

Schtung, Awards, Enz Hassles, Heartbreakers, 1860 Band etc.

One of the most acclaimed rock acts during the recent week-long Festival of the Arts was Wellington band **Schtung!**... they like an exclamation mark and oom-laut, but oom-lauts don't come easy in this part of the world.

Schtung! is a six piece band with high hopes and an almost frightening amount of initiative. They have designed, printed and distributed Schtung! posters and have bought advertising inside city council

New Bands

New bands who've formed and doing the rounds include — **Coast to Coast** who are Wellington based and feature some well-known names. Bruce Robinson on Guitars (late of Rockinghorse), Daryl Kidd — percussion, Gavin Peacock — vocals, Richard White — bass, Paul Beyes — keyboards, and Alistair McQuillan — guitar. They've backed Mark Williams of late, as well as working on their own.

Les Hots is again a Wellington based outfit and includes ex-Blerta members Bruno Lawrence (drums), Patrick Bleakley double bass) and Fane Flaws (guitar), with Peter Dasenton on keyboards (late of Mammal and Tapestry) and Tony Backhouse on vocals and guitar. Les Hots aims to play New Zealand music which can't be bad.

Fragments of Time are Hamilton based and feature well-known singer Steve Gilpin as well as ex-Father Time members Smartie on drums, Don Martin on bass, and Alan Moon on keyboards. Completing the line-up is ex Brigade and Think guitarist Kevin Stanton. The band have already spent some time recording original material and are currently working down Wellington way.

buses. Last month, Schtung! took to the studio and put down tracks for their debut album on Phonogram — it'll be simply called *Schtung!* and it'll contain totally original material.

Andy Hagen and Morton Wilson write all the *Schtung!* schtuff — Andy plays guitar and keyboards and shares lead vocals with co-keyboardist Paul Jeffery. Morton plays guitar, Geoff Bowater plays flute and sax; Robby Sinclair, bass; and Geoff Bowdler on drums. The *Schtung!* album is due for release late this month or early in November — it'll be resplendent in a real *Schtung!* schtyle cover designed by graphic bassist, Robby.

In the absence of **Rata Awards** this year, it was encouraging to see the New Zealand Students Arts Council incorporating a Rock Composers competition in the Festival of the Arts. Auckland musician **Dave Calder** won the \$500 first prize for his song "Conversation — Over to You". The Australasian Performing Rights Association put up the Prize money — it's in lieu of the Apra Silver Scroll which is normally associated with the Rata Awards. Apra has a big interest in the future of New Zealand music, and honour this commitment with monetary incentives. All too rare, Ray Columbus and Radio Windy D.J. Ted Seymour judged the entries and were impressed by the high standard. The Rock Composers Award was presented at a small ceremony at the Travelodge on 9th September. **Tim Finn** assumed the role of presenter with ease.

Dave Calder is currently in the States, where he'll stay till the new year. Before his departure, he completed the soundtrack to the movie "Sleeping Dogs".

And Friday 9th September was a bad day for **Split Enz**. Their truck was held up at Picton, and missed not one, but two ferries. Consequently their gear didn't reach the Opera House till 7.50pm, and the show finally started a little after 10pm. The amazing Angelo had to be dropped from the bill — he wouldn't have stood a snowballs show at that late stage. Split Enz showed their true colours with a brilliant performance, and the audience finally let the Enz leave the stage at 5 minutes to midnight.

Wellington's **Heartbreakers** (as opposed to Tom Petty's) are also on the verge of recording an album. Guitar playing/singing/songwriting Simon Morris is optimistic about the future for the Heartbreakers — they have written a lot of

The Harder They Come

the best rock movie in ages

The Harder They Come was here last year as part of the International Film Festival. In Auckland it was screened once at a mid-afternoon session and then re-screened one night at the Lido. It seemed that if you missed both sessions you were just plain out of luck, having lost the chance to see one of the best rock movies to hit New Zealand. Thankfully, the situation has now been rectified. The film is returning on general release — so those of you who weren't fortunate enough to see it before better plan now because all we second-timers will be booking early in case it doesn't last long.

The Harder They Come is set in Jamaica and it's about reggae. Yet this is not to suggest that it's simply a series of film clips showing singers and groups performing. Nor is it one of those sugary musicals with minimal story line involving young lovers laughing and dancing their way through a summer holiday. This movie deals with Jamaican reality: the squalor, the violence, the grass, and the raw energy of life in the slums of Kingston that all go to produce reggae music.

Its protagonist is played, with obvious authentic feeling, by singer Jimmy Cliff. We see his progression from the total naif arriving in the city on a crowded bus, through his initiation to the lifestyle where dope and music are

almost the mainstays, to his increased rebellion and eventual emergence as a sort of Robin Hood with a gun, a vicious hero who challenges the corrupt establishment as champion of the oppressed poor. Along the way we learn much that is informative as a background to reggae: the economic viciousness of the recording industry where young musicians are paid a flat \$20 for their record which may go on to be a highly profitable hit, and the pervasiveness of marijuana in a society where a huge illegal market flourishes with police cooperation.

And then, of course, there's the music — lots of it — not only by Cliff, but by the Maytals, Desmond Dekker and others. The film sound-track has been around for a while and its a beauty. If, like me, you can't quite handle many of Marley's Rastafarian ravings, then this album is the place to start. It's very accessible reggae and sells at a budget price.

Look, forget all that Alice Cooper, Pink Floyd filmcrud. *The Harder They Come* is simply the best rock movie in ages. It has all the important ingredients — sex, violence, dope, music, and is a rattling good thriller besides. What more do you need? Go see it. I bet you come out of the cinema humming the title song.

Peter Thomson.

new songs over the last few months and have over a dozen to chose from for the album. The Heartbreakers have earned a reputation for being a renegade band, especially since their "Romeo and Juliet" single. They'd like to lose the image but acknowledge the need for a hit.

Until last year when the Heartbreakers got their residency at the Cricketers Arms, they spent a lot of time trudging up and

down the country playing the pubs. It's soul destroying and pretty tiring. Simon says "There are a handful of clubs to play now, but they're just pubs that stay open till 3."

This all points to the inevitable — overseas. The Heartbreakers will stay at the Cricketers until the album is completed, then they'll stay around to promote it.

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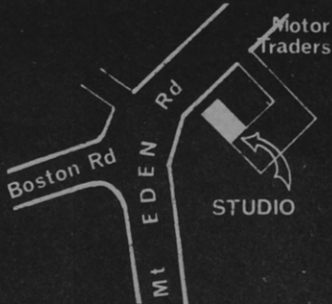
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