

John Foxx, alive with creative optimism

by Gisele Marie Baxter

Right from the start, John Foxx's second solo album, **The Garden**, is something very special; a brilliant departure from futurism and electronic rock. This music is razor-sharp, full-blooded, passionate and utterly romantic, and Foxx's use of an excellent four-man band on several of the tracks (for the first time in his post-Ultravox work) introduces a wide and exciting range of musical possibilities.

Though the synthesizers are still present and obvious, they mesh with and enhance the arrangements beautifully. **The Garden** is in many places a breathtaking

album, alive with creative optimism.

Foxx presents songs of disguises, of the delicately balanced art of deception, of losing in love, but through all this is an incredible idealism; a poignancy which reveals such wonderful strengths. Foxx's voice stretches itself much more here than in his earlier technorock, and proves it can achieve a great emotional impact. The lyrics still rely heavily on atmospheric yet immediate images, but also show signs of development. Foxx neither merely condemns nor praises the dance-club lifestyle; he's very aware of its pleasures and its dangers, he can

recognize the disguises but celebrate the sheer joy and physical freedom of dancing.

The recent English single "Europe After the Rain" features strong vocals and, surprisingly enough, a lovely, evocative acoustic guitar line. Foxx's piano work counters and complements the mystical atmosphere of this bittersweet tune with clarity, as it does on "You Were There" - the piano is used sparingly, but is delicately effective. John Foxx best brings his broad range of musical influences to the title track, "Pater Noster" and "Systems of Romance", which has a sadly perceptive lyric:

JOHN FOXX



Endless Horizons...
Hopes are our empires now
Crossing all codings
Engaged in the timeless dance

"Pater Noster", which finds its sources in the Roman Catholic Latin sung masses Foxx attended as a child, is a joyous hybrid of powerful dance music and the complex, utterly beautiful harmonics of choral singing. "The Garden" is the symbolic centre of the album -- lovely, garden-type effects seep into its introduction. The song epitomizes the poignancy of longing for the ideal love, which exists throughout time, present but almost transcending reality.

She burns away in light and silver
Luminous through all these years

Evert gesture filled with longings
I still feel

The instrumental arrangement takes you back through centuries of music; it is visual and soul-searing, and the only synthesizer I've heard which truly approaches a classical vein since Public Image's Limited's "Radio 4".

The Garden is beautifully and appropriately packaged; with his lean, elegant, well-chiselled features and thick wavy red hair, Foxx looks every inch the part of the romantic 19th century country gentleman. Maybe there's a bit too much emphasis on dance music here, but any imperfections only serve to indicate that John Foxx is still evolving. Already, I can't wait for his next record.

Rusty and Dave

Dear Rusty and Dave:

I am a first-year Commerce student here at Dalhousie. I hail from a small town in Ontario so I know very little about Halifax. Whenever I go to a party I hear the older guys talking about a place called the "Mount." This place seems to be synonymous with a good time. Can you tell me what and where the Mount is? How can I get in on the good times?

Young and Puzzled

Dear Young and Puzzled:

The answer to your letter may be beneficial to all first-year guys, so pass the word around:

Before we answer this question let us give you a brief history of the Mount. The actual name of this institution is Mount Saint Vincent University. Vincent, the renegade saint, gained prominence in the 18th century as the most efficient supplier of essential services to the nuns and students. It started as a casual sort of thing as he helped out a few "starving" individuals, but it soon evolved into an organized monthly ritual. Vincent would assemble many males from other adjacent universities to supply the women **en masse**.

This tradition has been car-

ried on to the present day. Every month, Mount Saint Vincent holds a social event. In the thirty days before the events, males from all over are screened, tested, and interviewed and the most desirable ones are shipped in to the Mount. The females are given the opportunity to expend their excess sexual energy and practice what they have learned in school.

This tradition has been compared to the war days when the soldiers had females shipped in, in order to raise morale.

Editor's note: the printing of this week's Rusty and Dave column came after much debate with respect to the Gazette's upholding of principles of good taste and human rights. The content is intended to be a harmless piece of humour.

TYPESSETTERS NOTE: your idea of good taste is appalling!!! This kind of so-called humour only perpetuates misconceptions about women -- in this case reverse macho -- the amazon image. This short letter presents an image of males lining up like so much meat to be picked over by tough broads who check them for sound constitution and good teeth among other things!!!!

SURPRISE!



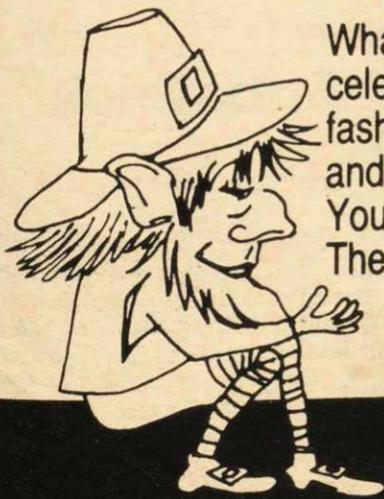
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What Luck! Our very own St. Patrick's Day celebration on November 14th includes all the old fashioned traditions, corned beef & cabbage and entertainment galore.

You may even spy a Leprechaun.
The only thing different is the date!

**2:30 p.m. - 12:30 a.m.
Doors open at 1:00 p.m.**

The Lord Nelson

Corner of Spring Garden Road & South Park Street