

Psychedelic Nostalgia

By Matthew Hennessey

In the world of the billion dollar major label music industry, artistic integrity is often low on the 'formula for success' list. Many legitimate musicians and songsmiths have lost their ability to create by having Mr. A. And. R. shove ideas down their throats, talking charts and numbers instead of words of inspiration. "You don't follow the trends, and we won't support you! Sure we'll let you make a record (that's cheap) but the advertising that is required and the greenbacks for the world tour...well, do it on your own." Halifax's Sloan found out this reality the hard way, and was one of the few that survived. In essence, it is a rarity to witness an artist that is able to combine innovation, worldwide success and a free leash from their record company; with this methodology, there is magic to be made.

Magic is something that Paul Simon has created all throughout his career, from his days in Greenwich Village coffee shops, to Monterey Pop with his one-time partner Art Garfunkel, to the solitude of the present. Simon has become a legend, without once pausing to reflect on his success or allow his reformation to push the boundaries of pop music.

In 1986, Simon recorded what some people deemed a comeback album. His solo career, though ingenious, has somewhat faltered during the early '80s. What resurrected his career was *Graceland*. Named after Elvis Presley's home estate, this album became the flagship in the then underground world beat scene. It gave this form of popular music legitimacy, as it was adapted, and transformed and produced by a major superstar. Paul Simon enlisted the help and influence of African rhythms and vocal delights on the creation of *Graceland*, with the African group, Ladysmith Black Mombazo. This group has already gone on to bigger and better things, but their star career began with the infectious song, "Homeless."

Despite criticism about stealing other people's musical influences, Simon had three big hits with were all his own; the title track, "You can call me Al," and "Diamonds on the soles of her shoes," were mainstays on the adult contemporary, pop/rock and world beat charts. The advent of the crossover artist had begun and it was Paul Simon who told the record companies and the globe that it was allowed, and encouraged.

The rest of the album is, in a word, outstanding. Linda Ronstadt helps out on "Under African skies," and we can only imagine the inspiration that they must have had on Paul Simon.

There is little debate that the boy from New York is not only a great poet and musician, but he can certainly spot talent; for evidence we need look no further than Simon's follow up album, *The Rhythm of the Saints* where South American beats were adapted. And now, Paul's got a tough job to live up to as he is expected to release a new album in early 1998.

Paul Simon *Graceland* (Warner Bros: 1986) the boy in the bubble-graceland-i know what i know-gumboots-diamonds on the soles of her shoes-you can call me al-under african skies-homeless-crazy love vol ii-that was your mother-all around the world or the myth of the finger prints

East Coast Music Awards in 10th Year

The 10th anniversary of the East Coast Music Awards and Conference will begin celebrating selected Atlantic artists from January 29, culminating three days later with the Gala to be held at the Halifax Metro Centre.

Halifax native Sarah McLachlan leads the pack of nominees with seven nominations. The highly acclaimed single "Building a Mystery" off the *Surfacing* album looks to bring in several awards. Several other artists also have multiple nominations, including Great Big Sea, Ron Hynes, and PEI's Lennie Gallant.

The Entertainer of the Year category will be the only one to be voted on by the general public; the ECMA membership votes on all other categories. The public may vote by visiting any location of the Atlantic Superstore and Atlantic SuperValu throughout Atlantic Canada., where a direct, toll-free call may be placed to the ECMA '98 Entertainer of the Year hotline, courtesy of MT&T, NBTel, Island Tel and NEWTEL.

Comedian Rick Mercer of "This Hour has 22 Minutes" hosts the Gala Awards Show, which takes place Sunday, February 1, and will be broadcast live to the nation for the first time by CBC Television and on CBC Radio Two. Some acts slated to perform at the Metro Centre show include Sloan, Ashley MacIsaac, Rita MacNeil, Lennie Gallant, Modabo, Bruce Guthro, Johnny Favorite Swing Orchestra and Symphony Nova Scotia.

1998 East Coast Music Awards Nominees

Male Artist of the Year

J.P. Cormier
Johnny Favorite
Lennie Gallant
Roch Voisine
Ron Hynes

Female Artist of the Year

Anne Murray
Laura Smith
Mary Jane Lamond
Sarah McLachlan
Tara MacLean

Pop/Rock Artist of the Year

Anne Murray
Great Big Sea
Laura Smith
Roch Voisine
Sarah McLachlan

Alternative Artist of the Year

Elevator to Hell
Inbreds
Julie Doiron
Plumtree
Super Friendz

Group of the Year

Great Big Sea
Johnny Favorite Swing Orchestra
MacKeel
Modabo
Punters

Country Artist of the Year

Denise Murray
J.P. Cormier
Julian Austin
Ron Hynes
Shirley Myers

Album of the Year

It's a Personal Thing
Laura Smith

Lifeline

Lennie Gallant

Play

Great Big Sea

Suas e!

Mary Jane Lamond

Surfacing

Sarah McLachlan

Single of the Year

"Building a Mystery"
Sarah McLachlan

"Everything You've Done Wrong"
Sloan

"Fiddle & Bow"

Natalie MacMaster
& Bruce Guthro

"It's a Personal thing"
Laura Smith

"When I'm Up"

Great Big Sea

Video of the Year

"Building a Mystery"
Sarah McLachlan

"Everything You've Done Wrong"
Sloan

"Godspeed"

Ron Hynes

"Stepping Song"

Mary Jane Lamond

"Too Much Kathleen"
Cool Blue Halo

Entertainer of the Year

(Sponsored by
President's Choice)

The Barra MacNeils
Great Big Sea
Johnny Favorite Swing Orchestra
Natalie MacMaster
Sarah McLachlan