

GODFATHER STRIKES BACK

The Clash — Cut The Crap (CBS)

ONE of the biggest fears in a greedy Western society is that you could pass perfection in the search of something extra. Take the Clash.

They were once the perfect punk band. They wrote rebel-rousing anthems which combined musical fire with political prowess, and every time they released a single — let alone an album — it was a cause of minor celebration and piggy bank raiding for many people like me.

As the years moved on, so did they, and although they still released truly classic records, they became more of a product and less of a vision. Then singer Jo Strummer said 'ENOUGH'. He threw out long-time guitarist and short-time

Album review

hippy Mick Jones and decided to go back to square one and fight once again for his title as the Godfather of a generation.

The result is this album — and what a good result it is. It is a powerful and very bold work which occasionally falls flat but is over-ridingly alive and pulsating.

Some Clash fans undoubtedly won't like it, but as a fan of the band for eight years I think I won't be the only one that does. It rekindles the flame of

'77 and throws out some of the pretensions latter years with its direct, simple and overtly optimistic sounds.

Tracks like 'This Is England', 'Three Card Trick', 'Dirty Punk' and especially the wonderful 'North And South' would grace any Clash album — and that is no mean statement.

Strummer may have said some dodgy things over the past few months, but I think I now admire this amazing man more than I have ever done before. He turned his back on a potentially massive musical career in America to once again return to the garageland that is his natural home. Welcome back to the real world Joe.

S.H.