

# SINGLE

Reviewed by ROBIN SMITH

## SOMETHING IN THE AIR

**PHIL COLLINS: 'In The Air Tonight'** (Virgin). Of course darlings, this just had to be at the top of the page. Young Phil has produced this year's first near blockbuster. In between limbering up for the next Genesis album/tour, Collins the only drummer I know with the soft heart

what better recommendation could you possibly need than that?

**THE CLASH: 'Hitsville UK'** (CBS). I hate the **Clash**. I hate their petty

of a two week old marshmallow, slides through delicious moments of quizzical charm. He hasn't picked at leftovers from the Genesis chocolate box but opted for a bittersweet approach. This is full of eerie melancholy until the silence is broken by Phil deftly leaping over to the drum stool. This single is in the same league as Peter Gabriel and

attempts at playing with politics. I hate overgrown snotty-nosed kids who should know better, playing with fire. Sandinista guerillas be damned. Can you really imagine the **Clash** doing something practical and charging around the jungle with machine guns? Hah hah. But on this single, the cuddly foursome adroitly turn themselves to something which doesn't actually rub the wrong way with me. I like the tune you see, there's probably a message in there

somewhere but I can't make out the lyrics. Imagine Sandinista guerillas sitting round the campfire after a hard day's pillage and having a sing-song with 'Judy In Disguise' and 'Higher and Higher'. This just can't lose.

**JOHN LENNON: 'Woman'** (Geffen). For my money, the best track off the 'Double Fantasy' album. Sentimental Lennon, as I think he should be best

Cliff's year. Again he will be slagged off but that boyish face with laugh at them all. Cliff knows where he's going and he always will. Another faultless exercise in producing a clean single.

**PAUL SIMON: 'Oh Marion'** (Warners). Simon's a bit of a boring old splodger these days. More

**DIANA ROSS: 'It's My Turn'** (Motown). Carole Bayer Sager alias Rentaballed Woman was the brains behind this. She's tossed up a glossy dollop of dough but dear Diana makes it sound very credible. Taken from wimpy movie of the same name starring bearded Michael Kirk and somebody else, as



remembered and the ideal follow up to the paunch and raunch of 'Starting Over'. Ethereal chorus where nothing is spared for dramatic effect, especially with lines like "The little child inside the man please remember my life is in your hands." In between hearing about Lennon memorial frisbees and hamburgers, listen to this and restore your sanity.

**CLIFF RICHARD: 'A Little In Love'** (EMI). Again this is going to be

introspection and morbid self examination that he seems to be trading on over and over again. More unsmiling Simon, but his repetition is big enough to carry him through it.

**BILLY JOEL: 'Sometimes A Fantasy'** (CBS). Sometimes I reckon our Billy would be better off cashing in on the Manilow slurp market for Britain. That doesn't mean this isn't an excellent single with fire in its belly, but I think it'll creep into the bottom 30 and stay that way. This is maybe to close to his last epic.

an all American couple. Get out your handkerchiefs.

**GILBERT O'SULLIVAN: 'Hello It's Goodbye'** (CBS). To think this is the man who was the genius behind 'Nothing Rhymes'. Gilbert seems to be keeping his talents pretty well hidden lately. So hidden, that maybe he won't be able to find them again.

**THE REGENTS: 'Just A Little'** (Arista). For reasons I can't fully explain, this song sounds like Al Stewart with the backing track to the Flash Gordon movie. A promising if bizarre combination, but the energy dissipates quickly and it disappears up its own backside.