

STREET SCENE

2 hot British bands bring their sound to town



CHRISTINA FUCIO

Sunday at the 7th House in

The album mixes surging guitars, swirling Hammond organs and swagging vocals augmented with Middle Eastern instrumentation, tribal beats and an occasional lyric in the ancient language Sanskrit.

Lead singer/guitarist Crispian Mills' visit to India influenced the sound of the record which includes "Govinda," a rocked-up version of an ancient Indian mantra, and the first single

"Tattva," both of which were partially written in Sanskrit.

"Crispian went out to India for a few months before we recorded the album. 'Govinda' is a special tune for us but we're all into very different things. Paul (Winter-Hart, drummer) is into 70s rock like Little Feat and guys like that. Jay (Darlington, organ player) is into all of the old garage music, pretty things and stuff that was coming out. Crispian listens to a lot of classical Indian music and I'm into folk music."

Mills, the son of actress Hayley Mills, said he's out to make music that's "cool."

"We're trying to help make music cool again by putting together all the things that were inspirational to us in the past. Music is so lame and meaningless at the moment 'cause it hasn't got any substance. We want to put feeling and emotion back into rock by reminding people of where those inspirational feel-



Brit pop stars: Kula Shaker - from left, bassist Alonza Bevan, vocalist/guitarist Crispian Mills, drummer Paul Winter-Hart and organ player Jay Darlington.

ings came from in the first place," Mills said.

One side of the British press, New Musical Express, said that the band has accomplished their goal, while the other, Melody

Maker, wasn't too keen on the band, Bevan said.

"I think there's a lot of people who either really love the band or really hate us over in Britain. I think we get up a lot of people's

noses. NME, they like us. But Melody Maker said we were the worst thing. They practically called us the anti-Christ. It always goes like that. If one likes you, the other doesn't. It's a bit of a joke. But we're aware of that and we're having a laugh."

Fellow Brits Ash, frequent Melody Maker and New Musical Express cover boys, is thrilled about opening for Stabbing Westward Saturday at St. Andrew's Hall.

"We sort of wanted to get on a good support tour with somebody who's really happening in the U.S.," said guitarist/singer Tim Wheeler.

The Irish punk-pop band, who makes no secret of its passion for all things sci-fi and extra-terrestrial, is hoping to duplicate in the United States its success overseas with "1977" (Reprise). The album was named after the birth year of its members - which also includes bassist Mark

Hamilton and drummer Rick McMurray - and the year "Star Wars" was released.

"I think it's really awkward for British bands to play in the United States. A lot of bands have given up trying like Pulp and Suede," Wheeler said.

But Ash still treks on.

Kula Shaker and Rasputina perform an all-ages show Sunday, Nov. 17, at the 7th House, 7 N. Saginaw, Pontiac. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$8 in advance. Tickets for the originally scheduled show, Friday, Nov. 15, will be honored. For more information, call (810) 335-8100.

Ash opens for Stabbing Westward and Drill on Saturday, Nov. 16, at St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. Doors open at 8 p.m. for the all-ages show. Tickets are \$12 in advance. For more information, call (313) 961-MELT.

SCREEN SCENE

A sampling of what's playing at alternative movie theaters across metro Detroit as reviewed by John Monaghan.

Birmingham Theatre, 211 S. Woodward, Birmingham. Call (810) 644-FILM for information. (\$6.50; \$4.25 matinees and seniors)

"Secrets and Lies" (Britain - 1996). Mike Leigh's unflinching account of a working class British family which reunites with a daughter given up long ago to adoption. One of the year's best films, highlighted by a

startlingly real performance from Brenda Blethyn.

"Swingers" (USA - 1996). A hip new low-budget comedy about the denizens of L.A.'s cocktail scene. Five guys, all looking for a break in Hollywood, meet women and talk trash. "Twelve Night"

(Britain - 1996). Helena Bonham Carter, Ben Kingsley, and Nigel Hawthorne head an all-star British cast in this newest adaptation of Shakespeare's sparkling comedy of miscommunication and false identity. "The Funeral" (USA - 1996). A

crime drama set in 1935 about three Italian-American brothers who sacrifice love and family loyalty for fast money and violence. Directed by "The Bad Lieutenant" Abel Ferrara and starring Christopher Walken and Chris Penn. Opens Friday.

"Mother Night" (USA - 1996). In this adaptation of the Kurt Vonnegut novel, an American writer (Nick Nolte) in pre-World War II Germany is pressed into service by the U.S. government to break into Hitler's hierarchy. Opens Friday.

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