

ALBUMS

THE CLASH --- "LONDON CALLING"

The first track on this double album which only cost me £3.50 is the title track of the album. I couldn't believe it when I first heard this track, it's is so different from their first stuff. It's so clear, and you can even hear the lyrics! But what is amazing is that it is as good as the early stuff and sometimes even better (better than that commercial crap that they were bringing out at least.) This really made me excited until I heard the next track, "Brand New Cadillac", which has a Batman bass line I think, and lots of Led Zep guitar solos with a silly two verse lyric like "My baby drove up in a brand new cadillac, she said balls to you big daddy, she ain't never coming back." Next is "Jimmy Jazz" what do you hear? sounds like that old blues music to me. The lyrics are very bluesy-lyrics man if you know what I mean and it's "Sattamassagara for Jimmy Dread cut off he's ears and chop off his head and the police are looking for Jimmy Jazz" still it's quite good and foot tapping. They do it very well if you ask me, but a very silly song. Next is "Hatefull" which is pretty fast with Strummer singing a line and the others repeating a word from it. I can't remember who used to do songs like it, but it sounds like contry turned into rock 'n' roll. I can't tell what it's like because I don't know myself! Next it's "Rudie Can't Fail"- my favorite track on this side, it's sort of ska, mixed in with R'n'R, with Jonesy singing most of it. Note the last line, very significant for this album, "Sky juice in a bottle." Note the American currency, remember the song "I'm so bored with the U.S.A." ha ha ha ha.

Side two first is "Spanish Bombs," played with acoustic guitars; very different. I can't explain the style, but really good lyrics about the freedom fighters of Spain, and how it echoes the fighting of 1939 where the Fascists took over in Spain. Very good I must admit. Next is "The Right Profile"-very nice foot tapping tune with horns and trumpets and pianos, e.t.c. It's about a fallen star in New York who took too much alcohol, pills and stuff, it really could be a sad song, but The Clash have given it a very merry tune; though next is "Lost in the supermarket." one of Jonesy's songs which reminds me of "Stay Free". Brilliant lyrics about living in the suburbs, being protected from life, and being made and being made into a very nice boy by your loving parents; and there's a brilliant line to describe it-"We had a hedge back home in the suburbs over which I could never see," and his first ever emotional feeling was when he heard the people upstairs and that feeling has kept around him all his life, and now in his flat the noise keeps him company.



STATIONS OF THE CRASH (PART 3)

I've had that when i'm on my own, when the noise stops you feel really lonely. Brilliant song, sorry about that, got carried away a bit, but they are some of the best lyrics i've ever read. Next is "Clamp Down" which is about if the NF or BM get in, and how it's not worth it, because we won't get fuck all from it, but you all should know about that, so I won't go on I promise; honest, just a great Rock 'n' Roll record with brilliant lyrics, that's all I can say about it. Next is the last track on this side called "Guns Of Brixton", one of Simonon's songs I think. It's a reggae song, and a very good one at that. Talk about patronising Brixton, look at these lyrics- "You see he feels like Ivan, / born under the Brixton sun, / he's game is called survival, / at the end of harder they come." The sought of an Hawaiian guitar sound half way through, like it though, even with what I call silly lyrics. Yeh, the Revolution of Brixton. Really good. quite an amusing song.

Side three: my fave side. First one is called "Wrong 'em Boyo" a story about a bloke who cheated in a gambling game, then they tell us it's wrong to cheat but wait a fucking second :- "I get violent when i'm fucked up, I get silent when i'm drugged up," Yeh, well what a fucking contradiction. Next is "Death or Glory" which is a very good Rock 'n' Roll number. I agree with the line "Death or Glory becomes just another story" but it seems like the Clash have given up and joined the establishment with a verse like this "Every gimmick hungry yob digging gold from Rock 'n' Roll / grabs the mike to tell us he'll die before he's sold / but I believe in this- and it's been tested by research, / that he who fucks the nun joins the church." Well look's like you've been going round fucking nuns Mister Strummer, because you said you'd die before you'd sell out, and if you reckon you haven't then you're contradicting in your lyrics, and you definitely haven't proved to me that you haven't joined the old Rock 'n' Roll establishment. Next is "Koka Kola," a song about the old advertisement business. A good R'n'R song with good lyrics. I won't go on about this one I don't want to bore you, but take my advice, nice Rock 'n' Roll tune. Next is my favorite on the album "The Card Cheat" .It's a bit of a moving song if you ask me; a good bit of piano and trumpet half way through. You'll have to hear it your self because I can't describe it but I find it rather moving and sad, ahh...

Side four- "Lovers Rock," which is a soul come R'n'R song with good lyrics that sought of tells us that you are expected to be good in bed and all that shit and how she didn't take the pill and got up the spout. I don't like that song much. Next is "the 4 Horsemen", don't know what it's about because I can't be bothered to suss it out; don't like it- shit. Next is "I'm not down;" a good song this, about how they never let themselves get put down by our lovely rich rulers. Very good R'n'R song I like it. "Revolution Rock" follows which is another sort of ska/reggae song. It reminds me of stuff by The Who, yes, I like it but it should have been written at the beginning of the whole punk scene, not when it's on it's last breath. Eh, what's this another song, this ain't on the cover of the L.P., nor on the lyric sheet; sounds like a bit of an R'n'B record. Not bad, I don't know what it's about and I ain't got a clue what it's called. Pretty good though. On the whole 90% of the music is good, 90% of the lyrics are good. But it reminds me of The Who so much. (won't get fooled again, did though didn't we). I think The Clash are gonna be like the Who, playing when there 50 yrs old. I know your a thinking that i'm living in the past 'cos I kept refering to their early days, but i'm not. I respect the Clash for having the bottle to have a go at something different and not live on there old stuff, but the contradictions on this album to their first one are incredible; plus i think this album was made for America (i.e. holiday snaps of them having fun in America on the lyric sheet). Contradiction- I'm so bored with the U.S.A.; they more or less live out there no I'm not sure whether this album has restored my faith in them, i'll see when they tour over in England if I can afford £3 a go....

Bobby Colvill.

Reviewing a Clash L.P. is about as worthwhile as reviewing a Rolling Stones album, both amount to nothing more than 12 inches of music - good maybe, but important, NO. Do the Clash think that £5 albums or 2 poxy 50pence gigs at the Acklam Hall over Xmas means that they will be accepted by the people who they have let down? Credibility week is over boys. Diss off back to your garage.