



LIVE WIRE

March 1981

Live Wire has made it clear that they are an English band to reckon with!

They've already seduced European audiences with the irrefutable quality of their originality, musicianship, and powerful performances—inspiring even jaded reviewers to award them the appropriate superlatives!

The group toured the U.S. in 1979, converting American audiences with their much-heralded debut album, *Pick It Up*. They created the kind of underground following that anxiously awaited the release of a second album like *No Fright*. They say in the music business that you have your whole life to do your first album and only six months to do your second: this may be true, but Live Wire dispels the ominous pressure that adage implies. They soared forward with the kind of sound that proves inherent musical gifts are not a one-shot deal. Now they prove it again with their new album, *Changes Made*.

It's clear that European audiences have incorporated the Live Wire amalgam of new rock, jazz, and funky bass feel as part of their musical lifestyle. Reports from Europe One placed "No Fright," the single, in the top 50 for 16 weeks. Surrounding charts had the same single at No. 5 with Radio Andorra, No. 11 with Rtl Radio, and at No. 9 with Radio Monaco; furthermore, the Italian market embraced Live Wire to front-page proportions. Forty journalists fired pointed questions at Mike Edwards (songwriter, guitarist), Simon Boswell (lead guitarist, producer), Jeremy Meek (bassist), and German Gonzales (drummer) about their influences, their private lives, their last gig, their next gig, and the sensation they caused in Sweden when their video was shown and 5,000 records were sold immediately afterwards.

Mike Edwards, the band's prolific songwriter, has already earned himself a reputation, with songs like "Lone Car Cruising" and "Broken Glass." The bite in his language, and melodic determination hone calculated roughness to sting the senses. His vocals have that raw immediacy that the rock masters manage to maintain: his determination is lit by the same fire. During a U.S. tour, having broken his ankle in Washington, he insisted on continuing, and played his reggae-influenced, back-beat rhythms while propped up on a stool. A true rock 'n' roll man is never down in the wings!

Simon Boswell, lead guitarist and producer (replaced the renowned Glynn Johns, who performed some fine magic on *Pick It Up*), is responsible for the production work on *No Fright* and on the new, *Changes Made*. He's become an integral part of the group, and plays with sinister intrigue against the assigned melody—blues-inflected and concise. Boswell has had a considerably successful career in England. He released his first solo album in 1973 (when he was 19!). He has produced Mark Andrews' *Big Boy* for A & M, and a variety of bands, ranging from heavy metal to punk. A Cambridge graduate with musical brains, he has also written two songs on the new Live Wire album which reflect a commercial and insistent style. His work on the album is best exemplified by full-range production, capturing an ambience of mystery, exhilaration, and depth.

Of course the backbone of any fine band is its rhythm section. To simplify, Jeremy Meek and German Gonzales constitute one of the most powerful sections around today. Meek really puts his fret-less bass to work on the new Live Wire album. He is a fearless and funky player who understands rooted pulses and makes them lift a piece right off the ground. He's earned the respect of top producers as a session player, performing with such artists as the Three Degrees, Gilbert O'Sullivan, and the exacting Gus Dudgeon. Dudgeon now works his recording schedule around Meek's availability. Trained playing double bass with jazz bands, Meek brings tremendous authority and technical skill to his playing.

German Gonzales, drummer, played with Edwards when they were still performing acoustically. "Electrifying," meant finding a deliberate balance between the heavier metal aspects of Gonzales' drumming approach, and Meek's more abstract funk/jazz feel. The synthesis has been an exciting and unique one.

From the first guitar jab that grabs your attention on the new Live Wire album, *Changes Made*, to the insinuating lyrical dialogue, we know there is a musical power here, able to command the attention of millions. Live Wire is a force that can shake the underground up and over!

