



Tracking Down David's Greatest Hits continued

slightly brash, insistent beat of "Doesn't Somebody . . ." precisely represents the pre-programmed musical predictability that David's been striving to break away from during the last couple of years. It would have been interesting to have his private opinion of this choice from "Up To Date" (now, ironically, a very dated record). Might he perhaps have preferred say—"Lay It On The Line", which would at least have had the additional merit of reminding us of one of his earlier ventures into song-writing?

DYNAMIC

Now, I have just mentioned David's own opinion; but it may surprise you to know that he was *never* consulted on the matter of selecting the tracks for this latest album. Bell Records in the States took total responsibility. Well, fair enough: they were issuing the record. But it might have been nice just to ask David if he had any special favourites that he'd like included. Don't you agree? After all, he's the guy who does the singing and makes the whole thing possible! And I'm sure that, if he'd had a hand in choosing the numbers to be included, the record would have had an extra appeal for his fans and would have made more sense altogether.

Of course, I'm not suggesting that David violently disapproves of the choices made or that he's going to waste his time getting upset over the business. . . . In fact, I reckon that, if he'd been made personally responsible for this release, he might well have come up with many of the same songs—especially the ones that represent his more recent output.

"If I Didn't Care", for instance, which is so obviously, as David himself has said: "a song I had a special feel for". His husky, deliciously sexy voice just melts into the rhythm and makes the total "feel" of the number so relaxed and right. And it was with this song that David first came on to the production side, although he'd been toying with the idea for quite a while before that. He'd just been waiting for "a song I specially wanted to do", and "If I Didn't Care" fitted the bill perfectly!

So, all in all, this is a track that holds a lot of threads for David. "Please Please Me" is another. 'Cos, as almost everybody must know by now, David has admired—even idolised—the Beatles since way back in his high school days. He's always enjoyed their music and recognised the tremendous debt that all pop since has owed them. So it was a big moment for David when he actually came to record some of their material himself.

With "Please Please Me" he picked a winner and came up with a voice to match! Suddenly he shifts over to a vibrant, gravelly vocal quality, which makes this number one of the most dynamic he's done so far. It's nice, too, that it's

presented live. . . . As one of David's biggest concert hits, especially down under, this seems appropriate and there's certainly no denying that the ecstatic audience screams in the background add to the excitement in a big way. Personally, I must admit that I'd have liked to see more songs of this calibre on his "Greatest Hits" album—songs like "Day-dreamer", where he's performing the kind of music he likes to do and where he's really using his talents fully instead of having to hold back and retain an adolescent vocal tone and delivery which he'd actually outgrown long before.

YOUR VIEWS

Still, I accept that it was only right to aim for a balance of time scale as well as mood on a record like this. So I'd certainly want some of those earlier numbers included. My argument is simply that the balance has gone wrong and we're given too much of the early stuff.

What do you think? You may have your own favourite tracks which have been omitted; on the other hand you may agree with Bell and reckon that they've achieved a perfect selection of David's hits past and present. . . .

After all, I guess it's easier to get hold of David's later material and they may have been bearing this in mind, thinking of all the folks who must've missed the boat first time round and want to catch up as far as possible now.

Let us know your views on this, won't you? At least you'll be one up on David—he was never asked!