

Robin Trower carrying on power-group tradition

By WILLIAM A. KIMMONS
Gamecock Staff Writer

Hard rock is said to be dying in the '70's. The great power groups of the 1960's--Jimi Hendrix Experience, Cream, Iron Butterfly, Byrds--seem to have no counterparts in this decade. Granted, Led Zeppelin, Z. Z. Top and Jefferson Starship are turning out good material, but no one group has affected the total music scene as in the yesterdays gone by.

FEAR NOT, though, for heavy fans have a savior: a new super group. (I say new, but hard rock addicts have known about them for at least a year.)

The drummer's name is Reg Isidore. His beat is as heavy as Corky Laing's and as versatile as Carmine Appice's. Just as he is the heart of the group, James Dewar's bass is the soul. The ingenuity of Jack Bruce and the sheer power of the late Berry Oakly are combined in the style of Dewar. It is appropriate that the name of the group and the name of its lead guitarist are the same--Robin Trower.

Trower has come a long way since his days with Procol Marum. His solos are as inventive as those of Hendrix, and his melodies and rhythms rival the Clapton of old. Dewar's vocals are his own, and his powerful versatility adds the final touch to a musically sound group.

Robin Trower released an album in summer 1974. *Bridge of Sighs* and sold well, but the general music public was unaware because radio stations never played cuts from the album. But those who bought *Bridge of Sighs* got their money's worth. Choice cuts from it are *Lady Love*, *Day of the Eagle*, *Too Rolling Stoned* and the title track.

Obviously, the record company got their money's worth, too, for about six months later *For Earth Below* was released. Like its predecessor, the new album was a splendid mixture of heavy rock and

blues. Its *Only Money* and the title track feature Dewar's excellent blues vocals. But the highlight of the album is Trower's guitar work on *A Tale Untold*, easily the best track.

Twice Removed From Yesterday was originally released in 1973, and to those who are really into music it's old. But most stores have just started carrying it, so it's new to many. If you missed it the first time, get it this time because this is head at its finest. To get the most of it, use your head phones.

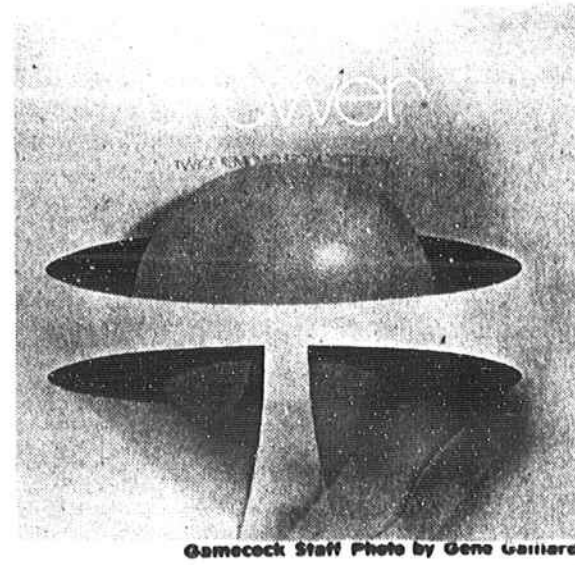
I Can't Wait Much Longer is the opener, and it's a typical blues song. The emphasis is on the lyrics, with Trower's solo as an accent instead of the highlight. Another blues number, *Daydream*, follows. It is an easy one but Trower is superb in the breaks. Hannah begins with an explosion. Truly it's a love song, though. It travels the route from blues to rock and back to blues. And just when you think it's over, the best part begins--a scorching guitar solo backed by a heavy bass line and perfect drum accompaniment. This is side one's best cut.

Side two begins with *I Can't Stand It*. It's just good ole foot stompin' rock, but the lyrics are good, too. You will probably catch your head rockin' to *Rock Me, Baby*. But do not overlook Trower's guitar work.

The best track on the album is *Sinner's Song*. It opens heavy and progressively gets stronger. The bass line is dynamic, and Trower's lead is electric. This is one of the best heavy songs of the '70s. *Ballerina* seems at first to be an anti-climax, but you're going to need it.

Twice Removed From Yesterday, the title cut, will echo across your head. But if you listen closely, it will echo in your mind, too. It's the story of a search for something to believe in.

This album has to be considered one of the year's best hard rock offerings, if not the best. And happily there is hope of more to come: "... I ain't quitting, I just begun..."



The jacket cover from Robin Trower's 'Twice Removed from Yesterday.'

Gamecock Staff Photo by Gene Caniere

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GRAIL

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dead serious. All the social comment in *Holy Grail* is as zany handled as the rest of the film. Perhaps Brooks gets his point across by interrupting the action with a note of seriousness, but it is hard to get the audience back into hysterical laughter. *Holy Grail* does not rest for a moment, and the social messages are still conveyed.

The film's structure, while it has no particular plot direction, is highly controlled. It is done in story-book fashion with a hand turning the pages at each chapter. Even this cliché is satirical, in a wonderfully conceived gag you will have to see for yourself.

The film is not always as tasteful as Walt Disney, so if you are easily offended, be warned.

It ends today, but will return at another theatre in Columbia next month. In October there will be another Monty Python film to look forward to, *And Now For Something Completely Different*.

FILMS

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performances are superb, as would be expected, and the production quality is superb. Richland Mall 2. ★ ★ ★ ★

AIRPORT 75 Linda Blair is being transported to Los Angeles on a stretcher by plane for an emergency kidney transplant. She just happens to bring along her guitar. Nun Helen Reddy borrows the guitar and sings to Linda, assuring her that everything will be alright. Then a private plane collides with their 747. Even though it sounds like it, this is not a comedy. It is the worst of the disaster films (and that is really bad). Charlton Heston swings to the rescue a la Errol Flynn and Karen Black, the stewardess, gets to fly the damaged plane. The remaining cast of big names are just as ludicrous as the film itself. Carolina. ★

AMARCORD This film by Federico Fellini is a filmic autobiography of his early life. Beautifully photographed and conceived, this drama with comedy has been hailed by the critics and won the Academy Award for Best Foreign Film. Late Shows only at Jefferson Square, Friday and Saturday, Sept. 19 & 20.

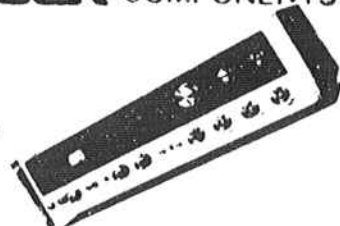
HENNESSY Rod Steiger and Lee Remick star in this highly entertaining and suspenseful thriller that deals with an assassination plot to kill the Queen of England. Director Don Sharp has shrewdly shot his film with slightly grainy stock and poor camera work, so that he can incorporate authentic newsreel footage of the Queen. This makes the film very realistic and believable. Similar in approach to *Day of the Jackal*. Miracle. ★ ★ ★

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