



Richard Hell and the Void-Oids
Blank Generation
Dead Boys
Young, Loud and Snotty

Talking Heads
Talking Heads: 77
Sire Records

The problem in attempting to categorise music as "New Wave" is that the phrase itself is meaningless enough to include virtually every new rock group, and yet leaves no room for distinction between widely-differing styles. The Ramones and the Sex Pistols are placed side by side with Tom Petty's Heartbreakers and Talking Heads. In healthier times there wouldn't be the same need to categorise and both Tom Petty and Talking Heads would be thought of as simply new artists, period.

As it is, Talking Heads, Richard Hell and the Void-Oids, and the Dead Boys are all "New Wave" artists, however ill-fitting the term may be. All three have played as regular acts at New York's home of "New Wave", Manhattan's CBGB's club, and yet all are very different.

Richard Hell holds the same dispassionate interest as Tom Verlaine; a coldly analytical approach to his songs which may come as a result of his having played bass in the original line-up of Verlaine's band, Television. It's more likely though that Richard Hell is in actuality the Brian Eno of the New Wave, with Television as equivalent to a seminal Roxy Music and Verlaine as an early Bryan Ferry. At the very least Richard Hell is the New Wave's Steve Harley.

His album bears the signs of failed genius; two classics of their kind and eight also-rans, "New Pleasure" ("Your minds are wrecked but that's fine/It corresponds to mine") and "Blank Generation":

*I belong to the blank generation
 And I can take it or leave it each time
 Well I belong to the ... generation
 But I can take it ...*

The Dead Boys are less memorable; a third generation punk band, an American equivalent to the Damned. They have no identity of their own, their music is made only for the moment.

Talking Heads are the pick of this crop; originally a trio of three students from the Rhode Island School of Design — David Byrne, singer, songwriter and guitarist; Chris Frantz, drummer; Tina Weymouth, bassist. In April last year Jerry Harrison, a former member of Jonathan Richman's Modern Lovers, joined as keyboard player and guitarist.

Their influences come from neither the Stooges nor the MC5 but from such third generation rock/pop bands as 10cc, early Steely Dan and Tubes.

And yet the music is startlingly original. Though it is purposely kept sparse, the effect is the opposite; the music becomes complex through its simplicity.

David Byrne sings with an honest intensity. While the themes to the songs he sings may be common, the lyrics are definitely not.

"Psycho Killer" goes so far as to include a verse in French and, I know, the Beatles did that a long time ago. But not quite like this:

*Ce que j'ai fais, ce soir la
 Ce qu'elle a dit, ce soir la
 Realisant mon espoir,
 Je me lance, vers la gloire ...*

"Talking Heads: 77" is a demanding album. It may very well be the best album you will hear this year. Listen to it, buy it if you can. No less than the future of rock'n'roll is in your hands.

Jeremy Templer



TOURS

With the news that the David Bowie dates in NZ are cancelled, comes the more than compensating story that Bob Dylan may be playing here in March.

What is known is that Dylan is undertaking a tour in this part of the world, including Japan and Australia. But is he going to make it to Godzone?

Overseas reports have Dylan already involved in rehearsals with the musicians who constituted the core of the Rolling Thunder Tour in 1976. The musicians Dylan is believed to be rehearsing with for the tour are bassist, Rob Stoner; drummer, Howie Wyeth; guitarists, Steven Soles and T Bone Burnette and multi instrumentalist, David Mansfield; a percussionist and keyboard player may also be added. So fingers crossed for what may be the event of 1978.

Tours set for later in the year include:

J.J. Cale, king of laid back rock, plays several dates in New Zealand including 2 nights in Auckland's Town Hall. Dates are: Auckland 3 & 4 March; Wellington 6 March; Christchurch 7 & 8; Dunedin 9 March. A Hamilton date will also be included.

George Benson popular, jazz-rock guitarist is set for 3 dates. Christchurch 23 March; Wellington 25 March and Auckland on the 26th at His Majesty's Theatre.

Billy Joel American singer-songwriter, is set for one NZ date. Auckland Town Hall April 19.

Also potentially set for March 7th, Auckland Town Hall, are Anglo-American rock band Foreigner. While attractions later in the year are Dr Hook and Manhattan Transfer in May and Joan Armatrading in June.

The visit of black rock band **War**, has been postponed.

Red Mole on Road

Red Mole Enterprises take their major work of the year on the road during late February and early March, visiting four main North Island centres. *Ghost Rite* will draw on the talents of the Red Mole Theatre Troupe, the Country Flyers, and Beaver, together with magician Jon Zealand to present what Mole member Deborah Hunt describes as a "spectacle. It took six weeks to prepare and it's serious in that it is a major work."

The first half of the show entitled "Sixteen Years on the Road" will draw on a year of cabaret work to present the Red Mole Cabaret to end all cabarets.

The second half, *Ghost Rite*, they mysteriously describe as the drama of our state and its origins". As usual it's a totally original show, this time complete with a full original music score.

With Red Mole's announcement that they're quitting Enzed for foreign shores later this year, you'll want to remember these dates:

Saturday 25 and Sunday 26 February — His Majesty's, Auckland.

Tuesday 28 — Hamilton's Founder Theatre.

Thursday 2 March — Opera House, Palmerston North.


Sunday 5 and Monday 6 — Wellington.

ROCKFLIX

Rockflix appearing over the next while around the country will include *The Harder They Come*, which will be playing at the Lido, Wellington from January 27.

Another film of interest opening in the near future will be Ken Russell's *Valentino*. Russell, who directed *Tommy* and *The Boyfriend* among many others, has made a film about the meteoric rise and subsequent life of fabled silent-screen lover, Rudolph Valentino. Rudolph Nuryev, famed ballet dancer, takes the part of Valentino in his first screen acting role, while ex Mamas and Papas member Michelle Phillips plays Valentino's wife. The film has received encouraging reviews overseas which suggest that Russell has moved away from the visual excess that has marred his later films to a more balanced style.

Plus don't forget, March or April should see release of Martin Scorsese's *The Last Waltz* which documents the Band's farewell concert.



“LET’S HEAR IT

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Barbecues 5 - 8 p.m.
 Newtown Meats supply
 the meat. Ngaio-
 Wadestown Lions Club
 cook it.
 Jan 26 Scorching
 Bay, Feb 2 Oriental
 Bay, Feb 9 Days Bay.

CRUISES
 Twilight fun for everyone.
 A 2 hour musical trip
 around Wellington Har-
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 Departs from the Glasgow
 Wharf opposite Wellington
 Railway Station, Saturday
 Jan 28, Saturday Feb 4

COKE
BARBEQUES

Listen to 2ZM for details