

MORE MOVIES WATT/10

Michael Mantler (trumpet) Philip Catherine (guitar) Gary Windo (tenor saxophone) Carla Bley (piano, organ) Steve Swallow (bass) D. Sharpe (drums)

recorded August 1979 through March 1980, Willow, NY

TITLES

Movie Nine / The Sinking Spell / Movie Eleven / Will We Meet Tonight / Movie Thirteen / The Doubtful Guest / Movie Fifteen / Movie Fourteen / Movie Ten / Movie Twelve

FROM AN INTERVIEW

Are the 'Movies' albums inspired by the silver screen? Many of the pieces seem to resemble soundtracks.

People have said that about my work in general, although I think that's really rather simpleminded. I do like movies though, I see a lot of films and I am interested in them (even in writing for one, if the right one came along ...). Yet for those records, it was only a way of titling something. I've never wanted to give music titles, so I started using numbers and all that. In a way a piece of music can be a short movie, since it is abstract and ambiguous enough for you to have your own scenario. That's why I thought the title 'Movies' would be appropriate.

How have they fared over the years?

The first 'Movies' album was really popular. But the second one, 'More Movies', was a complete bust. It turned out to be the least popular album in the WATT catalog for some strange reason. I actually like it better in some ways than the first one!

REVIEWS

This follow-on to the first "Movies" album continues the trend towards music with a strong rhythmic emphasis and a well-integrated ensemble. It's an example of rock-based back-beats being used to good effect with Catherine and Windo rising above the rhythm in their solo work, yet still sounding a part of the whole. Indeed these two dominate, with Windo's singular tone reflecting the synthesis of Coltrane, Shepp, Ayler, King Curtis and even Junior Walker ... In all a very effective record which shows that there can be life after fusion.

Philip Catherine, whom Mingus once dubbed "Little Django", goes primitive and plays piercing rock-blues-jazz guitar on an album that truly seems to know what jazzmen can get out of melting jazz and rock together - stark blues power, and brute impact for nightmare tunes written in black light. It's the most exciting more-or-less fusion record I've heard in years, haunting urban scenarios for the ear starring Catherine and raw tenor saxophonist Gary Windo. "More Movies" is a great record. - BUFFALO EVENING NEWS