

Mothers Shake, Rattle & Roll

NEW YORK — The Mothers of Invention simultaneously invented and performed the back ground music for: a Twist fit by the group's baritone sax, Jim (Motorhead) Sherwood; a Gregorian chant by a friend, Shirley Ann, titled "I Am Shirley Ann," and some rock 'n' roll street corner harmony—all this, plus Chicago, a new rock-jazz group on Columbia, and the Buddy Miles Express, at Fillmore East, Feb. 22.

Led by rock Socrates Frank Zappa, the Mothers cavorted

through a non-stop jam that loomed together sparkling threads of rock, jazz and classical material. Their vaudevilian parodies—the first living theater of the rock culture—run together like a skein of clever skits without an intermission, poking sentimental fun at old rock 'n' roll, mock-operatic rock and, of course, the Mothers themselves, and all done to the tight, highly technical work-out of the Mothers' own music. Their spoofing, above all, is credible satire made possible

by the group's serious, deftly executed musicianship that frees their collective (Zappa's, for sure) imagination to create the outlines of theater. Needless to say, the Mothers of Invention record for their very own Bizarre Records.

Chicago, a seven-man band billed behind blues behemoth, Buddy Miles, turned out to be the evening's special treat, rousing patrons to encores with the unexpected surprise of their rhythmic blues and jazz outings. The group's Blood, Sweat and Tears-like style rings of the lyrical Al Kooper days, before BS&T toughened up its image with a bull soul singer. Now fans who miss the first and late BS&T group can rally around the sound and musical tradition carried on by Chicago, whose intelligent and listenable rock should create best sellers of "Someday," "I'm a Man" and "Listen."

Buddy Miles, that colossal soul drummer who repaired the old Electric Flag and recast it as the Buddy Miles Express on Mercury, featured guitarist Jimmy McCarty in the group's lead-heavy soul rumblings, "I Got You Babe," "Texas" and "Wrap It Up." At his best, Miles is a devastating spokesman for the in-breeding of soul, jazz and hard rock, but a skein of unimpressive material driven to Miles' near-energetic pace continues to keep the group from rising to expectations. The addition of tenor sax Bobby Rock, formerly of Sam and Dave, and Jim Tatum, also from Sam and Dave and Arthur Conley's band, should accelerate Miles' march to the chart tops. **ED OCHS**