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Reviews

Living Colour introduces punk-funk hard-rock mix

By Had Binion

CORRESPONDENT

There are some new kids on the block and they aren't fooling around.

They have made the talk show circuit and the MTV number-one slot. The only way to go now is up.

I'm talking about Living Colour, the all-black, hard-rock, bang-your-head-and-groove-till-you-die band from New York City.

Their album "Vivid," on Epic records, is one of the best new albums to hit the stores since Van Halen's first musical endeavor.

"Vivid" is a collection of red-hot rock 'n' roll songs that show influences from out-of-control punk and serious funk to rap and Jamaican rhythms. But wait, the songs do have some meaning, some significance. You won't hear any "Born to be my Baby" on this album.

"Cult of Personality," the most commercial cut on the album, is a song about the world's leaders. It demands to be cranked up.

The song was written by all four band members: Vernon Reid, guitar; Corey Glover, lead vocals; Muzz Skillings, bass; and William Calhoun, drums.

Reid's manic, almost out-of-control solos on this song are representative of his playing on the whole album.

His guitar tone takes a direction different from that of many rock guitarists before him. The sound is a bit more processed than the tone of others, but it fits right in to the Living Colour groove.

"I Wanna Know" is a boy-wants-girl song written by Reid. During



As the song comes to an abrupt halt, guitar feedback ushers you into song number four. "Desperate People" starts out with a fast punk beat that quickly turns into danceable hard rock.

The song is about someone who is caught in a vicious cycle of abusing drugs at night and feeling degraded the next day.

"You say you can't tell any difference between the pleasure and the

shows his ability to play some of the funkier riffs since Stanley Clarke.

The song comes to a close with Glover screaming: "You've got to fight for your neighborhood!" and

the sounds of a subway train speeding away in the distance. It's enough to leave you with chills running down your spine.

Other highlights include "Broken Hearts," which features harmonica from none other than Mick Jagger, and "Glamour Boys," a great song with a Jamaican beat.

"Glamour Boys" is the tale of rich boys who are always at the parties in the most expensive clothes. Glover sings: "I ain't no glamour boy," and the others join in with: "I'm fierce!"

"What's your Favorite Color?" is the band's theme song and it shows their Motown roots. The buyers of the album on tape and vinyl can receive half of this song, so if you can get it on compact disc.

The album ends with "Which Way to America?," which is Motown fun times two. It's a song about two different perceptions of American life.

Living Colour obviously is seeing the side of poverty as they chant: "Where is my picket fence, my tall cold glass of lemonade?"

Glover drives their point home as he literally shrieks the final lines of the song to scream out for everyone living in poverty.

I hope that this powerful debut album is the first in a series of more from this band. They're the hottest thing I've heard in years.

The only way to go now is up. I'm talking about Living Colour, the all-black, hard-rock, bang-your-head-and-groove-till-you-die band from New York City. "Vivid" is a collection of red-hot rock 'n' roll songs that show influences from out-of-control punk and serious funk to rap and Jamaican rhythms.

this song I was pleasantly reminded of some songs by The Producers, a band that gained some popularity in the early 1980s.

"Middle Man," a song about someone who won't take a stand on anything, grooves thanks to some excellent rhythms provided by drummer Calhoun.

Glover's voice is powerful as he belts out the lyrics: "Standin' on a fine line between this and that."

Reid's solos on this song are tinged with a deep reverence for the black rock guitarist who was making history 20 years ago: Jimi Hendrix.

pain," Glover wails in his soulful, ringing voice.

The high point of the album has to be "Open Letter to a Landlord," which starts out a slow, heartfelt plea to save the ghetto neighborhoods of New York City and then turns to rock with a vengeance.

Reid's guitar playing really shines on this song as he exhibits mastery of the elusive art of rhythm guitar, which is many times overlooked in today's music.

On this track, bassist Skillings

Around Town

Movies

All movies and showtimes are provided by the theaters and are subject to change.

- Cinema Three**
Located at 315 College Ave. in the Skaggs Shopping Center. Call 693-2796 for more information.
- Fletch Lives.** Rated PG. Showtimes are 7:15 p.m. and 9:15 p.m. Ends Friday.
- Cyborg.** Rated R. Showtimes are 7:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. Ends Friday.
- She's Out of Control.** Rated PG. Showtimes are 7:10 p.m. and 9:10 p.m.
- Red Scorpion.** Rated R. Showtimes are 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. Opens Friday.
- Speed Zone.** Rated PG. Showtimes are 7:20 p.m. and 9:20 p.m. Opens Friday.

- Post Oak Three**
Located in the Post Oak Mall. Call 693-2796 for more information.
- Chances Are.** Rated R. Showtimes are 7:10 p.m. and 9:20 p.m.
- Dream Team.** Rated PG-13. Showtimes are 7 p.m. and 9:25 p.m.
- Say Anything.** Rated PG-13. Showtimes are 7:15 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.

- Schulman Six**
In Bryan at 2002 E. 29th Street. Call 775-2643 for more information.
- Twins.** Rated PG. Showtimes are 7 p.m. and 9:45 p.m.
- The 'Bubs.** Rated PG-13. Showtimes are 7:10 p.m. and 9:25 p.m.
- Her Alibi.** Rated PG. Showtimes are 7:15 p.m. and 9:35 p.m.
- New York Stories.** Rated PG. Showtimes are 7:20 p.m. and

- 9:55 p.m.
- Mississippi Burning.** Rated R. 7:25 p.m. and 9:50 p.m.
- Working Girl.** Rated R. Showtimes are 7:05 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.

- Plaza Three**
In College Station at 226 Southwest Parkway. Call 693-2457 for more information.
- Rain Man.** Rated R. Showtimes are 7 p.m. and 9:40 p.m.
- Major League.** Rated R. Showtimes are 7:10 p.m. and 9:50 p.m.
- Disorganized Crime.** Rated R. Showtimes are 7:20 p.m. and 9:45 p.m.

- Manor East Three**
In Bryan in the Manor East Mall. Call 823-8300 for more information.
- Dead Calm.** Rated PG-13. Showtimes are 7:15 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.
- Dangerous Liaisons.** Rated R. Showtimes are 7:20 p.m. and 9:45 p.m.
- The Rescuers.** Rated G. Showtimes are 7:05 p.m. and 9 p.m.

Live Music

- Brazos Landing**
Brazos Landing is at Northgate. Everyone is admitted. Beer, wine and mixed drinks are served. For more information, call 846-3497.
- Thursday — **Amnesty International benefit.** Music by Check Your Shoes, Butter Both Sides, and Walk Ins. Donation \$2 with a can of food, or \$3 without.
- Friday — **Quizumba.** Brazilian. \$5 cover.
- Saturday — **The Killtones.** Rock/blues. \$2 cover.
- Sunday — **Allison Rogers with Linden Sherwin.** Texas folk. \$4 cover.

Tuesday — Acoustic open stage. No cover.

Cow Hop Annex
Next to the restaurant at Northgate. Those 18 and older admitted. Alcohol served to legal drinkers. Call 696-5522 for more information.

Thursday — **XYZ.** Heavy metal cover.
Friday — **Sneaky Pete and the Neon Madmen.** Classic rock cover.
Saturday — **Subculture.** Dance rock cover.
Wednesday — **Singalong with Sneaky Pete.** \$1 cover.

Emiliano's
In Bryan at 502 W. 25th St. Beer, wine and set-ups served. Call 775-9539 for more information.

Friday — **Selena y los Dinos.** Spanish. \$10 cover.
Saturday — **Los Momentos.** Spanish. \$4-\$5 cover.

Frank's Bar and Grill
In College Station at 503 E. University Drive. All ages are admitted. Beer, wine and liquor are served to legal drinkers. Call 846-5388 for more information.
Saturday — **Memorandum.** Jazz. \$2 cover.

Kay's Cabaret
At Post Oak Mall. Those 18 and over are admitted. Beer, wine and liquor served to legal drinkers. For more information, call 696-9191.

Thursday — **Further the Curve.** Rock. \$2 cover.
Friday — **For Crying Out Loud.** Rock/comedy. \$2 cover.
Saturday — **The Starvin' Marvin Band.** Rock 'n' roll. No cover.

'Say it sa

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Directed by Ca...
Rated PG-13
****1/2

By Shane Ha...
REVIEWER

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By Chuck Sq...
CORRESPONDENT

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