



ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

by Allen Jones

ROCKIE ROBBINS — SPECTRUM IN BLUE

If you look at the odds, Rockie Robbins should never have come to the attention of a major record label, much less sign a contract, and cut a debut album with a top notch production team like Richard Evans and Johnny Pate. But Rockie Robbins did pull all of this off and the product of his efforts, an infectious lp called "Rockie Robbins" is both a happy ending and a great beginning.

As of January 1979, recording was moving along smoothly. Robbins, Evans and Pate had cut tracks in Los Angeles and then headed toward Chicago's P.S. Studios to lay down the vocals. But fate had one more hurdle for Rockie to leap: somehow, between L.A. and Chicago, all but two of the masters were erased and Robbins found himself in the middle of one of the worst blizzards in history with virtually a whole album to do over. They started again and if anything, ended up more pleased with the second go-round than they were with the first.

It was pushing that little extra bit that brought Rockie to the studio in the first place. As a native of Minneapolis (a city not known for spawning new talent) with little formal training or experience, Robbins should have remained in the obscurity of the local club scene. But he went for the long shot: He abandoned a secure, lucrative position with Munsingwear to front a series of bands. The advent of disco dried up local gigs for performing groups and so, rolling the big dice, he decided to take out a second mortgage on his house to finance a last ditch demo tape. Rockie remembers the decision, "My wife and I sat down and I said, 'This is the story: Either we make one last effort to do the thing or we say it beat us.'"

Once the self-produced tape was finished, they simply mailed it to record companies and waited. Only an innocent with an unshakable belief in his own talent would think this approach would have any chance of success. But, like the plot of a forties movie, the tape was heard by responsible ears. Ron Moss of A&M's A&R department listened to it, placed a call to Minneapolis and two short months later Robbins signed his name to a contract.

Johnny Pate, who arranged Peabo Bryson's album, was brought in to arrange and co-produce with Evans. Robbins described the album they made as "a different kind of love album," but even that classification falls short of the mark. The songs, certainly, are about love but the intensity of Robbins' delivery coupled with the stylistic range he embraces makes it transcend any narrow definition. He wrote five of the nine tunes and the album flows effortlessly from ballad to funk to disco to reggae. From the irresistible throb of "Miss Dynamite" to the ethereal soulfulness of "Be Ever Wonderful," Rockie displays an emotional commitment rarely heard. Again and again, he challenges his voice and extraordinarily smooth range with nary a false step or easy slide out.

The natives call Minnesota "cold country" and perhaps it took a frigid environment to produce a singer who can turn on the heat like Rockie Robbins. Why don't you put on your asbestos gloves, place his record on your turntable, and sit back — the warmth he generates will astound you.



"Reality" will be presented by students of Cleveland High School, the Cleveland Human Relations Singers, and community members, on May 10th, 11th and 12th at 7:30 p.m. at Cleveland. Entertainment will include scenes from "A Raisin in the Sun" and a fashion show.

Irvington plans parade, festival

"Super Saturday" is rapidly approaching for the Irvington School neighborhood.

The big event will feature a parade, displays, entertainment, music, food, games and much more.

With "Super Heroes" as its theme, the parade will kick-off the festivities, as it winds its way through the neighborhood. Students are encouraged to dress-up in costumes, and if they don't have costumes a special face-painting session at 11:00 a.m. is planned. The parade begins at 11:45 a.m., forming at the Irvington covered play area.

Irvington's drill team will lead the

parade, which sponsors report will also feature "a few surprise guests." Costumed and face-painted kids with decorated bikes, wagons, skateboards and anything else the "kids can dream up" will be included in the parade lineup.

There is a serious side to the "Super Saturday" as well. The City Crime Prevention Unit will send officers to the school that day to register and engrave bicycles to reduce the chance of theft.

This is the second annual "Super Saturday" and school principal Frank Haight says it is intended to be "an outdoor (keeping his fingers crossed) spring festival."

Planning for the event is being led by the Irvington Community School as a neighborhood celebration. "Food and Fun" is the invitation being extended to all who wish to attend.

Irvington School is located at 1320 N.E. Brazee.

Adams presents musical 'Gypsy'

May 11th and 12th are the dates of the biggest production in Adams Performing Arts Department history, "Gypsy."

"Gypsy" is a musical based on the memoirs of Gypsy Rose Lee, a famous strip-teaser of the 1930's. The performance begins with her childhood as a vaudeville performer and continues through her eventual stardom as a strip-tease artist.

Sharon Eshoo will play the part of Louise, who later changed her name to Gypsy Rose Lee. The lead role, however, is the part of Rose, Louise's domineering stage mother, who will be played by Julianne Johnson.

During the two-and-a-half hour production, Rose is in all but one scene and sings seven of the fifteen songs.

The leading male role went to first year drama and music student Cleveland Haynes, a senior. Haynes plays the part of Herbie, an agent who falls in love with Rose.

Though Eshoo has had a number of different roles since her freshman year, the biggest was in last fall's production of "The Glass Menagerie" when she played Amanda.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The City is currently seeking minority representation for its Economic Development Advisory Committee. The Committee is responsible for overseeing the City's economic development program which focuses on creating jobs for City residents and assisting in-city businesses. The person should be willing to attend meetings on a regular basis and commit whatever time is necessary to accomplish important work activities. A background in business is desired, but not required. To make a recommendation, or to apply in person, submit the request in writing to Eric Hovee, Office of Planning and Development, 620 S.W. 5th Avenue, Room 610, Portland, Oregon, 97204, by Friday, May 18.

Fred's Place

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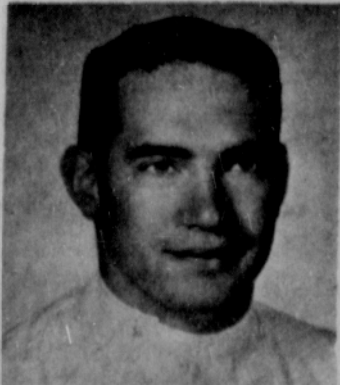
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MAY 1979

EXODUS GROWS

Reports its Director Rosalie Boothe

1. EXODUS is implementing Portland's first community-based Youth Theatre Alcohol Awareness Project, this project is funded by the Department of Labor.
2. EXODUS through its community Advisory Council will implement the "EXODUS Forum", which is an information sharing service to the community. The first forum presentation will be held at 12:30 p.m., May 17, 1979 at EXODUS Day-Treatment Center.
3. EXODUS has also grown to develop the "EXODUS Women Forum" which is composed of women in treatment of alcoholism, from care units, Portland hospitals, institutions, educational centers and agencies.
4. EXODUS graduated its third class on the "Triple R Concept" (Rights, Respect and Responsibility concept), April 7, 1979.

EXODUS is fast becoming an important service center to our community. With nearly 400 clients, and employing 16 full-time employees.