

UNDAY 4 DECEMBER 1994

CRITICS 15



famboyant gay artist devoted to music and literature. *Curzon Mayfair*, London W1 (071-369 1720), *Duke of York's*, Brighton (0273 602 503)

Tim Burton's The Nightmare Before Christmas (76 mins, PG) A visually dazzling combination of puppetry and animation. Although Burton only wrote the original story and co-produced, the picture property has his name above the title because it is very much the creation of the imagination that gave us *Edward Scissorhands* and *Batman*. *Odeon West End*, London WC2 (071-930 7615) and general release

Dance

Royal Ballet The second Ashton programme, including *The Dream*, *Facade* and a triple bill of modern ballets, minus the advertised Michael



Viviana Durante and Stuart Cassidy in *Thais* at the Royal Opera House on Friday

Clark work, which has yet to be finished. *Tues, Sat, Royal Opera House*, London WC2 (071-304 4000)

Thais Viviana Durante and Stuart Cassidy take on roles originally created for Antonette Sibley and Anthony Dowell. *Fri, Royal Opera House*, London WC2 (071-304 4000)

Richard Alston Dance Company Inaugural tour of four new works, with *Movements from Petrushka* much admired for Darshan Singh Bhuller's searing performance as Petrushka/Nijinsky. *Royal Northern College of Music*, Manchester (061-273 4504)

Fast and Dirty 2 Second series of theatre workshops set up by Second Stride culminates in four performances. *Wed to Sat, Curtain Theatre*, Toybee Hall, London E1 (via Arts Box Office 071-223 352001)

Northern School of Contemporary Dance Fifteen students perform the premiere of Jonathan Lummi's *Figures of Speech*, made specially for them, with Alton's *Rough Cut* and Robert North's *Toy Game*. *Wed, Riley Theatre*, Leeds (0527 626262)

Video

The Dark Half (117 mins, 15) 20:20 Stephen King's intriguing tale of an author stalked by his own alter ego is confidently handled by George A Romero. While lacking the raw edge of the writer-director's *Night of the Living Dead* series, this more than compensates with a much clearer narrative style. *(Rental)*

Blue Tiger (84 mins, 16, Medusa) Director Norberto Barba transcends his low-budget material - avenging mother against Yakuza killer - to produce a thriller of distinction and class. *Virginia Madison* stars. *(Rental)*

Headline Honeys (92 mins, 15, Touchstone) Burger Denis Leary becomes the Therapist From Hell when he takes a dysfunctional family hostage after a botched burglary. Top-class support from Judy Davis and Kevin Spacey in Ted Demme's comedy. *(Rental)*

Pop

M People Unlike most 'dance' acts, the northern soul champs have always been able to deliver a thumping live set with a full band; one reason why they're riding high with a single and album atop the charts. *Mon, Leisure Centre Aston Villa* (021-328 5377); *Tues, Plymouth Pavilion* (0752 229922); *Thurs, Brighton Centre* (0273 202881); *Fri, Brixton Academy*, London SW9 (071-924 9999); *Sat, Forum*, London NW5 (071-284 2200)

Massive Attack Three years after their first hits, the innovative Bristol rap crew play their first British dates, though this is a sound system rather than a stage act. *DJs, rappers, vocalists* (including Horace Andy), rival systems, and the whole sneaking goes on until the small hours. *Mon, Hacienda*, Manchester (061-236 5051); *Tues, Leadmill*, Sheffield (0742 754500); *Thurs, Arches*, Glasgow (041-221 9736); *Fri, UEA*, Norwich (0603 505401); *Sat, Ashton Court*, Bristol (0272 299008)

Squeeze The Deptford group start their annual 'Christmas dozen' shows - although their crafted rock is never off the road for long, anyway. *Wed, UEA, Norwich* (0603 505401); *Thurs, T&C, Leeds* (0532 800100); *Fri, Corn Exchange*, Cambridge (0223 357851)

Townes Van Zandt Rare British show by the elusive Texan singer-song writer, a cut since he established his credentials in the Sixties. *Sat, Union Chapel*, London N1 (071-226 1886)

Pop: Neil Spencer; **Classical/Opera:** Andrew Porter; **Dance:** Jann Parry; **Cinema:** Philip French; **Art:** William Feaver; **Video:** Jonathan Wilson; **Jazz:** Dave Gelly; **Theatre:** Michael Coveney

Musing what that M is for, the M People start their week, Monday in Birmingham

POP RELEASES *Neil Spencer*

PEARL JAM *Vitalogy* (Epic H5588) Celebrities bemoaning the pressures of the fame they have courted, and for which they are simply paid, has become a timeless cliché. Led by singer Eddie Vedder's groans, Pearl Jam's third album generates an unrelenting din on the subject. A cast of punk and a sprinkling of 'experimental' tracks - raze loops, mumbles, wacky solo vocals - adds little drama to their noisy stadium rock.

VIADUOUS *Woodstock II* (R&B) 540527 42) Predictably unable to capture the spontaneity and idealism of its weighty 1969 predecessor, this year's modest breaks under its self-importance. Despite a resuscitable ball - *Caribbean*, *Chilli Peppers*, *Tuffie*, *Sabrin*, *Gymnast Hill* - the performances are relentlessly exclusive; proof that history doesn't happen to order.

JIMMY NAIL *Crocodile Shoes* (East West 430596 5557) Nail's view of the music business in his BBC series is 20 years out of date, and its toy-country rock likewise harks back to

the Seventies. That said, Nail handles his vocals with surprising aplomb, and three songs from fellow Georgia Paddy McAlison (of *Primal Scream*) add a touch of elegance.

VIADUOUS *Tulane Desk* (*Highzone* HCD 8085) A worthwhile tribute album to country giant and blue-collar poet, *Waltie Huggard*, whose empathy for common folk is well caught by the likes of his *Debutant's* 'Big City Huggard's more reactionary tendencies are classic over in favour of love songs like *Louise Williams* version of the forlorn 'You Don't Have Far To Go'.

T.A. MANUAL *An Evening Of Acoustic Music* (B&M 704) The raw-edged bluesman unleashes his gravelly voice and showman style on a set of racy standards. He still sings *Stagger Lee* and *Candy Man* with the gruff drama of an itinerant Twenties troubadour and there's a fine version of the Langston Hughes poem 'Crossing Overwise, give or take a tuba accompaniment, it's business as usual.

GALLUP SINGLES & ALBUMS CHARTS

SINGLES	LAST WEEK	ALBUMS	LAST WEEK
1 Let Me Be Your Fantasy Sally D (Systematic)	1	1 New That's What I Call It Various	1
2 Love Spreads Stone Roses (Geffen)	10	2 Carry on up the Charts Beautiful South (Sire)	2
3 We Have All The Time Louis Armstrong (EMI)	5	3 Cross Road - The Best of Bob 'Low' Jordan (Mercury)	4
4 A, B, C, D Blue Samba (Epic)	26	4 Unplugged in New York Nirvana (Geffen)	5
5 Stay Another Day East 17 (London)	26	5 The Best of New Order (London)	6
6 Another Night MC Sar & the Real McCoy (Logic/Anista)	1	6 Bizarre Fruit M People (RCA/CeConstruction)	10
7 Sight For Sore Eyes M People (RCA/CeConstruction)	3	7 Fields of Gold: Best of Sting Sting (Geffen)	7
8 Shine After The Rain New Atlantic (London)	20	8 Vitalogy Pearl Jam (Epic)	-
9 Crocodile Shoes Jimmy Nail (East West)	16	9 The Love Album Various (Virgin)	9
10 Raise Your Hands Real 2 Real (Positive)	-		

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