

The Look dresses up bandstand with sound

By ETHEL SIMMONS

The Look has more than just good looks. Members of this Detroit-based rock and roll band like to project a certain attractive appearance, and dress with flair.

But The Look also has a special sound that has made it one of the area's fastest-rising bands.

Last year they were voted runner-up for Best New Group of 1978 in the Michigan Music Awards on radio station WABX.

"It was a public poll," said Look guitarist Randy Volin of Birmingham. "WABX is the No. 1 rock and roll station in town."

VOLIN AND lead singer Dave Edwards of Pontiac organized the band a year ago. "It's our baby. We're like Frick and Frack," Volin said.

Other members of the group are bassist Rick Cochran of Detroit, drummer John Sarkisian of Troy and guitarist Sam Warren of Remus.

Volin and Edwards played together in the band Airtight for two years and wrote songs together. When Airtight broke up, "we went our separate ways but kept in touch," Volin said.

Members of The Look range in age from 22 to 24. Dark-haired Randy Volin is 22; fair-haired Dave Edwards is 23.

Last week Volin and Edwards were interviewed around a dining area table at the contemporary, colorful Volin residence (formerly architect Carl Luckenbach's home) in Birmingham. Boxes were piled high, and Volin explained he is moving to Oak Park.

TELLING HOW the band first got

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—Guitarist Randy Volin

together, Volin said. "We stole everybody else from other bands. Once we got the guys we decided on, from the first gig it's been go."

The Look's first band date was at Abigail's in Ypsilanti. This week they are playing at the Second Chance in Ann Arbor, which Volin calls "the premiere rock and roll club."

They played at the 300 Bowl in Pontiac last weekend.

"I cut my teeth on the Pontiac sound," Volin said. "For me, living in the Birmingham area, living around big trees and Cranbrook is very creative."

"Michigan has a real good scene for music," Edwards said. "It's coming into its own now, after Seger has won out nationally."

"Good bands are coming back here, to Detroit, although the music in modern music is in Los Angeles and New York. We want to make Detroit our main base. It's too nice here."

VOLIN AND Edwards have 30 original songs which The Look performs, and another 20 songs waiting to go. "Right now we're pushing for an album," Volin said.

To test a new song, they will play it in a set. They judge it successful if the dance floor's packed.



Casting a subtle glance are members of The Look (from left) John Sarkisian, Randy Volin, Rick Cochran, Dave Edwards and Sam Warren.

Mistaken identity produces laughter

By JIM WINDELL

"See How They Run" is in blueprint for running an English vicarage.

It is no design for living either, though it pays tribute to Noel Coward's comedy "Private Lives." It is instead a galloping farce with sufficient merriment to please every member of the family.

This venerable Philip King English caper combines fast and furious with deception and mistaken identity to beguile and entertain.

As the Family Players' second play this season, "See How They Run" has 20 serious intent except laughter. That commodity was plentiful, even for the youngsters who were in the audience when it opened last Friday evening.

The witty nods to Noel Coward's winsome 1935 "Private Lives" is a recurring theme throughout this farce. Penelope Toop, the charming but unconventional wife of the vicar, the Rev. Lionel Toop, could easily exchange some lines with Amanda in the Coward play.

AMANDA SAID, "I'm so apt to see things the wrong way round." Penelope, if not seeing things exactly the wrong way round, at least has little concern for how others see things. When her husband goes out of town for the evening on church business, she and a former acting friend — she was an American actress and he played opposite her in a touring version of "Private Lives" — go to see a community theater production of that same Coward play.

Since he is Cpl. Clive Winton and the play is to be presented in a town that is out of bounds for him, he must dress in a disguise. Donning the clerical garb of the Rev. Toop, he and Penelope set out for an innocent evening. Penelope's discretion sets up the force for the conflict and improbable events that will follow.

Penelope is played by Sharon Radom with vivacity and sophistication. The early part of the play hinges on her ability to set up a conflict with the prudish and repressed gossip who is also a leading parishioner in the vicar's church.

Both Ms. Radom and Sally Sawyer, as the snoop and meddling Miss Skil-

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ion, establish the clash of ideas and styles early in the first act.

In a reenactment of a scene from "Private Lives," Penelope and Clive have a vigorous brawl that excites Miss Skilston's gossip little heart, and in which she gets knocked out. Realism and the probable take a leave of absence.

The second and third acts see a geometric progression of unlikely but hilarious complications.

MISS SKILLON gets into the vicar's cooking sherry. The Bishop of Lax, Penelope's uncle, comes unexpectedly for a visit. A Russian prisoner of war escapes from a nearby Army base and comes to the vicarage. Cpl. Winton cannot find his Army uniform.

The Rev. Humphrey, a family friend, drops by. The Russian clubs the vicar, takes his clerical collar as well as his pants and later holds Penelope hostage forcing her to say that he is her husband.

When a police sergeant arrives in search of the Russian, the vicarage is a veritable madhouse. Four men in clerical uniforms are chasing in and out of the garden by way of the French doors, with the once-dignified bishop in night clothes trailing behind. The sergeant asks, "Which of you is the vicar here?" and finds it an unusually difficult mystery to unravel.

Philip King's comedy has been performed in the United States since 1949 and has been a favorite of community groups. However, its effectiveness depends on precise timing. That timing was often lacking on opening night, with missed cues and slight miscalculations. Nevertheless, director Sally Sawyer seemed to have the basic ingredients for a success, in her cast.

Ms. Radom seems an experienced actress who provided poise and an exceptionally expressive performance. As the vicar, Ed Unger looked the part and frequently sounded good. His clerical disapproval of the maid, Ida, was just right when he called her a simply wretched girl.

Easy Street Jazz Band journeys

A different afternoon from its usual chamber music will be offered by the American Artist Series at 3 p.m. Sunday — a jazz concert by the Easy Street Jazz Band of Ann Arbor.

This jazz group will meander on a postcard musical journey, with commentary, from the early days to the swing era, from instrumental ragtime to New Orleans and Chicago jazz.

The concert will be held in the Art Deco auditorium in Kingswood School, Cranbrook, 885 Cranbrook Road, Bloomfield Hills. Wine will be served after the concert and the jazz band will play for dancing. Coffee also will be served and, as usual, patrons will have an opportunity to visit with the artists.

Members of the group are Ed Metz, drums; Gene Rebeck, bass; Paul Klingner, sax and cornet; Rod McDonald, guitar; Bob Smith, trombone; Peter Perran, clarinet; and James Depogny, piano.

The band was organized in 1974 and is recognized as an outstanding jazz repertory group, including surviving jazz literature, styles, and landmark recorded performances from 1900-1940.

Tickets for the concert are available at the door. Season tickets for four concerts still to be played this season are available. For more information, call 647-2230.

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