



JULY, 1981

BRYAN ADAMS

Chance and necessity have always kept close company with success. Take, for example, the strange case of Bryan Adams.

The young Canadian with the high-thrust voice didn't even know he could sing—until, in his mid-teens, he formed a band. "Finding other musicians was no problem. Everybody's a lead guitarist. But I couldn't find anyone who could sing. So I became a singer, out of necessity more than anything else."

Adams credits chance and "the fact that Vancouver is a small town" with bringing him to his other musical vocation—songwriting. In 1977, he met fellow musician Jim Vallance, quite by accident, in a Vancouver music store, and the two formed a writing partnership.

"We both were devout Beatles' fans," Adams explains, "and we really like the image of the hit songwriting team. So we started to work on it." Thus inspired, Adams-Vallance soon had their songs recorded by top acts, including B.T.O., Prism, and ex-Stories vocalist Ian Lloyd, whose version of "Straight From the Heart" was a sizeable hit.

While he'd logged a fair amount of hours performing in bands throughout Canada, it wasn't until last year that Adams, then a tender 20 years old, got around to releasing a record (*Bryan Adams*, A&M). Here too, chance intervened.

A prescient A&R man (Michael Godin of A&M Canada) thought he heard a hit in one of Adams' demos, "Let Me Take You Dancin'." According to Bryan, it was decided to "put it out as a record, and they gave it to some guy in New York to remix. He did, but it was about 80 bars too fast; I sounded like a chipmunk."

Chipmunk or not, the single became a disco/R&B hit and brought Bryan Adams to the U.S., to cut his first LP. That record sparked more covers, got him on television and, most importantly, put him on the road.

"I did four months of solid touring, which gave me the chance to try out lots of the material that went into the new LP, *You Want It—You Got It*."

In particular, Adams tested, arranged and refined the ballsy "Fits Ya Good," the popish "Lonely Nights" and the title track, an over-the-top rocker he admits "wore us out. When we finished that one, our fingers were bleeding, the drum sticks were broken, and I wanted to check into a hospital."

Adams emphasizes the intent of the new album: to establish him as a singer, first and foremost, and to heavily feature songs he hopes to perform on a forthcoming tour. *You Want It* is loaded with rock, but also leans toward the lyrical ("Don't Look Now"), and Adams' own favorite is a sparse, one-take ballad, "No One Makes It Right."

Bryan Adams' future will doubtlessly be filled with more writing and recording—but for now, it's the prospect of hitting the road (with a backup band staffed by alumni of Ian Hunter, Garland Jeffries and Hall & Oates' groups) that keeps his spirits high.

"I really want to get out there again," he says. "I want to travel more, to see the rest of the world. I only hope I don't get spoiled by all this fun."

