



Donna Summer and The Commodores in *Thank God It's Friday*.



Olivia Newton-John and John Travolta in *Grease*.

## DISCO DISNEYS

The second wave of music movies is about to hit our shores. After *Saturday Night Fever* and *The Last Waltz* comes *Thank God It's Friday* and *Grease*.

*Thank God It's Friday* is the brainchild of Motown Pictures Division exec Rob Cohen and Casablanca Records chief, Neil Bogart.

Their aim was to make a purely comic film with, as the publicity asserts, "no desperate undercurrents".

The film stars Donna Summer and Paul Jabara and features a guest appearance by The Commodores. The soundtrack features these artists plus tracks from Diana Ross, The Village People, The Fifth Dimension, Santa Esmeralda and Meco. The film tells the story of more than twenty characters whose lives intersect in the crazy world of the Zoo

disco.

The film has already been a massive success in the States and is set to be launched in New Zealand on Friday, 11th of August in Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch, Rotorua, Palmerston North, Hamilton and Dunedin. The soundtrack of the album is released through Phonogram Records.

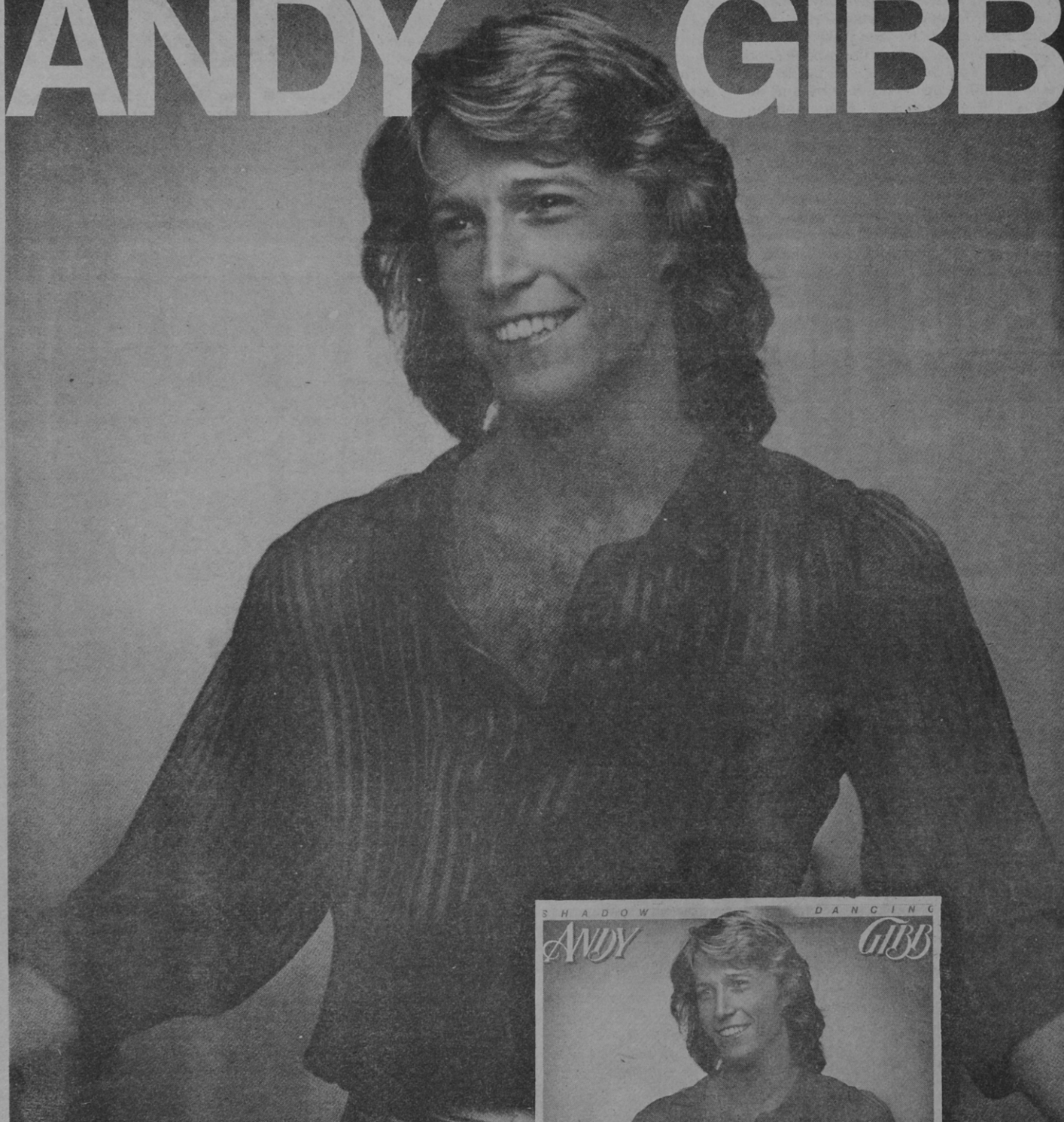
Also due for release in the next couple of months is the film *Grease*. This film too is a huge success in the States — in its first three

days of release it grossed \$9.3 million, a record for Paramount Pictures. The film's massive success is, of course, linked to the Travolta fever reigning in America after *Saturday Night Fever*, and also to the massive sales of the song from the film, sung by movie's two feature actors — Olivia Newton-John and John Travolta. The song is, of course, "You're the One That I Want". Another single from the film was written by Bee Gee Barry Gibb — it's the title cut "Grease", performed by Frankie Valli in the movie.

*Grease* is set in the 50s and mixes songs from the period with material written especially for the movie. The NZ premier of *Grease* is on the 27th of August. Full commercial release should be shortly thereafter.

## SHADOW DANCING

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## Lea's leaving home

Lea Maalfrid, New Zealand's most notable female singer-composer, has left Auckland to market her talents in Australia. Her sleek cabaret style has gained her the Silver Scroll award for her composition "Lavender Mountain" and prestigious support acts to overseas artists — Joe Cocker, Manhattan Transfer, Lou Reed, Leo Kottke and Ry Cooder.

Lea flew to Sydney on June 20 to work and produce demonstration tapes which she intends to take to Los Angeles.

"You can work your guts out here — you may as well go somewhere else and work your guts out to more people," Lea says. "I think in some ways this is quite a good place to get established — there are so few hassles — it's easy to live here. If you're sufficiently motivated it's easy to go places."

She wants to change the format of her act, to get a backing band while she's in Australia. Lea says she's limited by the piano, physically, and because her vocal ability exceeds her piano playing skill. She believes a backing band could make the difference between being the opening act or the headliner.

"I've got to bring more out of myself, create more pictures on stage... I want the band as a whole act... and what I want is what I gets..."

Lea aspires to a glossy co-ordination at the height of sophistication — she's a long way from the female vocalist of Ragnarok that she once was.

"I didn't really like performing until I could do my own songs — it wasn't honest. When you write your own material you can work on projecting yourself. I don't believe in handing the audience anything morbid or ugly — everybody wants to feel good. I actually believe entertainment is very important for spreading positivity."

Lea's determination and professionalism have given her wide exposure here — surprisingly, since her nightclub presentation is not a commercially popular formula. A lot of people like what Lea does because she does it so distinctively, and that's a ticket. It could be a ticket to the United States — or anywhere.

Jewel Sanyo

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