

Mutiny On The Mothership

There are very few constants in this world. Death, taxes and, at regular intervals, a madcap, lovingly childlike slice of vinyl from funk's answer to Peter Pan — Bootsy Collins. Well you can cut that trio to a duo for, with the recent release of the album **The One Giveth, The Count Taketh Away**, Bootsy has taken the first tentative steps out of the playpen and into the real world.

Not that **The One Giveth, The Count Taketh Away** is anything resembling the musical norm. The zaniness is still in overriding evidence. It's just that this time out, the Boot has mixed in a handful of downright serious songs handled in, what is for him, a surprisingly mature manner.

"I guess I just got a few years older and decided it was time to straighten up my act a bit," says Bootsy of the change. "I just took a look around one day and realized that, 'Hey! The music scene is changing and people are beginning to pay more attention to what the music is saying.' That meant I had to begin paying more attention to what my music was saying."

There's an underlying tone of seriousness in Bootsy's voice as he describes the changes. Gone, for the most part, are the Funkadelicisms that normally punctuate his conversation.

"I was really kind of nervous about adding the heavier elements to the music," admits Bootsy. "I thought about it for a long time before I went ahead, then did it because I saw it was important in terms of keeping my audience."

"I've always basically said some serious things with my music, but because I was saying it in a kind of kid language, even if the message got across it wasn't always taken seriously. And then it hit me that the kids that were with me when I first started were starting to grow up and that if I wanted to keep that segment of my audience, I would have to grow up too."

"And besides," he continues, "the audience isn't shy when it comes to letting you know about things like that. People were starting to come up to me and say that the kid stuff is okay, but they knew I was capable of more than I was showing them."

Bootsy claims that he's been in a creative rut over the last couple of years, due, in part, to the fact that his mem-

WILLIAM "BOOTS"Y" COLLINS

THE NEW DIRECTION

by Marc Shapiro



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bership in Funkadelic was "beginning to hang" because of that group's apparent lethargy. But, he says, there were other things that contributed to his music being in less than tip-top condition.

"I've always known that the music was also a business, but I never thought that the business would get so heavy. It did and it took me away from a lot of the things I liked about music. It became business all the time and I wasn't ready for that."

"The business definitely got in the way of my being creative. My whole

situation became very unbalanced and I became a bit crazy for a while. Finally I had to stop and check myself out. I have a different attitude about things now. I'm aware of having to take care of business, but now I don't let it get in the way of my making good music."

"There will definitely be more of this grown-up side of me," predicts Bootsy. "A couple of albums down the road there might even be a totally serious Bootsy album."

"But," he adds slyly, "you can bet even a totally serious Bootsy album will have a few goofs in it somewhere."