

# Melody Maker

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# MORE THAN A PETTY FACE



TOM VERLAINE on stage in Glasgow

## Just watch Television!

by ALLAN JONES

THE NEW WAVE hit Glasgow last weekend when, on successive nights, Tom Verlaine's brilliant Television, Blondie, the Ramones and Talking Heads appeared in the city.

● TELEVISION, supported by Blondie, made their first British appearance at the Apollo on Sunday night and performed a concert that must rank as one of the most exciting debuts by an American band in recent years.

● MM's Richard Williams — one of Verlaine's first English admirers — predicted as long ago as January that Television would soon emerge as a major force in rock.

● Verlaine and Television emphasised during their electric performance on Sunday how much they have matured since the recording of their first album, "Marquee Moon," which was released by Elektra to widespread critical acclaim in March.

● Their Apollo concert, enthusiastically received by their eager fans, was marked by a rare musical invention and unrelieved intensity. It surely set them apart as leaders of the new wave bands with whom they've been associated and it cannot be long before they are accepted as a major force.

● Television, who appear for two nights at LONDON'S Hammersmith Odeon on Saturday and Sunday (May 28 and 29), were challenged for supremacy of the American new wave only by Talking Heads, who supported the Ramones at Strathclyde University on Saturday. Although an unknown prospect, they won the attention of the audience and virtually upstaged the headlining Ramones, with whom they appear at LONDON'S Roundhouse on June 5 and 6.

● The new wave in Glasgow and review of the Ramones and Television — see pages 34 and 39; Blondie feature, page 46.

TOM PETTY and the Heartbreakers end their breakthrough British tour with Nils Lofgren this week — but the band return for their own concert series next month.

The band's phenomenal rise to headlining status has taken just three weeks. They came to Britain at the beginning of this month to play as support band on the Lofgren tour. Petty and the Heartbreakers, however, are ending the tour as one of the most in-demand bands currently playing in this country.

### Finish

Next month's tour was originally scheduled to finish with the band's LONDON Rainbow show on June 19 but now, because of extraordinary response to the Heartbreakers' concerts with Lofgren, promoter Ian Wright is considering an additional week of shows.

The full tour schedule has yet to be finalised, but concerts already confirmed are MANCHESTER Free Trade Hall on June 12, BIRMINGHAM Town Hall (16), AYLESBURY Friars (18) and the Rainbow.

The shows come after Petty's European tour with Lofgren, which follows their last British concert at GLASGOW Apollo tonight (May 26).

### Limited

The band's new single, "Anything That's Rock 'n' Roll", is in the shops this week. And a special limited edition of 5,000 12 inch pressings has been issued, along with the normal size singles.

The Heartbreakers' official "bootleg" album, meanwhile, has rapidly become a collectors' item. The album, recorded live and distributed within the music business, was part of the promotional campaign to launch the band earlier this year.

The album, however, is now worth up to 70 dollars (£30) in America, while as much as £10 has been offered for the LP in Britain.

