THIS MONTH IN

POP

MAY 1989

IN OUR ROUND-UP OF MAY 1989'S BIGGEST MOMENTS IN POP, FRANKIE'S HOLLY JOHNSON GOES IT ALONE, PUBLIC ENEMY FIRES ONE OF ITS KEY MEMBERS AND THE STONE ROSES RELEASE THEIR DEBUT LONG-PLAYER

STEVE O'BRIEN

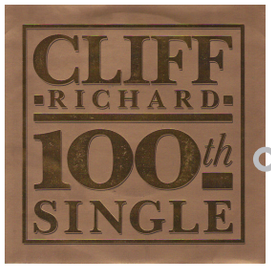
02 In a Zales jewellers store in Simi Valley, California, a man wearing a wig, fake moustache and false teeth causes suspicious employees to call security. When approached, the man reveals himself to be Michael Jackson in disguise.

06 The 34th annual Eurovision Song Contest is won by Yugoslavian band Riva, with the song *Rock Me*. It's the first year that a Balkan country has scooped the top prize.

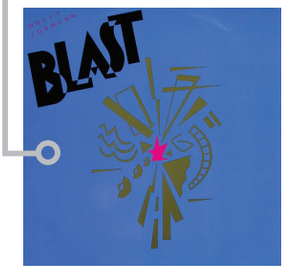
07 Kylie Minogue achieves her second UK solo No.1 single with the SAW-produced *Hand On Your Heart*. The song also tops the chart in Ireland, though only makes No.4 in her native Australia.

14 *Ferry 'Cross The Mersey* by an all-star cast of Liverpudlian artists starts a three-week run at No.1 on the UK Singles Chart. The song, originally by Gerry & The Pacemakers, was recorded to raise funds for victims of the Hillsborough disaster. Paul McCartney, Gerry Marsden, Holly Johnson and The Christians all feature.

27 Cliff Richard releases his 100th 7", *The Best Of Me*. Originally recorded by its co-writer David Foster in 1983, Cliff's cover peaks at No.2 in the UK Singles Chart.



02 Queen release their latest single, *I Want It All*, which would peak at No.3 in the UK Singles Chart.



06 Former Frankie Goes To Hollywood frontman Holly Johnson hits No.1 on the UK Albums Chart with his debut solo LP *Blast*. The record features the Top Five hits *Love Train* and *Americanos*.

09 The third leg of R.E.M.'s Green tour begins in Düsseldorf, West Germany, with support act The Go-Betweens. The next four gigs would be cancelled, however, when drummer Bill Berry falls ill.

22 Public Enemy fires its 'Minister Of Information', Professor Griff, after he makes anti-Semitic remarks in the *Washington Times*. He would rejoin the band in 1998.

31 Tin Machine make their first major live appearance at the International Rock Awards in New York. Formed in 1988 by David Bowie, Reeves Gabrels, Tony Fox Sales and Hunt Sales the band would go on to record two studio albums.

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Though they'd been together since 1983, it wasn't until 1989 that Manchester's Stone Roses released their debut self-titled LP. And what an album it was. A thrilling fusion of 60s psychedelia and club music, its sugared jangle pop was a far cry from the band's dark, goth beginnings. Recorded largely at Battery Studios in London with producer John Leckie from June 1988 to February 1989, it offered up 11 copper-bottomed classics, from the swirling, intoxicating *Waterfall* and soaring, anthemic *This Is The One* to the swaggering *I Am The Resurrection*.

The album was topped with a scorchingly iconic Jackson Pollock-influenced cover, courtesy of guitarist John Squire. Titled *Bye Bye Badman* (like the song on Side One), it was, Squire revealed, inspired by the May 1968 Paris riots. Referring to the lemons that are dotted around the painting, singer Ian Brown explained: "When we were in Paris we met this 65-year-old man who told us that if you suck a lemon it cancels out the effects of CS gas. He still thought that the government in France could be overthrown one day; he'd been there in '68 and everything. He always carried a lemon with him so he could help out at the front. Sixty-five – what a brilliant attitude."

The LP would become one of the most garlanded albums of the 80s, one that would set the stage for indie-dance and, later, for Britpop. Sadly, though they'd helped birth the scene with *The Stone Roses* the band themselves weren't able to ride the Britpop wave, and notwithstanding two reunion singles in 2016, belated sophomore effort *Second Coming* would prove to be the band's swansong.

TOP 5 UK ALBUMS CHART

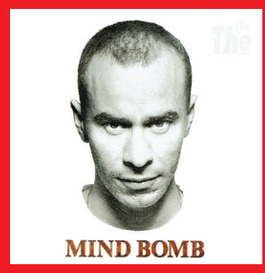
21 MAY 1989

1 TEN GOOD REASONS
JASON DONOVAN

2 STREET FIGHTING YEARS
SIMPLE MINDS

3 PARADISE
INNER CITY

4 MIND BOMB
THE THE



5 PASTPRESENT
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