

Richenel Moves From Indie To Major

Dutch Artist Combines Striking Image With Pop Appeal

Richenel is a Dutch artist with a truly striking image where both mad and female features are gracefully blended. Building up a certain name in the Amsterdam disco and art scene with his 'body art', Richenel released his first single on the Dutch independent Megadisc entitled 'L'Esclave Endormi'. This exalted single with tormented, opera-like vocals was a New Talent tip in M&M issue 2 of this year. Although the single was maybe a bit too eccentric for the usuals radio formats, it picked up considerable attention by European press and was, through its release on the UK indie 4AD, quite a good seller in the English independent charts. Now, a year later, Richenel changed his sound into a more accessible one and signed with a major, CBS.

CBS Holland raved about the project and



immediately, even before the release of the single, set up recordings for a promotional video. The new single, 'Dance Around The World', was released mid November and soon built up strong media reactions in Holland. Also on international level, CBS affiliates reacted likewise; definite releases are planned for France, Sweden, Germany, Belgium and Portugal and it is to be expected that other countries will follow suit. At press time, Richenel was promoting his single on Music Box and Sky Channel, where the video will also go into rotation.

Eric van Tijn and Jochem Fluitsma (of Mai Tai

fame) both produced and wrote the single and with its colourful arrangements and the catchy and danceable drive, a definite tip for cross-over. The single is from the forthcoming album 'A Year Has Many Days', to be released February 1987. The photo shows the signing of the artist to the label. From l. to r.: Gerard Ruite, Sr. Product Mng CBS, producer Jochem Fluitsma, Andre de Raaff (Intersong), Eric van Tijn (producer), Richard Denckamp (Marketing Mng CBS), Richenel, Marjo Scheek (A&R Mng), Ben Suurman (Head of Promotion CBS), Frans Paul Lacroix (manager) and Bert Smit (radio promotion).

LOCAL TALENT TO WATCH

Clan Of Xymox - Medusa- 4AD

Dutch fiveome exclusively signed to UK indie 4AD. The band built up a good name in the English independent charts with their first album 'Xymox', selling 80,000 copies worldwide (20,000 in the UK alone). Their new album 'Medusa' should be able to build on their previous success and will be released by Virgin on the continent, excluding Benelux (Megadisc). The band's sleeve contains a minimum of information, probably in line with the band's image and style: highly introspective and moody music with vocals embedded in layer upon layer of misty synthesizers.



Centerfold - Man's Rain- Red Bulllet Dutch female trio whose sexy image has been successfully exploited in the European media. Holland seems to be fond of female girts, and Centerfold follows in the footsteps of acts like Star Sisters, Dolly Dots and Mai Tai. If they can become as successful as the latter remains doubtful, though the sophisticated mix of slick and stirring disco certainly has appeal. The album contains the hitsingles 'Dictator', 'Up And Coming' and the current single 'Radar Love', a cover of the Golden Earring hit. Also check out 'Note After Note', a teasingly and addictive dance track.



Paul Rein - Communicate- Alpha Records Close readers of M&M's New Talent section will certainly not have failed to notice the success that this Swedish singer currently has in his home country. The single 'Stop (Don't Give Up)' is currently at no. 18 in the Swedish charts and the album is also charted (36). Rein's music is a strange mixture of simple and catchy Euro pop, Wham-like soul pop and smooth funky material. Best tracks: 'Got To Get Your Love', the Jam/Lewis influenced 'I Can't Understand' and 'Show Me Tonight'. CNR (Benelux) and Transparent Records (GAS) will release.



By all accounts, Elton John went down very well in Australia, not least with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra who toured with him. He was awarded their first ever honorary life membership. Elton was equally enamoured with the orchestra and was quoted as saying that his time with them was "The only love affair I have ever had where I didn't actually go to bed with anybody!" *

And this current tour may be the last time he goes for that much-publicised over the top image - we hear that he plans to auction off his extravagant clothing for charity early next year and then play a different type of concert in London. In fact he admitted in a recent interview that he'd love to make a solo piano album, so maybe that's his next move. But if his more subdued period back in '79 is anything to go by, it'll just be another stage in his ever-changing career. * Paul McCartney topped the bill at the Royal Variety Show last week, no less than 23 years after he last played the event along with the rest of the Fab Four. He sang 'Only

Love Remains' which has just been rush-released from the 'Press To Play' album after the spectacular failure of 'Pretty Little Head', but didn't even trouble the Top 75. Taking a leaf out of Rock Over London's book, the British Council is taking an exhibition round the world to promote the best British music. Pop! British Music In The Eighties will go to 35 countries over a five-year period, playing music, displaying slide shows (slide shows? ah, these technical advances) of sleeve designs and featuring CD listening booths. The exhibition will be updated annually. * Our eyewitness at El-

vis Costello's 'Spectacular Spinning Slingbook' show at London's Royalty Theatre reports that the spinning wheel didn't land on anything from any of Elvis' last three albums, with the result that it felt just like a 1982 Costello gig. Those members of the audience who were invited to spin the wheel were then asked/told to get on stage in a curious sort of cubicle affair and dance (or else). Elvis was in good form, though, and so were the Attractions at this particular date: he showed his usual penchant for oddball cover versions, like 'Ferry Cross The Mersey', 'Twist And Shout', Dusty Springfield's 'I Just Don't Know What To Do

With Myself' and Prince's 'Pop Life' and to top it off, he was joined on stage by a very casual Nick Lowe (complete with a newspaper in his back pocket) for the old Brinsley Schwarz classic 'What's So Funny 'Bout Peace, Love And Understanding' *

Elvis' ever-changing line-up continues to baffle the fans: three of his Royal Albert Hall dates will feature The Attractions while for the other three concerts, he'll be backed by 'The Confederates'. This is the group of musicians who appeared on 'King Of America' and they include Eric Clapton's ex-drummer Jim Keltner. After London, Elvis will take this lot on tour with him round the UK. * The future of the Alarm looks increasingly precarious. News reaches us this week that Mike Peters and Eddie MacDonald are battling it out against the other half of the band - Dave Sharp and Nigel T维斯. It seems they can't agree on how the band should be managed. Despite a continued faithful following, their lack of major chart honours in '86 is hardly encouraging for the future. * BBC Radio 1 has been attacked for its lack of commitment to the 'Live-In World' record which was recently played on Rock Over London. The fund-raising single and an accompanying double album were produced by the Anti-Hero Project and a host of stars including Paul McCartney, Howard Jones, Eurythmics, Holly Johnson, Nik Kershaw, John Parr and The Thompson

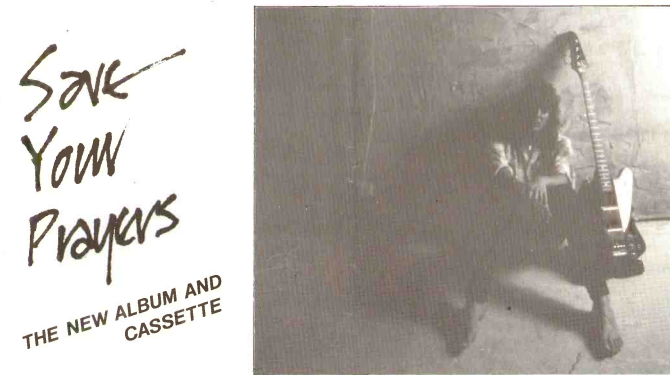
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Fritz & Janet - During her recent German promotional tour, A&M recording artist Janet Jackson visited the BR studios in Munich to record an interview with d/producer Fritz Eger.

(advertisement)

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