PAGE 7 MUSIC SPOTLIGHT: Pet Shop In 1986, a new U.K. duo the results are stunning. Wonderland by Earth, released in Britain on Epic studio to cut Opportunities Five in 13 additional

took the American airtunes, together with their platinum debut LP Please, and across Europe.

Singer Neil Tennant Lowe comprise this innovative duo. Combining (not to mention witty, socially conscious lyrics), the Pet Shop Boys make music for the body and the mind. They've just released their second Lp. actually.

We wanted to make all hard this time, says Tennant. The sound is bigger on this album, but in some Cuts such as One More Chance, Heart, and Shopping are some of the the duo give their grooves a twist, overlaying bittersweet melodies on top example here is It's A Sin, already a Number One single in Britain and seven

waves by storm with two and instrumental textures, ed us. Tennant says). brilliantly crafted, in- there's a great deal going escapably danceable hits, on lyrically throughout Ac- nant and Blackpool-born tion, but legal hassles West End Girls and Op-tually. Shopping is about portunities (Let's Make how England is selling off Lots Of Money). These the nationalized industries, Tennant explains. It's part of a political trend towards established the Pet Shop selfishness in Britain and, Boys in a big way. Their perhaps, in the U.S. as success in the States con- well. The song is an ironic tinued a wave of populari- look at this, where I'm ty which had already singing as if I were a made them stars in Britain stockbroker buying and selling.

Another track, King's and keyboardist Chris Cross, deals with London's darker side: King's Cross is a railway station sophisticated melodies where all the trains from with unrelenting grooves the northeast of England come. Around there you find a lot of down and out people, drug addicts, prostitutes. I'm using the place as a metaphor for all the people in our society who get kicked aside.

It Couldn't Happen Here the dance tracks quite also echoes these warnings of social callousness.

Tennant and Lowe collaborated with a diverse and impressive list of talents for the LP. It Couldn't Happen Here was co-written with renowned funkiest works by the Boys Italian film composer Ento date. As usual, though, nio (The Mission) Morricone. The song was arranged by Angelo Badalnementi, whose of throbbing tracks. A fine credits include the score for the acclaimed film Blue

Award-winning L.A.other European countries. based songwriter Allee We tried to make that one Willis co-wrote What Have as outrageous and over- I Done To Deserve This? the-top a production as we with the duo (we knew could, says Tennant-and she'd co-written Boogie

Beyond the rhythms Wind & Fire-that impress- in 1984. The tune gained

the newly-launched Pet Money). Newcastle-born Ten- Shop Boys some atten-

(Let's Make Lots Of countries.

Opportunities released in July '85. It was By the end of the year it produced by Nicholas had gone platinum in the from the Art Of Noise. yielding hits with a re-Even as the tune was be-recorded Opportunities, ing promoted, it became Suburbia and Love Comes apparent around London Quickly. that West End Girls remained a club favorite. have received award The Pet Shop Boys recut honors as well. West End the tune with Stephen Girls won a B.P.I. Award Hague producing, releas- (comparable to the U.S.'s ing it on Oct. 28.

It climbed the U.K. Year. charts to become the first Number One of 1986 mous international sucthere, eventually selling cess have come pleas for 700,000 copies in Britain. a concert tour. We're go-West End Girls went on to ing to do one, but not a repeat this chart-topping conventional rock tour, feat in the United States Tennant explains, We and six other countries, as hope to do it in the next well as entering the Top year or so.

March '86 saw the was release of the Please LP. Froome and JJ Jeczalik U.K. and the States

> The Pet Shop Boys Grammys) for Single of the

With the Boys' enor-

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Lowe began their musical slowed progress for a partnership after meeting time. in a King's Road music themselves from their conshop six years ago. A year tract with Orlando, the later Tennant became a Boys journalist; from 1982 Parlophone in '85 and through '85, he was on the hastened back into the staff of Smash Hits, Britain's most successful pop music magazine.

Lowe was a student architect with a yen to make music. The pair shared an enthusiasm for highenergy Euro-disco (particulary obscure Italian dance records).

After some initial collaborations by the duo, Tennant hunted down dance-record producer Bobby O Orlando while on a magazine assignment in New York. Orlando produced the first version of West End Girls, which was

· Gards

· Clocks

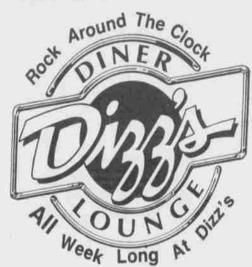
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