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The Clash looking for drummer

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"THE BIGGEST temptation will be to run into a pub along the route," joked Joe Strummer as he girded himself to run the London Marathon last month. The Clash vocalist said he took his training seriously, swearing off alcohol and hitting the road daily. "I like the madness of getting up and running all those miles on a Sunday morning, when normally I would be fast asleep in bed." Strummer covered the 26-plus miles in 4 hours and 30 minutes — and, in the process, raised \$800 for a leukemia-research foundation. "I compose songs a lot while I'm training," he said. "It gives me time to think without being bothered."

Strummer and compadre Mick Jones have been writing songs and trying to find a new drummer to replace the departed Terry Chimes. The smart money is on the Raincoats' sometime skinbasher Derek Godard.

MARIANNE FAITHFUL says her six-year marriage to guitarist-songwriter Ben Brierly is finished. "We're going to Reno. It takes a very, very short time" she says. "For misfits, you know? It is sad, yes ... but I wish people would stop thinking that I'm still breaking my heart over dear old Mick." Her LP "A Child's Adventure" is still on the charts, but the rough-voiced London legend's next vinyl appearance will be on Mitch Ryder's new John Cougar-produced album. They'll duet on "A Thrill's a Thrill," a tune originally done by Long John Baldry.

DIANE LANE, featured as Matt Dillon's object of desire in Francis Coppola's "The Outsiders" and the



forthcoming "Rumble Fish," much prefers her new onscreen boyfriend, Michael Pare, with whom she's starring in Walter Hill's followup to "48 Hrs.," titled "Streets of Fire." "Michael's coming from a strong sense of his own identity," says Lane — and that's a quality, she adds, that Dillon lacked. "Matt and I had a relationship similar to our characters in 'The Outsiders,' and it got much worse during 'Rumble Fish' — the only time we'd speak was on camera. I don't know if it was lust or what at the beginning, but it really turned out to be negative energy. He sure walks around with a lot of confidence for somebody who does not know what he's doing."

Lane stars in the film as rock star Ellen Alm, who teams up with a gun-toting local (Pare) as they cruise through a bleak urban landscape. "You could call it a drama within a purely moral framework" says Hill. "Or you can think of a big high school, with guns."

Jimmy Iovine is producing the soundtrack, which will feature the Blasters, who will also make an onscreen cameo. The film shares its title with a Bruce Springsteen song, but no one knows if the Boss will contribute a track.

PERHAPS SCTV won't be the only popular show to take the pipe this year. CBS has shuffled "Square Pegs," the high-school sitcom, to different time slots — in order, says the network, to find a larger audience. But a switch to Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. pitted the show against ABC's powerful "The Fall Guy," and out of 74 prime-time shows rated by Nielsen, "Square Pegs" finished 66th. The network has since returned the program to its original Monday-evening slot, and producer Anne Beatts is keeping her fingers crossed. "It can go either way," she admits. "But if it's canceled, a lot of TV critics will say, 'Too bad, my favorite show is gone.'"

WHO IS Clare Grogan? To the few Americans who've heard of her, she's the woman who gets the hero at the end of "Gregory's Girl." Grogan's greater claim to fame, though, is as lead vocalist for Altered Images, a Scottish band that's had success in the U.K. but little stateside buzz. The group's new single, "Don't Talk to Me about Love," may bring them some overdue U.S. attention.

"I've got this really awful, cutesy schoolgirl image to shrug off," Grogan admits in a Highland lilt. "I'm quite happy to be getting more mature." Grogan is hoping that the band's label, Epic, will bring the group over for a tour this June. She sheepishly admits that she "wrote this love letter to (CBS Records president) Dick Asher, saying, 'I'm dying to come over and see you again.'" But Grogan says the band comes first. "I got into Altered Images by a kind of mistake, but it's been enjoyable."

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