

**James Brown**  
Wembley Arena, London,  
April 19

Brother James read the gospel. Brother James paid tribute to the international language of love, spelt MUSIC, "something that's in all our souls ..."

Brother James honoured the dead, and the living.

But first the James Brown Show 'honoured James Brown. Maceo Parker, the man with the sax, toasted the band, the band toasted Maceo Parker, and the audience toasted show business. The audience had come to see the man, James Brown, but what they saw was show business, and what a business it was.

The musicians were not ordinary musicians, they were without a doubt James Brown musicians. "I can take an ordinary musician and turn him into a James Brown musician", and the difference between the ordinary and the James Brown is immeasurable. The James Brown Show has the power to take the music wherever it wants. God willing.

'Prisoner of Love', 'It's a Man's, Man's, Man's World', 'Sex Machine', 'Ain't that a Groove', songs from nearly two decades past are still part of the James Brown Show, all as fresh as if they had just been born, executed with energy, confidence and urgency. From the Creator, to the musician, to the audience ... split second timing!

'Living in America' has been James Brown's first Top 10 single in the UK, and his first Stateside since 1968. James Brown is once again hot property.

There have been reports in the press that he can no longer 'do it' like he once did. Untrue ... falsehoods perpetrated by fanatics whose only passion is the downfall of all that is American. At a time when it is unwise to be openly American. The James Brown Show is not ashamed to be proud.

At this time in music the influence of Mr Brown's mainline is continuously reappearing in many forms of music, but there is only one James Brown, and his street heat is hotter than ever, and with a new major recording contract, perhaps this street heat will finally find its way to your feet. Yes, the show was great.

**C Roy Williams**

## Singles Bar

### SOS Band The Finest (CBS 12")

Sure is one of the finest slices of vinyl on anyone's turntable at the moment. Jam and Lewis produce another smoothie that flows and grows. Love the acapella with guest vocalists Cherrelle and Alexander O'Neal.

### Skipworth and Turner Hot Pursuit (Festival 12")

A solid beat keeps this in top gear, and the vocals are soul powered. But the mix needs cooling down, a little too rocky for me. Turn it over and there's a new version of 'Thinking About Your Love' with excellent vocals.

### Little Richard Great Gosh A'Mighty (MCA 7")

With the elemental force of an atom bomb, the "quasar" of rock delivers another inspirational sermon. Fine pumping piano and a thumping bass drum provide fervent backing for the divine one's soulful shouts.

### Heaven 17 featuring Jimmy Ruffin The Foolish Things to Do (Virgin 7")

A ballad from ex-Temptation Ruffin, produced and played by Heaven 17. Both perform well, especially Heaven 17, who sound very American styled. Close to the Freddie Jackson/Lilo Thomas school of sophisticated soul. The flip is a cover of Luther Vandross's 'My Sensitivity' sounding real cool.

### Sam Cooke Wonderful World (RCA 7")

Re-issue of one of the most perfect songs ever done. It's beauty is in simplicity and the way Sam Cooke's voice sounds so warm. Backed by 'Chain Gang', another soul-pop classic. They don't make them as good as this anymore.

### Doug E Fresh and the Get Fresh Crew The Show (Chrysalis 12")

The original Human Beatbox with heaps of clicks and beeps with a rap that's as funny as they come. This version cuts out a lot of the more suggestive lyrics, and the chorus from 'Michelle', but the mix is better than the other versions. The other side has the ultra wild 'La Di Da Di' which restores the smut quota. Certainly the hippest record of the month.

### Sly and Robbie Make 'em Move (Festival 12")

From the Material-produced *Language Barrier* album, a funk jam from the rhythm meisters. As per usual the bass is the real star, with enough boom to sink a battleship. Cameo role from Doug E Fresh as the Human Beatbox imitating Sly is a nice touch.

### Isley, Jasper, Isley Caravan of Love (Epic 7")

Hit record time for the Isley Brothers off-shoot. With the intense romanticism and languid groove, it's got numero uno written all over it.

### E G Dally Say it, Say it (A&M 12")

Okay you can stop looking, they've found the new Madonna. Mr Jellybean must be real happy in that this could revive his flagging career. Pity this hasn't got an ounce of the talent that the real Madonna has — but hey, that's showbiz!

### The Smiths Big Mouth Strikes Again (Rough Trade 7" & 12")

In 10 years time Morrissey's going to be writing the theme music for BBC documentaries on Evelyn Waugh. But at the moment he's still mining the tortured artist bit. The flip side features an instrumental that at first I thought was Dire Straits — sure sounds like it.

### Vanity Under the Influence (Motown 7")

Much better than previous efforts, even though 'Pretty Mess' was a lot funnier. Almost tasteful lyrics but she'll never make the cover of *Broadsheet*. Music-wise it has a nice groove, but nothing spectacular.

### Signe Signe Sputnik 21st Century Boy (Parlophone 12")

Modern pop music is just so vacant, so it's good to see "Bands" like this milk it dry. Almost a re-make of their first single and it should make a mint. Such honesty is heart-warming.

### Pet Shop Boys Opportunities (Let's Make Lots of Money) (Parlophone 12")

Even more honest, with the boys intoning "I've got the brains. You've got the looks ... let's make lots of money ..." That's stark real-

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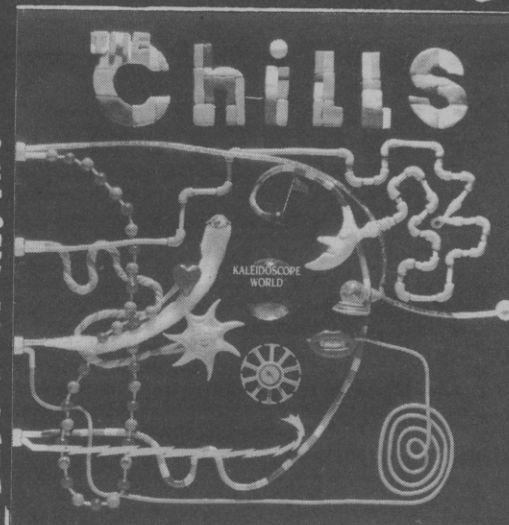
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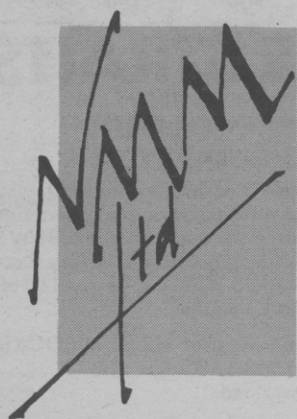
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