

Record Reviews

Various Artists
Bull Durham Soundtrack
Capitol

by Randal Smathers

This record follows the recently established pattern of soundtracks collecting a variety of singles from various artists into an album. The success or failure of such records depends on the quality of the music, how the selected cuts hang together, and how good the movie is.

Often, in the current *Miami Vice* era, long segments of movies are little more than videos, and the soundtrack has the added feature of tying itself to the movie because of the strong evocative powers of such songs. With a movie as good as *Bull Durham*, this could be a tremendous plus for the soundtrack, but the music is not as evocative as could be expected. This is probably because of the familiarity of such a large part of the soundtrack; old favorites may bring back stronger memories than just scenes from a movie.

Half of the album consists of singles that most listeners will probably recognize: Joe Cocker's "A Woman Loves A Man", Los Lobos' "I Get Loaded", George Thorogood's "Born to Be Bad", John Fogerty's "Centerfield", and The Blasters' "So Long Baby, Goodbye." Because the songs aren't new, they are unlikely to make you remember *Bull Durham*, and in that respect the soundtrack fails.

The quality of the singles is uniformly high, however, and the songs fit well stylistically, with the possible exception of "Centerfield", although Fogerty's hit was an inevitable selection for the first major

movie about baseball since Robert Redford's *The Natural*.

The non-hits must ultimately decide the quality of this soundtrack; the Crash Daves in an all-star batting order. These songs all fall into the same loose category as the hits; roots rock/blues, all guitar and horn section heavy.

The songs that make this into a truly fine album are the last three cuts. They have the strongest ties to the movie, especially its wonderfully romantic love scenes. These three tunes feature Dr. John, currently the boogie-woogie piano player, and Bennie Wallace. Wallace is to a saxophone what Newk LaLoosh is to pitching — flame throwing, artfully wild, and as talented as they come.

They cover an oldie in "Try A Little Tenderness", with Dr. John contributing some major-league blues vocals, in a style reminiscent of Joe Cocker.

On "All Night Dance", Wallace and the good Doctor are joined by Stevie Ray Vaughan in one of the best instrumentals I can recall. Definite Hall-of-Fame stuff.

For "Love Ain't No Triple Play", Bonnie Raitt sings a duet with Dr. John over the by-now-familiar piano and horn background, providing a sizzling, satisfying, conclusion to the album.

The *Bull Durham* soundtrack doesn't hit a home run for originality; there are too many "greatest hits" cuts for that, and a couple of the extra songs are obvious attempts to aid sales of Capitol artists (Pat McLaughlin and House of Schock) by including their work with the superior talent on the rest of this record. *Bull Durham* does rate as, say, a nice solid RBI double in the late innings.



Bill Nelson
Chance Encounters In The Garden of Lights Enigma

by Mike Spindloe

A few short years ago, Bill Nelson released an LP titled *Quit Dreaming and Get On the Beam*. Unfortunately, he hasn't.

Once upon a time, Nelson became a near-deity in England via a band called Be Bop Deluxe, who were really quite good despite beginning their career with a ripoff of Bowie's *Ziggy Stardust* entitled *Axe Victim*.

That was a long time ago, though, and

for the last several years Nelson has been trying the patience of even his most fervent admirers with a series of atmospheric music pieces that make most of Windham Hill's catalogue sound like acid rock.

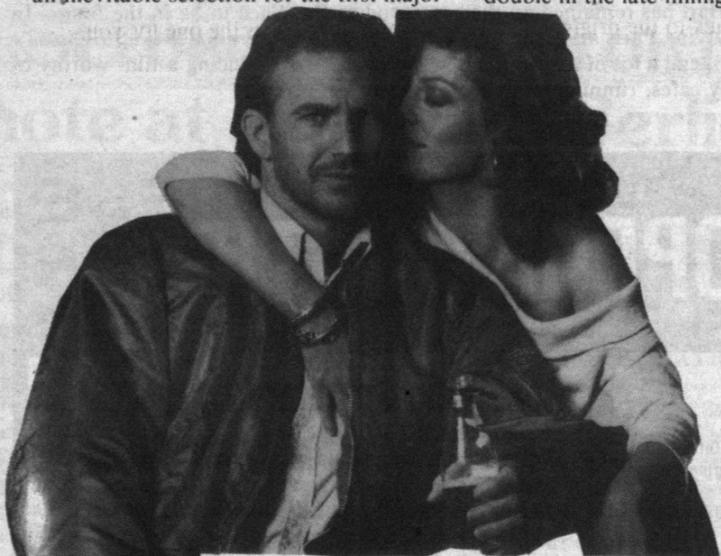
This one is the same. Two discs (again!), each pretentiously subtitled (no, I'm not going to bother), containing a total of 41 short pieces.

"Attempting nothing and existing purely for itself, it is, nevertheless, a practical music, ideally suited to the occultist in search of ritual atmosphere or serene meditation."

That's from the liner notes.

What kind of music "attempts nothing"?

Zzzzz.



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