

POLYDOR- WOODSTOCK FESTIVAL

J.S.



WHATEVER the intent of the organizers, the only similarity between the two Woodstocks was in the liberal use of its name by the recording company that produced the album (of three records) in India.

Invitations were issued only to those who had purchased said album, and gauging by the number of people at Bombay's Eros theatre that Sunday morning, it must have been quite a horde.

Four bands were scheduled to play at the 'Woodstock festival'—the Les Phantomes, the Savages, the Riot Squad and the Combustibles but surprisingly and, to the very great disappointment of the sharpshooting audience, not one of them played a tune from the Woodstock album—or even from the few heard in the movie!

Les Phantomes looked and played as if they had been suddenly caught with their bedsheets off—quite ghostly. Bashir, with his toothy necklace and wild mop of hair went over well with a hard-to-please audience. He and the Savages played Born To Be Free, Move Over and two other items before the interval. Govind Nagi who sang three Elvis numbers with the Savages proved that the King was still popular with all beat fans.

The Riot Squad, with Jungoo Gazdar, waving the greatest piece of backcombing ever seen on a male, played it hot but it was pretty Farida Vakil, their lead guitarist, with her rendition of Billy Joe who had them swinging. Hemant Rao (ex of the Savages) made a saricy appeal to the marksmen around (are you Red Indians or Indians—throwing paper arrows?) but it went unheeded. Accompanied by a double-track recorder and Trilok on the drums he finally did what the people had been waiting for ever since the festival began. He

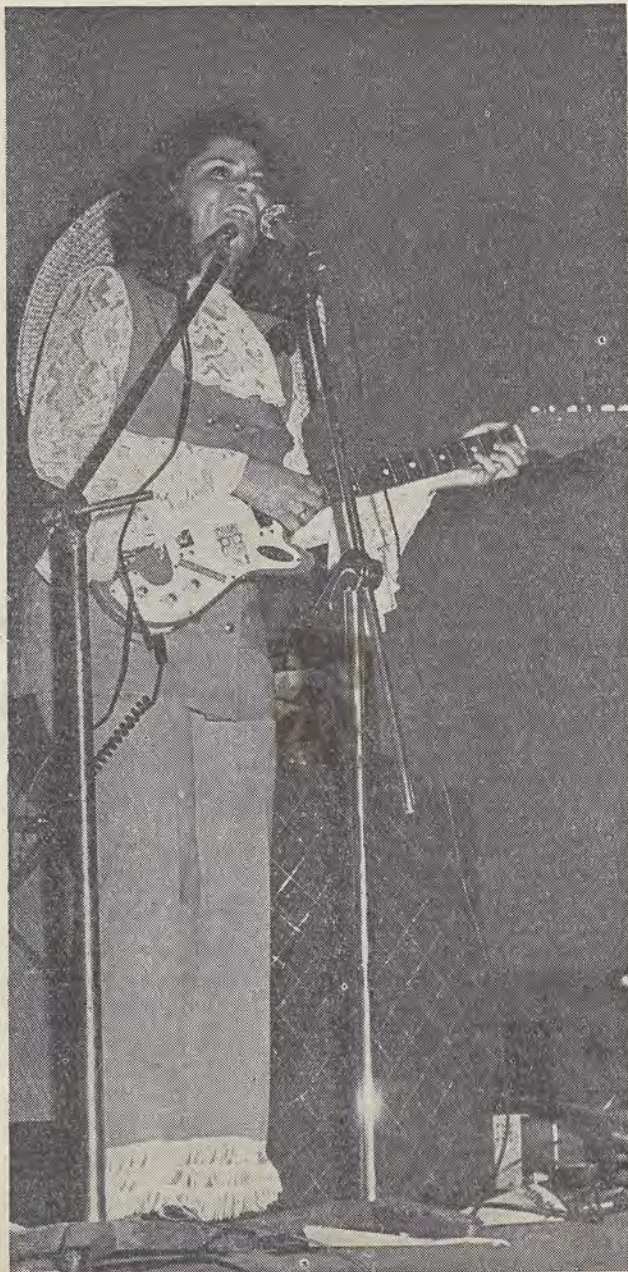
sang two Woodstock songs: Freedom, and Los Angeles.

Cries of "Higher" (the 'Sly' number from Woodstock) had started way back but when the Combustibles came on they really became vociferous. "We didn't have any time to rehearse these numbers", confessed Vince Everett the singer later—which is why they didn't play them. Instead the most noisy ("With this crowd it's either them or you—so we had to play as loud as we could to drown them") and frenetic renditions of American Woman and Born To Be Wild followed with Vince blowing his steam off by doing the craziest contortions possible.

Handsome Ajit Singh who began the morning with folk songs should have sung more—he's good.

RIMA KASHYAP





TOP: Jungoo Gazdar of The Riot Squad.
ABOVE: Ajit Singh singing a folk song.
LEFT: Farida Vakil singing "Billie Joe".

FACING PAGE (Left): Bashir of The Savages at the drums. **ABOVE:** The Combustible's crooner Vince Everett "blowing it off". **BELOW:** A singer of The Savages.

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