

LIFESTYLES

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The Battalion

Page 5

Rock like an Egyptian



Robyn Hitchcock demands 'Respect' with new album

MUSIC REVIEW

By JOE LEIH

The Battalion

Robyn Hitchcock & The Egyptians
"Respect"
A&M Records

Robyn Hitchcock's album "Respect" not only marks his fifth release with his band, the Egyptians, at A&M Records but also proves that the music veteran is greatly overdue for the quality that is the terse title of his new collection of songs.

Hitchcock, acquiring his own philosophy of love, death, and religion after sixteen years in the music industry, weaves these elements with surprising skill and vividness throughout the entire album.

Yet his poetic lyrics are not the only determinant in the tremendous quality of this new release. Hitchcock's blend of folk, British pop and incredible harmonies help bring his haunting themes out with gooseflesh-giving emotion.

Still, Hitchcock's ultimate talent is his forceful imagery. His flowing verse carefully swallows the listener into a crafted understanding of the idea so richly expressed.

In "The Moon Inside," the probing lyrics bestow an ironic twist upon the popular notion of a link between a full moon and love. Hitchcock sings "when the full moon seed/It be plant in you, then it's what you need/Cause the flower of Love growing in your heart/Will eventually tear your world apart."



Robyn Hitchcock weaves a philosophy of love, death, and religion in his album, "Respect."

Another song, "Arms of Love," evokes a beautiful portrait of heartbreak and recovery. "Maybe tonight you're crying/Like a poor wounded dove/Tomorrow you'll be flying/Into the arms of love."

Hitchcock even ventures to taunt Lucifer

himself in the "Serpent at the Gates of Wisdom." "I will take control/God above and all his angels, have mercy on your soul."

Hitchcock's musical style, which greatly enriches these philosophical themes, has obviously been shaped by the Beatles. "Railway Shoes," "When I Was Dead" and "The Wreck of Arthur Lee" all contain falling harmonies reminiscent of the group's classic singing style.

In fact, Hitchcock even prints "Respect is due to ... John Lennon" inside the cover.

However, this strong influence manages not to restrain Hitchcock from expressing his own unique musical technique.

His original blend of a single acoustic 12-string guitar and eerie bending tones gives a chilly aura to "Then You're Dust." An inventive continuous crescendo greatly adds to the emotional climax Hitchcock reaches in "Arms of Love."

Hitchcock creates a fabulous fast-moving tempo in "The Yip Song" that will surely elicit side-to-side head bobbing from many listeners.

This musical artist has definitely created a tremendous accomplishment in the rock and roll world.

But wait! That's not all. Hitchcock, a recognized painter and short story writer as well, has a special bonus offer with this album.

An original and quite bizarre fairy tale-like short story is included with the song lyrics, and Hitchcock's own personal artwork even graces the album cover.

So, don't just listen to the artistry of Robyn Hitchcock, view it and read it as well.

But above all, give this artist what he truly deserves—"Respect."

SXSW '93

Austin to host 7th annual music festival next week

By JOE LEIH

The Battalion

Four hundred bands from around the world will converge on Austin for the seventh annual South by Southwest Music and Media Conference (SXSW '93) from March 17-21.

Over 20,000 music fans are expected to attend the conference's Music Festival, which will feature bands playing rock, rap, jazz, metal, country, tejano and world beat music in over 25 clubs throughout the city.

Wristbands that will give admittance to all clubs are being sold for \$30 through Star Ticket Outlets.

The conference will begin with the 11th Annual Austin Music Awards in Palmer Auditorium on Wednesday evening.

On the next night, Governor Ann Richards will speak at the opening of three days of panel discussions, sessions and workshops on topics from "Sex, Sexism & Rock" to "Music Biz 101."

A "showcase of the spoken word" will be held on Thursday,

March 18, giving performers such as musician Robyn Hitchcock and storyteller Rae Linda Woad the chance to exhibit their poetic ability.

SXSW '93 will also include a trade show involving more than 3,500 music businesses, record labels, artists and studios.

Over the seven-year history of SXSW, the conference has continued to grow and expand, moving this year from the Hyatt Regency to the Austin Convention Center. SXSW publicist Jo Rae Di Menno said, "Being in the convention center is a big step."

The global music portion of the conference has also expanded.

"We definitely have a lot of international bands performing," Di Menno said. The World Wide Music Showdown, sponsored by Rolling Rock beer, will feature music from over 85% of the world.

Baba Yaga from Moscow and Budapest, Hungary will be one of several foreign acts performing on Friday, March 19 at the Austin Convention Center.

SXSW '93 is sponsored by Southwest Airlines, KLBJ-FM and KXAN-TV.



Miss Molly, Trout Fishing in America and Joe "King" Carrasco will perform in the South by Southwest Music and Media Conference March 17-21.

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