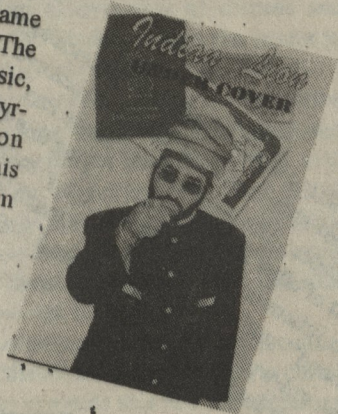


Indian Lion
Under Cover
 (Multitone/BMG)
 Reggae/rap/dance from Vancouver, B.C.; performed by an Indian Englishman. This odd cultural mix, though interesting, does not create a particularly entertaining product. The beats are good, but generic enough to be the demo mode of a Casio keyboard. The music is generally listenable, but the album is marred by the monotonous inclusion of three versions of the same song, and two of another. The cover of the Bob Marley classic, "Jamming", with alternative lyrics, borders on sacrilegious. Despite its faults this is really not a bad album; far from great, but not bad.

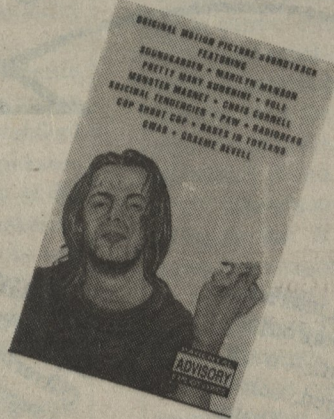
(3)
 -- Mike Beagan



S.F.W. Soundtrack
Various
 (A&M)

A soundtrack for bored, suicidal, sexually depraved, pissed-off generation-Xr's everywhere. There are outstanding performances from Pretty Mary Sunshine, Monster Magnet, Radiohead, Paw, and an acoustic version of Soundgarden's "Like Suicide" by Chris Cornell that is a cut above the rest. Also included are some decent stuff from Suicidal Tendencies, and Marilyn Manson, and some forgettable songs from Hole, and gore kings GWAR. Overall, a good collection of tunes from the harder edge of the genre that used to be called "Grunge" or "Alternative".

(3.5)
 -- Mike Beagan



The Grapes of Wrath
Seems Like Fate 1984-1992
 (EMI)
 The Grapes of Wrath have finally released their long-awaited greatest hits compilation CD. The album contains the greatest hits from their five albums including a couple of my personal favourites, "I Am Here" and "Peace of Mind". Also included on the album are the club versions of "I Am Here" and some previously unreleased singles. The jacket liner has a progressive profile of the band, the pictures from the album covers, and a list of the songs and singles from each release. This album would make a perfect gift for any Grapes fans on your list.

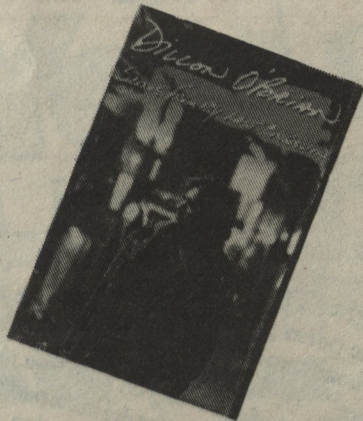
(4)
 -- Steve Ellis

MORE MUZIK REVIEWS

Dillon O'Brian
Scenes From My Last Confession
 (RCA/BMG)

Take two parts jazz, one part folk, one part blues, one part light rock, mix in a pinch of celtic for flavour, and you get something like Dillon O'Brian. Not all of the religious imagery saturated tunes on this album work perfectly, but all are very easy to listen to. Bright spots include "My Father's Son", "Two Friends", and "The Analytical Mind". "Unwanted Child" is a beautifully moving little tune, while "Catholic Boys" is a disturbing glimpse at sexual misconduct within the Catholic church. The musicianship is very high quality. Overall, this is a good release for fans of light, rootsy pop.

(3.5)
 -- Mike Beagan



Frank Sinatra
Duets II

This is the second compilations of duets featuring "Old Blue Eyes" and an assortment of fellow singers from both present and past. This time around, Willie Nelson, Stevie Wonder, Gladys Knight, Linda Ronstadt, Lorrie Morgan, Jimmy Buffet, Lena Horne, Chrissie Hynde, Frank Sinatra Jr., Steve Lawrence and Edie Gormie, Jon Secada, Luis Miguel and Neil Diamond.

This reviewer, a long-time Sinatra fan, found all the tracks entertaining, even those combining the Chairman of the Board with people I did not know. (At risk of aging myself, this includes Chrissie Hynde, Jimmy Buffet and Jon Secada).

I especially enjoyed the combination of Sinatra's foggy crooning in "A Foggy Day" supported by the twangy sounds of Willie Nelson and the spring provided by Gladys Knight and Stevie Wonder in "For Once in my Life".

Sinatra is the Energizer bunny of music -- he just keeps going and going and going with the energy and power to hold his own in these exciting arrangements. Well worth the listening, especially for those of you who don't realize that songs have understandable lyrics. Try it, you'll like it.

-- David Schneider

Andru Donalds

s/t
 EMI

He sounds like Lenny Kravitz on acid (assuming that Lenny isn't already on acid). Strangely enough, it doesn't sound bad. I'd even go so far as to say that I like it. You've probably heard the third song-- "Mishale", as it has received a lot of radio play lately. The rest of the CD is just as good-- buy it, but don't read the acknowledgements. They will make you cry. This guy has a lot of heart.

(4.5)
 -- Kathy Giesbrecht