

NICK JONES ON THE NEW HENDRIX LP

THE Rolling Stones have successfully produced a three dimensional album cover but Jimi Hendrix will zap you giddy with his three dimensional music.

Zap, zap, zap. Jimi Hendrix, Noel Redding, Mitch Mitchell. Zap, zap, zap. Zap me three times, baby.

And zap Father Christmas too with this beautiful new album from the Jimi Hendrix Experience called "Axis: Bold As Love," released this month on the Track label. It's too much. Amaze your ears, boggle your mind, flip your lid, do what you want but please get into Hendrix like you never have before—it's just too much.

"It's made with stereo in mind," said Jimi this week talking about everything revolving around his axis, "and I hope everybody can dig it in stereo because that's what it's all about. The album was made over a period of sixteen days and we all helped in producing it with Chas Chandler, and I mixed it with him as well—so it really is us."

Most of the tracks feature a basic rhythm track of Jimi on guitar, Noel on bass, and Mitch on drums. Then over this Jimi lays down an intertwining, often very freaky electronic guitar track—occasionally some extra eight-string bass and then high little tints of bells and taps and things.

"We've tried to get most of the freaky tracks right into another dimension," explained Jimi, "so you get that sky effect like they're coming down out of the heavens, you know."

And, wow, it's all succeeded, "EXP" zaps the album off, panning right across the wide stereo picture like a soaring, diving UFO—which is what the track's about. It's just guitar and Mitch and Noel playing basses. This striking, frightening piece of cosmic composing is followed by "Up From The Skies," a soft, gliding jazzy piece of velvet.

WITH JIMI, THE MUSIC IS 3-D!

"Thanks to Mitch for the jazz," says Jimi. "It's the story of a guy who's been on earth before but on a different turning of the axis—and now he's come back to find this scene happening."

On the romping, beautiful "Spanish Castle Magic" is the old roaring Hendrix making it like the world was going to end tomorrow. Mitch flies right across the beat, flicking in some incredible little scenes, Jimi hammers out piano off-beats and there's a fine rock 'n' roll combination set up, as the Hendrix trail burns like dynamite.

Mitch and Noel can be heard singing on "Wait Until Tomorrow" and Jimi says you can probably get the story of that one.

"Ain't No Telling" is a pretty straightforward typically Hendrix groover, followed by "Little Wing," one of the most beautiful tracks on the album. "I dig writing slow songs because I find it's easier to get more blues and feeling into them."

Side one ends with "If Six Was Nine." "This means that it really doesn't matter if anything is upside down as long as it doesn't bother you, and you can cope with it. This is one of the numbers we made about nine months ago. Gary Leeds and Graham Nash did

some foot stomping and that's me on the flute."

Side two of the axis is possibly the more explosive side—if only because of "Bold As Love," the mind-blowing title track. Before that, however, goes numbers like "You Got Me Floating" with reverse guitars spinning backwards, music boxes tinkling, and generally a lot of very truthful and honest soul sounds.

"She's So Fine" sees the emergence of Noel as a songwriter on a great English rock sound supercharged as ever by the amazing Hendrix. "One Rainy Wish" sees Jimi playing through something made by his friend Roger giving his guitar a muffled, sometimes flute-like sound as the notes clash with the octave.

"Little Miss Lover" is a strong, building screecher leading beautifully into "Bold As Love" which is the culmination of all Jimi's blues, all his soul, all his urging, all his crying, all his shouting, all his grooving, all his feeling into them.

And is the final stirring, majestic entrance and ending of "Axis: Bold As Love" worth reflecting on as Mitch's drums leap across the room, Noel calmly thunders out deep cannon shots of sound and Jimi just soars up through the clouds, astride his magical guitar.

