

# SHRIEKBACK

## «BIG NIGHT MUSIC»

Big Night Music — songs to sing in your sleep. SHRIEKBACK celebrate the blessed dark — the place where they were always most at home . . . It is, perhaps, worth mentioning that Big Night Music is entirely free of drum machines, sequencers, Fairlight Page R's — digital heartbeats of every kind. Seductive though they are, SHRIEKBACK have opted to make a different kind of music — one which exalts human frailty and the harmonious mess of nature over the simplistic reductions of our crude computers. We Shrieks are well pleased with our record, (this side of smugness and occasionally the other) and we obviously hope you will buy it voraciously. With this in mind; here is SHRIEKBACK's fifth album — Big Night Music — and it's as good as we could make it. Now it's all yours . . .

SHRIEKBACK,  
London August '86

### NZ TOUR DATES

**WELLINGTON**  
Victoria Uni.  
Tues 14th Oct  
Tickets at The Opera House

**CHRISTCHURCH**  
Carlton Hotel  
Weds 15th Oct  
Tickets at Echo Records  
and at Record Joynt

**AUCKLAND**  
The Galaxy  
Fri 17th Oct  
Sat 18th Oct  
Tickets at The Corner



Talking Heads



## Records

**Talking Heads**  
**True Stories**  
EMI

It's tough trying to pinpoint just exactly why Talking Heads are shifting more units than just about any band at the moment. Sure they're never off the radio — the bunch of singles that peeled off *Little Creatures* all went top ten, and no sooner had 'Road To Nowhere' left the high rotate playlists than it was replaced by 'Wild Wild Life', a taster for *True Stories*.

So this exposure has led to a public acceptance of a band once thought of as a preserve for the well-read and intellectual. But the band itself has done more than meet the record-buying public half-way without selling their souls to the big cigar or having to marry the boss's daughter. Flick through their albums up to *Little Creatures* (which broke their particular mould) and there's evidence of obvious commercial potential in songs like 'Take Me To The River', 'Life During Wartime', 'Once In A Lifetime' and 'Burning Down The House' amongst their general white East Coast funk.

Like *Little Creatures*, *True Stories* taps this potential by again breaking with the funk tradition. The title of the new album derives from a movie Byrne has made celebrating the lives of ordinary people and their eccentricities, and the songs are Talking Heads' versions of those sung by the actors available on a forthcoming album.

"There's something special about people like us" Byrne croons over a pedal steel on 'People Like Us'; a little touch of country to reflect the simplicity of his characters. They don't want no freedom they just want somebody to love. This adopting musical styles to mirror people's traits also pays off on 'Radio Head', a real odd-ball bar-room jaunt, and on 'Dream Operator', a floating waltz suitably the wrong side of reality.

The best song around, though, has to be 'Puzzlin' Evidence', some sort of gospel rocket lit by Harrison's keyboards and propelled by some hollerin' from the Bert Cross Choir. They're from Dallas, Texas, the state where the movie was made. And so to 'Hey Now', like

'Wild Wild Life' ('Peace of mind / It's a piece of cake') it sounds like life's worth living after all, especially when Byrne throws in the promise of 'City of Dreams'. A happier ending than 'Road to Nowhere'.

The variety of styles that infected *Little Creatures*, and now even more so *True Stories*, seems to have emancipated Byrne's writing. Sure it's cute and you don't get the density of a *Fear of Music* or the stamina of a *Remain In Light*, but there's a warmth and authenticity here that more than compensates.

George Kay

**Sam Cooke**  
**The Man and His Music**  
RCA

Sam Cooke was the archetypal pop singer — handsome, assured but sincere and blessed with a pure, keening voice that combined both soul and humour.

Gunned down in a Los Angeles motel room in 1964, Cooke began his career as a gospel singer and first attracted attention in 1951 when he joined the pre-eminent black gospel group of the era, the Soul Stirrers. Two tracks from his time with that group are included here.

By 1956 however, Sam and his manager began to appreciate that a market existed for a black teen idol and Sam began recording for this audience using a lighter, less intense style which substituted ingenuousness and an easy charm for the fervour of his sanctified work. In 1957 'You Send Me' became his first big hit and from 1960 till his death he was rarely without a US Top 40 hit.

Check the list: 'Only Sixteen', 'Wonderful World', 'Cupid', 'Bring It On Home To Me' and 'A Change Is Gonna Come'. All are present here, together with a selection of even more marvellous moments, to make this double album rank as the best collection of Cooke's work yet available in this country.

And while I don't particularly care if I never hear 'Everybody Loves to Cha Cha Cha' again in my life I know it would be a duller life without songs like 'Sad Mood' and 'Soothe Me' at hand.

In short, a good selection from one of the greatest singers ever to record. And all at a budget price.

You want more? RCA, how about a double collection from the Soul Stirrers' sides to truly complete the picture?

Alastair Dougal



DAVID SYLVIAN

GONE TO EARTH

Limited Imported Double LP and Cassette.

Musicians include: Steve Jansen, B.J. Cole, Robert Fripp, Bill Nelson, Richard Barbieri.

Produced by David Sylvian and Steve Nye.

Virgin