

Blam Blam Blam Marsha (Propeller)

Another hot one from the pen of Mr McGlashen. Don't Fight It, Marsha, It's Bigger Than Both Of Us' is probably the finest recording to come out of Harlequin yet. Great chorus and faultless production, it must surely be the best local single of the year. Side Two lets it down, with a sloppy version of 'Dr Who' and the dittyish instrumental 'Cachunga Cachunga'.

Haircut 100 Favourite Shirts (Arista)

A three-piece from southern England who hardly ever play live. On 'Favourite Shirts', heaps of funky brass and sustained riffing give the impression they're a 10-piece. Still, it's a dynamite dance number and deserves hours of airplay. I've only played it about 350 times and it's lost none of its urgency, could end up my single of the year.

Danse Macabre Between The Lines 12" EP (Reaction)

A wistful instrumental gives way to early-days' crowd pleaser, 'Torch'. Then there's a rearranged 'Conditioner', my personal favourite. On Side Two is the exceptionally strong title track followed by the funk driven 'ECC'. This is a remarkably good recording and one that will win the Macabres many new admirers.

U2 Gloria (Island)

This single from the October album follows the disappointing 'Fire'. The Edge is in top form with another classic guitar line and Bono's vocals are superb. Will this be the second Irish hit single titled 'Gloria'? The flip is a great live version of 'I Will Follow', not on the album, making this single a very good buy.

Screaming Meemees Sunday Boys At At (Propeller)

Now hold on a second, didn't I just hear this? Michael plays a very familiar guitar line and Tony starts waa-ohing. From there it builds into what is a better single than 'See Me Go', but arguably not the best song to follow it. 'At At' is a rampant piece of Meemeism, more original or maybe just less derivative, but a great little song.

The Creatures Wild Things By (Polydor)

A five-song, two seven-inch package from Siouxsie and Budgie Banshee. Biggest surprise is the most warped version of 'Wild Thing' you are ever likely to hear. Apart from 'Thumb', the rest is stripped down Banshees. The sleeve is excellent and includes the lyrics. A big pat on the back for Polygram for having the foresight to release this.

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"Don't fight it, Marsha, it's bigger than both of us." (A)

"Dr Who": "Cachunga, Cachunga" (B)



Spandau Ballet Chant No.1 (Chrysalis)

What must be seen as a progression for the Spandaus has them moving further into the funk-disco side of things. Rather catchy, but not so much as the Haircuts. B-side is a rework of the same thing.

NZ Pop Holidays (XSF)

With the departure of Andrew Snoid to the Swingers, this will be their last recording with his vocals. I've always been a big fan of 'Holidays', and this version does it proud. On the other side is 'The Ritz', a vast improvement on their first version, but it still retains that horrible heavy metal guitar solo.

D.D. Smash Repetition (Mushroom)

Dave D. didn't like the deals offered to him locally, so he sent his tapes to Australia. This Mushroom single is quite different to the live version. It doesn't live up to its title so much. That's a good sign. Not really radio orientated, but a good single. Flip is instrumental 'Arabia By Foot'.

Steroids Shadows (Straight)

Bass heavy, dense and very morbid, 'Shadows' is the best thing yet by the Steroids. The synthesiser adds body, and there's some fine production from Peter Blake. Flip is 'Sign Of The Times'. It's nearly as poor as the cover.

Rhythm Method (Beacon)

Three songs from this now-defunct Auckland unit. 'Creating Criminals' and 'Got A Month' are both semi-reggae, with the former featuring some sparkling Reels-type keyboards by Gill. Best of the lot is 'High Street', a low-key jazz-funk piece with cocktail piano.



Blind Date Local Dance (WEA)

It's quite possible that Blind Date have a superb album in them. The thing is, they just don't seem able to cut it with singles. 'Local Dance' isn't a bad song, it's just not memorable. 'In My Dreams' is better, but over-dependent on standard rock playing. I haven't given up yet.

Graham Brazier No Mystery (Polydor)

A strong cut from his solo album. Peter Ulrich produced this mid-pace rocker, proving Graham still has what it takes. The B-side, 'Olio', stars all of Hello Sailor. Maybe it's an old HS track.

The Birthday Party Nick The Stripper (Propeller)

One thing about Birthday Party singles, you're never likely to hear them on daytime radio. This is probably the strongest cut from 'Prayers On Fire', half rhythmic dementism, coupled with gangster horns and Nick Cave's irresistible vocals. Flip is 'Blundertown'.

Madness Shut Up (Stiff)

Another commercial single from the Nutty Boys. Great sleeve, excellent video, formula song. Though they do break some new ground on 7, this is a very safe single. The flip, 'A Town With No Name', is a not-very-good spaghetti western ripoff. Adam Ant did it better. Mark Phillips

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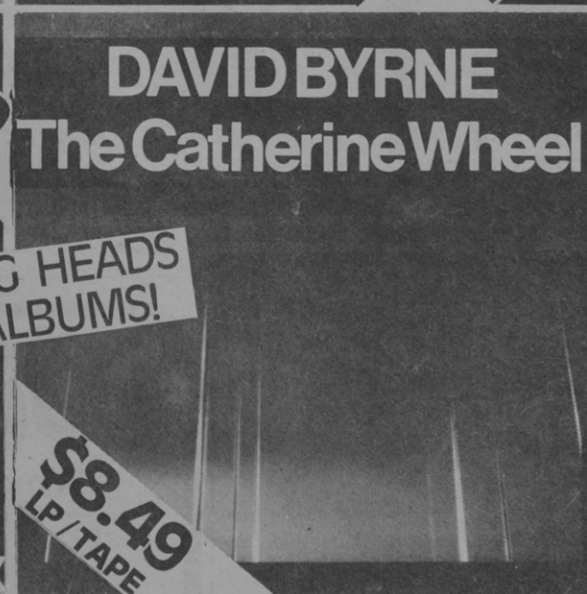
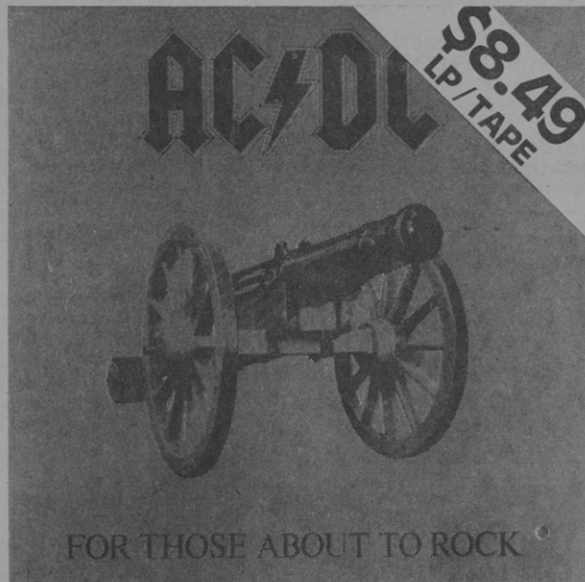


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