

Heavenly Bodies

Cook, Dunedin - Nov 21

The Bodies are: Mick Dawson (bass guitarist, ex-Enemy, writes Beatles and Cockney Rebel influenced songs), Neil Dobier (plays drums, rock'n'roll style, no higher compliment), Miles White (lead/rhythm guitar, plays clean, crisp, fat, powerful chords and plays them right), Kim Barron (like Dawson he's no spring chicken but he's a damn fine singer) and newest additive Bevan Hudson (second guitarist earning his bread more and more with

This band was made for the Cook because they play a tight, gritty boisterous mixture of sixties' gems with their own rugged direct song output that fits in with the no-shit, no-gloss rock'n'roll seediness of Dunedin's No. 1 kickin

ass pub.

Dust down and wham, on-target perfect versions of "Dead End Street", "You Really got Me", "No Replay" and "Taxman", a funky "Mirror Freak", a beat-the-Ramones-to-it show-stopper "Doo Wah Diddy Diddy" but a sadly faltering "I Hear You Knocking". Yet their own songs don't suffer by comparison because they're so well worked out and delivered with the right smack and feel, especially "Wall of Sound" (got a great guitar line), "Jealousy" (harmonies here dontcha know), "All These Years", "Cold Meat" (compulsive old Enemy song) and "Down By the Sea", slow and moody. ', slow and moody.

lt's a bleedin' rarity to find a band that can get down and dazzle you with biceps rock'n'roll from the past as well as amazingly strong selfpenned numbers. So who could argue with Jeff Rushton's piece of insight that "the Bodies are the best pub band around". Not me, for sure. George Kay

The Members

Mainstreet, Auckland - Nov 1

The Members happily describe themselves as punks and, as the first of that British breed to reach our shores, they were given the kind of welcome reserved for cult favourites and

homecoming heroes.
In front of an audience frantically pogoing kids they delivered an energetic set that shows how punk has developed — they play fast but stay in control. As a show it's professional yet exuberant. Fronted by Nicky Tesco, an ebullient and chubby-faced ex bank clerk, The Members deliver songs that maintain a nice line in no bullshit lyrics on domestic subjects and in that yein they have written a couple of and in that vein they have written a couple of mini-classics of the style with "The Sound of the Suburbs" and "Solitary Confinement". Yet over an entire show it's clear their songs display little melodic invention. Many are more chants than tunes. But their enthusiasm and uncontrived high energy pull them through

chants than tunes. But their enthusiasm and uncontrived high energy pull them through where their inspiration fails.

With support group The Swingers it's a different story. Guitarist Phil Judd, bassist Bones and drummer Buster Stiggs seem to have high quality songs in bulk. At present the arrangements tend to be a little unvaried but that's a problem I'm sure will be ironed out as they progress. The Swingers are a good pop band in the best sense of that much abused word and these catchy and inventive songs should not be missed.

Alastair Dougal Alastair Dougal

Norman Gunston

Auckland Town Hall — Nov 24

Move over, James Brown, make room for the hardest working man in show business, Norman Gunston. From the moment the deathly pale bleeder hit the stage to the heroic strains of *Rocky's* "Gotta Fly Now" fanfare until his closing "I Go To Rio" 80 minutes later he never stopped moving.
As he says himself, he understands "the fine

line between really selling a song — and having a stroke". But it was the near-capacity audience that was more in danger of succumbing to a stroke, from the cumulative effects of con-

Whether guying Tom Jones, Abba, Rod Stewart or Mick Jagger, or hosting the crudest of TV game shows, Gunston was hilarious. Don't imagine for a moment that his success is some sort of lucky accident. Whether it is "Delilah" or "Miss You" every fractured note is a precisely calculated destruction. And the small screen van only hint at the man's sup-

small screen can only hint at the man's suppleness and agility. A great little mover.

One mustn't neglect to mention the splendidly garish opening act, Cheetah, who, garbed as two tarnished cycle sluts, performed a toughas-nails set of rock standards.

Ken Williams

Picture This Mainstreet - Nov 10

Most any old band is playing new wave covers these days (yawn), and Picture This is no exception. This is a band made up of experienced pro musicians who don't even try to look in touch with the sort of music they're playing.
Singer Lisa Schouw has definitely got the

Singer Lisa Schouw has definitely got the pipes, but she puts across a pure cabaret stage act. She gets away with it on the Blondie tunes, maybe, but it looks a little incongruous on a Patti Smith song.

Singer/sax player David Spillane fares a little better. His vocals have improved a lot since I first saw the band, and he puts them across with some sort of commitment. Some of his songs show promise.

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The rest of the band comprises a bass player with platform heels, a hippie guitarist who solos too long and too often, and a hardworking and competent drummer. They cover Blondie, Police, and Patti Smith tunes, amongst others. Until disco takes over completely, there will be plenty of work for a band like this, playing beits for the denoers. I prefer rock'n'roll to be a

hits for the dancers. I prefer rock'n'roll to be a little less simulated.

John Malloy

Bon Marche

Squeeze - Nov 16

If you've got nowhere to take your girl and you've got some new clothes to flash, try the Squeeze. It's nice and you won't be alone. And Bon Marche are a nice sort of band to see when you get there.

They're really professional — obviously all been in a few bands before. Their sets are full of those neat, new XTC, Devo and Talking Heads songs you've heard Barry Jenkin (or Sheerlux) playing. Oh, there's a couple of Rolling Stones and Lou Reed numbers tossed in for

good measure. Not to forget, (I almost did) a couple of originals.

The night I was there, most of the audience loved Bon Marche. I thought the Primmers were better.

Paul McGowan

Toy Love, Terrorways, Frank Zerrox and The Duplicators

Squeeze - Nov 8

When I arrived I was certainly looking forward to seeing these three bands on one bill. By the end I was glad to be leaving. My only consolation was that I hadn't forked over seven

oblians to attend this fiasco.

Opening the show the Duplicators chalked up yet another impressive gig. Regrettably it was for neglible audience response. Especially considering the relatively short time they have been together the Duplicators are a very tight

bend indeed and the vocals are developing a real edge of excitement.

The Stooges hard rock is an obvious reference point for the band's original material.

Here the raw talent is obvious, all that's needed is a little polishing up.

Terrorways were as eagerly awaited by the Auckland fans as the billtoppers. However it was to be a bad night for the band. Their first set was truly appalling, though this was partly excusable as the band was adjusting to the new single guitar format. Another factor was the over-enthusiasm of some of the band's 'fans' who trampled stage monitors and harmless bystanders alike.

The second set was a considerable improve-ment on the first but the band seem to have lost the ability to amp up songs without losing the melody in the process. Following more audience trouble Terrorways glumly called an early end to their second set. Not having seen Toy Love for some months I

Not having seen Toy Love for some months I had come to the conclusion that recent reviews had vastly overrated the band. After seeing them for myself it appears that they are only slightly overrated. No they are not as great as they're cracked up to be but they are undeniably impressive.

While Chris Knox is as diverting a frontman as ever the real advances have been made by the other musicians. Drummer Mike Dooley is now fitting much more effectively into the overall sound and Alec Bathgate on guitar has gained in finesse without losing his rough power. Pity the keyboards still get drowned out a lot of the time. But the depth in the backing vocals has filled out the sound considerably. vocals has filled out the sound considerably.

With the band playing with their new power, they almost saved the evening. Almost but not

Dominic Free



The Members have lost no time this year in going from unknown ex-Stiff to one of Virgin's hottest new roadrunners, and "Killing Time", ebullient and irrepressible, makes it three in a row. Ska band, the Specials, move in with mood and muscle on the up-tempo reggae-inecho-chambers, "Gangsters", and Bram Tchaikovsky, ex-Motors, wins gawky-cover-of-the-month award for his version of "Lullaby On Broadway". The Laughing Dogs meanwhile blast away in time honoured no mess tradition on "Get 'Im Outta Town' and the Boomtown Rats continue their new found melodic maturity on "Diamond Smiles".

Moon Martin plays washy R&B on "Rolene"

on "Diamond Smilles".

Moon Martin plays washy R&B on "Rolene" as Santana, slicked up, try to woo us unconvincingly with "You Know That I Love You". Combine a Phil Spectorish big sound and a Bruce Springsteenish ballad and you have Miss Born-To-Run, Ellen Foley's hit single "We Belong To the Night". Fab. Well dressed man about town Johnny Cougar proves that he can write a reasonable hook on "Miami" and Randy Newman grows old in style, meaning he hasn't lost his cynicism, on the blues energy packed "It's Money That I Want". Who doesn't? Bob Dylan has replaced pain with religion on the twee, feeble "Man Gave Names To the Animals", but who cares? Plenty judging by the way his new album is selling.

Back home and we find that Mark Williams hasn't changed his style a helluva lot but he

hasn't changed his style a helluva lot but he has got better, not that he was ever bad mind, on the edgy funk of "I Don't Want You Anymore" coupled with one of his own compositions, an excellent ballad "Now That You've Gone", on the flip. Marc Hunter chalks up another danceable ditty "Don't Take Me" and another old-timer, **Wayne Mason**, who has written many a classy pop song, comes up with the best enzed ballad so far this year in "Rain From A Blue Sky". EMI have released a number of double-

EMI have released a number of double-backed A-sides and there are a few musts amongst them: The Animals "It's My Life/We Gotta Get Outta This Place" — both true anthems for sure; the Stones' "19th Nervous Breakdown/Get Off My Cloud" — sixties' cornerstones; Manfred Mann's "Do Wah Diddy Diddy/Sha La La" and "Pretty Flamingo/If You/Gotta go" — peerless pop, and Them's "Here Comes the Night/Gloria" — so influential it ain't funny.

tial it ain't funny.

Ten classics for ten bucks, fair deal.

GEORGE KAY



Just for the Record.

8 (8) 9 (18)

20 (37) 32 (47)

NZ SINGLES Nov 25, NZFPA

Don't Stop Michael Jackson Jezebel Jon Stevens Six Ribbons Jon English Get Your Love Right Jon

Born Be Alive Patrick Hernandez

Lost in Love Air Supply Heartaches Tonight Eagles Tusk Fleetwood Mac

Dreaming Blondie Dream Police Cheap Trick

19 (24) Computer Games Mi-Sex 35 (41) Words Sharon O'Neill

USA ALBUMS Nov 24, Cash Box

The Long Run Eagles
Tusk Fleetwood Mac

In Thru Out Door Lez Zeppelin

Cornerstone Styx
On The Radio Donna Summer

Life of Plants Stevie Wonder

Wet Barbra Streisand
One Voice Barry Manilow
Midnight Magic Commodores
Rise Herb Alpert

UK ALBUMS Nov 24, NME

Greatest Hits Rod Stewart Greatest Hits II Abba 1 (8) 2 (3)

Regatta De Blanc Police Tusk Fleetwood Mac

Off The Wall Michael Jackson
Music Aibum Lena Martell
20 Golden Greats Diana Ross
Greatest Hits 10cc

9 (9) The Specials Specials 10 (4) Rock'n'Roller Disco Various



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