

Los Angeles Times

Monday, November 14, 1988 / Part VI 3

Pop Capsules

Clark, Van Zandt Present a Texas Sound at McCabe's

If you made a list of the best tunes to come out of Texas in the last 50 years, it's a safe bet that at least a handful of those tunes were performed at McCabe's over the weekend. The club played host to Guy Clark and Townes Van Zandt, a pair of semi-decades ago legends who two decades ago emerged from the wind-swept desolation of west Texas with vivid, evocative and moving songs.

Saturday's dream country-folk double bill began with an hour from Clark, who's best known for writing "Heartbreaker" (a hit for Ricky Skaggs) and "L.A. Freeway" (duo for Jerry Jeff Walker). Clark (who will soon release his first album in a decade) has a great, craggy dignity, a self-deprecating wit and a winning batch of tunes about growing tomatoes and hammering nails. His finest moments came in a series of character sketches that summed up the heartbreak and nobility of everyday life with devastating clarity and impact.

Van Zandt is less an Everyman's songwriter than he is a classic Texas character, with a dissonant air and a doleful sense of humor. He's also supplied standout songs to singers with more soaring voices (including "Pancho and Lefty" and "If I Needed You"), but Van Zandt's alternatingly funny and poignant songs about longing with twisted, elusive, imagistic narratives. And on a night that belonged to two remarkable songwriters, he came up with the most entertaining, non-original, "Song of the Shrimp," a classic groaner from the zippy movie "Circle of Grief."

—STEVE POND

Shinehead Serves Notice With Rap-Spiced Reggae

To bat only 100 people showed up at the John F. Ford Theatre on Saturday afternoon, because a Jamaican-born, New York-bred toaster/rapper who goes by the name of Shinehead served notice that his brand of reggae spiced with rap is a future force to be reckoned with. Headlining "Jamaica Aid 2," a benefit to raise funds for the Jamaica Relief Fund in the wake of hurricane Gilbert, Shinehead effortlessly blended an ever-shifting melange of musical motifs and lyrical riffs during his hour-long set. Shinehead (nee Edmund Carl Aiken) and his versatile backing quintet, the A Team, principally operated from a reggae base. "Toasting" is the Jamaican equivalent (and forerunner) of rap, and Shinehead merged the two when

he traded in Jamaican patois for American B-boy slang. "Who the Cap Fit" moved from hard political commentary to apocalyptic religious imagery over bedrock reggae rhythms, but Shinehead's best shot was his opening one—"Unity," the title track of his new album, combined spare funk with rock 'n' roll (the Beatles' "Come Together") and a plea for unity directed at hip-hop deejays.

Most important, Shinehead displayed the kind of quick wit and engaging performing skills, lyrical substance and musical imagination to avoid getting stuck in any kind of rap or reggae rut. —DON SNOWDEN

Weird, Wonderful Bobs Reaching to Exalted Level

The Bobs made a welcome return to Los Angeles Friday night at UCLA's Royce Hall, brewing up a new collection of weird and wonderful New Wave capella songs. The San Francisco quartet's remarkable ability to create a lexicon of utterly original music out of the sounds of voices, fingers snapping, foot taps and cymbals is reaching up toward the exalted level heretofore occupied only by Bobby McFerrin.

If anything, the Bobs sound better integrated and more creatively centered than a year ago. Familiar pieces such as "Politically Correct," "My Husband Was a Weatherman" and "First I Was a Hippie" bristled with familiar satirical humor and newly supercharged musical energy. Other high points of the show (which billed the group with the Duck's Breath Mystery Theatre) included Jane Scott's risky—but ultimately successful—interpretation of Peggy Lee's patented "Fever" and Richard Green's basso profundo tour through a humorous lament titled "These Fights Over What You Eat Are Tearing Us Apart." —DON HECKMAN

HUBBARD

Continued from Page 2 blended well with Hubbard on the thematic statements and soloed with the level of force intensity he has always brought to his work, sometimes at the expense of rhythmic finesse and beauty. Cedar Walton came close to stealing the show. He has moved beyond his top beginnings, but incorporates the elements of that era with a lyricism that has few equals on the contemporary keyboard scene.

Andy Simpkins, too, was a constant source of joy to the crowd and clearly aiso to Hubbard. Ralph Penland, in addition to furnishing a pop touch through his solos, provided an attentive ear as a rhythm section companion.

"A celebration of personal triumph."

"A mastery and resonating film. Streep and Neill are perfectly matched." —Sally Benson, LOS ANGELES TIMES

"A gripping movie that doesn't let go. Sam Neill is brilliant. Mary Streep is another Academy Award nomination." —Dan Sniell, TVOK, MONTREAL

"A hair-raising, absorbing drama. The images are extraordinary." —Jared Aronson, NEWYORK TIMES



NOW SHOWING

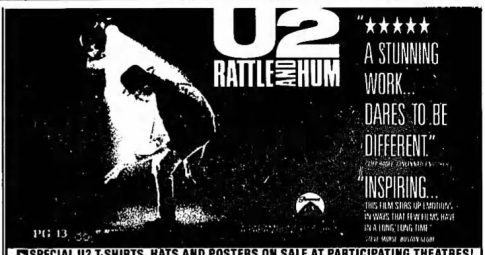
- WESTWOOD: Meryl Streep, Sam Neill, 'Shogun'
HOLLYWOOD: Meryl Streep, Sam Neill, 'Shogun'
SAN FERNANDO VALLEY: Meryl Streep, Sam Neill, 'Shogun'
... [rest of the list]

"EVERYBODY'S ALL AMERICAN IS AMERICA'S GREAT LOVE STORY!" —Pat Collins, WFOR-TV



NOW SHOWING

- WESTWOOD: Everybody's All-American
HOLLYWOOD: Everybody's All-American
SAN FERNANDO VALLEY: Everybody's All-American
... [rest of the list]



SPECIAL U2 T-SHIRTS, HATS AND POSTERS ON SALE AT PARTICIPATING THEATRES!

Table listing participating theaters and their phone numbers for U2 merchandise sale.

MANN THEATRE PRESENTS STEREO BARAIN PRICE

Large table listing movie listings for Mann Theatres across various Los Angeles areas, including Westwood Village, Hollywood, San Fernando Valley, etc.

HAVE YOU SEEN AMERICA'S #1 ROMANTIC COMEDY?

"TWO THUMBS UP! Could be a top-ten-of-the-year film." —SISKI & HEBERT



NOW SHOWING

- WESTWOOD: Mystic Pizza
HOLLYWOOD: Mystic Pizza
SAN FERNANDO VALLEY: Mystic Pizza
... [rest of the list]

Travel Savings for Seniors advertisement by Hank Kovell, contributor to the Times Travel section.