

Live

The Ritz
Majestic, Wgtn, Sept 10.

Happy hour had come and gone. Outside winter was fighting a rearward action and inside the Majestic Cabaret Soft Cell, Hunters and Collectors and many others were larger than life thanks to modern technology.

Ritz 2 was a tasteful combination of international video and local music. The crowd was disappointingly small and the sound was uneven at times, but it mattered little as the music swung through a variety of moods and styles. Sassy stuff and New Zealand all.

Jungle Mice overcame the small crowd to give an energetic and interesting performance. HSArt — two people looking like extras from *Star Wars* — took the stage some time later. Their music, relentless and overpowering, was a little out of place. Still, the finale

was powerful and finely understated.

Naked Spots Dance were the first of the heavyweight acts to appear. They've lost the uncertainty that has dogged them in the past and presented challenging, hard and rhythmic songs. Accompanied by slides, theirs was a strong performance. The forthcoming album should prove interesting.

Then the Verlaines, authors of 'Death and the Maiden' my favourite local 45 to date for '83. On the night their performance suffered from a variable sound but the songs were as rousing as ever. Given further recording opportunities the Verlaines could be big.

Last up Miltown Stowaways. Taut, danceable beat interlaced with fiery horn shrieks make an exciting mix. An energetic, almost manic stage act capped the performance. Uptight dervish dance or homegrown rock'n'roll, it was just fine for me.

Some nights you just don't want to go home.
David Taylor

Verlaines
Stones

Empire, August 6.

These performances came at the tail of the Empire's Birthday Party, nine solid hours of music ... but you got the feeling these last two were the ones that really counted.

Responsible for the year's best 45, the Verlaines have every right to feel cheated by the way the charts move. Why 'Death and the Maiden' isn't floating around the upper strata of the singles listing remains a mystery. Tonight sees the first real blooding of new drummer, Caroline (ex BRF and Spines) on the Verlaines home turf and she injects new found vitality just when the band risked edging towards staleness.

Old mixes with new, with a smattering of fresh material, most notably, 'Forget Your Loved', combined with perennials, 'Playing To An Empty Hall' (immaculately performed) and of course the irresistible, 'Death and the Maiden'. No dusting off needed here kiddies.

Verlaines Mk 4 will survive on Graham Downes' passion alone, but this version, unlike its predecessors, is threatening to be a real unit instead of a one man band.

The Stones just couldn't be bothered, usually a guarantee it's gonna be a good night. Disintegration imminent (unfortunately glaringly obvious towards the end), the three belted out a restricted list before getting slightly lost in 'Fad World', their

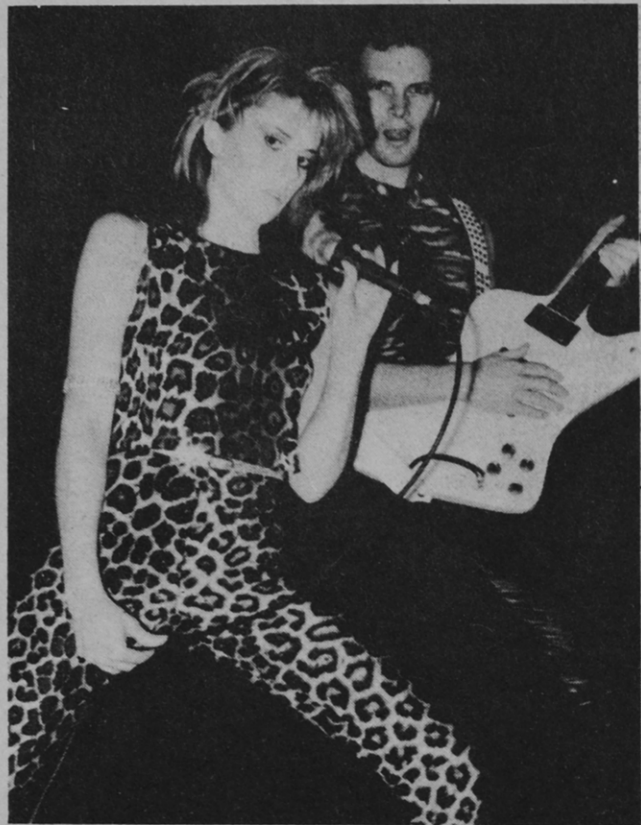
usual sweeping finale, which tonight sounded more like a broom battered death knell.

'Something New' was the unlikely highspot, ably supported by 'At The Cafe', both evidence of the huge drive and, sometimes majestic, power the Stones can

produce when minds are put to task. If indeed the curtains are closed, the Stones can at least rest satisfied they've proved playing to or for an audience just don't mean a shit. Playing at them is what it's all about.

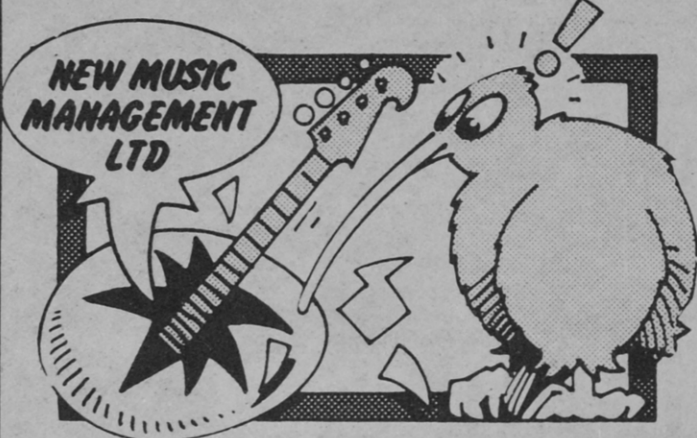
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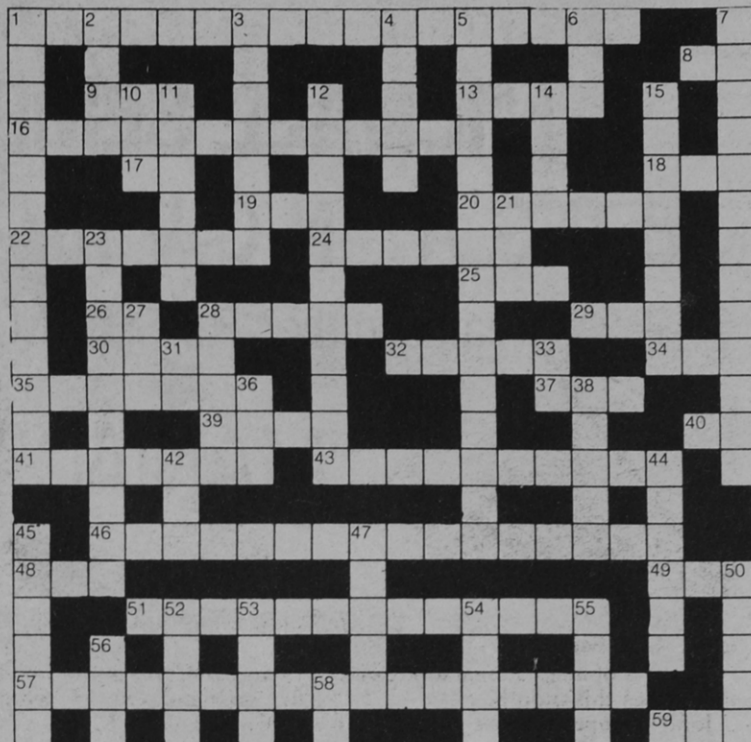
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DOWN

- 1 'I say go, she says yes/Dim the lights ... you can guess the rest! (4,2,3,4)
- 2 Punk tube babies.
- 3 Ax? Er, none, say the Police.
- 4 Phil, of the League.
- 5 Cale's classic turbulence. (7,8)
- 6 ... for Two.
- 7 Sixties pop show that was definitely a starter. (5,6,2)
- 10 The Bow Wows' one wasn't a dog but a cassette.
- 11 This man's son attended a Solomon's Ball.
- 12 & 51A Recent Dunedin waxing which maybe demonstrates what marketing degrees do to you. (7,4,7,6)
- 14 The young, gifted and black woman.
- 15 (See 43A)
- 21 Ever so rich record label? (1,1,1)
- 23 Surrounding me with Yazoo? (3,3,4)
- 28 Ska film craze.
- 31 All ... doin' is defending.
- 33 The word Bowie had Simple Minds saying at the end of Iggy's 'Play It Safe'.
- 36 Uhuru's shiner.
- 38 Songsmith, wordsmith and apparently initially a blacksmith.
- 42 Half a song by the Dixie Cups, Belle Stars and Natasha.
- 44 James' were famous, Billy's were blue.
- 45 Malcolm can sew too!
- 47 Josef K were for laughing.
- 50 'Now I wanna feel your hands/And lose my heart on the burning'
- 52 The Velvet Underground was one



- side of this coin.
- 53 Came with time for the Enz.
- 54 Jagger's most prominent facial feature.
- 55 NY cassette label sounds as though it has the lion's share. (1,1,1,1)
- 56 Michael Jackson's companion before he bought all those mannequins.
- 58 One of Booker T's cars. (1,1)
- 13 Labelle's songwriter, an Jon lady.
- 16 The gang's first show.
- 17 Between stations for Bowie.
- 18 Orbison, Buchanan, Harper.
- 19 '... Safe', SF song.
- 20 Larry's family was called Stone but his surname was ...
- 22 NZ band play affection? (3,4)
- 24 Patti's equestrian album.
- 25 Beatles' amplification.
- 26 Midnight Oil's forces. (1,1)
- 28 This band came unhinged in the early 70s.
- 29 Clean-eyed lady. Dieren gone crazy? Something like it!
- 32 The other group with the other 'Substitute'.
- 34 Real name, John Beverley.
- 35 There's new poetry in Grant.
- 39 Setzer's strays.
- 40 The world's forgotten boy, alias the ...
- 41 Peter's an angel, apparently.
- 43 & 15D Unwashed brainwashed? (4,3,2,3,4)
- 46 Beefheart's fishfaced facsimile. (5,4,7)
- 48 ... To Be Ah!
- 49 Caroline, Sam? No, she's still sane.
- 51 (See 12D)
- 57 John's beleaguered school.
- 59 Who's enchanted vehicle?

ANSWERS PAGE 38

JIVE BOMBERS

DEC 1,2,3 GLUEPOT (AK)
DEC 8,9,10 CRICKETERS (WN)

... OTHER DATES TO BE ADDED ...

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