

WEDNESDAY, MAY 30, 1973

## REVIEW INTERVIEW

# Hud uniquely Canadian

By RICK McGRATH

Lorence Hud, a young man making a name for himself in the current Canadian rock scene, arrived in Vancouver Monday to do a series of promotional talks and interviews with the local media. Hud hails from Saskatoon, a town much frequented by another well-known Canadian, Joni Mitchell, and the multi-talented performer had a few things to say about his own career and the prospects of being a rock star in Canada.

Hud is one of those uncommon musicians who is equally adept at a number of instruments, and is able to add to that talent with above-par songwriting abilities and a mellow singing voice.

I started off talking about his most recent album, just released on A&M records.

Review: How long would it take to make a completely solo album, with all those layers of tracks?

Hud: That was the problem; I didn't have a lot of time. If I had had a lot of time it wouldn't have been such a drag to do it... like a lot of the tunes were recorded without my being able to go back and hear playbacks of the track. An album like that, well, I don't know what the normal time would be. McCartney took 600 hours with his, and mine took about 60 or 70, so I imagine the normal time would be between 100 and 200 hours.

Review: What about playing those tunes live? Do you have

a band you tour with?

Hud: I had one for awhile in the fall, and that didn't work out, so I changed and now I work alone. In order to get the people I want I'll have to be in a little bit better position. I just accompany myself on the guitar and piano.

Review: Have you ever played Vancouver?

Hud: I played here a long time ago, I think it was '65 or '66 in a group called The Shadows. We weren't here very long. We auditioned at Oil Can Harry's and they said they'd like us to come back and play through the winter. We went back home and somebody decided he'd go back to school and that was the end of that group.

Review: Were you into R&B at the time?

Hud: Yeah, we were doing a lot of R&B, but we weren't into it completely.

Review: So did you decide to go solo after that breakup?

Hud: No, we started another group called the Fourkeeps, and that's when we used to come out here and play the Okanagan Valley. After that broke up I went to Regina and there I was convinced that I should go back to school. I was at University for a year and a half and this time I got into the music faculty. I was in Commerce before.

Review: Did you learn anything?

Hud: Yeah, I learned some things. The basic thing I learned was to get all the label things out of my system, because I was really starting to get into labels and the mathematics of music. And when I went to school I was thrown into it all, and what that did basically was get it out of my system, so I could

just function on sound.

Review: How did you get signed with A&M?

Hud: My manager did all the work for me, and the way I met him was through a producer at RCA, and we got talking and he recommended me to this cat, and it just went from there.

Review: How did "Sign of the Gypsy Queen" do in the States?

Hud: It was never released in the States, and there's a big thing about that. I don't know if we're going with this album or not. If "Master of Pantomime", which is my new single, should happen to take off, then possibly this album will be released there.

Review: What's happening in the music scene back in Toronto?

Hud: I don't know, it seems to me that if you want to make it in Canada you're better off if you're not a Canadian. I've really gotten that a lot. Because of the promotion thing, Canada wasn't used to that. So a lot of people told me the promo thing was alright but you being Canadian people just won't swallow things about a Canadian. One guy told me when we played Massey Hall, I had a band then, just before the show he was telling me he was really excited about the whole thing. He had heard the single and had listened to the album, and he said he was just starting to get into my music, and he said he didn't know too much about me. And he said: "When I found out you were a Canadian that was just such a downer." I felt like I should hide or something and then he added: "And I have to admit, your music just doesn't sound the same now".

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