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STUDIOS

Cajun fever at Ace Records

JULY HAS been designated Cajun Fever Month at Ace Records with the release of four albums of some of the best Louisiana music, licensed from the state's leading label for the last 25 years, Flat Town Music.

The Jin Story Volume One — Bayou Boogie — is a compilation of some of the lesser known rock'n'roll/R&B tracks released by the tiny independent over the years, which should find an audience with r'n'r fans as well as cajun buffs.

Rod Bernard's This Should Go On Forever and Cookie And The Cupcakes featuring Shelton Dunaway & Little Alfred, are Southern swamp pop albums from the late Fifties and early Sixties. While Swallow Records' Louisiana Cajun Special No 1 is another compilation dubbed by Ace as "the finest sampler of French Louisiana cajun music released anywhere in the world to date."

Meanwhile, still in the US but on things non-cajun, Ace's Impact division has The Very Best Of Gene Pitney available now, while Kent has another in its glittering sequence of soul compilations, Soul Serenade, which has one side of up-tempo boogie cuts, and one of smooch numbers, all culled from the middle Sixties.

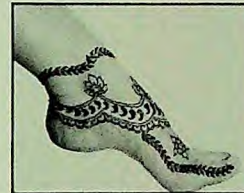
Finally, Big Beat has the debut LP from Basildon's Sugar Ray & The Hotshots, Exotic Hotshots, out now. The band have been together 18 months and have built up something of a reputation at rock'n'roll festivals all over the UK playing their tongue-in-cheek yet authentic Forties and Fifties music.

Two sides of Chandra

SHEILA CHANDRA has spent some 30 hours personally signing all 5,000 copies of her new limited edition album, Nada Brahma, which is released this week on the Indipop label, with distribution by Rough Trade and the Cartel.

The album displays the two sides of the Asian singer, with side one given over to one 27 minute track, on which she uses her voice as an instrument, while side

two is taken up by four songs closer to the tradition of her work with Monsoon.



SHEILA CHANDRA's foot

News in brief...

Costello cowardice

ELVIS COSTELLO and T Bone Burnett have teamed up as The Coward Brothers for a single entitled People's Limousine out this week on Imposter/Demon through Rough Trade.

COLOURBOX HAVE their fourth single, The Moon Is Blue/You Keep Me Hanging On, out next Friday (12) on 4AD, as a prelude to their long-awaited first full-length album release.

Debut single from Epertz

MY VALENTINE is the first single from Xpertz, a band fronted by Andy Wickett, who sang with pre-Le Bon Duran Duran, replacing Stephen 'Tin Tin' Duffy who had left to join Wickett's old punk band TV Eye.

Wickett formed Xpertz in 1980 with his Cadbury's factory colleague Aleem Panwar, and the band have since become one of the best around Birmingham, playing support slots to The Clash, Gregory Isaacs and Culture Club.

Distribution of the single is by PRT.

Tracking...

MARC ALMOND can be found cropping up as guest vocalist on the debut single by The Burmoe Brothers, Skin, out now on Some Bizzare through the Cartel. But despite this release going through Stevo's label, the BBs are as yet unsigned... The Shock Headed Peters have their first LP, Not Born Beautiful, out now on EI to accompany their current single The Kissing Of Gods. Distribution is by Rough Trade... Following the club success of the first Fats Comet single, Don't Forget That Beat, a follow up in the shape of Stormy Weather has been issued by Rough Trade... Also on Rough Trade is the self-titled debut LP from Regular Music, a 10-piece group led by composer/saxophonist Jeremy Peyton-Jones, and comprising musicians from rock, jazz and classical backgrounds. Together the music they produce falls into the systems music category, as practised by Philip Galss and Michael Nyman. The band will be appearing at the Bloomsbury Theatre Festival on July 15... Move Records, the new Scottish black independent, has its finest release to date available now. Gonna Care For You by Don Evans is a wonderfully memorable slice of summer reggae, that Move reckon is going to put them on the chart map. Tracking says it certainly deserves to. Distribution is by Fast Forward and the Cartel...

TEAHOUSE CAMP have a single that has been attracting a certain amount of interest from John Peel of late. To Kill Stab In The Back/Poor Tom is the first single on the Bradford trio's own Real Men Records, and comes as a 7-inch only distributed by Demon/Imp via RT and the Cartel... Let's Wreck Mother is the unlikely name of a new band made up of two former members of Dormannu and the bassist from Sexbeat. They have their debut single, Cuts, out now as a 12-inch on Flicknife, via Spartan... To accompany the fine new Jasmine Minks' single, What's Happening, Creation has another 7-inch only from Joe Slaughter, entitled I'll Follow You Down... Factory also has a 7-inch only but from the unknown quantity Life, called Optimism... Trash band The Prisoners have an album, The Last Fourfathers, out now on the Own Up label... France's New Rose label has three LPs and a single just released. Albums are: King Of White Trash by Dino Lee, The Wind Is Talking by Damon Edge, and a self-titled collection from Band Of Blacky Ranchette. While the single is Round Trip Ticket by Kingsnakes. New Rose is distributed by RT/Cartel... Merseyside band Fragile Friends have their second single, The Novelty Wears Off, out on Monday (8) on KC Records, through the Cartel...

NEW INDIE label Writers Reign has its first single, Machines by Hull band Bonfires In The Sky, available now through Red Rhino/Cartel... New albums from the Demon group of labels are: The Ike And Tina Turner Show Live!, Gee-El-O-Are-I-Ay from The Shadows Of Knight, Original Recordings from Dan Hicks And His Hot Licks, a self-titled LP from Link Wray And The Wraymen (all on Edsel), and Protection From Enemies from The Leroi Brothers (on Demon, itself). Meanwhile, recent unexpected guest at the top end of the indie chart, Robert Cray, will be over in the UK later in the month and will have a new single released to coincide... Statik has two mini-albums from overseas artists out this week.

Industry's beginnings

PINK INDUSTRY — "a trio to rival The Bachelors" — fronted by Big in Japan's legendary Jayne Casey, have their second album, New Beginnings, and a 7-inch single, What I Wouldn't Give, out now on Zulu, through Rough Trade and the Cartel. The single tells the tale of a broken-hearted waif who will even destroy her Smiths tapes to get her lover back, and accordingly there's a picture of Morrissey on the sleeve.

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