

INFORMER

JAZZ

FIRST of all, news of more modern jazz in Liverpool. On Wednesdays at the Gladray Club in Upper Parliament Street the Mike Jackson Quintet play fine jazz from the 1950s and 1960s era, and on Mondays at the Hotel Victoria in New Brighton the Merseyside Big Band recreate the music of Glenn Miller, Count Basie and Stan Kenton. Economics and lack of good arrangements make the 'big band sound' a rarity these days, so these sessions are well worth hearing.

The dividing line between modern jazz and rock music has always been a fine one, and this has been proved locally by concerts at the Banyan Tree featuring groups like Supercharge plus various jazz musicians.

In contrast the relationship between rock music and traditional jazz has in the past been a bitter one, especially in Liverpool. Since the early 60s when the groups 'won' supremacy at the Cavern and in the hit parade, and John Lennon was making references to the "polo necked jumpers and beer swilling bores" of the trad bands, relations have improved remarkably. Nowadays it is common to see members of jazz groups watching the groups at venues like the Shippers and the Star & Garter. In the last year the Blue Magnolia Jazz Orchestra and local beat group Silver Set (now aptly re-named 'Randy') have actually got together to organise joint sessions, with considerable success.

It's good to see audiences as well as musicians becoming more tolerant, although most still know little or nothing of the original exponents of jazz music. Names like King Oliver, Bix Beiderbecke (the Blue Mags were recently asked if they could play a 'Bex Bissel' number!), George Lewis and Johnny Dodds mean little or nothing to most of the listeners.

One band actually claims to have been asked "Can you play that Irish number, Delaney is a Tramp?" Nevertheless, the audiences turn up to see jazz as it is played on Merseyside, and below is a list of places where it can be heard.

MONDAY. Merseyside Big Band, Victoria Hotel, New Brighton.

TUESDAY. Blue Magnolia Jazz Orchestra, The Coffee House (pub), Waver-tree. The Savoy Jazzmen, The Heath Hotel, Greenhill Road.

WEDNESDAY. Merseyside Jazz Band, The Sportsman, St John's Precinct. Panama Jazz Band, the Black Horse, West Kirby. Mike Jackson Quintet, Gladray Club, Upper Parliament St.

THURSDAY. Panama Jazz Band, Victoria Hotel, New Brighton. Modern jazz at the Banyan Tree, Adelphi Hotel, Liverpool.

SUNDAY. (Lunchtime): Grand Hotel and Victoria Hotel, New Brighton. (Evening): New Orleans Express at the Albion, Chester.

POETRY

WINDOWS: Halewood Library, Leathers Lane. Poetry from local members and Chris Searle with musicians Two Fingers. Wed Feb 18, 8 p.m. For future events contact Halewood Community Council, James McColl House, Kenton Road (486 2172)

WHY NOT? (pub): Harrington Street, Liverpool 1 (off North John Street). Poetry and music from Chris Searle, David Seltzer and Two Fingers. Thurs Feb 19, 8 p.m.

SOUTHPORT ARTS CENTRE, Lord Street. Poetry and music from Chris Searle, David Seltzer and Two Fingers. Fri Feb 20, 8 p.m.

JABBERWOCKY: Wed Feb 11 at Overton Hall, Wirral Country Park, Station Road, Thurston. A new look at Dylan Thomas. Music: Broccoli; poets: Linda Thompson and Alan Gaunt.

GAZEBO: Bottom of Duke Street, Liverpool 1. Third Tues every month.



Blue Magnolias in action at the Coffee House pub [See Jazz]

FILMS

What to see . . .

Mon 2 Feb. **THE LITTLE THEATRE OF JEAN RENOIR.** Director: Jean Renoir. Released in 1974, this marked his fifty years as a director. Typically expansive trilogy of stories. -MFIS.

Tue 3 Feb. **THE LITTLE THEATRE OF JEAN RENOIR.** See Monday for details.

Thur 5 Feb. **THE LOWER DEPTHS.** Freely adapting Gorki's novel, Renoir produced what he called "a realistic poem on the loss of human dignity." (France, 1936). Subtitles. -Univ Cinema Club.

Thur 5 Feb. **DESTROY RIDES AGAIN.** Classic Western starring Marlene Dietrich as the saloon entertainer and James Stewart as the diffident hero who finally buckles on his guns. (USA, 1939). -Deeside.

Thur 5 Feb. **A MAN CALLED HORSE.** (USA, 1970). Richard Harris, Judith Anderson. -Birkenhead.

Fri 6 Feb. **ZACHARIAH (USA, 1971)** Director: George England. Featuring amongst others, Country Joe and Fish, White Lightnin' Joe Walsh and the James Gang, and the New York Rock Ensemble. Hailed as the first "electric Western". -MFIS.

Fri 6 Feb. **THE APARTMENT (USA, 1960).** "Aspects of American Comedy" series continues with this Billy Wilder satire on power politics in office life. Starring Jack Lemmon, Shirley MacLaine and Fred MacMurray. In support: Extracts from Some Like it Hot and Laurel and Hardy in Another Fine Mess. 7 p.m. Ellesmere Port Library, Civic Way. Admission free.

Sun 8 Feb. **GUMSHOE (Great Britain, 1971)** Albert Finney, Billy Whitelaw and Frank Finlay. 1940s American thriller set in today's Liverpool - and it works. - 8.30 p.m., Liberty Hall, Cindy's Club, 75 Victoria St, L'pool.

Mon 9 Feb. **CHINATOWN (USA, 1974).** Dir: Roman Polanski. Featuring Jack Nicholson, Faye Dunaway. Vintage private eye thriller set in Los Angeles in 1937. -MFIS.

Tue 10 Feb. **CHINATOWN.** See Monday for details.

Thur 12 Feb. **INNOCENCE UNPROTECTED.** Dusan (WR Mysteries of the Organism) Makevjev here builds a fascinating structure of context and comment around a clandestine film originally made during the German occupation of Yugoslavia. Subtitles. -Univ. Cinema Club.

Thur 12 Feb. **HAMLET. The 1964** Russian film version. -Birkenhead.

Fri 13 Feb. **LE BOUCHER (France, 1969).** Claude Chabrol's brilliant thriller. Supporting programme. 7 p.m. Ellesmere Port Library, Civic Way. Admission free, adults only.

Fri 13 Feb. **TRASH (USA, 1970)** Featuring Joe Dallesandro and Holly Woodlawn. The Warhol imprint is firmly on this moral tale of the drug scene. -MFIS.

Mon 16 Feb. **LAST TANGO IN PARIS.** (Italy/France, 1972). Dir: Bernardo Bertolucci. Featuring Marlon Brando and Maria Schneider. Last Tango case shows how a film that many people would regard as responsible and sincere has been used by the press for purely exploitative and sensational purposes. -MFIS.

Tue 17 Feb. **LAST TANGO IN PARIS.** See Monday for details.

Wed 18 Feb. **THE BLUE MAX.** Spectacular war film with George Peppard James Mason and Ursula Andress. -Birkenhead.

Thur 19 Feb. **SWAMP WATER.** Renoir's first American film, the story of a hunted man who takes refuge in the Okefenokee Swamp in Georgia. Shot on location. (USA, 1941)-University Cinema Club.

Thur 19 Feb. **BOESMAN AND LENA.** Athol Fugard plays Boesman in this

FILMS- LATE NEWS...

"We modestly present the best films in the world" -so say Liverpool Polytechnic students. They're every Tuesday in the ground floor lecture theatre of the art college, Hope Street, at 6 p.m. 20p for non-members; members free. (Membership 50p for Poly students, £1 for others).

Programme: Feb 3 TOP HAT; Feb 10 ONIBABA; Feb 17 TOUT VA BIEN (Godard) plus Laurel and Hardy short; Feb 24 LAST YEAR IN MARIENBAD (Resnais); March 2 THE HUSTLER.

screen version of this highly acclaimed play about a couple of Cape coloured drifters who tramp around the bush, living on the fringe of society. (South Africa, 1973). -Deeside.

Thur 19 Feb. **DON'T LOOK NOW.** 1973 psychic drama with Julie Christie and Donald Sutherland. -Birkenhead.

Fri 20 Feb. **BOFI** Leering parody of 'civilised' man's utopia... the second such breath of wind from Faraldo. The first was the equally anarchic Themroc. -MFIS.

Fri 20 Feb. **CABARET.** This music drama makes an intriguing link for director Bob Fosse between Sweet Charity and his current film, Lenny. 7 p.m. Ellesmere Port Library, Civic Way. Admission free, adults only.

Fri 20 Feb. **O LUCKY MAN.** Director Lindsay Anderson's epic view of the state of the nation. (Taken off the commercial circuit far too quickly). -Heswall.

Mon 23 Feb. **EARTH IS A SINFUL SONG.** Dir: Rauni Mollberg. The Nordic film of 1974 emerged from Finland rather than Sweden. -MFIS.

Tue 24 Feb. **EARTH IS A SINFUL SONG.** See Monday for details.

Thur 26 Feb. **VALERIE AND HER WEEK OF WONDERS.** Beautiful, funny, baroque fantasy about a young girl's awakening to sexual maturity. (Czechoslovakia, 1970). Subtitles. -University Cinema Club.

Thur 26 Feb. **LA BOHEME.** Classic film version of Puccini's great opera. -Birkenhead.

Fri. 27 Feb. **THE HIRED HAND.** Dir: Peter Fonda. Featuring Peter Fonda, Warren Oates. Disliked by many critics and utterly neglected commercially, Peter Fonda's directorial debut was nevertheless 'Best Film' of 1971 in Films and Filming's awards. -MFIS.

where to see it

BIRKENHEAD LIBRARY FILM SOC Alternate Thurs, 8 p.m. at Williamson Art Gallery, Slaty Rd, Birkenhead. Membership details: Music Dept, Central Library, Borough Rd, B'head. Tel: 652 6106.

DEESIDE FILM SOCIETY: Alternate Thurs, 8 p.m. at MANWEB Training Hall, Carr Lane, Hoylake (5 mins from Hoylake Station). Membership details: D. Henshilwood, 130 Frankby Rd, Newton, West Kirby.

HESWALL FILM SOCIETY: Alexander Hall, Rocky Lane, Heswall at 7.45 p.m. Members, guests 40p; others 50p.

LIVERPOOL UNIVERSITY CINEMA CLUB: Theme this term: Images of Women. Thursdays 8 p.m. in University Lecture Rooms Building, Crown St (off Brownlow Hill). Membership NOT restricted to people at university. Details: Dr Ann Thompson, English Dept, The University, PO Box 147, Liverpool L69 3BX. Tel: 709 6022.

MERSEYSIDE FILM INSTITUTE SOCIETY: Mon, Tues, Fri and sometimes Sat., in Merseyside Film Theatre, Bluecoat Chambers, School Lane, Liverpool. Showings at 6 p.m. and 8.15 unless otherwise stated. Membership details: Hon. Sec., MFIS, 45 Bluecoat Chambers, School Lane, Liverpool, L1 3BX.

BEER

Tony Wilson

THE GOOD MILD GUIDE...

Shakespeare	Dawson St., L'pool 1	Tetley (dark)
Merton Arms	Irlam Road, Bootle	Higson (dark)
Cleveland	Bebington Road, New Ferry	Thwaites ('ord.' & 'best')
Dukes Crown	Wapping, Liverpool 1.	Burtonwood (dark)
Snigs Foot	Ormskirk	Butonwood (light)
Golden Lion	Rainford Village	Greenall (dark)
McCullough's Pub	Rake Lane, Wallasey	Bass (4X + M&B)
Vine Tavern	Elephant Lane, Thatto Heath	Boddington (light)

WHEN did you last see an advert for mild beer? When did you last drink mild beer?

Amid the plethora of Australian male models posing as Tetley bittermen and Whitbread's incredibly expanding Trophy bitter (perhaps it's all the gas in it?) there is a marked lack of publicity for mild.

I suppose mild has suffered from two misconceptions [a] that it is an old man's drink and [b] that it gets adulterated by receiving all the slops from other beers.

In view of this bad reputation it's high time some of the brewers started actively promoting mild, instead of spending millions pushing keg bitters at us - it's well known that some of the kegs sell even less than the mild. The Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA) is not blameless in this respect - I get the impression that in some parts it's becoming more of a campaign for strong bitters.

So what has mild got to offer? [a] It's flavoursome and smooth with just as much, if not more, variety of flavours than bitter. [b] It's usually slightly weaker than bitter - not everybody likes strong beer anyway, and mild is therefore very suitable for a prolonged drinking session or crawl. [c] Mild is usually cheaper than bitter (brewers often notice increased mild sales after a budget increase).

On Merseyside we are fortunate in still having some splendid milds available. Tetley's is the most widespread and deservedly popular (though what a pity we couldn't still have Walker's mild). Greenalls do produce a dark and a light mild, but locally only the dark is available, and a good drink it is too (some say better than the bitter!)

Burtonwood mild is one I rate highly, both dark and light are available. The dark is almost like Guinness, but try both!

Thwaites produce magnificent milds, both 'ordinary' and 'best' (both dark) are available and both have a distinctive fruity taste. Higson's mild is popular but

rather bland to my taste and unfortunately is not available in non-gassed form in the city centre.

Boddington's mild is available in the St Helens area and worth a try if you find their bitter too sharp.

Bass Charrington's milds are increasingly difficult to find without gas, but are pleasant nevertheless.

The recent CAMRA beer exhibition proved that people were prepared to try milds when they were presented to them, but all too often the brewers seem to want to hide mild away, so the answer is for us all to go and sample some. We must not adopt the attitude satirised by the Guinness advert of some time ago, which read "I don't like it because I've never tried it."

To help you on your way, some pubs specially recommended for the milds are listed above.

BRIEFLY...

The Swan, Wood Street, Liverpool is now selling the excellent Youngers IPA - a beer that really is worth passing a lot of pubs for - the first time in Liverpool for years. Don't forget Thwaites' mild and bitter in the same pub, but beware the fizzy Greenalls.

Marks and Spencer have a new range of bottled and canned beers in the Liverpool store. Not "real" ale but well worth a try since they're produced by Ruddles, Sam Smiths, Thwaites and Greene King. A good sign is that gravity and alcoholic percentage are printed on the label. Others take note!

Higsons recently threatened to "gas" the Caledonia pub in Catherine Street. Protests from locals and some members of the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra prevented the introduction of chilled and filtered beer.

CAMRA Merseyside A.G.M. is on Wed Feb 18 (8 p.m.) at the "Westminster" Barlow Lane, Kirkdale, Liverpool 4. CAMRA local enquiries to 9 Hooton Road, Aintree, L9 4SF (Tel: 521 5967).

EXHIBITIONS

Until Feb 18. Six artists' drawings. Work by Nigel Hall, John Loker, Martin Naylor, George Percy, Tony Roberts, Norman Stevens. Bluecoat Gallery. Feb 3-19. Mike Hatjoulis' Drawings. Academy Gallery.

Feb 21 (one day only) The Brabison. An extinct species whose potential was never realised. Presented by D. Dart. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Academy Gallery.

Feb 24-26. Fine Artistes. A performance by artist Colin Barron in street and studio, using sound, dialogue, movement and visual media. 11-12.30; 2-4 p.m. Academy Gallery.

Feb 12-March 13. British Paintings and Drawings, 1900-1950. Includes Bomberg, Bone, Drummond, Gross, Hitchens, John Nash, Paul Nash, Christopher Wood. Allerton Gallery.

Feb 14-28. Industrial sculpture. St Helens Art Gallery, Gamble Institute, Victoria Square. 10-5, Mon-Sat.

Feb 7-March 6. Southport Palette Club. Atkinson Art Gallery, Lord Street, Southport. Mon-Sat, 10-5.

Until Feb 23. Creative Ceramics (A North-West Museum and Art Gallery Service Exhibition). Crosby Library.

Until Feb 27. A.M. Barton: Paintings. Neptune Theatre Gallery.

Until Feb 28. Amsterdam '700. Exhibition of early printed books and prints to mark the 700th anniversary of the founding of the city.

Until March 5. The Cinzano Glass Collection. Selection of Roman, Venetian, European and English glass. County Museum.

Until April 4. ABC of Minerals. County Museum.

Until June. New Shippers Exhibition. From the museum's extensive collection of ship models, relics, paintings and documents. County Museum.

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WHERE

ACADEMY GALLERY 65 Renshaw Street, Liverpool. 709 4088.

ALLERTON GALLERY 117 Allerton Road, L'pool 18. 724 5206. Open Mon-Fri 10.00-6.00, Wed and Sat 10.00-1.00

BLUECOAT HALL School Lane, Liverpool 709 5689. Tues-Fri 10.30-5.00. Sat 10.00-2.30. (Display Centre open Tues-Fri 10.30-5.30; Sat 10.30-2.30)

BOOTLE LIBRARY Oriel Road, Bootle. 922 4040. Mon-Fri 9.00-7.00; Sat 9.00-1.00.

COUNTY MUSEUM William Brown Street, Liverpool. 207 0001. Mon-Sat 10.00-5.00; Sun 2.00-5.00.

CROSBY LIBRARY Crosby Road North. 928 6487. Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri 9.30-8.00; Thurs 9.30-1.00; Sat 9.30-5.00.

NEPTUNE GALLERY Neptune Theatre, Hanover Street, Liverpool. 709 7844. Mon-Fri 10.00-2.30; Sat 10.00-12.00.

SUDLEY ART GALLERY Mossley Hill Road, Liverpool 18. 724 3245. Mon-Sat 10.00-5.00; Sun 2.00-5.00.

WALKER ART GALLERY William Brown Street, Liverpool. 207 1371. Mon-Sat 10.00-5.00. (Open till 8 p.m. Thurs; Sun 2.00-5.00.)

WILLIAMSON ART GALLERY Slaty Road, Birkenhead. Mon-Sat 10.00-5.00 (Thurs till 9 p.m.); Sun 2.00-5.00.