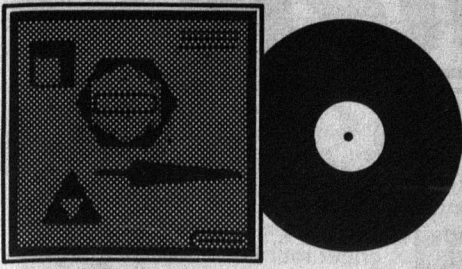


# ARTS



## ROUNDAABOUT ROUNDAABOUT

by Nate LaRo

**Stray Cats**  
*Rant 'n' Rave with the Stray Cats*  
EMI SO-17102

Not to be a sour puss or anything, but the Stray Cats always were more style than substance. Lacking either an exceptionally gifted songwriter or a technically proficient singer, they rode to fame essentially on a trend (rockabilly) and some clever marketing (*Built for Speed* collected best bits from two earlier British LP's). With that in mind, there is little for the Stray Cats to do at this point but attempt to consolidate their own precarious position. *Rant 'n' Rave with the Stray Cats* accomplishes just that — but not a whole lot more.

On the plus side, another go with rockabilly expert/producer Dave Edmunds has allowed the band to dig a little deeper into the fifties files, resulting in a more "rootsy" sound best displayed on the horn-driven rave-up of 'Look at that Cadillac' and the drippy do-wop of 'I Won't Stand in Your Way'.

On the minus side, the Stray Cats are beginning to trip over their own signatures: Brian Setzer's music is slowly succumbing to terminal repetition while the rockabilly intonations of his voice and the silliness of his lyrics are becoming exaggerated to the point of ridiculousness.

Jangly guitar and hook-laden melodies still give their rockabilly attack a high surface area; but try looking for depth in the music or lyrics and you'll find yourself treading air. Which doesn't exactly bode well for the future. Getting to the top on the basis of leather jackets and duck tails is one thing; staying there on that basis is another.

**Neil Young and the Shocking Pinks**  
*Everybody's Rockin'*  
Geffen XGHS 4013

The old time traveler is at it again. Having reached a disconcerting future of computer take-over on *Trans*, our frightened tourist seems to have overshot a little in his effort to get back to 1983. Missing the mark by 25 - 30 years, Neil climbs from his time machine once more, wanders into a 1950's town, joins a band called the Shocking Pinks, and starts playing, of all things, rockabilly?

Given that *Everybody's Rockin'* is a rockabilly/old-time rock and roll excursion, comparisons to the Stray Cats are inevitable. But Neil's Shocking Pinks, although using upright bass and snare drums, clearly differentiate themselves from the Cats by allowing the emphasis to fall on wailing sax and honky-tonking piano rather than guitar, on do-wop vocals rather than ranting and raving. The Shocking Pinks, furthermore, lay claim to a more worldly perspective than the Stray Cats simply by admitting to the possibility that there might be something just a little bit absurd about playing 1955 music in 1983. Neil, as a matter of fact, wisecracks his way through this stuff so adeptly that when he pokes fun at Alan Freed ('Payola Blues') and the Beach Boys ('Kinda Fonda Wanda'), you can't be sure if he's trying to parody or glorify. But not only is *Everybody's Rockin'* free of the Stray Cats' self-important/self-indulgent strut, it also recreates the sound of another time in such immaculate detail that you halfway expect the singer to burst out laughing at any time. Quite an album. You've gotta hear it to believe it.

## Up

### EXHIBITS

**Campbell Soup Tureens** at the Provincial Museum until October 23. Free.

Over 100 18th and 19th century artifacts featuring silver, gilt, bronze and ceramic soup tureens, ladles, soup plates and covered bowls from the Campbell Museum in New Jersey.

### MOVIES

**National Film Theatre** Chabrol's *The Butcher* Sept. 15 and 16; *Vincent, Francois, Paul and The Others* Sept. 15 to 18; the award winning *Black Girl* Sept. 17 to 19; *First Age of French Cinema (1895-1914)* Sept. 19 and 21.

**Princess Theatre** *Not a Love Story* Sept. 15; *Sophie's Choice* Sept. 15; *Three Stooges Film Fest* Sept. 16 and 17; *Spettors* Sept. 16 to 18; *Romeo and Juliet* Sept. 18; *Importance of Being Earnest* Sept. 19; Jack Nicholson in *The Passenger* Sept. 19; Charlie Chaplin's *Modern Times* Sept. 20; *The Shining* Sept. 20; Katharine Hepburn in *Adam's Rib* and *Woman of the Year* both Sept. 21.

## and

### THEATRE

**Judy...Weep No More My Lady** by Northern Light Theatre at Kaasa Theatre in the Jubilee Auditorium until October 2. Ph. 471-1586 for tickets.

The public star and private woman that was Judy Garland is brought to the stage by Kathie Ball, a U of A grad. Staged by Wally Seibert, former choreography for Judy Garland and now a U of A instructor.

### MUSIC

**Edmonton Symphony Orchestra** conducted by Richard Hayman, of the Boston Pops, at the Jubilee Auditorium Sept. 16 and 17. Tickets available at BASS or ph. 433-9390.

Hayman will do more than conduct; he will entertain in outrageous costumes, lead singalongs, play harmonica or toss off witticisms without missing a beat. Music will range from Bizet's *Prelude to the Opera Carmen* to the theme from *Superman*.

### RADIO

**Peter Brown** discusses his book *The Love You Make, An Insider's Story of the Beatles* on CBC Stereo, Sat. Sept. 17 at 11:05 am, and on CBC Radio Sun. Sept. 18 at 2:00 pm. **George Martin** discusses his film score work on CBC Radio Sept. 18 at 1:05 pm.

George Martin wrote music for several Beatles' films including *A Hard Day's Night* and *Yellow Submarine*.

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