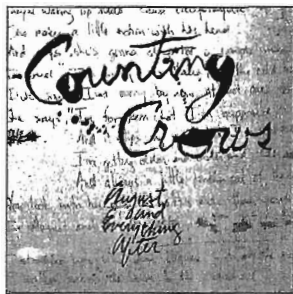


DISC *of the* MONTH

One useful way to sort through the bands clamoring for your attention is by producer. Not for their particular styles—Daniel Lanois' gauzy dream-scape or Trevor Horn's state-of-the-art sonic boom—but for their particular taste. If Don Was is producing a moribund older artist, chances are a career revival is in the works. If Mitchell Froom or Joe Boyd is involved, chances are you'll want to be as well.

Another impeccable talent-spotter is T-Bone Burnett, who has recently worked with newcomers Counting Crows. Their exceptional debut album is rock'n'roll of the purest variety, coming out of the same wellspring that gave us the Band and



COUNTING CROWS

August and Everything After

..... GEPHEN DCG 24528 • 1993, 51:47

Performance ★ ★ ★ ★
Sound Quality ★ ★ ★ ★

Neil Young. From the first track, "Round Here," their poise is clear. It begins with a gentle intro, deftly paints a picture of people who feel trapped and desperate, and then frees them with the vital promise of music.

Lead singer and songwriter Adam Duritz writes about a world filled with forlorn lovers, characters who feel certain they're on the edge of despair or commitment or *something*. And songs such as "Mr. Jones" and "Raining in Baltimore"

are as infectious as they are astute. With a debut this vital, Counting Crows are certain to either be around for a very long time, or immediately self-destruct. Nothing in-between will do. —Michael Giltz

