

JEAN-MICHEL JARRE

'The Essential Jean-Michel Jarre' - a compilation from the previous albums (excluding 'Supermarkets') was released later that year (1983) and followed the pattern by soon achieving platinum status.

In November 1984 Jean-Michel Jarre released 'Zoolook', an LP which demonstrated Jarre's pioneering work in the use of vocal effects - all European, some Oriental and African - as rhythm tracks. Laurie Anderson, Adrian Belew (of King Crimson and ex Talking Heads) Yogi Orton (who has worked with Talking Heads too) and Marcus Miller (ex Miles Davis) were all invited to contribute to the album. Containing several eminently commercial, highly polished dance tracks ('Zoolook' and 'Zoolookologie', for example), the record shows yet another progression in Jean-Michel Jarre's infinite musical ability.

A spectacular video was made for 'Zoolook', the first single to be lifted from the LP. Its world premiere media screening on 30 January was one of the highlights of MIDEM '85 and gave a very large number of media representatives an ideal opportunity to satisfy their understandable curiosity about the latest Jarre work. Later in the year Jean-Michel undertook a promotion visit to Japan and Australia, where he was invited to visit the Aborigines by their head man and went to Ayers Rock. It is typical of this artist that even his promotion tours do not follow the norm.

When the organisers of events surrounding the 25th anniversary of the N.A.S.A. headquarters as well as the 150th anniversary of the city of Houston and State of Texas in the USA cast around for personalities to take part, it is not surprising that they also hit upon Jean-Michel Jarre, not only because of his avant-garde reputation but also because of his own interest in connecting technology of any kind with art.

On 5 April 1986 he will stage the biggest show ever produced on this planet against the impressive background of downtown Houston and a skyline of skyscrapers reaching 1,200 feet high and 3/4 of a mile wide. His aim is to create the ultimate multi-media concert tapping every form of entertainment technology known to man and using technology to bring the concert to a bigger audience than has ever before been dreamed of. Huge screens and the sides of buildings will pick up visuals of the concert beamed by lasers and projectors, which will also be used to put on an amazing light show. Jean-Michel is writing a special music score which will tell the city of Houston's history in three main movements - rural space, urban space, outer space.

To coincide with this event and the subsequent transmission of a TV show from it, a new album 'Rendez-Vous' is to be released.

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