

BARBARA PARKINS: THE GIRL WHO DOES IT

TV'S NEW SHOWS AND NEW STARS

PHOTO TV LAND

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OCTOBER 1968

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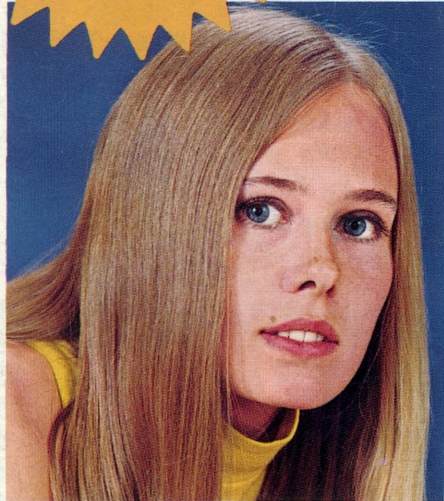


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October 1968 Vol. 2, No. 1



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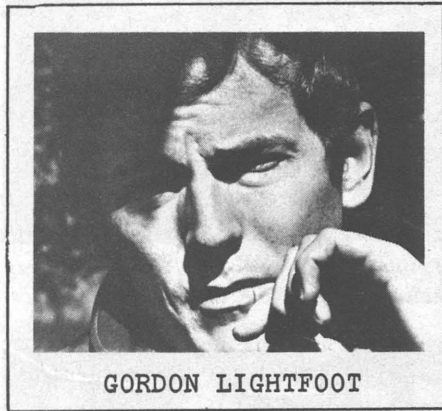
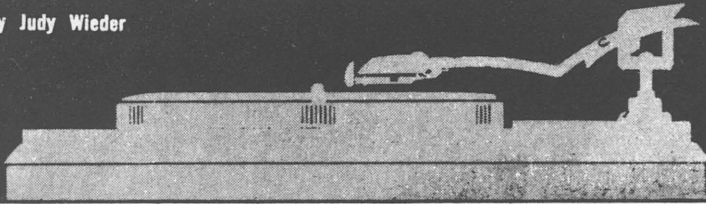
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Mario's 5-step formula shows you how; plus other beauty tips from your favorite stars.

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SCORING THE BEAT

by Judy Wieder



GORDON LIGHTFOOT



JONI MITCHELL

FOLK

She looks a little like Nico and sounds a bit like Joan Baez and Judy Collins—but Joni Mitchell writes songs like no one else today!

I first uncovered her material on Judy Collins' Wildflowers album and I thought then, as I do now, that "From Both Sides Now" and "Michael From Mountains" highlight that record. Soon I began noticing that everyone was recording Joni Mitchell — Tom Rush's Circle Game album includes three of her songs: "Tin Angel," "Urge For Going" and the title cut, "Circle Game." (All three are masterpieces!) And Dave Van Ronk's most recent album hits its

high point with a lusty interpretation of "From Both Sides Now."

More than curious about this new prolific writer, I asked Tom Rush (the first to record one of Joni's songs) about her. He told me simply that she was Canadian and that they'd met some years back in Detroit while she was making the club rounds.

Not more than a week later, her first album, Joni Mitchell (REPRISE RECORDS) was on the market. Certainly there's little doubt that this album will go down as one of the most important contributions to "folk" music in some time. I personally have some reservations about her singing style and several of the album's cuts, but nevertheless, "I Had A King," "Night In The City" and "Cactus Tree" are jewels. Though some of her material tends to bog down from over-ornamented poetry, Joni Mitchell still writes the kind of music others want to sing; and today, real songs (no matter what "bag" they're in) are far too rare.

This is definitely the season for talented writers to stand up and be recorded! For years popular folk singers like Richie Havens and Peter, Paul & Mary have delighted audiences with the songs of Gordon Lightfoot ("Early Morning Rain", "For Lovin' Me", "Can't Make It Anymore").

Today however, the gift of Gordon's rich and intensely moving voice has been added to some of his new songs, and the outcome is magnificent—Gordon Lightfoot: Did She Mention My Name? (UNITED ARTISTS RECORDS).



MOTHERS OF INVENTION

FOLK AND HARD ROCK

Press information on The Mothers of Invention says this: "If you're unhappy about New York's air, wait 'till you read these biographical notes . . . you won't breathe any easier—chances are you won't sleep too well either."

Well, it's for sure The Mother's most recent album We're Only In It For The Money (VERVE/FORECAST) will take your breath away! Before you can even get the record out of its double-fold jacket, you're in for a shock. There on the inside cover (a lawsuit threat prevented it from appearing on the outside as originally planned) is a picture-perfect parody of the Beatles' Sgt. Pepper album cover (with several alterations which, combined with the album's title, serve to make a courageously outrageous point). Then there's

the record itself—yes, The Mothers shock me; but they also make me feel marvelous! Their music and presentation say all the things I feel and say them the way I want them said. There's nothing hap-hazard or "sick" about this group (perhaps the very best in the country). Since they're really beyond description, I can only urge everyone to see them live and hear their albums!

Labeled "The second of the Orange County Three," (Tim Buckley—1st, and Jackson Browne—3rd) Steve Noonan makes his album debut on Elektra. As a writer Steve is no stranger to today's music scene; one of his songs (my favorite) "Buy For Me The Rain" was sent hit-bound some time back by The Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, though I prefer Steve's treatment.

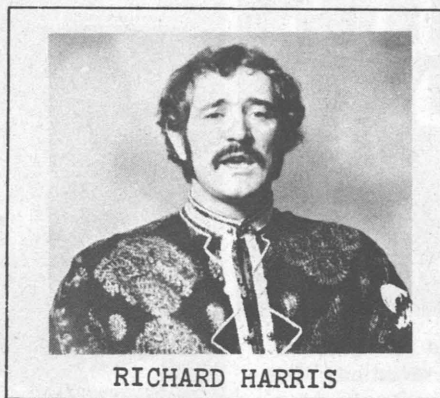
Simon & Garfunkel's new release Bookends was really worth waiting for. In addition to several fine singles we've been hearing during their long album silence ("Fakin' It," "Look Around," "Mrs. Robinson") the record includes a warm and disarmingly perceptive treatment of old age—both fantasy and reality ("... how terribly strange to be seventy!")

Look at the back photo on Bunky & Jake's premier album (MERCURY RECORDS) and rejoice!

Taking the latin term for "new art" as their name, Ars Nova's first album reals off just that. What a beautiful and exciting experience they are! Dedicated to putting the music back into today's music, Ars Nova is composed of six symphony orchestra and chamber music oriented musicians—the intensive dedication of their past and present training is more than obvious on this their first album.

The Doors' recent single, "The Unknown Soldier" can be seen as well as heard. Using the single as its soundtrack, Mark Abramson and Edward De-

phoure have made a film which shows The Doors in various staged activities (including the murder of Jim Morrison) plus some war documentary footage. Alas, TV wouldn't touch it, so you'll have to catch it in concert sometime.



RICHARD HARRIS

POP

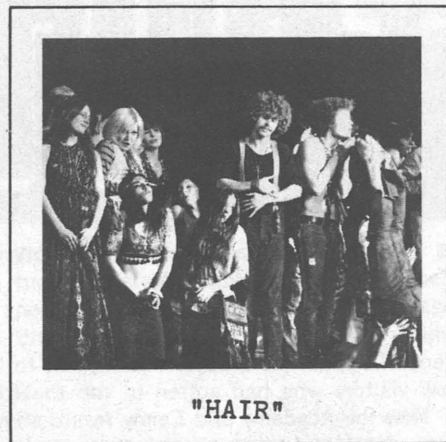
Richard Harris is the day's surprise pop-singer! I've always been a fan of his miraculous acting range and was outraged when the Academy bypassed his performance in Camelot last Oscar time. Usually Richard is much better than the film he's in—the same holds true for his first album A Tramp Shinning (DUNN-HILL RECORDS).

Despite current raves for songwriter Jim Webb ("Up, Up And Away") I just don't see it! I never liked "Up, Up And Away" and with few exceptions, I dislike every song on A Tramp Shinning. For some reason, Jimmy Webb's music is too familiar and his idea of drama seems to be: when in doubt, change the key! As for his lyrics, well they speak for themselves: "... someone left a cake out in the rain/I don't think that I can take it/for it took so long to bake it/and I'll never have that recipe again..." Nothing like carrying an already distracting image too far!!

However, despite my general misgivings about Webb's music, Richard Harris manages to sing it in a manner

that must be heard to be believed. He makes "Mac Arthur Park," "Didn't We," "Paper Chase" and "A Tramp Shinning" sound like musical masterpieces — unfortunately they are not.

By the way—BRAVO! for Barbra Streisand and her magnificent single "The Morning After."



"HAIR"

BROADWAY

"An American Tribal Love-Rock Musical" — that's what they're calling Hair, Broadway's first successful hippie-rock music show. It really began over a year ago off-Broadway, then moved to the Cheetah with less success, and finally reorganized and redecored itself up to meet the extra jazzy demands of on-Broadway musicals. That's where it is now — The Biltmore Theatre, with a bigger cast and more musical numbers (31 in all now!) RCA has just released a second recording of the same score they recorded several months back with the old cast; so, for anyone who hasn't or can't see this Broadway phenomenon (or even if you have), both albums are highly recommended. ●

(NOTE TO THE READER: your questions and criticisms are welcome always. Write to Music Editor, Photo TV Land, 160 Fifth Avenue, N.Y., N.Y.)