



Sunseed

... saga of journey to self-awareness

The emergence of a varied and major spiritual movement in the United States has been a phenomenon without real precedent in our history. The sudden yearnings of the West for the spiritual teachings and wisdom of the East have put many on a search for their own guru. SUNSEED is the first feature film which provides a fascinating overview of the many approaches that are available, introducing us to ten influential and respected spiritual teachers: Swami Satchidananda, Baba Ram Dass, Murshid Smauel L. Lewis, Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach, Swami Muktananda, Yogi Bhaajan, Lama Anagarika Govinda, Sri Bhagavan, Maharaji Virsa Singh, and Pir Vilayat Inayat Khan. From Yoga, Tibetan, Buddhism, to suffism, these teachers give us their own personal approaches to spiritual enlightenment beautifully shot in America, Israel, Persia and India by Baird Bryant and Robert Frank. SUNSEED is an instructive and often exhilarating document on the differences and similarities of these various spiritual paths.

Aug. 27, 28 & 29 — Tues., Wed & Thurs.

Screenings at 3, 7 & 9 p.m.

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Scott Joplin records flood album market

One of the side effects of the immense popularity of Universal Pictures' *The Sting* has been the sudden popularization of orchestrated versions of Scott Joplin's piano rags. Angel Records leads the field at the moment with no less than three Joplin discs on the market, as well as disc of various rags by Joplin, Eubie Blake, and Harry Guy played on a theater organ, all of which lead the company to proudly announce on a promotional poster that they feature "All the Joplin You Need."

Angel's Joplin releases began with *The Red Back Book*, featuring authentic turn-of-the-century orchestrations of Joplin's songs. Played with a controlled verve by the New England Conservatory Ragtime Ensemble, this collection was a thoughtfully produced gem that produced a clean sound while steering clear of the foreign influences that infected ragtime music throughout the '20s and '30s.

David Ware omelet

After the release of *The Sting*, Angel issued yet another Joplin album, *The Palm Leaf Rag*, featuring a group of excellent studio musicians calling themselves *The Southland Stingers*. This disc also met with popular success as well as critical kudos for the careful orchestrations of George Sponhaltz, which compared favorably to those of *The Red Back Book*. Marked by

However, with the release of their third Joplin collection, *Magnetic Rag*, Angel and the Southland Stingers would seem to have taken a small step to the rear. While this album still boasts the fine playing of the Stingers, and imparts a warm turn-of-the-century, good-times feeling, it lacks the brilliance of the prior releases, and instead leaves a slightly faded flavor behind it.

Part of the fault may be laid at the door of George Sponhaltz, who again serves as arranger and producer, and who has failed to achieve the innocent freshness that characterized *The Palm Leaf Rag*. While most of *Magnetic Rag* is of high quality, from time to time, brief echoes of '20s and '30s-style rag creep in, detracting from the purity of the whole. Another distraction is the unfortunate amount of surface noise, which has usually been relatively absent from Angel pressings. However, *Magnetic Rag's* greatest fault lies not in itself, but rather in its timing. Its release is obviously meant to cash in on the current demand for Joplin's music before the trend burns itself out, and it is this commercial attitude on the part of Angel that casts a pall over what is, in many respects, a perfectly acceptable album.

TYPING ERRORS



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