

# COUNTDOWN

MAGAZINE

## NEW BOY IN TOWN



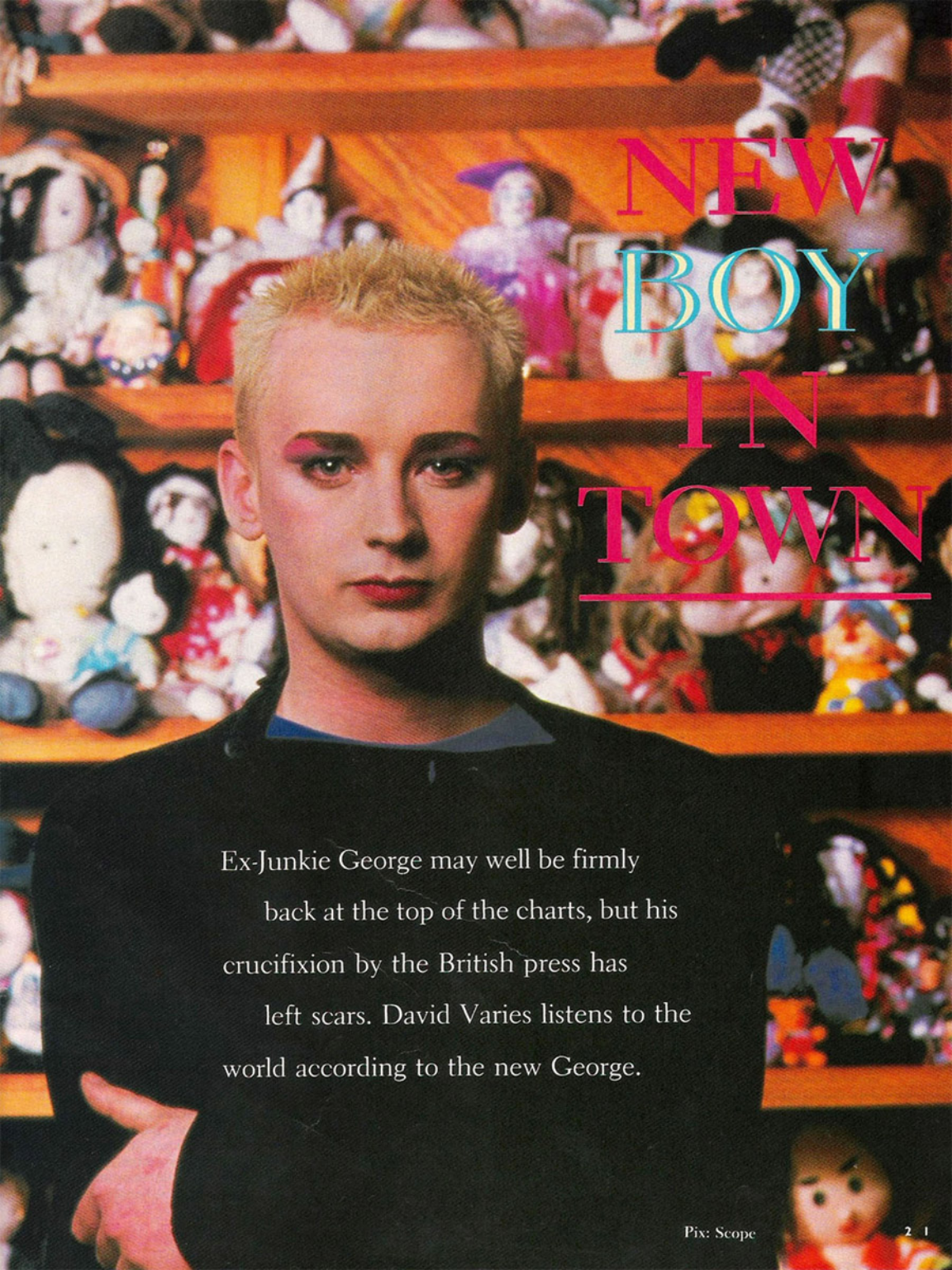
MORTEN HARKET  
PRINCE  
ANDREW RIDGELEY  
THE SMITHS  
BIG PIG

GIANT POSTER:

ELVIS PRESLEY/BON JOVI  
PLUS JAMES LEIGH,  
BONO, SCOTT CARNE







# NEW BOY IN TOWN

Ex-Junkie George may well be firmly  
back at the top of the charts, but his  
crucifixion by the British press has  
left scars. David Varies listens to the  
world according to the new George.



The temptation to start this story with "it's the greatest comeback since Lazarus" or something reeking equally of tabloidism is overwhelming.

The story of Boy George — his rise, his fall, and now his rise again — is the ultimate modern day tabloid story. Since the re-emergence of George as a pop force once more, newspapers have been changing their tunes faster than an Irangate aide at a press conference.

With the Number One success in *Britain of Everything I Own*, the papers have converted last year's whipping Boy, Junkie George to Chart-Conquering Ex-Junkie George in the space of a few short weeks. His involvement with the Ferry Aid charity record has made the about turn even more pronounced as Chart-Topping Ex-Junkie George Helps The Bereaved Families.

When George's brother David O'Dowd told an English tabloid paper in July last year his brother was a heroin addict it was an act of desperation. It had followed more than a year's steady drug abuse by his famous brother, months of intense rumours and repeated efforts by his family to get him to stop using.

By the end of 1986, three of George's friends had died, apparently in circumstances related to the use of heroin, and George had gone into rehabilitation and into court, establishing a bit of a legal landmark as he went by being convicted for having once used the drug, although never actually found in possession of it.

But the circus created around George's great misfortune cast as much light on the carry-on like antics of the Fleet Street newshounds as it did on their subject. Now on the comeback publicity trail, clad in full-length camel hair coat and festooned with badges, George is putting the Doc Marten boot into the collective groin of Fleet St.

He is damning of all the British tabloids but particularly the Murdoch-owned *Sun* which he says "just can't help itself".

"When I first came off drugs I just wanted to be left alone and I didn't want to talk about it. I went away to Richard Branson's (*Virgin Records* boss — Ed) house but the whole of Fleet Street were there outside.

"I'm in the countryside, wanting to go outside and there are sniper photographers in the trees hoping to get a picture of me looking as bad as possible."

When he returned to the family home in London he was on the receiving end of similar harassment.

"I was very sick and I had a miserable Christmas, but I had it with my family.

My younger brother was going out drowning photographers with buckets of water, but they persisted.

"Then on Christmas Day there was a guy outside my house and we were trying to have a family Christmas. My mother went outside and asked him why he was here and he answered, 'He might die'. My mother said 'why don't you just go home and have your dinner'.

"From that day on I've said to my mother if she ever speaks to Fleet Street to make sure they pay a lot of money. And she got paid 20,000 pounds for something just last week."

**"Although a lot of people think I'm well now, I'm not well by any stretch of the imagination."**

At the beginning of Culture Club's success, and for a long time after, it seemed Boy George could do no wrong in his romance with the Street Of Shame. Then, just before the release of the third album, *Waking Up With The House On Fire*, the British press started to go for him.

"Obviously when you go around courting publicity the way I did it's going to turn around on you like a two headed snake. I think it's knowing when to stop. I look at it with a very different set of eyes now."

Part of the new Boy George attitude to the press is his blunt refusal to have a conversation with a Fleet Street journalist again.

"I made that decision at Christmas. You do an interview for an hour and a frivolous comment like 'I prefer a cup of tea to sex' becomes the epitaph of your life. But I think the crucifixion happens to all artists," says George, now in a more philosophical mode.

"There was a period when I thought it was only me, because of the way I look or because of drugs or whatever. But I pick up the paper now and they're picking on Elton John or TV celebrities like Russell Harty, or George Michael.

"We love kicking people when they are down in this country. It's our favourite sport. In Australia, you throw dwarves, in Britain we kick people when they're down. We get great pleasure out of it. All the most talented people leave this country, something I intend to do quite soon."







Despite his obvious hatred of Fleet Street he wasn't too galled by *The Sun* using the Ferry Aid benefit recording of *Let It Be* as a free public relations exercise for the paper.

"I don't care about *The Sun*. First of all, I wasn't asked by *The Sun* to do it because they couldn't ask me themselves.

"But my younger brother, David, who works on Fleet Street, asked me to do it and I said OK. At that time there weren't that many people doing it. All through the recording I kept saying I hated *The Sun* and wasn't doing it for them. I actually went around in front of the TV cameras saying I wrap my fish and chips in *The Sun* and think it's a disgusting newspaper.

"At the end of the day the important thing is some of the people who lost their families are going to get some money. It doesn't compensate or make it easier but it might help."

George has been recording his first solo album with famed R and B producer Stuart Levine (no relation to earlier producer Steve Levine) and co-writing songs with the legendary Lamont Dozier

(of the ubiquitous Holland/Dozier/Holland team).

Yet even when you're Boy George people still try to tone you down. "I had a meeting with my record company in America about the album," he says, "and the first thing they said was 'wear less make up and don't dress up' and my immediate reaction to that was that there isn't anybody else like me.

"You've got George Michael who looks like he could be your brother. I'm in the business of entertaining people and, as far as the media are concerned, there are not that many people around who excite or who are controversial.

"I'm not saying I'm controversial for the sake of it, what I'm saying is a lot of attention's been focussed on me because of the way I am — because I'm outspoken and because I'm not boring."

During the interview it's hard not to notice George constantly lighting up cigarettes. He looks a bit sheepish when questioned about it.

"I started smoking about two years ago and stopped over Christmas. I'm going to Barbados next week so I'm going to try

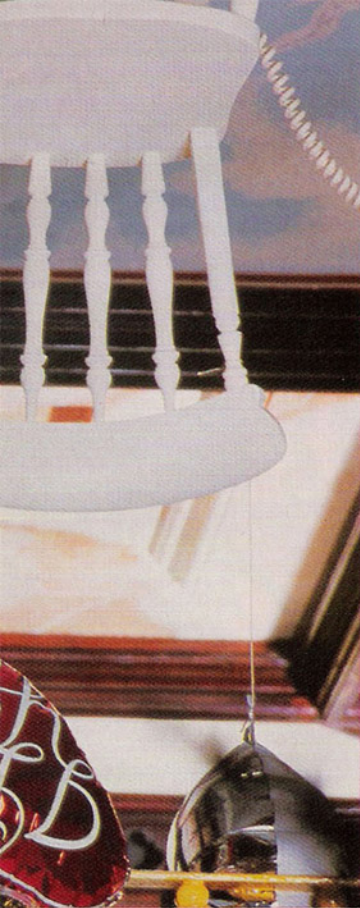
and stop again. It's just a nervous habit. Although a lot of people think I'm well now, I'm not well by any stretch of the imagination. In my own way I've made it look very simple.

"When I was making the album I felt sick but I love singing so I felt good when I sang. But I do have to get on with my work because there will come a time when I do feel well and it will all be worthwhile.

"The only important thing to say is when I started taking heroin I stopped caring about people and I've always been a sympathetic person. I stopped caring about everybody, including my family. I wanted to be on my own or with people who were doing the same things I was doing. I was trapped in a never-ending vacuum of depression.

"I'm not saying every time I took drugs I was miserable because obviously there were times it felt good. But coming off drugs is the worst thing you can do to your body and mentally it destroys you. It really, really destroys you. Over Christmas I was walking around like a zombie.





and is trying to come off has got to want to come off."

Often when people try to give up heroin they find solace in other things. Some start smoking cigarettes, some drink more than perhaps they should. Although still on medication, George says he has done none of these. But an important change has been his recent adherence to the Buddhist practice of chanting and meditation, although he still considers himself a dabbler.

"I started practicing Buddhism on New Year's Day. My doctor was a Buddhist. At that time I was very despondent and I felt there was no hope. My friend Mark (Golding) died and, apart from my own problems, that really added to them. I just didn't want to live.

"I kept asking why it was happening to me. I needed something to channel my energy and misery into. I needed to find a way. I didn't want to see a drugs counsellor or the gay bereavement society.

**"The only advice I'd give to anybody who was thinking of trying it is, if they could be inside my body when I'm ill, they would never try it, ever."**

"When I went to my first meeting, like everybody, I thought it was really hippyish. Am I going to be the next Beatles?

"But after chanting and speaking to people there who had been heroin addicts, alcoholics — people who at one time couldn't cross the street without taking a tablet — it was a really good feeling.

"I'm not saying I'm any less angry or nervous but there are certain things in Buddhism that have changed my opinions. I don't want to punch people any more."

Although Culture Club have never officially split up, they're not exactly a close-knit unit anymore. George hasn't seen Mikey Craig or former lover Jon Moss for at least six months and there is a high level of bitchiness between them. Craig, Moss and Roy Hay all have new groups but with the release of the Culture Club greatest hits package, many hope for a reunion tour.

But the closest to a reunion at the moment is George's work with Roy Hay on some solo George work. The day I speak to him is the first day of this

reunion and George is well pleased.

"There is a sort of reunion between Roy and myself and as far as I'm concerned we were the nucleus of Culture Club. I went down to the studio where Roy's been working with a man called John Reid, listened to what he'd done and liked it.

"When I was doing Culture Club there were some songs we did, one particular song, *I Pray*, on the last album, which was totally massacred and I wanted to do it again the way I wrote it.

"I wanted to put out a four track EP with my next single rather than just sticking out an album and taking loads of singles off it."

But as regards a full Culture Club reunion?

"It's really down to Jon and Mikey. Jon Moss has been going telling everybody nobody in Culture Club would ever work together again. He's made a point of saying that because he's formed a band with one of the most awful singers in the whole world, part of Roman Holliday.

"If Jon's band is a success, then he's done the right thing, if it isn't, he's made a mistake and he's lost the most valuable thing in his life," George says with a sweetly malicious laugh.

Since Culture Club have been away from the scene there haven't been that many people George considers worthy of attention.

"I don't really think there's that many people you can latch onto anymore. There are certain groups that interest me but there's a lot of crap about. The good thing about punk was it gave people who weren't very talented an opportunity to make records. If you look at the Beastie Boys, I think they're brilliant but it's like the Americans' version of punk. They can do it, I can do it.

"I think Nick Kamen (star of the British Levi's 501 commercials and now fledgling pop star) is attractive and I like Curiosity Killed The Cat and Terence Trent D'Arby is really good — a good singer.

"And Mick Hucknall (of Simply Red) is a great singer although I think he's extremely arrogant — but I won't hold that against him," says George with a self-mocking giggle.

"I'm basically a pop fan and I don't intellectualise it. If I like a song, I like it. But there are no movements at the moment — no hippy movement, no punk movement, no explosions. People were hailing hip hop as the next explosion and I don't think that's happened."

Will things ever explode again?

"Definitely. Something has to happen. Dunno what. I've been trying to think of something for weeks."

"I can't compare it to anything because I'd never been ill in my life. I didn't consider heroin addiction an illness, but I do now. It's a major illness. You see TV advertisements and campaigns, but they really haven't grasped a single idea of what it's all about."

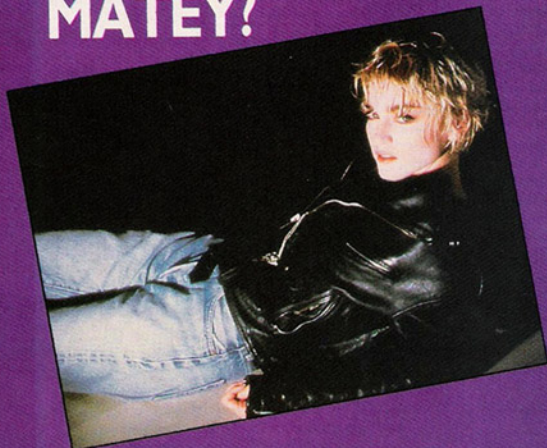
To many people George's addiction seemed strangely at odds with the public portrayal of a happy, ambitious and intelligent person.

"From my point of view, I had a relationship with Jon (Moss) which went on for seven years and that ended and people were throwing stones at me, people were being abusive. I found myself surrounded by people who were taking drugs. It seemed like a way out. I've never been a person who looked for a way out but it did seem a way out and for a time it was.

"The only advice I'd give to anybody who was thinking of trying it is, if they could be inside my body when I'm ill, they would never try it, ever. One thing that must be made quite clear to everybody is that anyone who takes drugs



# WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT MADONNA, MATEY?

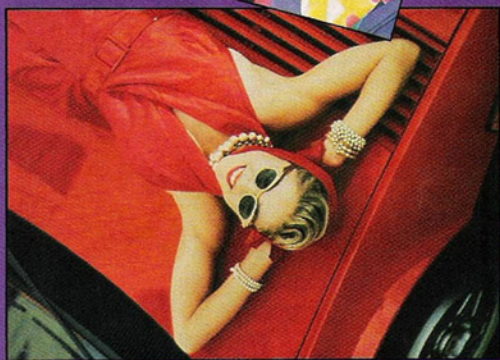
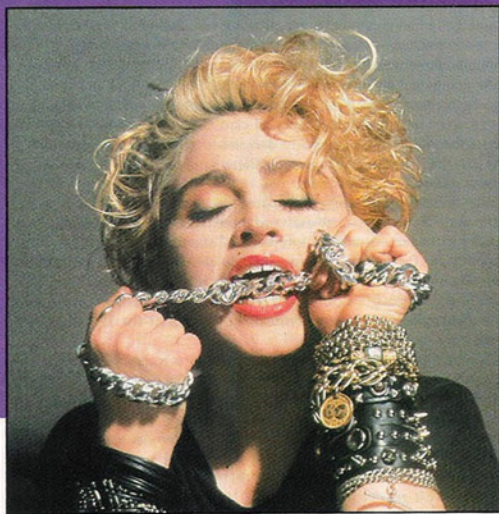
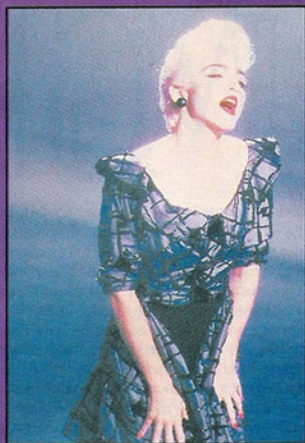


## TRY THIS QUICK QUIZ BY BRADONNA LONARD



- How old is Madonna?
  - 23
  - 27
  - 28
  - 68
- Where was she born?
  - Queens, New York
  - Detroit, Michigan
  - Naples, Italy
  - Catford, England
- What was the name of her first band?
  - Madonna The Car
  - Ciccione Youth
  - The Breakfast Club
  - The Cat
- How much did she earn for starring in her first film, *A Certain Sacrifice*?
  - \$10
  - \$100
  - \$1000
  - Six free haircuts
- Which of the below was Madonna's first single?
  - Physical Attraction*
  - Holiday*
  - Everybody*
  - Let's Go Buy A Pizza*
- Which Madonna boyfriend produced *Crazy For You*?
  - Sean Penn
  - Jellybean Benitez
  - Arthur Baker
  - Brad Shepherd
- Which Madonna single became the fastest selling single in Warner Bros' history?
  - Like A Virgin*
  - Lucky Star*
  - Papa Don't Preach*
  - La Isla Bonita*
- Who supported Madonna on her Virgin Tour?
  - Bruce Springsteen
  - Stacey Q
  - The Beastie Boys
  - Whitney Houston
- With whom did Madonna co-star in *Desperately Seeking Susan*?
  - Sir Laurence Olivier
  - Cameron Daddo
  - Rosanna Arquette
  - Kathleen Turner
- Which of the below did *Shanghai Surprise* not get called?
  - "A shockingly bad movie."
  - "Incompetent, dull, uninspired."
  - "One of the cinema's true masterpieces."
  - "A film only Sean Penn's close family could watch."
- What was unusual about *Into The Groove*?
  - reaching number one?
  - It was only released as a twelve inch.
  - It was the first theme from a movie to reach number one.
  - It wasn't released as a single.
  - Nothing.
  - What film had *Live To Tell* as its theme song?
    - Live To Tell*
    - At Close Range*
    - Shanghai Surprise*
    - Sid And Nancy*
  - With what other rock star was Sean Penn rumoured to have an affair?
    - Annie Lennox
    - Chrissie Hynde
    - David Bowie
    - Stacey Q
  - Who caught the garter at Madonna and Sean's wedding?
    - Christopher Penn
    - Pamela Ciccone
    - Molly Ringwald
    - Nobody — Madonna doesn't wear any
  - What was the original title of Madonna's new movie, *Who's That Girl*?
    - It's That Girl Again*
    - Desperately Seeking Dress Sense*
    - Slammer*
    - Scrubber*





## WIN MADONNA GOODIES!

The first entry with all correct answers will win these fabbo prizes:

- Madonna's three albums — *Madonna*, *Like A Virgin* and *True Blue*.
- The longform concert video *Madonna — Like A Virgin*, all compliments of WEA Records.

Put your answer to each question next to the numbers below and send your entry to "Madonna Quiz", Countdown Magazine PO Box 600, Waterloo, NSW 2017. Good luck!

1 ...	2 ...	3 ...	4 ...	5 ...
6 ...	7 ...	8 ...	9 ...	10 ..
11 ..	12 ..	13 ..	14 ..	15 ..
Name .....				
Address .....				
State .....				

# THE WORLD IS LISTENING...

**T**he Smiths went through some trying times in the latter half of 1986, dodging criticism and crises from both within and outside the band. Bass player Andy Rourke left as the result of a drugs problem and Craig Gannon (former Aztec Camera guitarist) joined only to leave again a couple of months after Rourke's eventual return. The band also signed a deal with EMI, causing all manner of ripples at Rough Trade, the independent record company which had nurtured The Smiths since 1983.

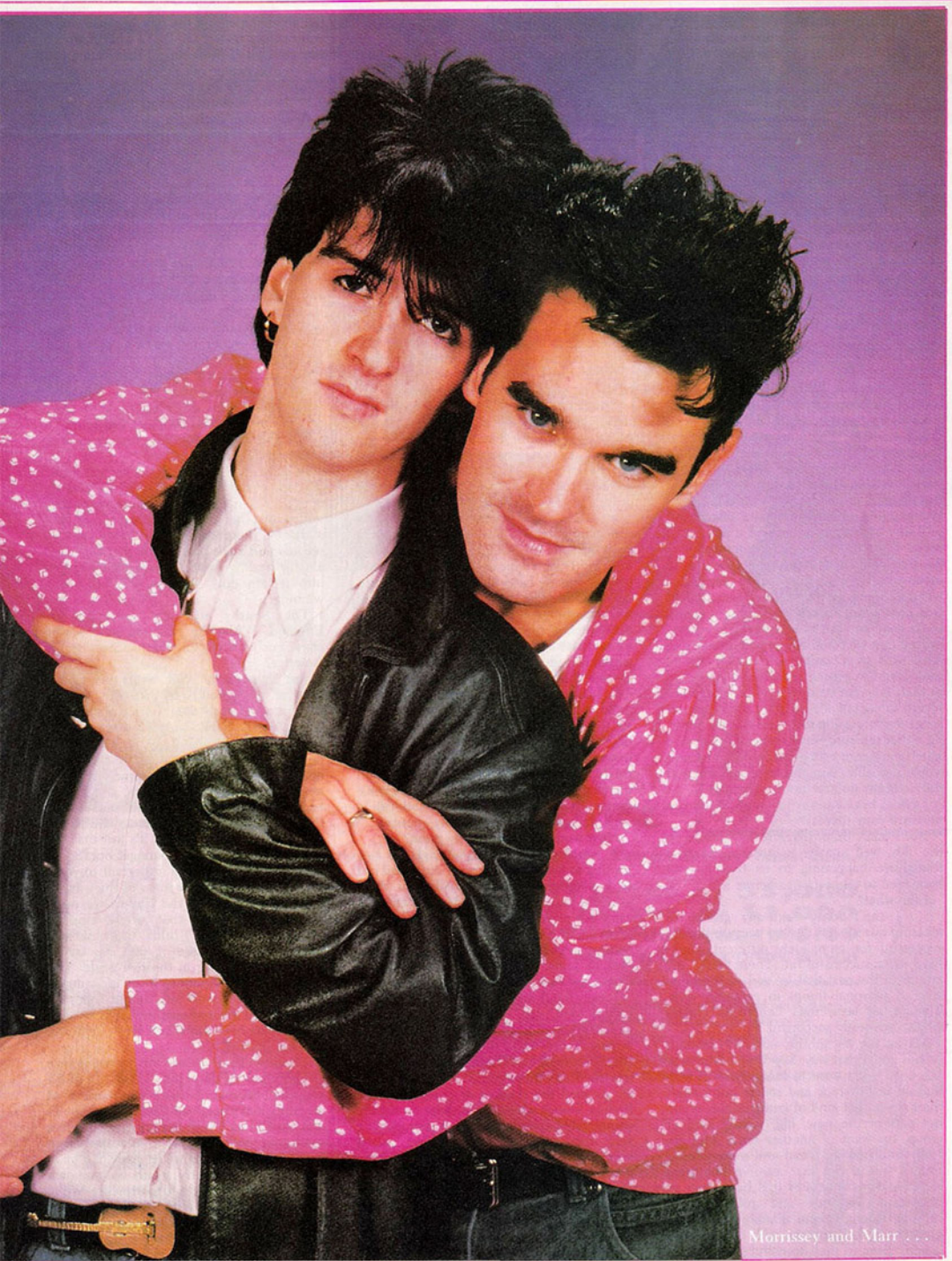
*The World Won't Listen*, a compilation of recent singles and b-sides has been doing good business chart-wise, while The Smiths have finished a new studio collection tentatively called *Strangeways, Here We Come*. Guitarist Johnny Marr is in his element in the studio, which is where we caught up with him.

How has Morrissey changed since you've been together in The Smiths?

Not at all, really. He's still, as we both are, as intense about what we're doing as we always were, which is good and bad. It's not particularly good for our personal lives but it's good for our career, which is what our relationship's founded on. I don't really think that success or fame is having an effect on him now. I think there was a period that did change him a little bit when he was getting used to things but that's because he lives on his own, mainly, and he went through a period of change when he had to adjust to living in London. He got a lot of fame thrown on him quite quickly, and I'd rather him than me, because I saw it was quite difficult. He's back to normal now, whatever that is (laughter).

FIVE YEARS ON,  
THE CASE FOR  
THE SMITHS'  
CRISP GENIUS IS  
BEING HEARD  
AROUND THE  
GLOBE.  
DOUG ADAMSON  
DISCUSSES THE  
MANIFESTO OF  
MORRISSEY AND  
CO. WITH GUITARIST  
JOHNNY MARR.





Morrissey and Marr ...



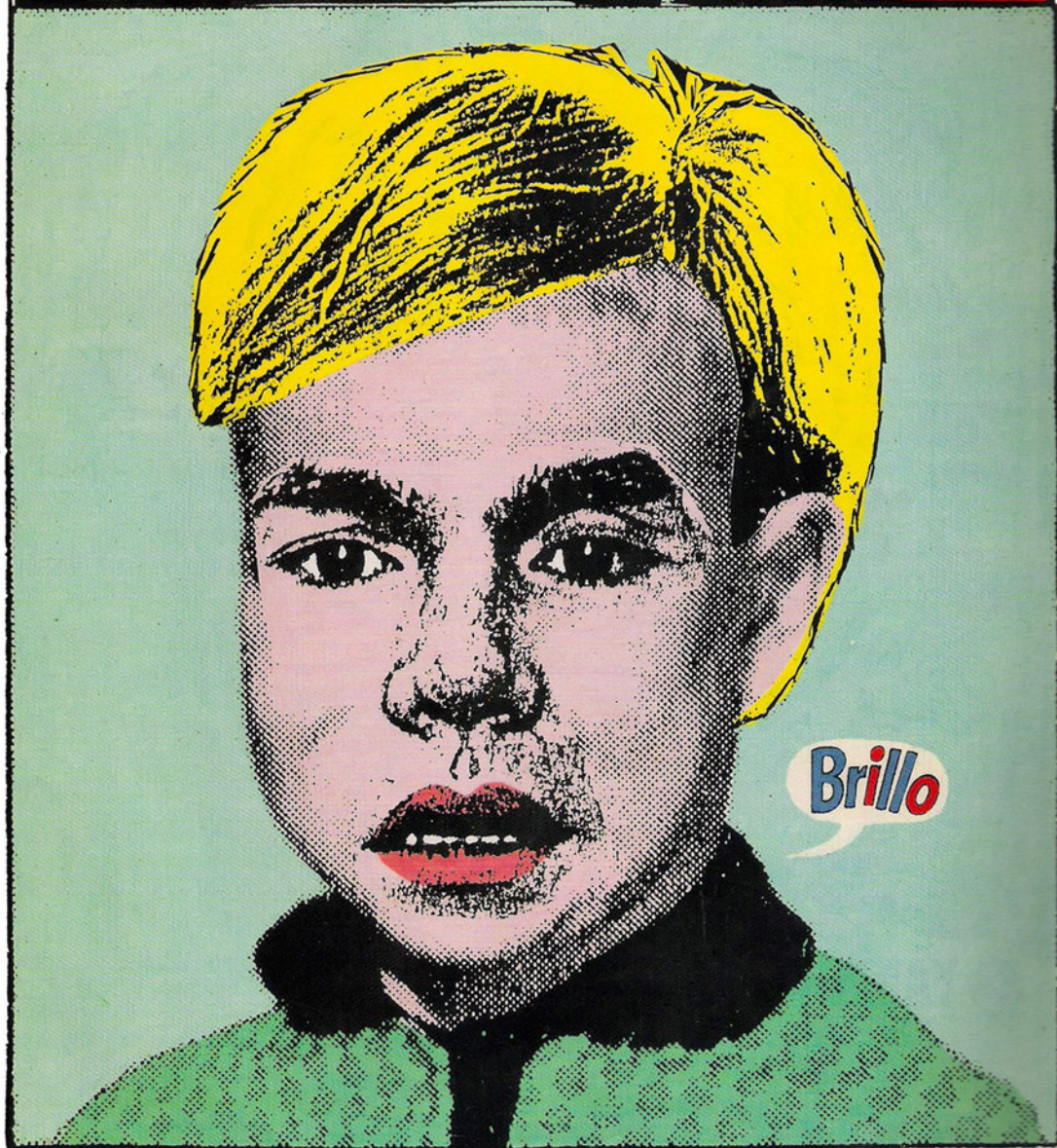
making cents dept.

**POP** GOES THE CONSCIOUSNESS with

## THE

# GURU ANDRIA

**No II modern  
KUNST GEMÄLDE  
FUNKG**



# TRIBUTE to WARHOL

WARHOL:1928-1987

**Death is something worth living for.**

ADRIAN:1664-

David A. Anderson ©1997



Mehernaz: Jeans/jacket/shirt — Rancho Deluxe.  
Chains/black jacket — Syd's. Glasses — J & J Optical. Wig —  
Hair Health and Beauty.  
David: Jumper — Syd's. Badges — Canberra disposals.  
Levi's jeans — General Pants. Doc Marten's — Emporio.  
Black singlet — his own.







Christina: T-shirt — Top Heavy.  
Paint/skirt/braces — Syd's.  
Chains/belt/rings — Impact  
Imprint. Bracelets — Blues.  
Gloves — her own.  
Sean: Trousers — Jazz Garter.  
Jacket — his own. Bonds Skivvy  
— Gowings.



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DAY & NIGHT

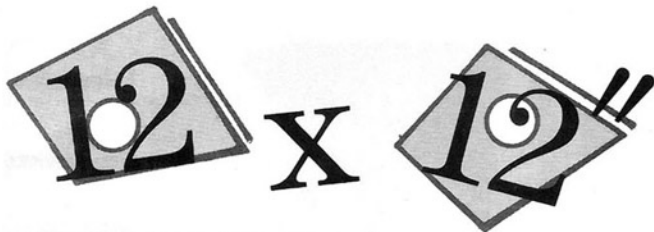
FOR HIT-OF-THE-WEEK

REAGAN  
BRUCE WILKINSON  
COMMODORES  
SANTANA  
PHIL COLLINS  
TEARS FOR FEARS  
MADONNA  
BILLY OCEAN  
CATRINA & THE WAVES  
STING  
AUSTRALIAN CRAWL  
I'M TALKING  
KIDS IN THE KITCHEN  
MEN AT WORK  
EUROGLIDERS  
MENTAL AS A  
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THE POWER STATION  
BRYAN ADAMS  
HOWARD JONES  
BILLY JOEL  
POINTER SISTERS  
HOODOO GURUS  
DEAD OR ALIVE  
BRYAN FERRY  
REO SPEEDWAGON  
ANIMATION  
THE HOOTERS  
PRINCE  
PAUL YOUNG  
THE MOTELS  
GOANNA  
MIDNIGHT OIL  
ROBERT PLANT  
BILLY IDOL  
DAVID BOWIE  
SPANDAU BALLET  
STEVE PERRY  
U.S.A. FOR AFRICA  
MODELS  
GLENN FREY



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# Fave 5



## U2 With Or Without You (Festival)

The "A" side will have been part of your listening diet for several weeks by the time you read this. Nevertheless, worthy of mention are the two unreleased tracks on the B-side, which feature Eno's ambient effects more fully.

## THE ANGELS Can't Take Any More (Mushroom)

Indeed!

## DANCE LIKE A MOTHER You Ain't So Tough (Virgin)

Ex-Belle Star and an ex-Modette combine with an expensive producer and backing musicians to produce one of the month's dreariest dance records. I'm not sure even your mother would have kind things to say about this one.

## DONNA ALLEN Serious (21st Century) (Import)

Much more like it. High quality American dance music. Great vocal arrangements on the chorus, a spacy rap and a backbeat that's so tough that your mother, auntie, granny, the whole family even, will find it nigh on impossible to avoid twiddling their toes to.

## CLUB NOUVEAU Lean On Me (WEA)

Another in a long line of cover versions currently trying to grasp onto chart success. Written, and originally recorded by Bill Withers, Club Nouveau (some of whom were originally in the Timex Social Club) manage to inject some life into this soul classic. The LP version included on this 12" seems more palatable than the 12" remix.

## BILLY BRAGG Greetings To The New Brunette (Liberation)

Released due to the success of his triumphant March tour of Australia, this 5-track EP is well worth investigating. *Greetings* is a cracker of a pop song performed in BB's inimitable fashion, with the help of The Smiths' Johnny Marr and Kirsty MacColl on backing vocals.

## HERB ALPERT Keep Your Eye On Me (Festival)

Produced by Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis, this is not a song with a structure as such, more of a groove really. Sounds faberose when played loud, and I'm sure it will have a suitable effect on the dancefloors of the nation.

## JENNY MORRIS Body And Soul (WEA)

I've grown very fond of this one. Its combination of rock 'n' roll feels and pop sensibilities must ensure its chart success.

## DAVID BOWIE Day In Day Out (EMI)

Some of DB's more recent offerings have been a bit poeey to say the least. Now he's got a new band, album and tour to keep him occupied for the rest of 1987. This single is almost a return to form for the man who used to make some of the most challenging and interesting music around.

## MADHOUSE Six (WEA)

Madhouse are Prince cohorts. From an album (called 8) containing eight (natch) musical offerings from The Regal One's old saxophonist Eric Leeds. SIX has already proved popular as an import, and I suggest you also check out the album when locally released.

## DURAN DURAN Skin Trade (EMI)

Once again Brother Nile Rodgers has successfully recorded the Drones in such a fashion as to lead one to believe that it's not them at all! Fine by me, and it means that this offering is almost bearable. Quite honestly though, isn't it about time they gave the game up?

## GENESIS Tonight, Tonight, Tonight (Virgin)

Sorry dears, I have a headache ...

Andy Glitre

## SCOTT CARNE

HEROES — David Bowie

FOR YOUR PLEASURE — Roxy Music

NEW GOLD DREAM — Simple Minds

GONE TO EARTH — David Sylvian

ANTHOLOGY — Sly and the Family Stone

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Published by Fairfax Magazines Pty Ltd. in association with Australian Broadcasting Corporation. Registered by Australia Post, Publication No. NBQ 5314. Typeset by Magazine Printers. Printed in Australia by Macquarie Publications.

Distributed by Fairfax Magazines Pty Ltd 140 Joynton Ave, Waterloo NSW 2017. Recommended Retail Price \$2.50(Aust). Subscription price \$26.00(includes postage and handling). All subscription enquiries should be directed to Magazine Promotions, PO Box 1000, Glebe, NSW 2037.