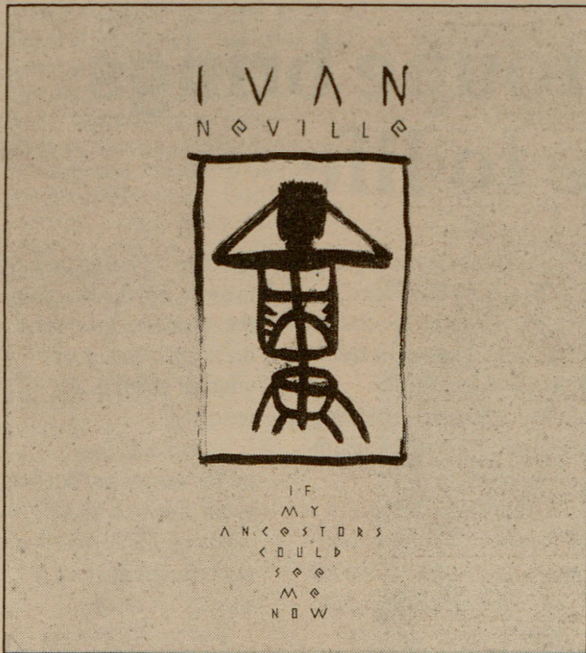


Reviews



"If My Ancestors Could See Me Now"
Ivan Neville
Polydor Records

The name Neville has a musical history going all the way back to the late 1950s.

toured with his father's band as a keyboard player. He also played bass on the Rolling Stone's last album, "Dirty Work," and played keyboards on Stones' guitarist Keith Richards' recent solo album.

"If My Ancestors Could See Me Now," on Polydor, is Neville's first chance to stand on his own. He's written (or co-written) all of the songs, and he sings and plays bass and keyboards as well. The result is a well-done piece of funk/soul/rock that proudly continues the Neville tradition of good music.

In New Orleans, Aaron Neville recorded memorable soul numbers such as "Tell It Like It Is." In the 1970s, Aaron and his three brothers, Art, Charles and Cyril formed the soul/funk band the Neville Brothers. Ivan Neville, Aaron's son,

On tracks such as "Out In the Streets," Neville's piano playing shows his understanding of his New Orleans roots. Songs such as "Not Just Another Girl" and "Primitive Man," however, demonstrate his ability to create music with a good contemporary sound.

"Primitive Man," for example, features Neville on the keyboards and the powerful jams of guitarists Waddy Wachtel and Danny Kortchmar. Meanwhile, drums, electric percussion and Latin percussion instruments combine to create a forceful, danceable beat. In fact, it is easy to imagine people who danced until they dropped to recent funk/rock grooves by Robert Palmer should enjoy this song.

Bonnie Raitt, whose band Neville is a former member of, joins in on background vocals on the soulful ballad "Fallin' Out of Love," and on "After All This Time." Neville generations meet as Ivan and father Aaron sing a duet. Here, Aaron's smooth, almost falsetto-like voice mixes well with Ivan's gruffer vocals.

Don't worry Ivan, if your ancestors could see you, they'd be proud.
Review by Shane Hall

"The Accused"
Starring Kelly McGillis and Jodie Foster
Directed by Jonathan Kaplan
Rated R
***1/2

"The Accused" is a fine film that deals forcefully and graphically with the crime of rape. In most films, rape is little more than an incident inserted into the plot. Even worse, sometimes it is portrayed as little more than just another sex act.

Not so with this film. Jodie Foster plays Sara Tobias, a heavy-drinking, pot-smoking waitress who is brutally gang-raped at a roadside bar by three men: an overweight geek, a macho redneck, and a preppy fraternity boy.

Assistant District Attorney Kathryn Murphy (Kelly McGillis) takes her case. The men are arrested, but then given light sentences after a round of plea-bargaining between Murphy and the attorneys for the three men.

Tobias becomes angry with Murphy for letting the men off easy, so Murphy decides to press charges against the men who were present at the rape, hooting and cheering as Tobias was attacked.

"The Accused" seems to emphasize the crime of the rape spectators more than the attackers themselves. The rapists never go to trial, but the spectators do, and their trial is dramatized in the film.

The crucial testimony comes from a friend and fraternity brother of one of the rapists. His testimony is visualised by showing the rape taking place. This technique of showing testimony in visual terms is nothing new. However, it works here because the scene is the one of the most brutal and frightening depictions of rape on film. The camera cuts quickly from the leering faces of the attackers (as seen by the victim), to the witnesses who are shouting and cheering,

to overall views of the rape itself.

The photography, when combined with the music and the chorus of obscene cheers, makes for a sequence that is difficult to watch, but one that is important in understanding the nature of the crime.

Jodie Foster, covered with bruises, scratches and scars, is fantastic as Sara Tobias. Her triumph is in making us feel sympathetic toward the vulgar, alcoholic, drug-abusing character she plays.

The message of this film, particularly the rape scene, is that a rape victim does not somehow "ask for it," and that spectators who hoot and holler the whole time are as guilty as the rapists themselves.

"The Accused" should be mandatory viewing for anyone who harbors misconceptions about this crime.

Review by Shane Hall



*The Ladies Center
of Austin, Inc.*

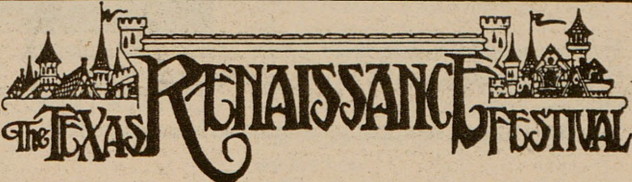
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