

# British band White Town brings back electro-pop days

By Brian J. Kuchar  
Staff A&E Writer

It's time to get retrospective! The days of **The Police**, **Depeche Mode**, and **Soft Cell** may seem like only yesterday. But fifteen years later, **White Town** has brought back the sounds of electro-pop.

*Woman In Technology* is the group's debut album in the U.S..

If you have heard the hit song "Your Woman" on the radio, you have experienced what White Town is all about. A complex blend of synthesizers, drum beats, and soft vocals are the trademarks of their style. It may sound as if White Town was created by a record company, which couldn't be further from the truth.

The group, formed in 1989, focuses on generating loud, alternative guitar sounds. Jyoti Mishra, the founder and only remaining member of the group, recalls the day when the band first formed.

"I remember hanging out with

my friends from university and thought that we could make a good band," said Mishra.

"In Britain I used to go to concerts put on by groups such as the **Pixies** and **My Bloody Valentine**. I decided that I wanted to form a group that would want to experiment in those areas."

Mishra said that once the band members graduated from college, they did not want to continue performing with White Town.

The departure of his bandmates did not stop the creativity of Mishra. Born in Rourkela, India, Mishra decided to recreate traditional musical styles from India and mix them with today's music.

After reaching success in the underground guitar world, Mishra decided to experiment with sample-based synthesizers.

"I felt it was time for me to do a pop album," Mishra said. "This music is what people can relate to. The more alternative stuff we were doing was not helping our career."

*Woman In Technology* portrays

their roots in the culture of underground Britain. Some of the tunes sound like Las Vegas lounge music.

The song that landed White Town an American recording contract was "Your Woman." It all started in the UK in December when Mishra sent out copies of the song to deejays in the UK. Influential deejay Mark Radcliff loved their music and played "Your Woman" several times a day on his hit radio show, "Radio One" in London.

"Your Woman" has a melancholic sound sample in the background that gives it a feel of the 1940s. The rhythm is reminiscent of a funeral march. While that sample is playing, Mishra's haunting vocals can be heard in the background. What makes the song even more difficult to understand are the perplexing lyrics.

"So much for your highbrow Marxist ways, Just use me up and then you walk away, boy you can't play me that way, Well I guess what

you say is true, I could never be the right kind of girl for you, I could never be your woman."

The lyrics explore many ideas. "The song is not about just any one thing," Mishra said. "The song does discuss the subject of sexuality however. I have received many E-mails from around the globe interpreting the song in many ways."

"One possible idea was of a man thinking what his girlfriend may be thinking. Another letter suggested that it is about a gay man who is a transvestite. There have been numerous interpretations of the song. I'm just happy that people can relate to it in their own ways."

Mishra discusses many other topics throughout the album.

In "Undressed," he describes a fantasy of getting undressed with a partner. Guitarist Robert Fleay adds more rhythm to this slow, meditative track.

Guest vocalist Ann Pearson adds a female perspective to Mishra's lyrics. In "Wanted," she leaves a solemn empty feeling in

the listener's stomach.

"But it's all the same, you'll never see me again, All I wanted was for you to see my face, but it's all the same, I'll never see you again."

Pearson contributes her vocals again on "Once I Flew." This song is a favorite of Mishra's. "This is one of my favorite songs on the album," Mishra explained. "I am very proud of the rest of the album, but this song is very personal to me."

The CD also includes innovative titles not found on other CD's. "The Function of an Orgasm" and "Theme For An Early Evening American Sitcom," are two of the strangest titles on the album. The songs are not as perplexing because they fall along the lines of traditional pop music.

*Woman in Technology* is an interesting twist on electro-pop. White Town's style cannot be clearly defined. If you are looking for some interesting new music, you must check this album out.

# Actor Tim Allen juggles his way to the 'Jungle'

By Brian J. Kuchar  
Staff A&E Writer

★★★

If you have children or find yourself at home babysitting someone else's children, go straight to your local theater and see **Jungle 2 Jungle**. The movie has enough laughs to keep your kids busy for hours. Despite some violent scenes, it is pure Disney fun for the whole family. This movie is the best date flick because of Tim Allen's charm.

His wit and sense of humor can be appreciated by adults and kids alike.

Allen doesn't stray far from his likable character in "Home Improvement." However he is a commodities broker this time, instead of tinkering with tools.

Allen's performance in the movie, wipes his 1995 **Santa Clause** effort off the floor.

He plays Michael Cromwell, a New York City businessman who is always cooped up in his work. Allen's hyperactive business partner Richard, played by Martin Short, plays his sidekick. Richard has to ask for Allen's approval in



Allen

making any business transactions.

At the beginning of the movie, Allen and Short attempt to buy and trade products at the stock market. Allen decides to buy shares of coffee, but Short is pessimistic about its prospects.

Immediately following the buy, Allen visits the airport to finalize a divorce to a woman who left him over 12 years ago.

In a remote village of the Amazon, Allen is taken to see his wife

who introduces him to a son he never knew he had! Allen then realizes she had left him because he was too preoccupied with his job.

He learns throughout this movie that family is always more important than a job.

This is a common theme in many Disney movies that grace theaters every month.

Meanwhile, Allen's character must also pace himself and learn to appreciate everything that's been taken for granted, like the breathtaking sight of the Statue of Liberty.

He must take more time off from the office to spend quality time with his family.

Short's character is similarly affected by the jungle boy. Instead of being wrapped up in office affairs, he devotes more attention to his family.

As a result, they grow closer through their interaction with Cromwell's son.

Of course there is comic action with crooks to overcome. A similar situation occurs in **Jungle 2 Jungle**, when a deal involving Allen and the Russian Mafia goes haywire.

Families must unite to defend themselves against such ruffians. They threaten lives, and there is a predictable outcome.

**Jungle 2 Jungle** can be compared to the 80s hit **Crocodile Dundee**. In that movie, Paul Hogan visits New York City, without much street-sense, much like an inexperienced Mimi-Siku (Sam Huntington) comes to the city after living in the jungle his entire life. Mimi-Siku is amazed by this "big jungle" with traffic lights and hot dog vendors.

Forced to keep a promise to his

son, Cromwell takes him to the United States to fulfill his rite of passage into manhood. During his son's stay, he learns what it really means to be an honest man, complete with a sense of obligation, patience, and an instinctual protective side.

Such passion is ironic because Mimi-Siku is much more capable of combatant survival than his father will ever be.

Meanwhile, Allen continues to provide family entertainment in every picture he makes.

"Home Improvement" will not last forever, so Allen must carve a niche in Hollywood to continue his hot career.

Hopefully he will star in more creative family films in the future. For the time being, **Jungle 2 Jungle** will provide laughs and fun for all. Don't forget to bring the kids though.

## MOVIE RATINGS

- ★ Poor
- ★★ Fair
- ★★★ Good
- ★★★★ Excellent

*'This movie is the best date flick because of Tim Allen's charm. His wit and sense of humor can be appreciated by adults and kids alike.'*

## CHINESE,

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grand style.

After the intermission, the orchestra piped two movements of "Spring Dreams" by Bright Sheng into the rafters, followed by Liu Tian Hua's "Light."

The night began with a command and ended with a battle. Jin Jian Shu's "Battle at the Golden Beach" used an assortment of percussion instruments to carry forth a message of conquering power.

Drums that were present early

in the night suddenly reappeared at the end and brought life to every orchestra-lover in the building. As was demonstrated with this piece, years of practice have definitely payed off for this orchestra.

There was one thing for sure: this orchestra accomplished its mission of delighting the crowd with beautiful chimes and loud clamors. It was a night that will be remembered for a long time to come by everyone who showed their smiling faces at Artemus W. Ham Concert Hall.

If The National Traditional Orchestra of China returns in the fu-

ture, don't pass up your chance to witness musical elegance.

Even if orchestras aren't your greatest love, you may feel differently after spending a night with these talented Chinese musicians.

If nothing else, this extraordinary cast of musicians will put a permanent smile on your face that will have to be surgically removed.

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## A & E CALENDAR

**Tuesday**  
**Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra**, Charles Vanda Master Series, Artemus W. Ham Concert Hall, 8 p.m. Admission prices vary. For info: 895-3801.  
**Wednesday**  
**Less Than Jake, Buck-O-Nine, and Mr. T Experience Concert**, Huntridge Theater, 7 p.m. Admission prices vary. For info: 477-7703.  
**Thursday**  
**Ah, Wildemess!**, Department of Theatre, Judy Bayley Theatre, Mar. 19-22 at 8 p.m. and Mar. 23 at 2 p.m. Admission: free for students and \$8 gen-

eral admission. For info: 895-3801.  
**22 Jacks Concert**, Huntridge Theater, 8 p.m. Admission prices vary. For info: 477-7703.  
**Friday**  
**They and Inside Scarlet Concert**, Crash Corrigan's, 10 p.m. Admission: \$3 For info: 458-4241.  
**Monday**  
**National Conference On Education For The Ceramic Arts**, Juried Student Regional Exhibit, Department of Art, Donna Beam Fine Art Gallery, Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission free. For info: 895-3893.  
**Mazowsze Folk Ensemble**, Family Affair Series, Artemus W. Ham Concert Hall, 8 p.m. Admission prices vary. For info: 895-3801.

