

ENTERTAINMENT

B.T. ON AN EXPRESS TO STARDOM

Hollywood, Jan. 27—With their untiring efforts finally paying off, B.T. Express is on the verge of becoming one of the hottest record selling groups for 1977. In less than three years in the music industry, the group has enjoyed combined single and album sales totalling over five million records. With this foundation firmly established, B.T.'s future has promises and hopes of having all of their future albums reach the platinum status.

Their rapid climb to the top of the record industry best selling charts was the result of their immediate acceptance on the disco circuit with a hit single and album, both titled, "Do It Till You're Satisfied".

Currently winding post-production on their second album for Columbia Records, "Function At The Junction", group leader and saxophonist Bill Risbrook commented: "This album will show that we intend to be around the business for years to come. We put a lot of work into this project, which was a labor of love for the entire group."

In addition to writing most of their songs, the group has retained Jeff Lane, who was responsible for their earlier hit albums, as producer and guiding light in the studio. "We believe in staying with a winner, and one thing you don't do, is change horses in the middle of the stream," Risbrook stated.

Things haven't always been peaches and cream for the Express, prior to their recording success the group went through several changes of personnel. In 1972, their manager, King Davis, took Risbrook and guitarist Richard Thompson, and formed the King Davis House Rockers. The House Rockers proved to be the backbone of B.T. Express; playing local clubs around New York they slowly increased their following.

The House Rockers evolved several more times, new members were added when Risbrook found five additional musicians including his brother Louis. By 1973, they were known as the Brooklyn Trucking



Express, which, you guessed it, was cut to B.T. Express.

Since that time The Express, (whose current members are Michael Jones, keyboards; Leslie Ming, drums; Dennis Rowe, Congas; Richard Thompson, guitar; Carlos Ward, sax and flute; Louis Risbrook, vocal and bass and Bill Rosbrook, sax and flute) have toured extensively throughout the United States and have appeared in quite a few cities in the United Kingdom. In addition, the group has appeared in concert with the Commodores, Graham Central Station, Blue Magic and numerous other groups. In all of their appearances they have almost stolen the show from the headliners. Risbrook recalled, "In New Orleans with the Commodores we left them standing on their feet screaming for more."

And if the past is an indication of the future for B.T. Express, the world will be shortly begging for more from this explosive group.

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