

# FRAMPTON COMES ALIVE

by Neil Jacobsen

Peter Frampton has paid his dues. A stint with THE HERD, cofounder of HUMBLE PIE, and a fledging solo career have made him a name performer. With the release of FRAMPTON COMES ALIVE, he should attain the superstar status he so richly deserves.

The album fully captures the dynamic performance delivered by Frampton onstage. Particular not should be given to the recording locations used for this double, live album set. San Francisco, San Rafael, Long Island and our own SUNY at Plattsburgh are given credit.

The album follows the basic pattern of the sold-out Frampton performance given here on November 22, 1975. Side one features the usual opening number, "Something's Happening." It is a fast paced number which sets the tone for the album. Also included on side 1 is "Doobie Wah," "Show Me The Way," and "It's A Plain Shame." On "Show Me The Way," Frampton initiates his creative use of the talk box. The talk box consists of tubes connected to the guitar and the use of the voice to create a varied sound. His adept handling of this instrument is only a preview of what is to prevail later in the album.

Side two starts acoustic and spotlights Frampton's vocals. The first three songs, "All I Want To Be Is By Your Side," "Wind of Change," "Baby I Love Your Way," are ballads and the feeling here is that this is Frampton's attempt as a singer-songwriter. The attempt is by no means feeble, yet does not showcase his most viable assets. Side two ends with some tasty electric guitar playing by Peter in "I Want To Go To The Sun."

After repeated listenings, Side three



sounds like the best bet to have been recorded at Plattsburgh. Opening with an intricate acoustic number entitled "Penny For Your Thoughts," Frampton lashes right into "Money," the most searing rocker on the album. Although the rhythm is basic, the twin guitar riffs creates an atmosphere of power. Bob Mayo on rhythm guitar compliments Frampton's adept lead, enhancing the overall sound. The standard encores of "Jumping Jack Flash," and "Shine On" (the Old Humble Pie Tune) followed. Both songs are classics and Frampton's renditions should please everybody.

Side four is by far the album's highpoint. "Lines on my Face" features the best combination of music and voice as well as the most piercing guitar playing on the album. That is only the beginning as the band jumps into the show stopper, "Do You Feel Like We Do." The band, consisting of Bob Mayo on piano and rhythm guitar, Stanley Sheldon on bass and John Siomos on drums all individually stand out as well as mesh together to produce the most exhilarating sound heard on the album. Here Frampton elaborates on his use of the talkbox. Some of his most creative work is done with this device. During the song he devotes an extended period of time to experiment with the talkbox and the audience reaction is ecstatic. A rousing finish on "Do You Feel Like We Do," closes out the album.

With the release of FRAMPTON COMES ALIVE, the true spirit of Peter Frampton, as well as a sell out group of Plattsburgh students, is captured and immortalized on vinyl.