's guitar as it has been the ruination of TD material since way back in

1977. Why don't they stick to the moody stuff? On 'Underwater Sunlight,' the track starts off really lovely but, uh-oh, here comes that bastard percussion and well, old Edgar puts on his guitar, and it's all over BAR the shouting.

Other potentially wonderful moments are similarly wasted. Shame.

Wiseblood

'Dirt Dish'

Jim Thurwell aka 'Scraping Foetus off the Wheel' and Royley Mosseyman of New

York's The Swans meet head on in this desperately wonderful collaboration that is packed solid with sheer noise.

'Stumbo' is beautiful. Don't confuse him with the Disney elephant; Stumbo is some dreadful mutant creature that travels around the dead forests in a '55 Chevy sucking off hitch-hikers' faces. Kind of Flannery O'Connor meets Bladerunner. Musically it's traditional skull crushing percussion mixed with metallic electro and guitars that burst out of the woofers and chainsaw your ears off. It's simply excellent and I don't expect to hear a better record this year.

Vogons play CHSC

By KATH JEANFILS

Being the recipient of a free ticket that enabled me to gain entrance to the Social Club without dispensing any money from my own pocket, I decided to take advantage of this opportunity and drag

myself up the long flight of stairs to become part of the usual Friday's crowd.

Being somewhat late in picking up my ticket, I had already missed the first couple of songs, but by careful inquiry, I was able to discover

that the Vogons (Danny Silk, bass; Chris Saad, drums; and Dave Maskill, lead guitar) opened their set with the song "Slave to my dick" which opened a few eyes and made quite a few mouths drop.

They then commenced playing quite a few covers well, actually a good deal of what they played were covers - Rolling Stones, Lords of the New Church, the Demics... and of course they played the 'infamous' "In Idaho - Pleasure Victim" to my orgasmic pleasure.

All in all, it wasn't a bad concert but in my opinion, looking back to the early Vogons, this concert was a disappointment. Technically, the band was great (well practiced and very tight) but lacking in the enthusiasm and energy that I remember so well from the past year.

Department of French

Information Session on 1987-88
French courses & Timetables
Monday March 30

7-9 PM
Tilley 230-240

All Interested Students Invited
Refreshments served

La Vie en Rose
LICENSED RESTAURANT

**More than
Just Desserts**

Specializing in European style
Desserts, Quiche and Savories

10% Student Discount

Mon. - Fri.: 11 a.m. - 12 midnight
Sat.: 10 a.m. - 12 midnight
Sun.: 12 noon - 11 p.m.

596 Queen Street
Fredericton, New Brunswick
(506) 455-1319