

LimROCK



Is it worth the effort?

By SHANE FOLEY

WITH all the procedure, hassle and sheer effort that goes into getting signed up by a major record company I often wonder why Irish groups bother at all.

With the exception of U 2, in recent times; The Boomtown Rats and Thin Lizzy our home grown bands just don't seem to be making any impression on the international record buying public.

If you take the success of some of our more recent exports to major record labels - Les Enfants, In Tua Nua, Cactus World News and Blue in Heaven - you will see that it is practically non-existent.

Touchez

After a marvellous album, "Touchez"; a number of singles which flopped, and a tour of England backing Paul Young, Les Enfants have, I believe, parted company with their record label, Chrysalis. Some success!

In Tua Nua haven't, it seems, done much better with a series of failed singles and I gather they also have had their record deal terminated.

Talent counts for nothing in this cut-throat business - just record sales.

This week sees the release of Cactus World News third single, "Worlds Apart", their second for the M.C.A. label. The previous single, "Years Later", even though being absolutely great didn't do the business so I hope this one



Blue in Heaven: Are they destined to reach the top?

does well for the lads. If it doesn't it will pose another large question mark over one of our hopefuls.

They Just Wanna

"I Just Wanna" is the latest

single from Blue in Heaven. This single, as all the others I have mentioned, did not appeal to the general crowd who buy records. Blue in Heaven have just recorded their second album and have had a fair few singles released but one feels that if this album

does not set the charts alight it could be goodbye to the band's contract.

The funny thing is that all the above mentioned bands, without exception, whenever they came to Limerick played in front of huge crowds. So you must say to yourself that it just isn't Limerick's love of live music and that people probably support the bands wherever they play in Ireland - so why don't they buy the records?

Limerick's own Tuesday Blue are another example of this situation. Although they don't yet have a contract their one-off single with "Mother" received good airplay on R.T.E. Radio 2 and English national radio and their support at recent live gigs was phenomenal but yet it didn't chart anywhere except in our local charts and in truth if they didn't do that - need I say more...

Success

Even though the huge international success of U 2 might overshadow their less illustrious counterparts this should not be used as an excuse or as an unfair comparison but just that U 2 are streets ahead of the rest of their countrymen.

And now that U 2 are established superstars we need another success story or two to keep music alive in Ireland.

Maybe "Self Aid" on May 17th next will inspire some new budding Bono and start a new era.

OFF THE RECORD

● **PET SHOP BOYS:** Please - This is another one of those catchy synth laced albums which really do all the right things for me. Or to put it another way I think it's the perfect party type dance record.

● It would be all too easy just to mention the hit singles but the album is absolutely full of truly energetic and spontaneously magnificent songs - "Tonight Is Forever", "Suburbia" and "Two Di-



vided By Zero" are perfect examples.

● The single "Love Comes

Quickly" and the classic "West End Girls" are also included.

● For a mainly hi-energy album it has some nice slow moments with "Later Tonight" and "Violence".



JAMES TAYLOR: That's Why I'm Here - This album sees James heading towards double figures with albums released and it is also his first for some time. It contains 10 tracks, seven of which have been penned by the man himself.

● This offering is typically Taylor and results in an absolutely fantastic and thoroughly enjoyable album.

● James is joined by Joni Mitchell, Graham Nash and Don Henley, ex Eagles, on vocals. He produced the album himself.

● The title track opens a

very good side one and this is quickly followed by another great track called "Song For You Far Away".

● Side two for me is just great with tracks like "Only One", "Mona" and "The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance" really standing out. It also includes his latest single, "Everyday".

● This album is as good by all accounts as his recent concert was at the R.D.S. in Dublin. Fans will really adore this album and it should also win him a lot of new ones. Available from "Golden Discs". -Mary

Limerick Leader

GOLDEN DISCS

12 Inch Singles TOP 10

1	CLIFF & THE VOYAGEURS	Living Doll (2)
2	TUESDAY BLUE	Temporal Vision (3)
3	SIMPLE MINDS	All The Things You Said (5)
4	SUZANNE YEAH	Magic In The Wall (27)
5	REAL THING	You To Me Are Everything (7)
6	JIM DIAMOND	All His Silver (19)
7	STYLE COUNCIL	Have You Ever Had It Blue (15)
8	DAVID BOWIE	Absolutely Beginners (27)
9	BAMBLES	Manic Monday (31)

Local chart positions appear in brackets.

Stuart Adamson of Big Country whose single Look Away is at No. 1 in the local charts.

TROPICS

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