

# ***THE JEFF***



# BECK GROUP

"They were standing and cheering for a new British pop group...at the Fillmore East," wrote New York Times critic Robert Shelton after hearing the American debut of Epic Records' Jeff Beck Group. "Jeff Beck...and his band deal in the blues mainly," Mr. Shelton noted, "but with an urgency and sweep that is quite hard to resist. Their dialogues were lean and laconic, the verbal ping pong of a musical Pinter play. The climaxes were primal, bringing the 'big beat' of the English rock school forward," Led by Jeff Beck, who is considered one of the finest guitarists on either side of the Atlantic, the Group consists of Rod Stewart (lead singer), Mick Waller (drums) and Ron Wood (bass guitar and harmonica).

Organized less than a year ago, the Jeff Beck Group has been generating tremendous excitement among pop and blues enthusiasts in this country and abroad. The Group is currently winding up a six-week's cross-country tour during which they played to SRO audiences at the Fillmore East in New York, the Boston Tea Party, the Grande Ballroom in Dearborn, Michigan, the Fillmore West in San Francisco, and the Shrine Exposition Hall in Los Angeles.

"Truth," their debut Epic album, is a potpourri of blues, original compositions such as "Beck's Bolero" and "Rock My Plimsoul," and provocative arrangements and interpretations of the classic "Ol' Man River" and the traditional "Greensleeves."

To a remarkable degree, the group duplicates on record the excitement which characterizes their in-person performances. Beck's guitar mastery is here in full force, creating vivid, moving images in sound. And there's Rod Stewart's voice: pliant, wailing, twisting, stretching a blues phrase until it can go no farther. Together they bring a new dimension to the blues scene.

Jeff Beck, proclaimed by audiences and critics as one of the best blues guitarists around today, hails from Surrey, England, where he was born on June 24, 1944. As a child he sang in the local church choir and began studying music. It was after attending Wimbledon Art College in London for four years that Jeff decided to become a professional musician. He joined The Yardbirds and was soon touring the United States and England. After recording a number of albums with the group—many of which featured Jeff's compositions—he decided to form his own group, "a group where everyone was in musical accord and doing what

he wanted to do most."

A motorcycle enthusiast, Jeff belongs to the British League of Racing Cyclists. He also digs animals and currently shares his London flat with an Afghan hound and 13 cats.

Lead singer Rod Stewart was born in Scotland on January 10, 1945, and was raised in London. One of the Group's most prolific writers, Rod has penned—in collaboration with Jeff Beck—"Let Me Love You" and "Rock My Plimsoul," both of which are featured on the group's debut Epic album, "Truth."

Rod believes that "the British blues scene has been the greatest single influence on my career as a performer. I've been especially influenced by the songs of the late Sam Cooke, and I love to listen to Ritchie Havens. I also dig anything written by the team of Holland-Dozier."

In addition to being the Group's lead vocalist, Rod is also adept on the guitar and the five-string banjo.

Drummer Mick Waller was born in London on September 6, 1944. After attending Greenford Grammar School, Mick went on to study at London University. Prior to joining The Jeff Beck Group, Mick was one of the busiest session musicians in England and has played with The Rolling Stones, The Animals, Little Richard and Georgie Fame.

Seemingly the introvert of the group, Mick is a motorcycle enthusiast and digs "reading and being alone." He listens to all kinds of music and especially likes The Rolling Stones, Mick's ambition is to achieve enough freedom so as "not to have to depend on other people."

Ron Wood, who is the bass guitar player in The Jeff Beck Group, was born in London on June 1, 1947. Interested in music and painting, Ron attended Ealing Art College and Ruislip Manor Art School before joining the Group. Ron made his first public musical appearance as a youth "on the stage of a local cinema in England. I was ten years old and played the washboard in a skiffle group which consisted of myself and my two brothers."

In addition to playing the bass guitar, Ron is adept on the guitar and harmonica and has "a hand in composing some of our songs." Ron enjoys oil painting and composing and hopes to "have enough freedom someday to do what I want, where I want, and when I want."□

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