

"Border Radio" soundtrack contains various tunes

By ALISON P. HOWARD
Special to the DTH

Say you're driving along the Mexican-U.S. border, and say you're listening to the radio. Well, chances are that you're listening to some border radio — stations broadcasting out of Tijuana or some other Mexican city, without FCC regulations.

Say you're not wandering around the south of Arizona, Texas, New Mexico or California, and say you're not driving around the north of Mexico. Well, chances are that you're not listening to border radio. Until now. Now "Border Radio" is a movie complete with a stunning soundtrack.

Dave Alvin is at the center of the music, but many other L.A. luminaries join him. They include: former fellow Blasters, Bill Bateman and John Bazz; Chris D. of the Divine Horsemen; John Doe and D.J. Bonebrake of X; The Tonys; The Lazy Cowgirls; Green on Red; and David Hidalgo and Steve Berlin of Los Lobos (I figure that makes them Dos Lobos).

The album opens with the Tonys doing a song Dave Alvin wrote (and one that he performs on his new LP, "Romeo's Escape"), called "Border Radio." It's a cowpoke-y definition of border radio ("Fifty-thousand watts out of Mexico, this is the border radio"). Then the soundtrack moves into one of many instrumentals, all great. "La Frontera I" and "La Frontera II" are hauntingly eerie guitar pieces. The same is true for "Burning Guitar," a song that conjures up visions of a drive down a desert highway at 4:30 in the morning, when only the jackrabbits and the coyotes are awake.

"Mi Vida Loca (Acoustic)" is a lovely, lulling south of the border kind of tune. "Mi Vida Loca (Border Radio Theme)," another Alvin composition, carries on the Mexican influence with a Tex-Mex accordion bouncing along

with a raw-sounding guitar.

X's John Doe joins Alvin for "Little Honey," a much slower and more laid-back version of a song that appeared on X's Ain't Love Grand. This one's a real country crooner. A twangy tears-in-beers-and-soggy-pretzels kind of ballad. "Cause you know I care, but what can I do? Sit here waiting by the side of the road, sit here waiting till you come home alone," and "I ain't looking for a fight, little honey, are you going out tonight?" Really great.

Away from the ballads and into the rougher stuff, The Lazy Cowgirls' "Drugs" is a manic, searing song off the debut from these Hoosier immigrants to Los Angeles. Green on Red got to L.A. by way of Tuscon, Arizona. Their contribution to the soundtrack is the heavy rocker "Sixteen Ways" from their album "GasFoodLodging." L.A. scenester Chris D. adds his raspy, mournful vocals with "Lily White Hands" from The Divine Horsemen's LP, "Time Stands Still."

But say you're not in the Southwest at all. Say you're in the Northeast. This little cross-country excursion will take you to Rhode Island and the Rhode Island School of Design where Pianosaur was formed in 1981. "Groovy Neighborhood" is their debut album. What's groovy in this neighborhood is that they all use toy instruments and nothing but toy instruments — a plastic Carnival Deluxe Western guitar and Pop-Rock amplifier, a 25-key Schoenhut toy piano and a couple of toy drum sets (Smurfs or Fraggie Rock, of course).

The fun begins with "Thriftshoppin," an uptempo ode to thrift stores. "Thriftshoppin" is sweeping the nation. Everybody get hip to the shopping sensation. I've got a friend who doesn't wash his clothes; when they get dirty he goes to the thrift store." Really the only thing that

gives them away is Bianca Miller's tellingly plunky piano.

Alex Garvin, the leader of the group (or is that leader of the club?), is a native of New York City, and he returns to Greenwich Village in "The Speakeasy Song," a folksy Village scene tune.

On the import release of this album, the band covers The Box Tops' hit "The Letter." And on this release they do a light ode to their hero, Alex Chilton, in "Sun Will Follow."

But it's on the rootsy pop rocker "Bubble Gum Music" that the band really tells all in a tribute to Saturday morning television, circa Josie and the Pussycats and pre-Pound Puppies. "When I was just a little boy I watched The 'B' Splits on TV," confesses Garvin. "Well, some people say that it's just junk, but I think that it's OK. Now I've grown up, I've got a band of my own, and this is what we play: bubble gum music."

And, in a plaintive voice and a thoughtful mood Kermit would be proud of, there is "Cherry Street." Pianosaur also recalls Petula Clark's 1965 classic, "Downtown," when they do "Going Downtown." "All I know is I'm going downtown where I don't get pushed around by social climbers who think they're hot stuff. Nothing's gonna stop this train, and nothing can stop me."

Pianosaur hits the rough edge with "Ready to Rock," a Berry-esque

rocker. This is what Jerry Lee Lewis would sound like on a 25-key toy piano. They even cover Chuck Berry's "Memphis," as raunchy as a toy guitar can get. Then they hit the blues with a cover of John Lee Hooker's

"Dimples."

Peter Holsapple, of the dBs, produced the album to capture what he calls the "wall of toys" sound that is on "Groovy Neighborhood" and in a cover of John Lee Hooker's "Toys-R-Us."

YOU'LL BE ON THE EDGE OF YOUR SEAT.

"AN ELECTRIFYING THRILLER that keeps you on the edge of your seat."

—Marion Dodd, CKVU-TV, VANCOUVER

Fatal Attraction
A terrifying love story.
A PARAMOUNT PICTURE

R **STARTS TOMORROW!**

Ram Triple 967-8284
NCNB PLAZA

MOLLY RINGWALD ROBERT DOWNEY

The Pick-up Artist
...has finally met his match!

PG-13 ©1987 TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX FILM CORPORATION

STARTS TOMORROW AT

Ram Triple 967-8284
NCNB PLAZA

JAMES BELUSHI LOUIS GOSSETT, JR.

The new principal and the head of security just might be crazy enough to turn things around.

THE PRINCIPAL

R RESTRICTED UNDER 17 REQUIRES ACCOMPANYING PARENT OR ADULT GUARDIAN DELPHI

STARTS TOMORROW AT

Ram Triple 967-8284
NCNB PLAZA

CHAPEL HILL PLAZA 3
ELLIOT ROAD at E. FRANKLIN
967-4737

\$2.50 TIL 9 PM ONLY • ALL DAY THEAT. (EXC. WEEKENDS)

Dennis Quaid/Ellen Barkin
THE BIG EASY (R)
3:10 • 5:10 • 7:10 • 9:30

Richard Dreyfuss/Imilia Estevez
STAKEOUT (R)
3:45 • 5:00 • 7:15 • 9:30

In Dolby Stereo!
DIRTY DANCING (PG-13)
3:00 • 5:05 • 7:00 • 9:10

SHOW TIMES FOR TODAY ONLY!

MAGDALENA'S La Terraza
967-6247

Thurs. 17th
GRAMMY AWARD WINNER
Luther "GUITAR" Johnson

Fri. 18th
jumpin' johnny's blues party

Sat. 19th
the graphic

ALL ABC PERMITS
508 W. FRANKLIN ST.

EXTRA LATE SHOWS
EAST FRANKLIN 11:30 FRI. & SAT.

"HIGH CLASS LOU MEIN— WILDLY FUNNY!"

Juzo Itami's
Tampopo
THE FIRST JAPANESE NOODLE WESTERN

2:10 • 4:35
7:10 • 9:35

THE SUMMER'S BEST PICTURE

★★★★★

—GANNETT NEWS SERVICE
—Richard Freedman, NEWHOUSE NEWSPAPERS
—Bruce Williamson, PLAYBOY

"SENSATIONAL ONE OF MY FAVORITES THIS YEAR!"
—Gene Siskel, SISKEL & EBERT & THE MOVIES

JEAN de FLORETTE
YVES MONTAND GERARD DEPARDIEU DANIEL AUTEUIL
A FILM BY CLAUDE BERRI PG

2:00 • 4:25 • 7:00 • 9:25

It brings out the best in all of us.

United Way

It brings out the best in all of us.

United Way