

MADONNA

SINGLES SELLING ARTIST OF THE YEAR (SIRE)

Madonna Louise Ciccone - the hottest star since the days of Marilyn Monroe. If one artist dominated the media in 1985 it was certainly Madonna; she was a favourite subject for gossip columns, look-a-like Madonnas popped up all over the world and radio stations and discos endlessly played all the different Madonna singles. Some have doubted her musical qualities, although many, after seeing her perform at Live-Aid and those that were lucky enough to catch her in the Virgin Tour, have to admit she is not a mere fashion doll; she knows exactly what she wants and is able to find the right balance between her image and her music.



1985 is marked as the year when the Madonna mania was infecting Europe in every possible way. She collected no less than six European Top 10 singles of which 2 went to no. 1 and she still had 2 others in the Top 30. The *Like A Virgin* album yielded 5 hit singles and she scored another 2 with her contributions to the Vision Quest soundtrack (on Geffen). This obviously makes her the artist with the most charted hit singles in 1 year.

Like A Virgin, the first single, went to no.1 and stayed there for 5 consecutive weeks and *Material Girl*, the follow-up, reached a highest position of no. 6 in the European Hot 100, staying for 4 weeks in the Top 10. But the real contagiousness began on August 23rd when *Into The Groove* (an original b-side of *Angel*) entered the UK charts at 4, which was the highest debuting single for any female artist in the history of the English charts and it was also WEA's fastest selling single in the last 5 years. One week later 'Groove' jumped to the top (in its 2nd week!) and the re-released *Holiday* followed at 2.

Also in Europe Madonna's records were dominating the charts. 'Groove' even went to no. 1 in the Hot 100 and *Gambler*, *Crazy For You* (the 2 Vision Quest singles) and *Dress You Up* all entered Top 10. The other singles were 'less' successful. *Angel* and *Holiday* reached highest positions of 14 and 31 in the Hot 100 respectively.

You want us to go on? On the album front she also reached spectacular numbers, the Virgin album sold well over 2 million copies in Europe and over 7 million worldwide.

The world belongs to Madonna and its inhabitants can only patiently wait and see what her next move will be.

TALKING HEADS

ARTIST OF THE YEAR (AUDIO/VISUAL) (EMI)

All who have seen Talking Head's *Road To Nowhere* cannot fail to be stunned by the sheer visual brilliance of the superbly compiled, surrealistic video. The ever-present running legs motif is interspersed with a comic summary of life, from birth to old age, together with a powerful Dali-esque vision of semi-madness and fantasy.

The video highlights the interest of each individual band member in films as a form of media. Beyond some experience in editing videos, David Byrne has always been fascinated by films and is currently involved in a full-length feature, *True Stories*. Chris Frantz and Tina Weymouth are working on a soundtrack for a different production.

The making of their videos, just as the designing of their record sleeves, is inseparable from the groups conception of their music as an art form. The cover of *Little Creatures*, for example, shows an original piece of artwork painted by the rev. Howard Finster (a religious leader from Georgia who paints pictures with an esoteric significance). Similarly, various paintings owned by the group were used as covers for their singles, hence illustrating the strong visual connection between their music and various forms of artwork.

Road To Nowhere is by no means the only example of their highly creative synergy between their recordings and ideas. One of the most successful commercial concert films, *Stop Making Sense*, was last year released, directed by Jonathan Demme. It received the National Society of Film critics award for best documentary of 1984. Byrne said of the film: "the visual elements in the staging, the costumes and the music, it seemed to be a culmination of sorts."

On the record side of things, the Talking Heads album was one of the most commercial LP's they've ever released. It marked a dramatic change of style. Where they were

formerly involved in the mixing of African dance rhythms with that of urban funk, the band has now shifted to a more traditional way of songwriting. Their 7th LP has made them the least predictable band in today's popmusic. *Little Creatures* contains very accessible pop melodies and even some C&W material. As Byrne put it: "The album is a bunch of nice songs. Maybe I've gone the long way around and come to accept almost the conventional song structure as a valid way of working". Continued on Page ► 21

David Byrne surrounded by the surrealistic imagery in the video of *Road To Nowhere*.

