

# Critic's Corner

by Stanley Brooks

*Labelle*

Labelle needs no introduction because they are the only black, female recording group to go beyond mediocrity to express their views on life, love, and politics.

On "Chameleon," Labelle revives the spirit, drive and dedication expressed so masterfully on the "Nightbirds" lp. Chameleon has great songs and the best singing by any female group in quite a while. However, it is the songs that make the album.

All the songs are long, averaging four minutes, but the vast majority of the songs are enhanced by the extensions. Four of the six best cuts are Nona Hendryx originals. These include "Who's Watching the Watcher," "Come into my Life," "Chameleon," and the sensual "Going Down Makes Me Shiver."

The two most outstanding non-Hendryx tunes are Joe Crane's "Get You Somebody New" and Randy Edelman's "Isn't It a Shame." These two cuts, like all the rest, are sung with a restrained but electric energy that is uniquely Labelle. This is a good one by the best vocal trio around.

*Jermaine Jackson*

For those who have not heard, Jermaine Jackson is no longer a member of the Jackson 5 musical group. He, unlike the rest of his musical family, decided to remain at Motown Records when Columbia-Epic enticed them late last year with lots of money.

Although he has played and sung for years, "My Name is Jermaine," signals his debut as a solo performer. The album's executive producer is Berry Gordy and it is obvious that this lp is of major importance to the people at Motown.

The album itself contains songs of several musical veins. It includes light, contained disco, mellow ballads, love songs and even an instrumental.

Highlights on the album include his new single, "Let's Be Young Tonight." Other pieces are "Stay with Me," and "I Just Want to Take this Time." The most arresting piece on the album is "My Touch of Madness." Jermaine sings each song with conviction and feeling that transcend his youth.



... and there's more where these came from



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