

# 'Drums Along The Poothfat!'

Concert Reviews and Snapshots by Ian Rae

## MUFFIN'...LOCAL BOYS MAKE GOOD

Graham thinks the punk rock element is really subdued, I mean, Macmillan's ear-ring was a clip-on and his jeans came from C&A. Stewart's punk/brat beautifully sent up by his Marks and Spencer's bags, his mock satin biker jacket, the Dread-In-A-Outback coiffure. All this and a true understanding of space in his soloing, a sensitive appreciation of the passion at the root of all music. He is a guitarist of untrammelled genius, his instrument an extension of his very being, giving voice to the melodies of his soul. A craftsman at one with his tool. Or so he told me. Still, he's not bad for a twelve year old, even ig he did play Madame George with a metal bit from a drum kit.

Dave Ivens looked dead butch, though, and Ian Thomson's got anice leg and Gary plays a really moody kitchen sink. Bring It On Home was nice, MacMillan

giving vent to all the angst and mental torment of his tortured existence. Mike "all the semi'tones I can fit in" Daw did a short solo spot during which he rebuilt his equipment in six minutes flat.

This band should be famous one day. If their recent smash head-lining tour of the Bass Rock is anything to go by. They better be, they owe me money for writing this rubbish, and Stewart has still got my fuzz box.

Wonder's live performances are certainly never mere exercises in reproduction. Anyway, The Jess Roden Band do this sort of thing much better. "Play That Funky Music, White Boy"...No chance. Still, there's a market for it.

RIGHT: MACMILLAN & THE CLIP ON EAR-RING.



'SOULED DOWN THE RIVER' - THE STEEL BAND'S SUPPORT GROUP.



SPEND MY LIFE SLAVING OVER A HOT SINK

## 20th CENTURY STEEL BAND

One of the first Steel Bands I can consciously remember listening to was on "Blue Peter, - the Trinidad Steel Orchestra. They played the classic Shostakovitch's "New World Symphony", and I was very impressed by the wide tonal variation possible from some old oil drums. I'm still very impressed.

The first time I saw 20th Century Steel Band was on New Faces (I watch a lot of telly). God knows what they were doing there, lame suits and a bass guitar and all. They were rotten. They epitomised the Carib-cum-hitcher-cum-tourist look.

It's nice to know that they've salvaged some semblance of credibility after that debacle.

My knowledge of their recordings is limited to a few tracks on the radio, where you tend to lose the vibrant urgency of their stage act. The end results usually sound the backing from a Bacardi commercial (I listen to a lot of radio too).

However. On the great occasion of the Steel Band's coming to Pathfoot I was somewhat better pleased. Their choice of material was rather catholic, to say the least, ranging from Isaac Hayes' "Shaft" through lesser rockers ("Machine Gun Mamee") to Strauss' "Voices of Spring" (a piece that probably everyone knows without knowing the title). I didn't particularly like a lot of the material, bu the treatment given it made up for this in terms of novelty.

Nonetheless, Steel Band music being potentially as exciting as the best that Jamaica can offer, there is no point or excuse for blowing your credibility by using duff material.

LEFT: 20TH CENTURY STEEL BAND IN FULL ARRAY.

