

Ronstadt tries for the Blondie image

Campus Digest News Service

With each album, it seems there is a new image: the sultry, scorned love goddess...the permed roller-skating queen...the punk rock roustabout.

Linda Ronstadt changes, in her own way, as noticeably as Bob Dylan. The new hairstyles and clothes and musical avenues may be more cosmetic and superficial than profound but, at 33, this extraordinary singer refuses to stay in one place any longer than Jerry Brown.

To make it interesting and fun and challenging she is constantly expanding her repertoire, drifting further away from her folk-country roots, and with "Mad Love" embracing the punchy rhythms of new-wave rock.

Move over Blondie and Deborah Harry, here comes Linda, equipped with a litany of Elvis Costello-type tunes that tingle with as much energy as a telephone wire. Coincidentally, she is pictured in a phone booth on the cover.

Costello has supplied Ronstadt with three songs on this album—"Party Girl," "Girls Talk" and "Talking in the Dark."

None is as affecting as his tasteful ballad, "Allison," which Ronstadt included in her 1978 release, "Living in the USA."

But Ronstadt is determined, in this package,

to project a Blondielike toughness, guided deftly, as usual, by the production of Peter Asher.

Her lone concession to mellow is Neil Young's "Look Out for My Love," in which she succeeds in sounding like Nicolette Larson, a close friend.

There is much more commitment in her remake of the Little Anthony hit of 15 years ago, "Hurt So Bad," and "How Do I Make You," the jumpy single that has crashed the top 15.

Clearly, this is not a pop album or even mainstream rock. The theme is spontaneous and simple, in the punk-cum-new-wave spirit.

What it does is make more palatable to the adult audience the qualities, however suspect they may be, of this genre. In short, Ronstadt is such an unusual talent she can get away with virtually anything.

"It was like turning a corner," she said of the new album, "but everything felt so natural."

It sounds that way, too—even without the consummate band with which she worked for the last several years.

Gone are guitarist Waddy Wachtel, bassist Kenny Edwards and pianist Don Grolnick, having formed a band of their own.



A look at what's coming to the big screen

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It's often difficult to look at an upcoming movie season and predict success or failure. Some of the expected winners will undoubtedly turn out to be duds and other low-budget sleepers will turn out to be pleasant surprises.

Last year, for example, the barrage of Christmas films looked like the best in years but by the time January rolled around, we knew the truth; that they were little better than average.

Nevertheless, 1980 has just over three months before it ends and after looking at the movies ahead, I can't see how this sudden rush of cinema will be anything less than great.

This year's hot days of June, July and August were made even more uncomfortable with the disappointing movies that were released. All focused on visual entertainment to the point where we were starving for real characters who talk and laugh and cry and hurt.

Sit patiently, people. Movies are coming and they include ones that star Woody Allen, Jane Fonda, Robert DeNiro, Marlon Brando, Anne Bancroft, Jack Lemmon, Jill Clayburgh, Sir Laurence Olivier, Walther Matthau, Goldie Hawn, Lily Tomlin, Shirley MacLaine, Alan Alda, Carol Burnett, Clint Eastwood, and George C. Scott.

Here, then, is a rundown of some of the promising movies that will head our way during the final three months of 1980:

A CHANGE OF SEASONS- Shirley MacLaine accompanies sex-symbol Bo Derek in this light comedy about sexual liberation.

THE ELEPHANT MAN- The critically acclaimed play about the life of deformed John Merick comes to the screen starring Anthony Hopkins, John Hurt and Anne Bancroft.

EYEWITNESS- The last time Director Peter Yates and Writer Steve Tesich got together, they turned out 'Breaking Away.' This, however, is not a soft, gentle tale but a change-of-pace thriller.

THE FORMULA- George C. Scott and Marlon Brando highlight this fast-paced Nazi thriller. Will these two super-stars create good excitement or will their distinct acting styles conflict? Only time will tell.

THE FOUR SEASON- Alan Alda and Carol Burnett star in this examination of the growing cases of divorce in this country. Will it be better than 'The Last Married Couple in America'? Isn't everything?

HEAVEN'S GATE- Michael Cimino's first film since 'The Deer Hunter' is the story of a Montana Range war and it stars Kris Kristoferson.

IT'S MY TURN- Claudia Weill, who made the well-meaning 'Girlfriends', directs this story about a weekend in a young woman's life. Starring is Jill Clayburgh.

THE JAZZ SINGER- Early reports on this Christmas picture are superb. Sir Laurence Olivier and Neil Diamond star in the remake of the Al Jolson movie. Look for this one to be a hit!

NINE TO FIVE- Director Collin Higgins must of had an interesting job directing--get this--Jane Fonda, Lily Tomlin and Dolly Parton. They play three office workers in this slick comedy with an unusual cast.

OH GOD! OH GOD!- You'll never guess who George Burns plays.

ORDINARY PEOPLE- Robert Redford makes his directing debut in this emotional study of a troubled family from a wealthy suburb near Chicago. Newsweek and Time have already given the picture rave reviews as well as heavy praises for stars Donald Sutherland and Mary Tyler Moore. Stay tuned to this column for an in-depth look at the movie and how it was made.

POPEYE- Some say Robert Altman will return as one of the sparkling directors in America after 'Popeye', the musical version of the comic-strip Hercules. Robin Williams is the man who likes spinach and Shelly Duvall is Olive Oil.

Campus Paperback Bestsellers

1. **Sophie's Choice**, by William Styron. (Bantam, \$3.50.) Star-crossed lovers and the nature of evil: fiction.
2. **The Dead Zone**, by Stephen King. (NAL/Signet, \$3.50.) Terror tale of man who sees into future: fiction.
3. **A Woman of Substance**, by Barbara Taylor Bradford. (Avon, \$2.95.) Successful woman & her children: fiction.
4. **Class Reunion**, by Rona Jaffe. (Dell, \$2.75.) Four Radcliffe grads and how they fared: fiction.
5. **The Number of the Beast**, by Robert A. Heinlein. (Fawcett, \$6.95.) Space journey to other universes: fiction.
9. **Petals on the Wind**, by V. C. Andrews. (Pocket, \$2.75.) Children take revenge in horror sequel: fiction.
7. **Still Life with Woodpecker**, by Tom Robbins. (Bantam, \$6.95.) A sort of a love story.
8. **Shibumi**, by Trevanian. (Ballantine, \$2.95.) Intrigues of the perfect assassin and perfect lover: fiction.
9. **The Great Shark Hunt**, by Hunter S. Thompson. (Popular Library, \$3.50.) Roasting of America's seamy side.
10. **What Color is Your Parachute?**, by Richard N. Bolles. (Ten Speed Press, \$5.95.) Career and job guidebook.

Compiled by *The Chronicle of Higher Education* from information supplied by college stores throughout the country, October 6, 1980.

New & Recommended

Been in the Storm too Long, by Leon F. Litwack. (Vintage, \$7.95.) Meaning of freedom to emancipated Southern blacks.

Cannibals and Missionaries, by Mary McCarthy. (Avon, \$2.75.) Insights on terrorism aboard hijacked airplane.

Double, Double, Oil and Trouble, by Emma Latham. (Pocket, \$2.50.) New York banker-detective foils oil caper.

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