



PolyGram Group Distribution, In 800 W. Cummings Park Suite 2900 Woburn MA 01801

Telephone: (617) 933-8155 Fax: (617) 933-2453

THE HEART THROBS

Thomas Carlyle once wrote that music was "the speech of angels." If prophecy existed, he might have been predicting the art of THE HEART THROBS. With their self-described "iron-fist-invelvet-glove" musical stylings, The Heart Throbs are sometimes likened to the current trend of aural ambrosia embodied in bands like Lush, Ride and My Bloody Valentine. Despite the inevitable comparisons, this Clapham, England-based band have a few mellifluous notions of their own. "We're interested in more than just vanishing into a sound," explains lead-singer Rose Carlotti. "We still have a naive and stubborn attitude toward writing songs."

Drawing on diverse influences from Bacharach/David and The Carpenters to Joy Division and Patti Smith, The 'Throbs write a sophisticated, cerebral brand of pristine pop with a healthy dose of anxiety for a sense of true realism. "If our so-called contemporary peers are lemonade than we're vodka and lemonade," asserts keyboardist Stephen Ward. "Lyrically," Rose continues, "commercial music is usually very trite—celebrating the obvious rock and roll and pop clichés. I delve more into the uncertain areas of my psyche and the things going on around me."

Sex, fear, desire and insecurity are among the inspirations that helped shape their debut album, CLEOPATRA GRIP—released to critical and commercial acclaim. It earned top honors among the Albums of the Year in Melody Maker and Sounds, and reaching the top of the U.S. College and Alternative charts. It also spawned "Dreamtime," the accompanying single that earned the position of Single of the Week in Melody Maker, ranked among the Singles of the Year in NME, and gained notoriety and popularity in rotation on MTV's 120 Minutes.

Success without setback, however, is rare indeed. Originally, the band's fire was fueled in part by the clashes of family and romance—founded by sisters, Rose (vocals) and Rachel (bass) Carlotti, and their respective boyfriends Stephen Ward (keyboards) and Mark Side (drums), with Alan Borgia (guitar) rounding out the quintet. After the release of the TOTAL ABANDON EP (which featured a rousing cover of Patti Smith's "Pumping (My Heart)"), the friction caused by the intertwining relationships ultimately resulted in the band "imploding Fleetwood Mac-style" and Rachel and Mark left the group.

is their music so special? "Simple," declares Rose. "Because it smells so good."

The Heart Throb Discography

Toy 7" & 12" 6/87 In Tape UK

Bang 12" 10/87 Rough Trade UK

Too Many Shadows 7" & 12" 2/88 Rough Trade UK

Here I Hide 12" 11/88 Profumo UK

Blood From A Stone 7" & !2" 3/89 Profumo UK I Wonder Why 12" 3/90 One Little Indian UK

Dreamtime 12" 6/90 Elektra Cleopatra Grip LP 7/90 Elektra

Total Abandon EP 9/90 One Little Indian UK Spongy Thing EP 3/92 One Little Indian UK

Jubilee Twist LP 6/92 A&M

A HISTORY OF DEL AMITRI

In 1985 Scottish band Del Amitri released their self-titled debut album on Big Star, an offshoot of Chrysalis Records. The album received critical acclaim on both sides of the Atlantic and created enough of a fan base in the U.S. to allow the band to tour (albeit on a shoestring budget) across America. By the time of the first American tour the band had parted company with Chrysalis and relied on fans to help arrange gigs and provide accommodations during the tour.

By 1988 Del Amitri had become a changed musical entity. The remaining musical members, co-founders Justin Currie and Iain Harvie, had developed their songwriting to the point that their "new" band could hardly be connected to the old one.

They signed to A&M in 1988 and released the album, "Waking Hours" in the UK in 1989 and in the U.S. in 1990. The first single, "Kiss This Thing Goodbye," was a multi-format hit and the band became known for being able to write exquisitely crafted pop songs. Their melodic, hard-edged folk-rock-pop sound could be felt with equal strength in the follow-up tracks, "Stone Cold Sober," "Opposite View," and "Nothing Ever Happens," all of which were supported by extensive tours in England, Europe, Australia, and the United States.

After finishing a successful tour in the U.S. with Melissa Etheridge the band returned to England where, after one final tour and the release of a non-LP single, "Spit In The Rain," the album went platinum in that country.

With the newest album, "Change Everything," which was produced by Gil Norton (The Pixies, Echo and The Bunnymen, Blue Aeroplanes, Pere Ubu) vocalist/bassist Justin Currie, guitarist lain Harvie, guitarist David Cummings, keyboardist Andy Alston, and drummer Brian McDermott present us with twelve insightful compositions bursting with confidence and energy. "What surprised me most about this record," notes Currie, "is how much it sounds like us. I'd never really gotten that feeling from one our our records before."

In addition to spotlighting the quintet's dynamic ensemble sound, standout tracks like "Be My Downfall," "Always The Last To Know," "Just Like A Man," "When You Were Young," and "The Ones That You Love Lead You Nowhere" feature Currie's richly persuasive vocals and thoughtful, heartfelt lyrics. "All of the songs on this records are

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Del Amitri History (cont)

love songs in one way or another," he explains. "I just wanted to try writing a few songs that weren't totally down on the world."

"Change Everything" will be released in the U.S. on June 9th and the first single, "Always The Last To Know," will be worked at AOR, Alternative, and College radio on May 27th and at CHR on June 17th.