

Former Japan vocalist DAVID SYLVIAN (pictured) seems to bave followed the lead of bis mentor, DAVID BOWIE, in getting involved in movies. With Japanese musician RIUCHI SAKAMOTO, Sylvian bas recorded a vocal version of the main theme from 'Merry Christmas, Mr Lawrence', in which Bowie stars. Sakamoto wrote the film's soundtrack and is now set to star in Francis Ford Coppola's new film about Japanese novelist Yuko Mishima. Bowie bimself, meanwhile, bas not restricted bimself to gadding about in front of the cameras in the Pacific. He stars alongside Catherine Deneure in 'The Hunger' (watch for an appearance by Baubaus) and has a brief cameo role as, wait for it, a sbark, in the pirate spoof 'Yellowbeard' (pictured). But what's this disbevelled look? Should someone tell Mr Sylvian?



If you've been at Mainstreet lately you might have seen on the video screens an act that looked rather like the BIRTHDAY PARTY. Well, it was — sort of. With the recent Birthday Party tour bere, interest in the band's previous incarnation, the BOYS NEXT DOOR, has been stirred up. Pictured above are the callow youths as they were in 1978. Guitarist Roland Howard had yet to join.



This is the wee thing who sang 'Happy Birthday'? With the release of ALTERED IMAGES' new single 'Don't Talk to Me About Love', singer CLARE GROGAN has gone for a marked change of image. The new, sophisticated Clare also appears on the group's forthcoming album 'Bite': The HEARTSTARTERS take a break for a smoke and a special coffee. This new Auckland act bas so far only played at Paremoremo Maximum Security Prison, where they reportedly went down a storm. First major venture will be a North Island tour in late September. Pictured are: (L-R) Carol Varney (ex Gurlz), Phillip Christie, Kim Willoughby (ex Gurlz), Otis Mace (ex Zombies of the Stratosphere), Greig Blanchett (ex Gurlz) and Simon Shanaban.



UK label Y records is now being distributed in this country by Festival Records and two of the first acts to be released bere are PIGBAG and SHRIEKBACK (pictured). Unfortunately, with the single 'Hit the 'O' Deck' comes the news that Pigbag bave broken up. However, Shriekback, formed by former Gang of Four bassist Dave Allen, appear to bave a bright future, judging from their new single 'Lined Up'.



'Cool Bananas' their platinum album
'Outlook for Thursday' the new chart topping single
new material from their forthcoming studio album



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