

# COUNTDOWN

MAGAZINE

## SIMPLE MINDS

THE THOUGHTS OF  
CHAIRMAN KERR

PAUL KELLY

SAM SEJAVKA

GRACE KNIGHT

COLIN HAY

WHITNEY HOUSTON

POSTERS OF:



MODELS

ANNIE LENNOX



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## MUSIC

COLIN HAY Working alone .....	12
HOUSEMARTINS Spreading wings .....	18
PAUL KELLY Spreading Gossip .....	22
JOHANNA PIGGOT Revealing Scribbles...	26
DIED PRETTY Europe calling .....	24



28 SIMPLE MINDS



48 STYLE BY THE TEXTBOOK



16 SAM SEJAVKA



14 WHITNEY HOUSTON

## FEATURES

OUR BRILLIANT CAREERS Pre-celeb pursuits .....	32
GURU ADRIAN The secret of eternal youth .....	39
COMPETITION The bumper birthday bag .....	46
WHAT'S NEWS? The massage behind the message .....	54
ROCK VIDEO PROJECT Mentalmania in Maryborough ...	58
DENNIS WATKINS Lamont Cranston strikes! .....	62
THEATRESPOITS Heart-stopping action .....	66
MOVIES Malcolm .....	68
PROFILE Robert Rusler shapes up .....	70

## REGULAR COLUMNS

STARS .....	53
HAVE YOUR SAY .....	56
YOU WERE ASKING .....	61
STAR CROSS .....	64
PENPALS .....	73
LETTERS .....	74
BUY/SWAP/SELL .....	75
REVIEWS:	
Film/Video .....	76
Albums .....	77
BOOKS:	
Bob Geldof in his own write .....	78
12 x 12/FAVE FIVES .....	81
RETRO: Jackson 5 .....	82



20 GRACE KNIGHT



Youngsters Molly Ringwald and Robert Downey co-star in Warren Beatty's next movie, *The Pick-Up Artist*, now being filmed under the usual Beatty veil of secrecy. Nothing has been revealed about the film other than it's a "light romantic comedy" depicting Ringwald as "a girl in trouble," and also features Harvey Keitel and Dennis Hopper in supporting roles.

By Ethlie Ann Vare in Los Angeles.



Siouxsie and Anthony Michael Hall in *Out of Bounds*

Adam Ant and Stewart Copeland perform the title song for the rock-oriented *Out of Bounds*, filmed in some of L.A.'s trendy nightspots and starring the endearing Anthony Michael Hall. Siouxsie and the Banshees performed live onstage for one scene, and the soundtrack will also include cuts by the Cult, Night Ranger, Lords of the New Church and Belinda Carlisle. Half the unemployed hangers-on of the Hollywood punk scene were used as extras, which casts Hall as an innocent out-of-towner and ingenue Jenny Wright as a waitress at the Hard Rock Cafe.

Ron Reagan, son of the president, appears in the New World Pictures release *Soul Man*, playing a Harvard University law student. Reportedly, fellow cast members kept a careful distance from young Ron on the set — not because he's an unlikeable chap, but because no one wanted to be an innocent bystander in a terrorist attack.

Television comics Steve Martin, Chevy Chase and Martin Short have completed principal photography for the film *Three Amigos*, which has been postponed from its projected Winter '86 release. John (Animal House) Landis directs a script co-written by co-star Martin, *Saturday Night Live* producer Lorne Michaels and singer/songwriter Randy Newman (who is also writing some of the songs).

After that, Martin Short will star in *American Date*, a comedy set to begin filming in the fall in and around Los Angeles. It's being produced by *The Big Chill*'s Lawrence Kasdan.

And, speaking of *The Big Chill*, its Jeff Goldblum is set to co-star with Glenda Jackson, Tom Conti and Christopher (Spinal Tap) Guest in *Beyond Therapy*, a Robert Altman comedy about two neurotic psychotherapists and their equally neurotic lovers.

Despite his repeated denials, Christopher Reeve will, in the end, be the Man of Steel for one more Superman epic. *Superman IV* begins filming this month in London, and both Margot Kidder (Lois Lane) and Gene Hackman (Lex Luthor) again co-star. A subplot of the film concerns a "media tycoon from Australia" who owns "a string of sleazy tabloids," and is attempting to buy the venerable *Daily Planet* newspaper. Reporter Clark Kent is due to get romantically involved with the tycoon's daughter.

Macho man update: Sylvester Stallone's next film portrays Rockbo as an arm-wrestling truckdriver. *Over The Top* co-stars former model Susan Blakely, and is due for December release from Cannon Film Group, the folks who produced *Cobra*... Clint Eastwood takes time out of the saddle (and the mayor's office) to play a Marine in "Heartbreak Ridge," which Eastwood himself is producing and directing. Marsha Mason and Melvin van Peebles co-star... All-American karate champ Chuck Norris teams up with Lou Gossett Jr. as soldiers of fortune in *Firewalker*, planned for November release. The buddies, unemployed by a fictional outbreak of peace, find an Aztec treasure map and seek its rewards... Burt Reynolds' next production is *Malone*, a movie that sounds pretty familiar in the script department. "The action thriller," it says here, "features Reynolds as an ex-government agent who sets about cleaning up a town being terrorized by members of the radical forces." Filming began in July; no announcement yet on release date...

And the busiest of all the he-men is musclebound Arnold Schwarzenegger. First there will be *Predator*, in which Arnold singlehandedly defends Earth against an alien big-game hunter in South America's jungles. Then he's set to star in *The Running Man*, a futuristic thriller based on a novel horrormeister Stephen King wrote under the pseudonym Richard Bachman. (Not a bad book, by the way). Next, the actor himself will write his screenplay for *Commando II*, a sequel to you-know-what.



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# A D

Hutchence and Lowenstein  
on the set of **Dogs In Space**



Pic: Serge Thomann.

"A past littered with tragedy and glory" — so has Sam Sejavka recently had his life described. Disarmingly handsome, tall and delicate, Sejavka has been one to watch since the late 70s, when his first band The Ears started thrashing around the would-be Melbourne punk scene.

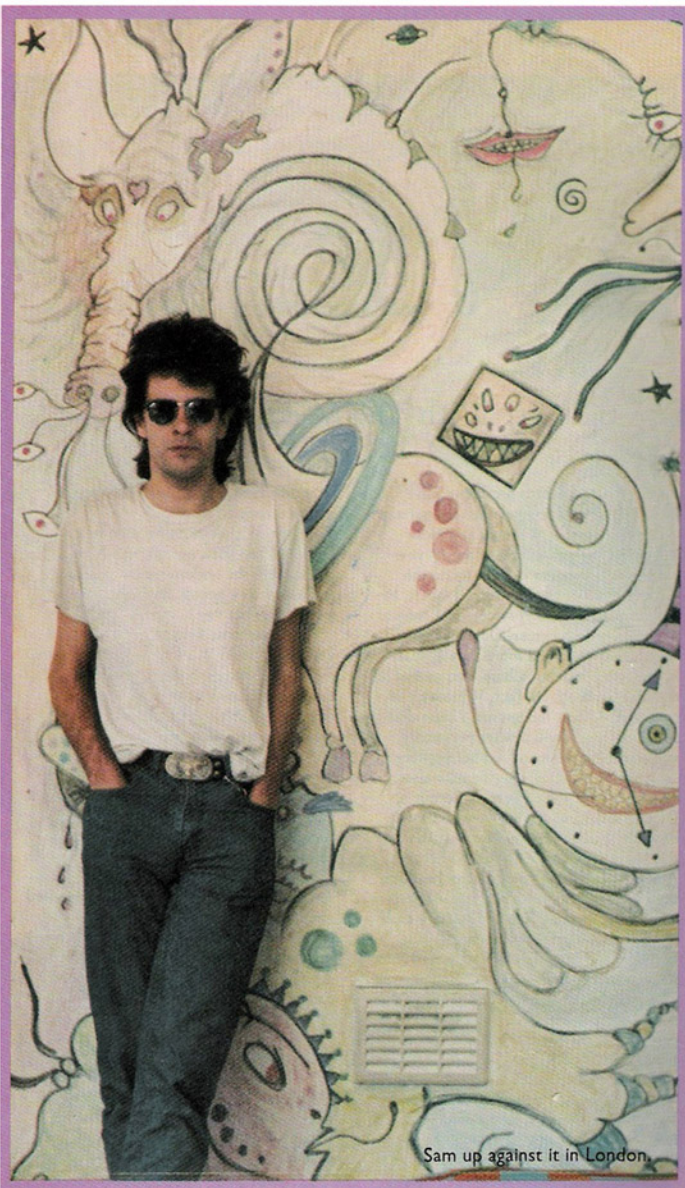
Life was full of bohemian characters, a post-school reckless enthusiasm and the machine gun rattle of British new wave music. The Ears grew to Beargarden, and fell apart for no particular reason.

Sejavka wrote and produced a play in 1982, but two years later the pop spotlight had lured them. As Virgin Records' first Australian signing, Beargarden were big, big news. Two years ago this month, their first single **Finer Things** was released. Mega tours supporting Virgin' Culture Club, Simple Minds and other heavyweights increased the red hot glare upon them.

Amidst criticisms of being a haircut band with no real talent, something began to wilt and die in Beargarden. All three singles failed, and the relationship with Virgin went so sour, the company refused to release the group's debut album recorded mid last year.

Although Virgin spent a fortune on Beargarden, the two parted company amicably in July.

Personally Sam has been upset by **Dogs In Space**, the new film by whizz video director cum film producer Richard Lowenstein, set for release in January 87. The film is about the heady activities of a punky household in Melbourne, where



Sam up against it in London.

**In the wake of Beargarden's declining fortunes, singer Sam Sejavka finds little consolation in seeing his life portrayed on the big screen. Story by Chrissie Camp.**

# OG'S LIFE...

Lowenstein and Sejavka both lived in the late 70s, and in particular on the musical experience of The Ears.

The central character Sam, played by INXS' Michael Hutchence, is based on Sejavka, but with some parts of his life and personality fictionalised.

Sam is upset that Lowenstein has disregarded their friendship and "poached" his life for the film, and worse, that the character's life has been exaggerated to suit the film.

"Even though it is an interesting time period that should be documented, I find it hard to believe Richard could do this to his friends," Sam says. "I didn't know he was writing a script for quite a long time until rumours started filtering through, and because of the nature of the rumours I just didn't believe it."

Like all the people portrayed, Sam had to sign approval for his name to be used to identify the character, which he says he did before he had a clear picture of the way his character would be developed.

Sam admits some of the less pleasant events of the time, such as the death of his girlfriend from a heroin overdose, are skeletons he'd rather leave in the cupboard, and that "Dogs in Space" does capture the spirit of the time well.

"But what he has done, to be honest, there's no real excuse for it. It just doesn't involve me. It involves my family, my mother, the local parish priest. They all know about it and they are going to see the film and they are going to be portrayed in it," he says.

"I think it's a good thing if I'm not associated with it, because I think it would be quite slamming to my reputation. It's just Richard's version of what happened. It isn't the right version."

"It's a very delicate issue dramatising real life events and living people."

Lowenstein said when told of Sam's comments. "Yes, I've fictionalised parts of his life to make the film more entertaining,

but that's because people's lives don't happen like they do in the movies.

"In the beginning Sam was very positive and enthusiastic about the whole thing. I think he thought ambition-wise it would be a big career step. I know there are scenes he is worried about, but hopefully he will be seen as one of the most sympathetic characters in the film.

"Sam has a very strong and, er, dual sort of nature. I can understand why he objects to the fictionalised bits, but it's a light-hearted and affectionate look at the period. He has nothing to worry about."

Several Ears songs including **Dogs In Space**, sung by Hutchence, appear on the film's soundtrack. Given INXS's newfound international popularity, this means Sam as composer could do very well financially from the film, but it has also undoubtedly added to the general paranoia surrounding the film.

But more important to Sam is another piece of vinyl — Beargarden's debut album **All That Fall**, obtained from Virgin and released this month on the smaller Chase label.

"I'm glad it's coming out because the songs are still quite good and it shows a part of the history of the group. Unfortunately it sounds quite dated now."

It should be said that Sam is one of the more refreshingly honest members of the pop game, and feels no pressures to swing into promotional overdrive to convince us of the merits of the album. **All That Fall**, he says, suffers from Beargarden's conflict between the attractions of commercial success and their own musical satisfaction.

"We've found that when we concentrate too much on producing something that we think will be a success, we wind up creating a pile of garbage," he says with a laugh. "I would have liked the recording to be a bit more adventurous. We didn't have enough guts, it being our first album."

Producers Dunlop and Brown,

responsible for the success of many Australian commercial chart fodder albums hardly seem suitable to capture the atmospherics of Beargarden's music. Still the seven minute **Bright Penny** and the flippant **Seaside Song** Sam can recommend.

Since then, Sam has had his first trip to England and Europe, and through this enriching experience and lessons learnt from his first stumbling foray into the deadly mechanics of the pop world, he has a much more level-headed and mature approach to his future.

"When we signed with Virgin... I think we got sucked into that whirlpool of hysteria. They were very enthusiastic about us but I don't think they had the experience, just as we didn't, to actually pull it off. I think a lot was handed to us on a platter before we were ready, or the sort of things that were handed we really didn't want."

Beargarden were groomed for pop stardom and went along with it, their consciences conveniently neglected until lack of success forced them to reconsider. It's easy to see Sam as the charming coward.

With keyboardist Gus Till, also recently returned from an overseas jaunt, Sam has a new set of demo songs, hopefully to be recorded as a mini-album before year end.

"The music contains no compromises now," he says. "I don't want success as much as knowing what we have done is good. It may not have always been like that but it is now."

"I've never been happier with what we are writing than now."

Sam and Gus may recruit some musicians to tour to promote **All That Fall**, but Sam seems hesitant.

"If we do, it wouldn't be a normal format. I think we've done enough rock'n'roll posturing to last us a lifetime. We're going to try something different, for a more refined taste hopefully."



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# I'M TALKING



# I'M TALKING

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# 12 x 12"

## OCHI BROWN — WHENEVER YOU NEED SOMEBODY (Polygram)

Produced by the people that brought you that distinctive sound on Princess' records. This a more up tempo tune than anything attempted by the regal one. Ochi Brown is another female blessed with a strong set of vocal chords which she uses to good effect on this inoffensive dance number.

## TIM FINN — SPIRITUAL HUNGER (Virgin)

A strong song from Mr Finn. The 12" meanders a little too much and personally I enjoy the 7" version more. It would be nice to see a classy intelligent song like this enjoy success around the world.

## STEVIE WINWOOD — HIGHER LOVE (Festival)

Several years have passed since Stevie Winwood has released any records. It's been worth the wait. This is the best 12" of the month, and the remix engineer has obviously gone to a lot of trouble to ensure that the mix is always interesting. Chaka Khan contributes back up vox and Nile Rodgers twangs his rhythm guitar. High quality FM radio music.

## OPUS — LIVE IS LIFE (Polygram)

Made in Austria, a country which has already served us up the ghastly Falco and Kurt Waldheim. Now the world has to contend with a live Opus 12". I don't think we're ready for it somehow. A disaster zone of record which merely prompts me to suggest that Austrians should stick to snow and schnitzels. (Your visa is revoked, schwein — K.W.)

## DEVICE — HANGING ON A HEART ATTACK (Festival)

This record successfully encapsulates everything I hate about American rock music at the moment. Unpleasant, overblown and pompous. R.O.C.K. in the USA — I wish it would go A.W.A.Y. Forever.

## VAN HALEN — DREAMS (WEA)

Their previous single was a good example of American pop/rock music. 'Dreams' is a flip of the coin, 'cos if I ever hear it again I'm going to break this record in half.

## BRANDON COOKE — SHARP AS A KNIFE (Polygram import)

Razor sharp. BC is unknown to me, but this is an exciting 12" dance record. Produced by Heaven 17's producer, Greg Walsh and including a great rap by Roxanne Shante, this record grooves from start to finish.

## AMAZULU — TOO GOOD TO BE FORGOTTEN (Festival)

This went Top 10 in the UK, a calypso-style jaunt that goes very quickly to nowhere. A truly horrible record. The unpleasant side of pop music.

## MIDNIGHT STAR — HEADLINES (WEA/Imports)

A decidedly catchy dance ditty that will have you grooving on the dancefloor. Midnight Star and perhaps an unknown quality in Australia, but overseas they have been releasing dance records of a consistent quality for several years. Worth investigating.

## KIM WILDE — SCHOOLGIRL (WEA)

Lately it's been all quiet on the Wilde front. Schoolgirl is almost a return to form. Unfortunately the song doesn't seem strong enough to foresee chart success.

## DAVID LEE ROTH — YANKEE ROSE (WEA)

Loud, brash and tasteless. A perfect David Lee Roth song, which has David showing his old mates (?) in Van Halen the fine art of making raucous rock'n'roll records. Extra points awarded for the truly over the top video which accompanies this song.

## THE POGUES — POGUETRY IN MOTION (Festival)

Shane MacGowan, the singer in this Irish combo, is the proud owner of the worst set of dentures in pop music. Nevertheless this EP of Irish jigs is thoroughly enjoyable. Produced by Elvis Costello this music is raw, rough and ready. Are you ready for the Pogues?

# Fave 5



## James Leigh — Pseudo Echo

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JUST CAN'T GET ENOUGH  
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LOVE ACTION  
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## COUNTDOWN MAGAZINE

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