

Wall of Voodoo's album creates unusual music

By Stephanie Zink
Daily Nebraskan Staff Writer

Yet another "greatest hits" compilation has been released by a band who is too young to have a greatest hits album.

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Granma's House (IRS) contains what American folk legend Wall of Voodoo is — cosmic synthesizer and quirky guitar gone south of the border.

This is what "new music" is all about—recycling old music in new and creative ways. In Wall of Voodoo's case, it's traditional Mexican music thrown in with electric guitars and synthesizer. All of this combines to create interesting new concepts in music. Unusual perhaps, but interesting.

Record Review

This album contains all of the classics, including "Call of the West" and "On Interstate 15," an instrumental. Also included are Wall of Voodoo's two best known and best like songs, "Ring of Fire" and "Mexican Radio" — remember the bizarre video with a band member's head in a pot of beans.

Bizarre is what this band is all about and that strangeness comes through on Stan Ridgeway's vocals. On songs such as "Red Light," his urgency is transported with his

sharp, eerie voice. The rest of the band helps Ridgeway with their off-key, almost spook-house approach to playing.

Wall of Voodoo started out in Los Angeles with Ridgeway (vocals, keyboard) and Marc Moreland (guitar) as the Film Soundtrack Co. Their one project was recording a version of the Marlboro theme — (Magnificent Seven) — for an American Cancer Society television ad. They soon changed their name and added Bruce Moreland (bass, keyboard), who later left the band, Chas Grey (synthesizer, bass, and vocals) and Joe Nanini (drums, vocals).

Supposedly the band is still together minus Ridgeway, who now is working on an upcoming solo album and possibly other movie soundtracks. His previous solo project was with Steward Copeland of the Police for the Rumble Fish soundtrack.

But with Ridgeway gone, the band's music just won't be the same without his hilarious talk-singing.

Granma's House was, strangely enough, released in the United Kingdom, where they wonder what the big deal is about. If they only knew what they were missing.

Shorts

Veteran journalist Jeff Jordan will be the new moderator as the Nebraska Educational Television Network's public affairs series "Dateline Nebraska" begins its 13th season Oct. 3 at 6:30 p.m.

Jordan is a former columnist for the Omaha World-Herald, news editor for Cable News Inc. and newscaster for Omaha television station KMTV. He was selected by audition from 100 applicants, according to series producer Martin Buchsbaum.

"Jeff was hired because of his broadcasting experience at KMTV, he has worked in various on-air capacities for WMAQ-TV and WGN Radio and TV, both in Chicago; WTMJ-TV, Milwaukee; KUTV, Salt Lake City; KOA-TV, Denver; and KDKA-TV, Pittsburgh. He currently has a communications consulting firm in Omaha.

"Dateline Nebraska" is a weekly program featuring national and local newsmakers interviewed by a panel of journalists. October's programs will feature interviews with each of the candidates for the state's congressional districts.

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