

HOLIDAZE!

GIFT GUIDE ❖ CRITICS' TOP 10s ❖ 129 BOXED SETS ❖ NUTS ABOUT BALLET
BOYZ II MEN ❖ ANONYMOUS 4 ❖ HOLIDAY MUSIC ❖ PULSE! READERS' WISH
LISTS ❖ AND MORE!!!! ❖ IT ALL BEGINS ON PAGE 69

PULSE!

TOWER RECORDS | VIDEO

HOLIDAY ISSUE 1993

KATE BUSH

'Red Shoes' Diary

THE UNSINKABLE

Kirsty MacColl

Tad

The Mekons

Ali Farka Toure

Phillip Johnston

Eleanor McEvoy

JPS Experience

Jonathan Demme



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CHILDREN'S
MUSIC &
VIDEO GUIDE



The 10 List

Picking the best 10 releases of the past year is nearly impossible when we've heard hundreds of records, some great, some forgettable. Here are our columnists' and editors' selections as the *crème de la crème* of 1993.



Zines

- 1. Gray Areas**—P.O. Box 808, Broomhall, PA 19008-0808.
- 2. Half Truth**—P.O. Box 931013, Los Angeles, CA 90093-1013.
- 3. The Kvinde Hader Klub**—144 Hester Street #8, New York, NY 10013-4768.
- 4. Glen Burnieland**—9195-H Hitching Post Lane, Laurel, MD 20723.
- 5. Nerve**—Although now deceased, this zine waxed acerbic over the music industry's celebrity circus.
- 6. Speed Kills**—P.O. Box 14561, Chicago, IL 60614.
- 7. Syndicate**—P.O. Box 24633, Nashville, TN 37202.
- 8. Kahoutek**—36 Cherrywood Place, Redwood, Christchurch 5, New Zealand.
- 9. Exploitation Retrospect**—P.O. Box 1155, Haddonfield, NJ 08033-0708.
- 10. Lemon**—P.O. Box 651, Gleb NSW 2037, Australia.

Blues

- 1. Give It Up to Love**—Mighty Sam McClain (AudioQuest). Blues with soul gets no deeper than McClain's red-clay heart.
- 2. Bent Out of Shape**—Bobby Parker (Black Top). 30 years of pent-up energy rush out into this electric singer/guitarist's debut album.
- 3. Still River**—Ronnie Earl (AudioQuest). Virtuoso guitarist and songwriter Earl plays only instrumentals and still manages to create a new classic.
- 4. Feel Like Doin' Something Wrong**—Cedell Davis (Fat Possum). The debut of the last great country-blues stylist.
- 5. The Cobra Records Story**—various artists (Capricorn). This CD box captures the sound of ghetto blues and early rock.
- 6. Blues Summit**—B.B. King (MCA). Teamed with other greats, King catches flame, burns through his own tunes and proves a smoldering accompanist.
- 7. Shame + a Sin**—Robert Cray (Mercury). Cray expands his style to include the old Hi soul sound.
- 8. I Pity the Fool/The Duke Recordings, Vol. 1**—Bobby Bland (MCA). This two-CD reissue of early classics crystalizes a legacy that grows more profound with each listen.
- 9. Play Your Guitar, Mr. Hooker**—Earl Hooker (Black Top). Demos and rarities from the late sharp-shooter.
- 10. Rare Chicago Blues**—various artists (Bullseye). Hear what was happening on Chicago's streets between '62 and '68.

—Ted Drozdowski

Contemporary Instrumental

- 1. Trisan**—Trisan (Real World/Caroline). A merging of Celtic and Asian music with Clannad's Pol Brennan unifying the percussion of Joji Hirota and flutes of Guo Yue.
- 2. Forgotten Gods**—Suspended Memories (Hearts of Space). Steve Roach, Jorge Reyes and Suso Saiz in a communion of modern technology and ancient primal instruments.
- 3. Weaving My Ancestors Voices**—Sheila Chandra (Real World/Caroline). Ancient voices of the world from India

to Ireland emerge from the throat of Sheila Chandra, singing her meditations over layered tamboura and guitar drones.

4. Asian Fusion—Ancient Future (Narada). Another album of East/West melodies, this time using plucked string instruments from Vietnam and China.

- 5. Ekstasis**—Nicky Skopelitis (Axiom). Burning techno-world fusion mixed in a cauldron of Skopelitis' mutant guitar and Bill Laswell's psychedelic production.
- 6. Enn**—Hiroki Okano (Innovative Communications). A meticulously crafted album of synthesizers and Japanese winds, strings and percussion.
- 7. Into the Labyrinth**—Dead Can Dance (4AD). An intersection between the ancient and the present with Lisa Gerrard's haunting, otherworldly vocals coupled with sampled percussion and instrumental exotica.
- 8. Moon Shines at Night**—Djivan Gasparyan (Gyroscope). This is the sound that seduced Peter Gabriel, and you'll hear why on this disc of Armenian doudouk melodies.
- 9. Blue Desires**—One (Chacra). One is Tino Izzo, a formidable guitarist whose sophisticated fusion veers from fleet fingered acoustic runs to laconic, Knopfleresque melodies.
- 10. Stand By**—Heldon (Cuneiform). First released in '79, this blistering Cyber-space journey presages today's techno-rave music, but with substantially more soul. —John Diliberto

Country

- 1. This Time**—Dwight Yoakam (Reprise). So raw, so hard, so country.
- 2. Only What I Feel**—Patty Loveless (Epic). A window into a woman's heart.
- 3. Spinning Around the Sun**—Jimmie Dale Gilmore (Elektra). Exquisitely sublime. Celestially earthy.



WIN

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1993

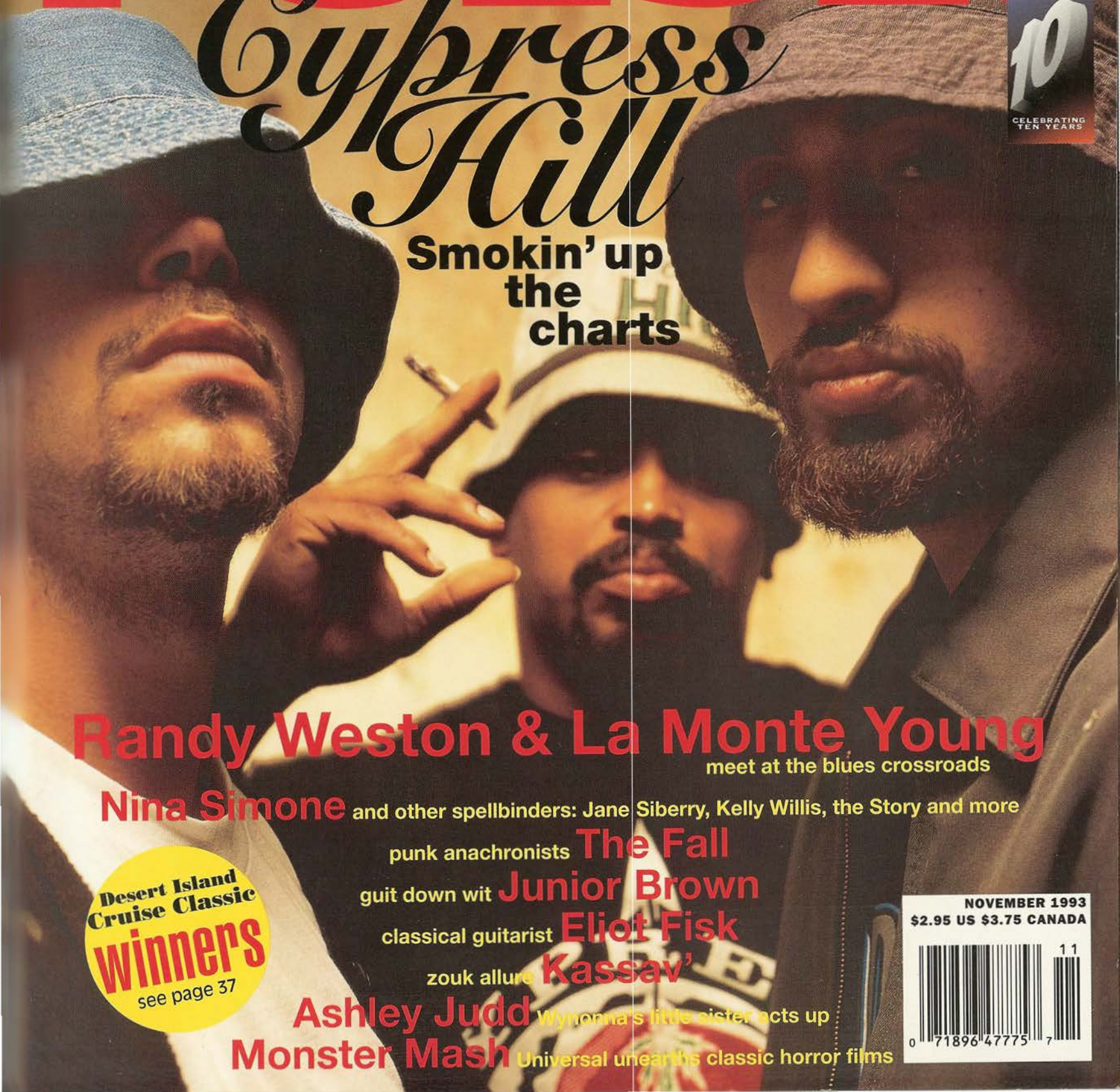
HIP-HOP
the artists speak

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• A TRIBE CALLED QUEST • THE GOATS •
FAT JOE • KRS-ONE • REVIEWS • NEWS**

PULSE!

Cypress Hill

Smokin' up
the
charts



Randy Weston & La Monte Young

meet at the blues crossroads

Nina Simone and other spellbinders: Jane Siberry, Kelly Willis, the Story and more

punk anachronists **The Fall**

guit down wit **Junior Brown**

classical guitarist **Eliot Fisk**

zouk allure **Kassav'**

Ashley Judd Wynonna's little sister acts up

Monster Mash Universal unearths classic horror films

**Desert Island
Cruise Classic
winners**
see page 37

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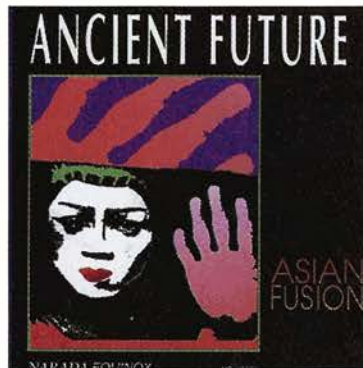
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Ancient Future absorbs Asian sounds; plus One, Gandalf; Heldon reissued

CONTEMPORARY INSTRUMENTAL

Many artists have been running toward world music, trying to inject new life into their compositions. For most, it's a superficial exercise; but for **Ancient Future**, it's at the core of what this band has been doing since the late '70s. *Asian Fusion* (Narada Equinox), the group's latest release, extends its Indian-derived fusion to the world of Asia and beyond. This isn't just a matter of tossing in some pentatonic scales and a *shakuhachi* sample. Founder Matthew Montfort painstakingly weaves into the music traditional instruments such as the *gu cheng*, a Chinese zither, and the *dan bau*, a Vietnamese single-stringed gourd instrument. And the band traverses this fusion terrain with deft arrangements and beautifully wrought interplay, from introspective duets to the reggae of "Ja Nam." **Ancient Future** occasionally falls on the spikes of Asian cliché, but through it all, maintains its gift for intricate melody and textured percussion. Montfort's scalloped fretboard guitar lines are wonders of ornamental design, while Ian Dogole brings a world of percussive colors from Africa and South America.



Tino Izzo seems like an exotic enough name, but he's decided to record as "One" on his debut album, *Blue Desires* (Chacra), a lush session of guitar instrumentals. Izzo is a formidable player, flying off with fleet-fingered acoustic runs one moment, and laconic, Knopfleresque melodies the next. *Blue Desires* starts out as a sophisticated, atmospherically framed fusion album, yet Izzo stretches out more and more with each track until the second half is full of open spaces and orchestral layers of guitar melody.

A pioneer of instrumental guitar music is former Genesis stringman

Steve Hackett. His blistering sustained lines are instantly recognizable on the latest by Austrian keyboardist/guitarist **Gandalf**, *Gallery of Dreams* (Eurock). Gandalf (Heinz Werner Strobel), a synthesist in the grand orchestral school of Vangelis, has been leaning closer to Yanni's saccharine sound in recent years. But Hackett adds a cutting edge to this



music, albeit one of bombastic crescendos. Gandalf has always incorporated sword-and-sorcery imagery into his repertoire, creating symphonic grandeur that's sometimes inspired, sometimes like a bad-costume movie.

At the opposite end of the fantasy spectrum is **Heldon**, a French band which draws its imagery from a technologically malignant future. Originally released as an obscure import in 1979, *Stand By* (Cuneiform) is a blistering assault, right from the opening acid-blues guitar and sequencers of the title track. The 22-minute epic, "Bolero," is a techno-rave journey of churning sequencers and fuzz-tone furry. Helmed by French guitarist Richard Pinhas, Heldon struts through the psyche of technological alienation with a mixture of glee and paranoia. Gurgling sequencers and juggernaut drums frame Pinhas' Jimi Hendrix-siphoned-through-Robert Fripp guitar pyrotechnics.

While *Stand By* is certainly the best record in Cuneiform's Heldon/Pinhas reissue series, (which also includes *It's Always Rock and Roll/Electronique Guerilla*), Heldon's music is always an adventure, and usually a harrowing one. ■

John Diliberto is the host and producer of *Echoes*, a daily music soundscape syndicated nationally by *American Public Radio*.