



U2 - The Joshua Tree

by Darrell Cole

It's about time that this Irish super-group made another album. Their fifth album in the decade is called "The Joshua Tree" and it is much like this Irish quartet's last album, "The Unforgettable Fire" which was a smash hit in Europe but sort of a yawner in America. This album is supposedly the most well produced of the groups albums with Danny Lanois, Brian Eno, and Steve Lillywhite all working on the album. "Who are these people?" Well, they are just three of the top producers in Europe. This album is an album of vast shifting sound scapes that move from quiet hymnal choruses to thunderous lyrics of mountains and stars, etc...

What is a U2 album without the heart-touching vocals of Bono, the groups well-known and idolized lead-singer. The album in short is the usual U2 medieval crusader stance, but this time it is more fully realized than before.

"The Joshua Tree" is most likely going to get its share of criticism but it is still going to sell a few million copies because this is U2 and everybody loves U2, at least most everybody does. Undoubtedly this album is a great piece of work, but we will have to wait and see if it reaches the masterpiece status that people have already given it.

There has only been one release off of this al-

bum. It is called "With Or Without You" and it is the typical U2 song. Like other U2 songs from the past it won't do well on the single's charts but also like their old songs it will remain in our hearts and minds after all it contemporaries have been long forgotten.

I think this album is going to do quite well in Canada. No doubt about it, "The Joshua Tree" will be top ten in Europe. As for Canada I would settle for Top 25. I have only heard a couple of songs from the album, but what I have heard I can honestly say that I like. I give "The Joshua Tree" by U2 a score of:

Rating- 6/10

The Robert Cray Band "Strong Persuader"

By Daniel Mullen

Mercury-PolyGram
Records

Compact Disc

Single: "Smoking Gun"
Robert Cray: Vocal
and Guitar

Richard Cousins: Bass
Peter Boe: Keyboards

David Olson: Drums

Produced by

Bruce Bromberg
and
Dennis Walker

The front cover of the CD looks like Mohammed Ali with a toy guitar in his hands, but it is not. It is Robert Cray, the amazing master of guitar. Cray, and his band, The Robert Cray Band, what else?, perform nine solid tracks on this amazing disc, complete with input from the Memphis Horns. Cray's clear, unstrained voice carries through each song of the album, such as in "I Guess I Showed Her". The music is blues-based, with

a good rock rift through it. The touch of horns, sparing use of keyboards, and the tight bass work by Richard Cousins all result in a sound that you just HAVE to hear. The album itself is called "Strong Persuader", a line taken from the third cut on the CD.

"Right Next Door". This one song is a carry-through from the first two songs, "Smoking Gun" (which is gaining airplay on the FM stations), and "I Guess I Showed Her", which take different viewpoints on the same adulterous situation. "Strong Persuader" may not have Madonna popping herself out all over it, nor the sugary-sweet bop-she-bop of the George Michaels in the music world, but by gosh, this is great stuff to listen to. Get the album and get some friends over to listen too!

Next week, I'll try to get my hands on the album from Hipsway, the new Scottish band, for a listen

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Light of Day

Starring
Gena Rowlands, Joan Jett,
and Michael J. Fox

Review by James Connolly

'Light of Day' is a recently released spring movie just to get people into the theatres. Although this movie is being heralded as a Michael J. Fox film, it certainly is not. He portrays Joe (Joey) Rasknik: a hard working factory labourer. Joe's sister, Patty (Joan Jett), is an unwed mother of a young boy, Benjamin (or Bongo). Joan Jett and Gena Rowlands, who plays the fundamentalist Christian mother, are by far the real stars of this film. Jett fits into

her role like a key in a lock; Fox is used simply for commercialism. Unfortunately, this film lacks the makings of a good commercial movie. It's not a blockbuster comedy (Fox's style), but rather an attempt to explain how poverty and family breakdown can be overcome with Rock and Roll: as one promo puts it 'redemption Rock & Roll and a family without sentiment'.

I hate to disappoint you, but it does not succeed. The plot is simple: Patty has a child, Benjamin, for whom she has very little time to spare. To complicate things, her mother constantly pokes at Patty to straighten out her life, and let God into her heart. Patty and Joe go on the road with their band, the Barbusters, taking lit-

tle Bongo along for the ride. When Patty shoplifts steaks in a supermarket by putting them down her son's pants, Joe quits the band and takes Bongo back home to live with him and his mother. Joe (Fox) spends most of his screen time arbitrating the battles between Patty and her mother: a not so exciting role.

The scene is contemporary Cleveland with modern rock music, now known as blue collar rock. One redeeming quality of this movie is that it isn't used to recycle old music from the 60s like so many of the summer hit shows do. Jett as Patty is the lead singer for their band; Fox plays guitar and sings backup. When I heard him sing in the final scene with his rough voice, I realized the wis-

dom in having him lip sync all of his singing in 'Back to the Future'. He's not too bad, but Jett is the real singer for the movie. In fact, their dual rendition of the title song 'Just Around the Corner to the Light of Day', written by Bruce Springsteen, is moving up the Top40 charts rather quickly. The movie was originally titled 'Born in the USA', but Bruce liked the title so much, he used it to launch his best selling album. In return for that song, he wrote the new theme which bears the movie's new title. Coupled with the rock video from the movie, this is a complete sales package — you can watch the video, listen to the song, see the movie, or all of the above.

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