

Suzi Quatro Coliseum queen

It's been a long time since we've had a real gutsy rock 'n' roll queen.

Janis Joplin is gone, Gracie Slick is into Kung Fu and acupuncture. And Judy Collins was always too ladylike.

Suzi Quatro has that raw excitement, the fierce, driving sound that reaches out and destroys you.

The Detroit-born singer who now lives in London

will lead off the Alice Cooper show tonight at 8 in the Coliseum.

"I'm looking forward to Cleveland again. It was my breakout town and everyone has been so good to me," she said in a telephone interview.

Her new Bell LP, "Your Mama Won't Like Me," is one of the most requested on WMMS. Her single, "Devil's Gate Drive," off her second album sold more than 4 million.

Tinymite Quatro is scarcely more than 5 feet tall. She guesses she wears a 3 or 5 dress, but she's not sure. Her signature is a black leather jumpsuit. She'll wear one tonight.

Suzi isn't into gimmicks. She doesn't need them. She lets the sound speak for itself, both that of her voice and her Les Paul bass.

The other members of her band are Len Tuckey, formerly of the Nashville Teens, on guitar; Alistair McKenzie on keyboards and Dave Neal on drums.

Success for Suzi has been a matter of meeting the right person at the right time.

Mickey Most, who had developed such stars as Donovan, Lulu and the Animals, heard Suzi with her band in Detroit and encouraged her to come to England.



Suzi Quatro swings out before the Alice Cooper show at the Coliseum tonight.

"Then everything erupted for me. I love it here. I have a house here and do just what I want," she said.



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AWB isn't average

"Right oon! We've got work to do," said lead singer Hamish Stuart at the Allen Monday night.

And so began some of the happiest moments in rock 'n' roll history here.

The Average White Band from Scotland gave their first concert in Cleveland. They received three encores

And before they were were half-way through their hit, "Pickin' Up the Pieces," every ticket-holder was on his feet, singing and swinging. Some were

dancing in the aisles. In my 17 years of rock coverage I have never seen such a good-hearted, ebullient audience.

The band is almost white (the drummer is black), but their music is funky soul. Their vocal harmonies were superb.

The group had the indefinable something that you know is manners. How long has it been since you've seen band members smile?

"Thank you for supporting us and helping us to get here," Stuart said after one song. He introduced the soloists as they finished.

"That was Molly (Malcolm) Duncan on tenor sax," he said.

The group played their single "Got to Love." Stuart and bass player Alan Gorrie switched instruments and did an outstanding job on their new single, "Cut the Cake." Their "Tender Loving Care" was a standout.

Then they did a jazz-soul version of "I Heard It Through the Grapevine" and I have not heard it done so well since Marvin Gaye.

"I don't know when I've enjoyed a concert so much," said Stuart in his dressing room afterwards.

The concert got off on the right note. Patrolman James Benedict took a dare and introduced the band. He got an overwhelming ovation.

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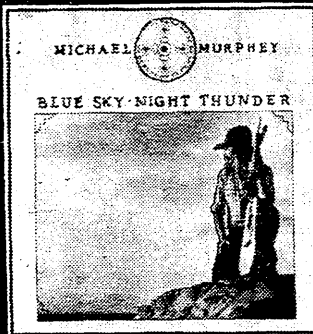
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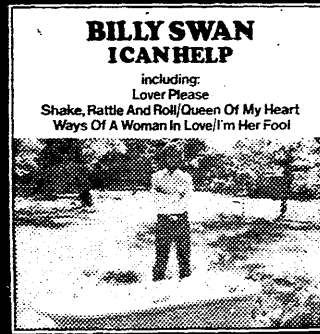
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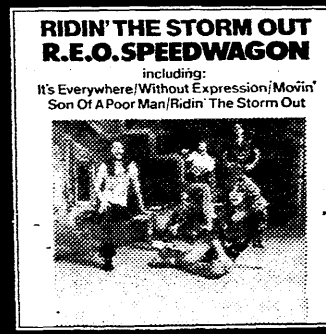
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