Carl Matthews

SOUNDS

REBBIE JACKSON
"Centipede"

And now, ladies and gentlemen... at long last, here she is... Rebbie! That's right, folks, the eldest sister of the famous musical Jacksons debuts on Columbia with her first album, "Centipede."

The first name is pronounced Ree-Bee.

You may or may not remember seeing Rebbie performing in sketches and singing on the TV variety series "The Jacksons" which aired during the summer of 1976. In 1977, Rebbie came to Hollywood and began to establish herself as a solo and studio recording artist, working on projects with such singers as Betty Wright, Wanda Hutchinson, Lynda Carter and Carroll O'Connor.

Rebbie Jackson

This new album is of course a family affair. The album's first single, "Centipede," was written and produced by Michael Jackson. The electric percussion and synthesizer textures on this track make it a good opening cut, and you can hear how similar she sounds to LaToya. Production-wise this is in the same league as the Jacksons' "Torture," from their Victory album (by now, I'm sure you've heard that tune).

"Come Alive It's Saturday Night" was produced by brothers Tito and Randy, along with Wayne Henderson. "Play Me (I'm A Jukebox)" is funkier than "Centipede" and features a little rap at the beginning.

"I Feel For You" is a tune written by Prince, the same song that is currently a top-20 R&B hit for Chaka Khan. Rebbie plays it rather cool in comparison to Chaka Khan, whose version is harder-edged although it is at the same tempo as Rebbie's. Of course, Rebbie's version lacks the harmonica by Stevie Wonder.

Rebbie's new album is dedicated to grandmother Martha Bridges. The album as a whole sounds as good as the current releases by LaToya and Janet.

Other cuts: "Hey Boy," "Open Up My Love," "A Fork In The Road," "Ready For Love."

NEW HORIZONS
"Gonna Have Big Fun"

New Horizons' second album is full of R&B, electro-pop and funk for the 80's. The LP is titled "Gonna Have Big Fun."

The group consists of four Thomas brothers — Art (percussion and vocals), Bart (keyboards, bass, lead vocals), Mark (drums and lead vocals), and Varges (keyboards and bass) — together with their cousin Timothy Abrams on guitar.

Like their debut album, "Something New," this latest disk was produced by Roger Troutman (of Zapp Featuring Roger).

The songs on his album sound professionally done, and are made for the party crowd. "Big Fun," the opening tune, is a high energy jam (not the same as the Kool And The Gang hit). The cut that follows is the first single, "Searching For That Lady," an uptempo love song that is reminiscent of the work of such artists as Starpoint and Shalamar.

New Horizons

The group plays and sings well although there's nothing on this album that's really out of the ordinary.

Other cuts: "Love To Spend The Night," "Get Ready, Let's Party," "Dance Frite," "No One Ever Will," "U Can Do (Watcha Wanna), "I See You There."

Gospel Greats

By Eddie King

Robert Nahwah Smith really knows how to sing a ballad, and on his first gospel LP, "Remember Me," he gives you a lot of them.

There is a new, young and revivalistic sound that Robert releases. It is specifically captured in his ballads: "Remember Me," "You're The Guide" and "Reflections Of His Love."

While the entire album is flooded with superb listening tunes, Robert is not conforming to normal gospel recording conventions that normally contribute to a wide appeal.

There are no serious inflections in the voice, repeating of praises or even those "ooohs" and "yeas" that are much demanded in the soul-stirring gospel selection in today's market.

No, his whole sound is different, but yet good. He moves from some finely written lyrical ballads to some more diversed uptempo pieces with the same style and grace and obviously premeditated wit.

Robert Smith

With help of Baltimore based choir, the Voices of Apostolic, he belts out lyrics with the greatest of ease. There is nothing hypocritical about the sound on the album. Robert is raw talent and he is coming at you with notes from the high and low end of the scale; notes that he commands quite radically and is not afraid of demonstating his control over.

A listener will find himself delighted with renditions of "Well Done," "I'm Gonna Serve The Lord," "Give Your Life To Christ," "I Will Trust In The Lord" and "Beams Of Heaven."

"Remember Me" is recorded on the Daystar Records label.

On a scale of one to ten, this album easily rates an 8 and a half.

Octoberfest In D.C.

On Saturday and Sunday, October 6 and 7, Lettumplay will present a gala street festival, "Octoberfest" in the 400 block of 8th St., between D and E Sts., N.W. Local merchants, vendors, with unique arts and crafts and musical groups of all types along with food will be available. For more information call 202/638-4400.

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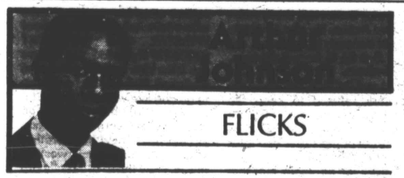

FLICKS

"All Of Me": A Successful Comedy

Traditionally Fall is the season when the movie studios unleash their more adult oriented films after a summer of essentially lightweight, teen-oriented fare.

Gene Wilder's "The Woman in Red" was the first comedy hit of the season for those over 21, and now the Steve Martin-Lily Tomlin starrer, "All of Me", promises to be the second success of the season.

Tomlin portrays the filthy rich Edwina Cutwater who is about to die after a lifetime of chronic illness. But the old adage "You can't take it with you" doesn't bother Edwina because she has no intention of going anywhere.

She has planned to transfer her soul into the body of the daughter of an employee with the help of an Indian guru (Richard Libertini) who comprehends not one word of English.

Steve Martin is the lawyer assigned to the eccentric millionairess to ensure that it's all legal. But due to a mixup during the transfer of Edwina's soul, Martin becomes the inheritor of Edwina's spirit. Edwina winds up controlling one half of his body while he retains control of the other.

While attempting to correct the transfer error, Martin must cope with sharing his body and mind with a woman who has been able to do very little in life other than lie in bed and order her servants around.

Hilariously, Martin must learn to try his boss' divorce trial in court, make love to a woman (a description of which is too risque for a family newspaper but worth the price of admission), and go to the bathroom with a little help from his new friend who is, quite literally, always on his mind.

"All of Me" is what is generally labeled a "light comedy" and is little more than a glorified Carol Burnett Show or Saturday Night Live skit given the big screen treatment.

What elevates this tale above the norm are the enormous comedic talents of Steve Martin and Lily Tomlin. Both are T.V. veterans (he of the original "Saturday Night Live" and she of "Laugh In") and both bring their unique brands of offbeat and quietly wild humor to embellish what could have been a one-joke movie.

Steve Martin

Martin has his most challenging comic role since the classic "Dead Men Don't Wear Plaid" as Roger Cobb, an unhappy lawyer who yearns to be a fulltime jazz musician with his black and blind pal Tyrone (Jason Bernard). Tomlin, who after her character's death is seen only in mirrors whenever Martin looks into them and is heard in his mind, has less on-screen time than Martin, but is truly Martin's comic equal.

And Victoria Tennant (seen in TV's "The Winds of War") is both physically and dazmatically impressive as the at first seemingly altruistic then supremely sinister daughter who offers to sacrifice her own soul so Edwina's can live on.

While "All of Me" taps only about 70 percent of the rich comedic gifts of Tomlin and Martin, in this case, 70 percent seems like 95. Go and enjoy!.

"One of the best films I've seen this year. A powerful film with out-of-this-world ensemble acting."
—ABC-TV, GOOD MORNING AMERICA

"One of the most satisfying movies of the year... gripping... beautifully acted. I urge you to see it."
—NBC-TV, TODAY SHOW

"'A Soldier's Story' is a marvelous movie... exhilarating. Director Norman Jewison has done a masterful job with an impeccable cast."
—NEW YORK POST

"'A Soldier's Story' is riveting, superbly acted and not to be missed."
—SUSAN FRENVIEUX

"One of the best films of the season...hard hitting, dramatically strong and absorbing."
—LOS ANGELES DAILY NEWS

"A tense drama with an expert cast."
—NEW YORK TIMES

"'A Soldier's Story' is about as close to being a perfect film as any film can be...with stellar performances by a dazzling ensemble cast. It's an instant classic—a movie audiences will want to see again and again."
—SUSSKIND-GUY

"'A Soldier's Story' is splendid. It fairly crackles with excitement."
—NEWHOUSE NEWSPAPERS

"Instantly and explosively, a frontrunner for best movie of the year. Exciting, exhilarating, enriching."
—CBS-TV

"An electrifying drama that had me riveted to the screen."
—INTERNATIONAL NEWSPAPER TOMORROW

"'A Soldier's Story' is an intriguing, superbly crafted whodunit."
—NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

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