

Today's Fleetwood Mac goes soft with 'Tusk'

By NICK CHARLES

preview

Drummer Mick Fleetwood and bassist John McVie formed Fleetwood Mac in 1967. But the group was nothing like the Mac today that will rock Joe Louis Arena Friday and Saturday.

The original group was Fleetwood, McVie and guitarist Peter Green. Soon after, guitarist Jeremy Spencer and Danny Kirwan joined the band.

Electric blues was their type of music and they released seven albums that sold an average of 250,000 copies each—in other words, not much. Subsequently, Peter Green left the

band. Soon after, McVie's wife, Christine, now his ex-wife, joined the band. In the middle of a tour, Jeremy Spencer disappeared to join a cult and Peter Green rejoined temporarily.

AT THAT POINT guitarist/vocalist Bob Welch, now well-known for his hits "Ebony Eyes" and "Precious Love," joined the band. Kirwan decided to fol-

low the trend and eventually left the band.

Toward the end of 1974, Welch also left to form his own band called Paris.

In the meantime, one album had been released by a California couple known as Buckingham/Nicks who were recruited to fill the gap.

Finally in 1975, the present five members were together.

The first album they released with their new members was called simply "Fleetwood Mac."

The combination of the five musicians was obviously magic, and the album spawned the hits "Monday Morn-

ing," "Blue Letter," "Rhiannon," "Over My Head" and "Say You Love Me."

Their biggest seller was their next album, "Rumors," which was released in 1977 and sold 13 million copies.

THEIR THIRD album, "Tusk," is a double album, elaborately packaged with four inner-sleeves decorated in a bizarre montage of photographs.

Within the extravagant art work lies 20 new songs written by keyboardist/vocalist Christine McVie, guitarist/vocalist Lindsey Buckingham and vocalist Stevie Nicks.

"Tusk" finds the Fleetwood Mac bunch going soft. Six of the 20 songs were written and sung by Christine and five of them by Stevie.

Both of the females tend to write light, romantic lines.

Buckingham, who contributed the remaining nine songs, has a marching band beat to his songs.

"Save Me a Place" sounds like an Indian rain dance and is almost as aggravating as his swing-your-partner song called "The Lodge."

"Not That Funny" contains the same marching bass, drum beat and tuba-backed circus-like sound.

"Walk a Thin Line" finds Buckingham sounding a bit country. The title

Players meet on OU campus

Gamers from all over the country and Canada will converge on Oakland University near Rochester June 6-8 for the Michigan IX Gametext.

Metro Detroit Gamers, sponsor of the annual spring and fall conventions at the university, has gained a national reputation for its outstanding gaming events and variety of games which appeal to all ages and interests. The association is dedicated to having fun at serious adult games.

track contains original marching band sounds, jungle noise background and lyrics without logic.

BUCKINGHAM'S BEST tune on the album is "That's All for Everyone," boosted by the prominent female backing vocals.

Christine's "Think About Me," a nice up-tempo commercial cut, was released as a single.

Her song "Brown Eyes" is obviously a romantic song. Drummer Mick Fleetwood's rim shots and dreamy ride cymbal compliment the airy background vocals. Christine goes into a total bedroom-mood vocal. The listener's mind tends to wander into a ghostly never-ending dance with an unexisting live partner.

Christine wrote "Never Make Me Cry" in the spirit of "Songbird" (from the "Rumors" LP). She makes "Honey Hi" and "Never Forget" almost sickeningly sweet.

Stevie Nicks came up with a winner when she wrote "Sara," which received heavy air-play.

HER QUIVERING child-like vocals on the acoustic "Storms" is a match for her deep sexy vocals on "Angels."

"I'm not a child anymore/I'm old enough to reach for the stars/I'm old enough to love you from afar/Your eyes say yes/But you don't say yes/I wish that you were mine/Even if I never hold you... again."

Family Players present 'Belles on Their Toes'

The Family Players of West Bloomfield will stage "Belles on Their Toes," the sequel to "Cheaper by the Dozen," May 30-31 and June 6-7.

The plays starts after the death of Frank Glibeth Sr., father of the Industrial Trial Study. His wife continues his work and goes to Europe, leaving the oldest children in charge. Uninvited guests show up, causing near disaster. Performances will be at the Franklin Elementary School, Franklin Road between 13 and 14 Mile roads, at 8 p.m. with Saturday matinees at 2 p.m.

Tickets are available at the door for

\$3.75 for adults and \$2.25 for children and senior citizens.

Twenty area families make up the company, now in its sixth season.

It has won two awards for best supporting actor and actress in the 1980 Pura Theater Festival for the metropolitan area.

Jennie Roberts, sponsored by the group and coached by director Sally Sawyer, won a \$1,000 acting and singing scholarship from the Community Theater Association of Michigan.

For more information, call Alia Prain at 553-4810.



Fleetwood Mac is (from left) John McVie, Christine McVie, Lindsey Buckingham, Mick Fleetwood and Stevie Nicks.

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