

Records

'RECORDS' FROM PAGE 18
Questionnaire days and Alexei's routines (lyrics?) usually revolve around feeble attempts at outrage. Heavyhanded swipes at matters political, religious and sexual are further soared by gratuitous scatology and swearing. However there is one track which, for me anyway, is almost up to the standard of 1981's 'Stoke Newington'. 'Romford By Pass' is another wick- edly funny monologue parodying English social rituals and speech patterns. It's also one of the few tracks without music.

So while dance (?) tracks like 'Ullo John' and 'Brother' may largely succeed as soundtracks to — or reminders of — a visual performance, it's a couple of the non-musical routines that best survive on audio alone. Funny that.

Peter Thomson

King Kurt Big Cock Festival

With a title like that and pressed on "throbbing red vinyl",

don't expect anything subtle. But those of a delicate nature would be safer remaining at a distance. King Kurt's live shows have this habit of erupting into mass food fights, where everybody gets covered in some form of muck. Sounds like a mess of fun, and this album is the aural equivalent.

Belonging to that particular English form of rockin' riot — part rockabilly, part punk and part fair-ground music. The rockabilly bits are great, especially a version of Eddie Cochran's 'Nervous Break-down', and the beginning of 'Horatio', which takes off Roy Orbison's 'Domino' and then turns into something completely different.

This is a real noisy album, lots of yells, screams and loud backing vocals, a beer drinker's record that is far from sober. Tracks like 'Big Daddy' have this great call-and-response bit, and 'Alcoholic Rat' just about sums up this bunch of English wide boys, with names like Maggot, Thwack and the Smeg, how can you lose.

Like a *Beano* comic come alive — King Kurt invite you to a rave up.

Kerry Buchanan

Singles Bar

Patti Labelle and Michael McDonald On My Own (MCA 12")

Super fine soul from ex-Doobie Brother McDonald and a very controlled Ms Labelle. Just a nice simple song with an uncluttered production that really works. A huge hit in all enlightened nations — I hope that means here.

Wall of Voodoo Far Side of Crazy (Epic)

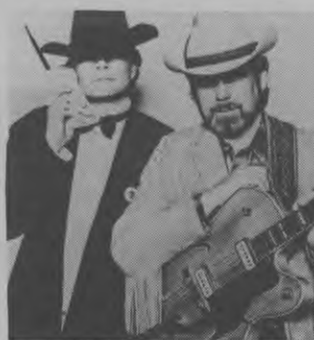
Not much voodoo and far from crazy. This one won't get any new fans but there might be something better on the *Seven Days in Sammystown* album.

Force MDs Tender Love (Warner Bros)

Wow, this is great, a real schmaltzy sugar coated tale of undying love. Simply so over the top in its sentimentality that it kills me, a hit for swinging lovers everywhere.

Colonel Abrams I'm Not Gonna Let (MCA 12")

Nice and bouncy rhythm combined with the Colonel's deep pleadings make this a winner. Sounds better on this 12" than



Gary Langan of The Art of Noise and Duane Eddy.

the album cut, four versions here with the extended mix and the acappella being the better ones.

King Kurt Road to Rock and Ruin (Stiff 12")

Rockabilly thrash from the boastful *Big Cock* album. The "wild boys of pop" return with a homage to destruction that I'm sure some of you will find attractive.

The Art of Noise Peter Gunn (Chrysalis 12")

Bar bands around the world have been grinding this one out ever since Duane "the biggest

twang" Eddy first plucked it out. This is great only because of Duane, and also because it's kept fairly straight. The only Art of Noise record worth owning.

Bob Dylan and the Heartbreakers Band of the Hand (MCA)

Hey, a protest song from the rich Mr Dylan. This one's got the lot: freedom, rights, corrupt systems, flags, blacks, Vietnam, etc, etc ... If people did what he wrote and sung about, rich rock stars — and that includes him — would be the first to go under. Long live the revolution.

David Bowie Underground (EMI)

An amazing amount of people on this, including Albert Collins, Marcus Miller, Chaka Khan, Luther Vandross, and produced by Arif Mardin. Sort of a gospel feel with blues guitar from Collins. Actually Bowie sounds a little out of his depth, not quite suiting the backing track. Now if Luther had done it ...

The Johnnys Showdown (Mushroom)

Spencer and the boys do a lively hoedown on this New York Dolls' classic. Their best vinyl outing so far, and the album is even better. Rock 'n' roll til' the cows come home.

Kerry Buchanan

Video

New Video Releases

Warners have released the entire James Bond collection, from *Dr No* to *From a View to a Kill*. Included are the classic Sean Connery films such as *Goldfinger* and *Thunderball*, plus the tired Roger Moore pot-boilers (though the witty *The Spy Who Loved Me* is worthwhile).

Also from Warners is *Crazy With You*, in which Madonna sings two songs; and being re-released are Marlon Brando and Elizabeth Taylor in the obscure 1967 John Huston film, *Reflections in a Golden Eye*; the Paul Newman prison film, *Cool Hand Luke*; Dustin Hoffman in *Straight Time*; and best of all, *Deliverance*.

From *Palace* comes *Divine* in three trashy comedies: *Female Trouble*, *Pink Flamingos*, and *Desperate Living*. "Warning," they say, "These movies are gross."

Roadshow offer Deborah Harry in *Union City*, the cult film *Mephisto*, and — purely for cultural interest — *The Best of the First New York Erotic Film Festival*.

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