

shinkansen RECORDINGS

newsletter no.3

april '99

Well, it gives me great pleasure... and the sooner I get this written, the sooner I can get back to doing it, so... let's get on. And, no, you've not missed anything... the last newsletter was No.2, back in December '97. And, as then, this is mostly a paper summary of stuff that's already been on the web-site, to satisfy all those still pining for The Good Old Days before computers, when telephones had dials, every office an abacus, and people would write on slates and goat-skins without ever a murmur of complaint being heard, except perhaps from the more ticklish of the goats.

The other man's grass is always further away

OK - when I left you, I think I was stranded on the edge of the known universe about to do battle with a gang of five-dimensional renegade gloop monsters from the planet Tzorg, yes? Well, I won't bore you now with details of my escape, or of my subsequent eye-opening but ultimately rather exhausting marriage to the many-legged Princess Tzorgassa, basically because I'm *already* so far behind with telling you what's been afoot in the world of pop that to delay any further would be madness, sheer madness... indeed, I'd been despairing of *ever* catching up but then, on glancing in my rear-view mirror a few seconds ago, I spotted Time's wing'd chariot being pulled over by the police after running the last set of lights, and thought to myself *well, maybe, if I put my foot down...*

So, I put down my foot, picked up my old diary, and cast my mind back to last Spring...

My name is Ozymandias, King of Kings. Who the Hell are you?

... when the second TREMBLING BLUE STARS album, *Lips That Taste Of Tears*, was released, and promptly licked sore by a score of rapturous reviewers. Especially gratifying for me was the *What Hi-Fi?* review in which the virtues of good chunky bottom end were extolled, as for years I've been telling Bob he should face away from the camera in publicity shots. It was even a *Virgin Recommended Album* - you know, listening-posts, magazine ads, life-size cardboard cut-outs of Bobby and Annemari gazing meaninglessly into each other's eyes in every Megastore foyer, the whole caboodle. (Er - obviously we had to *pay* for this - in 1999, the only sure-fire way to get someone to tell you they love you is to give them money, and that's as true in the record industry as it is in life in general. Did you know, by the way, that the chain-stores get special discounts AND, unlike small indie shops, sale-or-return? Which is why staff at the latter always look so pallid and fretful, while at the former they all have snazzy matching jumpers and name-tags.)

Anyway, 14 songs - see box on right - no less than three featuring a revamped Annemari (ex Field Mice/NPL) on vocals (and, yes, it's her on the sleeve too). *The Rainbow* also came out as a single: the 7" had *Though I Still Want To Fall Into Your Arms* on the B-side, while the CD added *She's Always There*, originally the B-side of the *Abba On The Jukebox 7"*.

You say Tobago, and I say Tobago, let's call the whole thing Trinidad

More excitingly, Trembling Blue Stars begin recording again in May, once Ian Catt has finished producing the new Shampoo album (yay, Shampoo!). The plan is for a couple of singles at the end of the summer, an album in the autumn, and the introduction of a maximum as well as a minimum wage by Christmas, though TBS aren't really *too* involved in the last of those. We're especially taken with a gorgeous song called *Doo-Wop Music* which, yes, is a doo-wop number. But Bob's at pains to point out that it's very much *cutting-edge* doo-wop, and not at all cheesy. In my wilder moments - of which I try to have at least four a day - I like to think that there might be gigs to promote all this... and, tentatively, Bob has agreed that there might be. What do *you* think, readers?

Lips That Taste Of Tears (SHINKANSEN 10CD)

All I Never Said • Headlights
Never Loved You More • The Rainbow
Made For Each Other • Letter Never Sent
I'm Tired, I've Tried
You've Done Nothing Wrong Really
Old Photographs
Never Loved You More 2 • Deserve
Cecilia In Black & White • Tailspin
Farewell To Forever