

THE ESSENTIAL

Neil Young

Closely rivalling Bob Dylan as the most idiosyncratic singer-songwriter of his generation, Neil Young has pinballed between acoustic folk and all-out electrified assaults on the senses via Crazy Horse and more over the past half-century.

Steve Harnell delves into Young's estimable back catalogue in all its ragged glory...

NEIL YOUNG

58

THE ESSENTIAL

Such is the astonishing weight of material he's produced over the last 50 years, Neil Young is virtually a genre in his own right. The stats make for astonishing reading; since starting out on the road to solo stardom, he's released 40 studio albums, eight live LPs, four soundtracks and a further 11 records as part of his *Archives* series.

Although it's a rather reductive statement, Young's work can be split broadly into two distinct categories – the plaintive Laurel Canyon acoustic troubadour material and his visceral output with Crazy Horse and various backing outfits featuring Neil wrestling with his trusty 'Old Black' Gibson Les Paul, firing off shards of feedback amid epic electric workouts.

GODFATHER OF GRUNGE

One of the most wilful singer-songwriters of any era, Young has rarely compromised his singular artistic vision since going solo in 1968. He's made albums that have defined genres and also been sued by his own record company for recording unrepresentative material. Life as a Neil Young fan is never dull.

Like many classic artists of his generation, the 80s weren't particularly

kind to Neil Young. After losing his way for much of that decade, his Lazarus-like return in the 90s as the so-called 'Godfather of Grunge' was all the more welcome and unexpected.

He's not quite at the same level as Prince, whose unreleased material almost outweighs that officially available on record store racks, but in recent years Young has served up a steady stream of unheard work stretching back the entirety of his career, alongside freshly minted albums. His *Archives* series releases, that are part of an extensive ongoing campaign to fully explore his complete recorded output, are amongst the most intriguing of anything he's put his name to. Their outstanding quality only adds to the Young myth – an unpredictable genius who squirrels away classic albums for decades and refuses to play the conventional record company game.

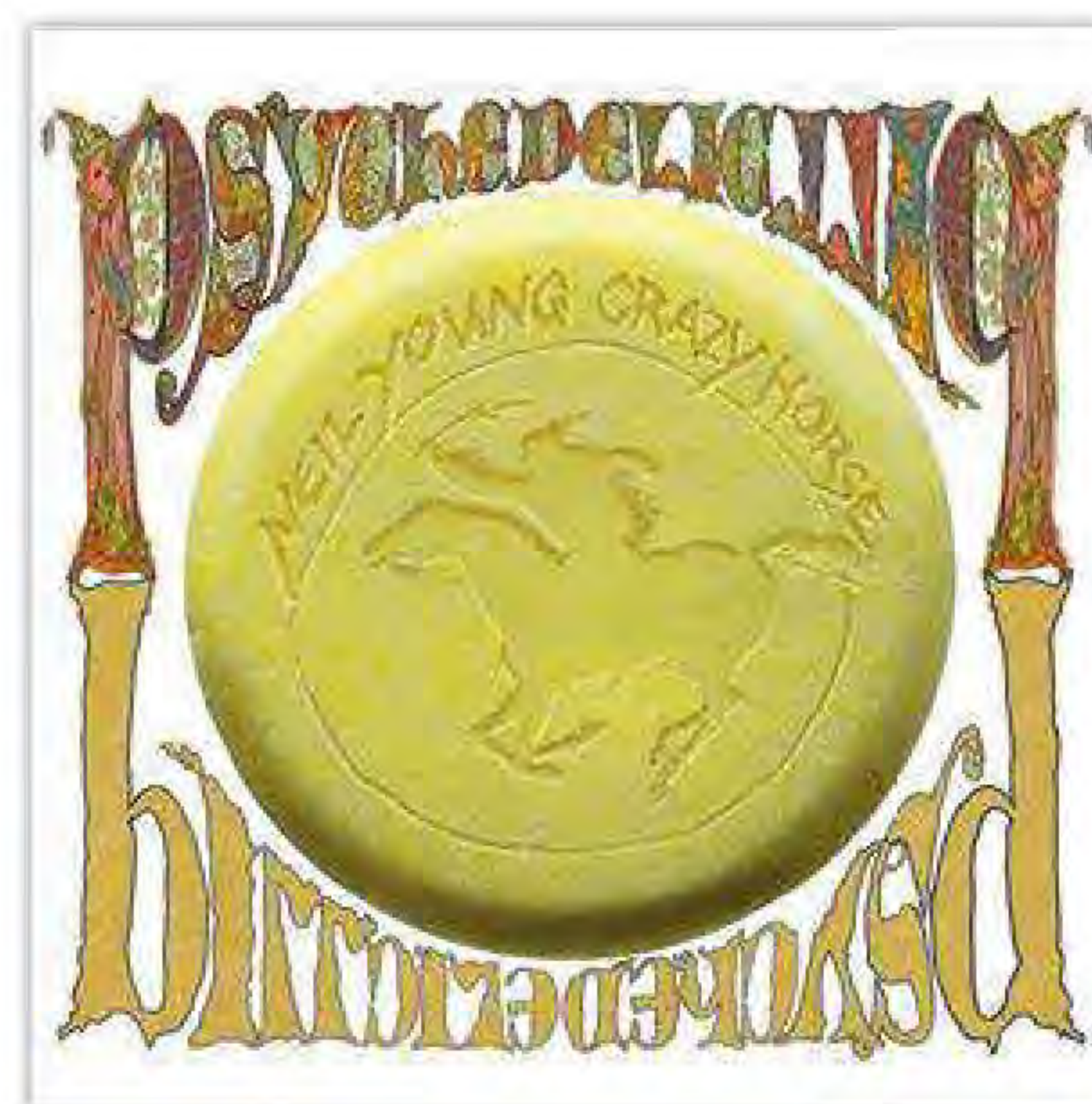
As Young's back catalogue as a solo artist runs so deep, we've kept the main Top 40 countdown clear of his work as part of Buffalo Springfield or Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young – you'll see that the splendid *Buffalo Springfield Again* and *Déjà Vu* are recommended in one of our sidebars here. So let's get lost in a life's work that has rarely trodden the road more travelled.



AMERICANA (2012)

Young reunited with Crazy Horse after a nine-year break to duff up a carefully selected bunch of campfire singalongs and return them to their protest-song roots. *Oh Susannah* is revisited in a Tim Rose style and *Clementine* rumbles darkly. Other highlights include Woody Guthrie's *This Land Is Your Land* and a delicate *Wayfarin' Stranger*. Hats off, too, for the bizarre cover of *God Save The Queen*. Not the Pistols' version. You're welcome, your madge...

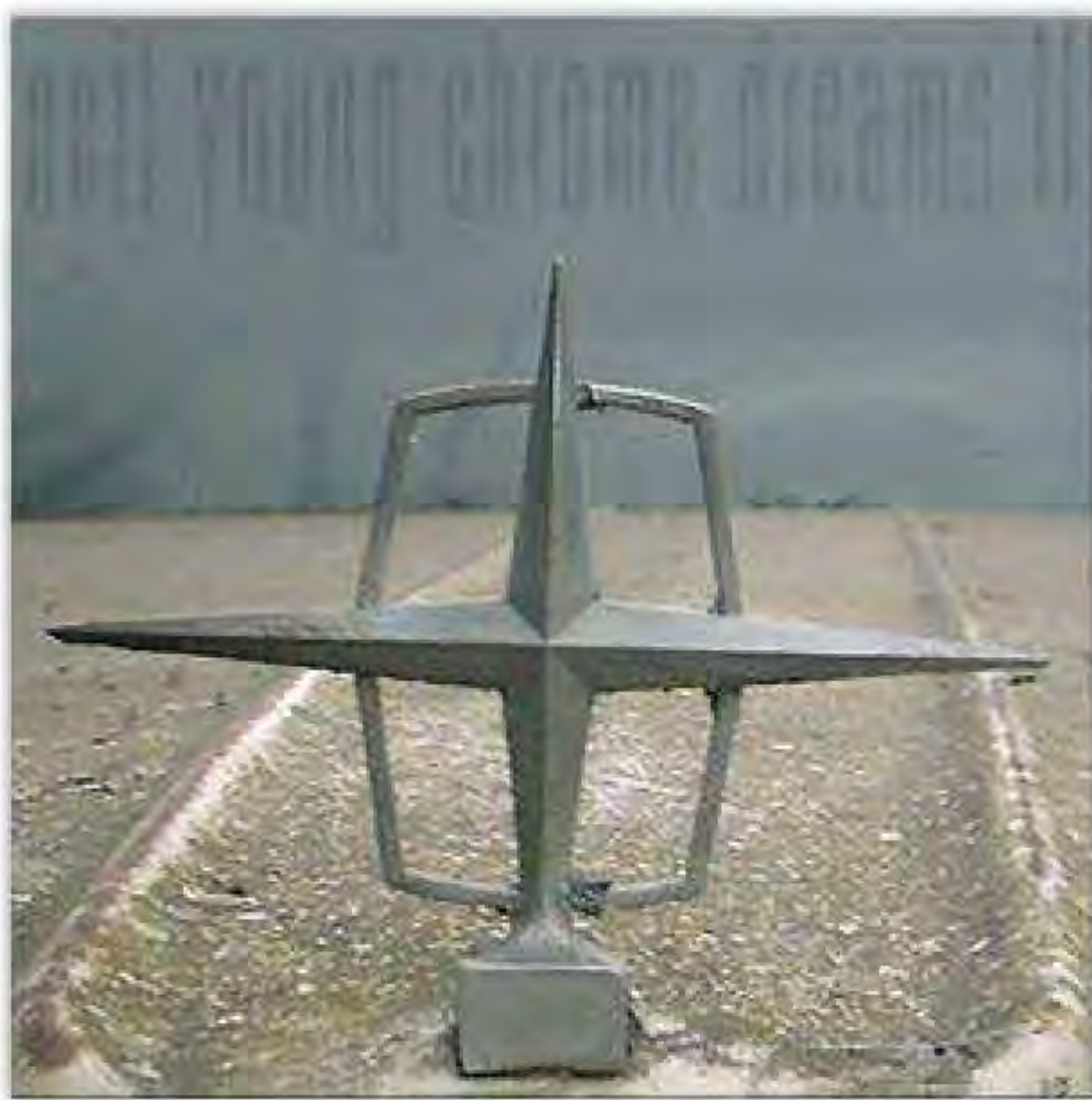
£ Rarest 2013 Reprise £25 (single-sided)
Latest Out of Press



PSYCHEDELIC PILL (2012)

Essentially the soundtrack to his autobiography *Waging Heavy Peace*, few songwriters would have the balls to open an album with a 27-minute song. *Driftn' Back* is indulgent; after all, such sybaritic tendencies worked for the Grateful Dead. The title track is suitably woozy, while the nigh-on 17-minute *Ramada Inn* became a controversial live mainstay at gigs throughout 2012 and 2013. If head-nodding mid-tempo Neil is your thing, then fill your boots.

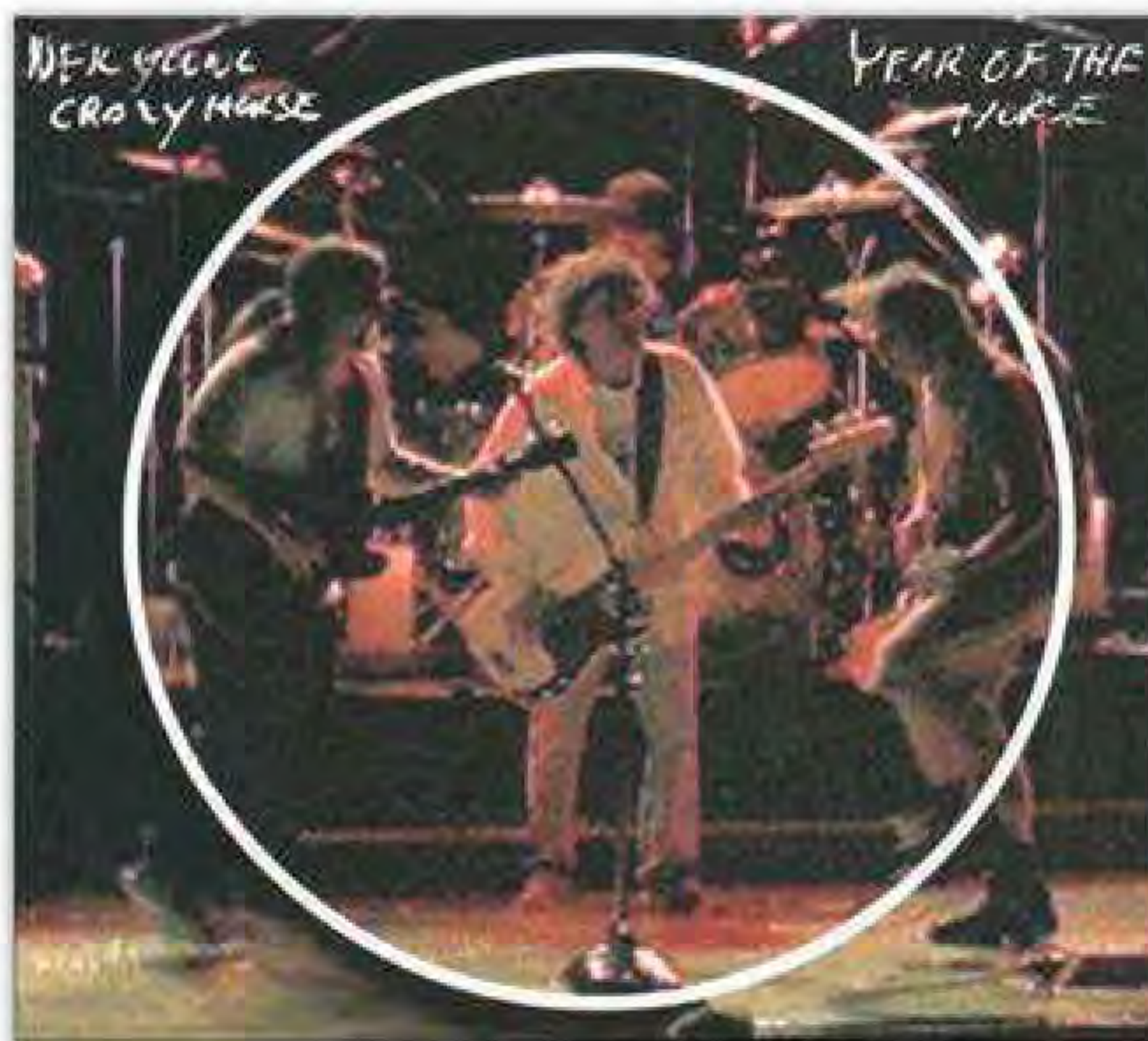
£ Rarest 2012 Reprise £35 (3LP)
Latest Out of Press



CHROME DREAMS II (2007)

A sequel to the unreleased *Chrome Dreams* LP, the junked car on the cover here is apposite. Young unearths songs from across his previous 30 years that were thought to have been put out to pasture. While opener *Beautiful Bluebird* melodically evokes *Harvest's* *Out On The Weekend*, this record is dominated by two epics, the 18-minute sprawl of the chugging *Ordinary People* and wriggling *No Hidden Path*. There are flashes of brilliance here, but they're fleeting.

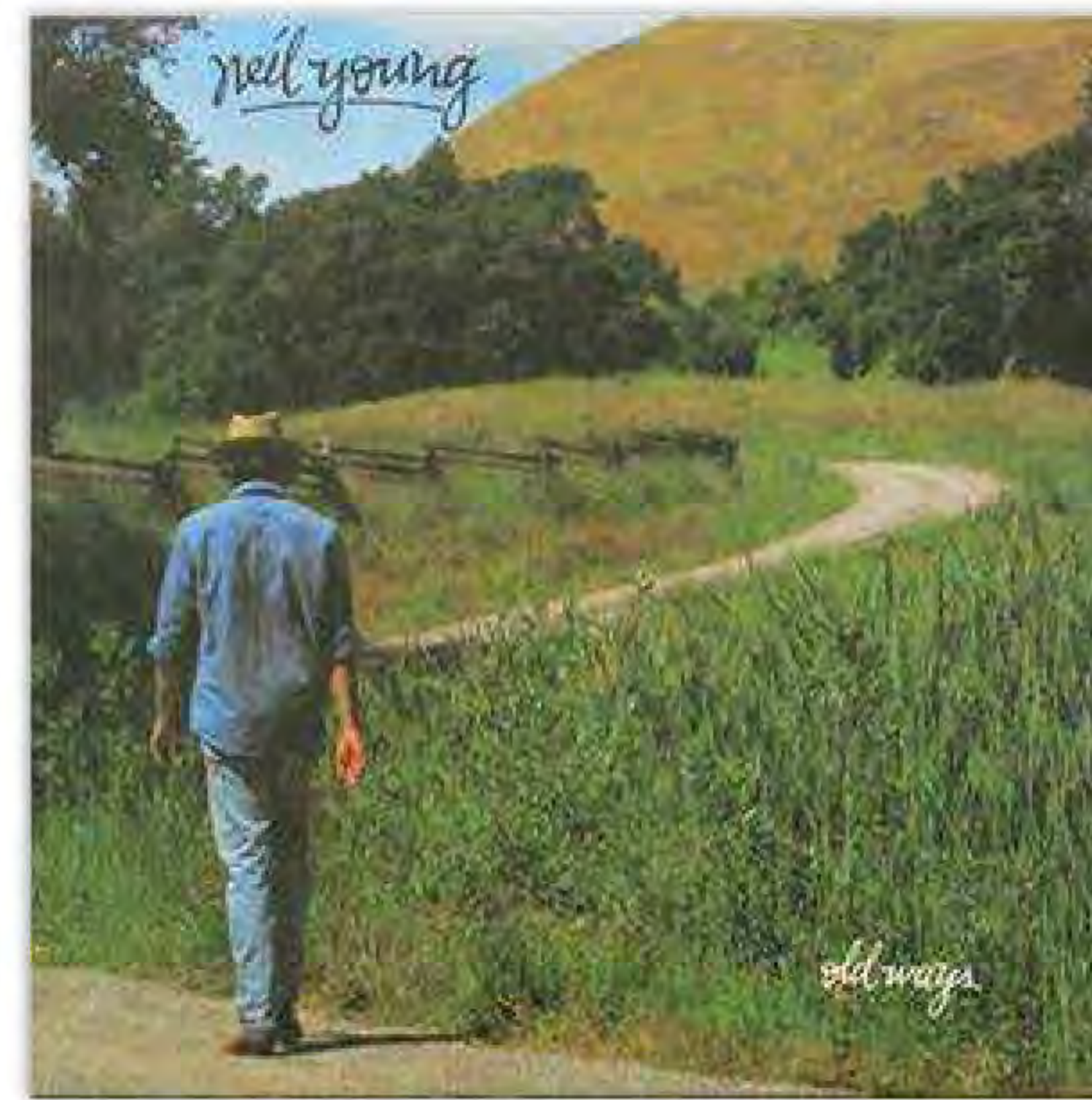
£ Rarest 2007 Reprise £75 (US import)
Latest Out of Press



YEAR OF THE HORSE (1997)

One for the deep-cut aficionados. For the most part, this live album with Crazy Horse dispenses with the mainstream big-hitters of Neil's career, instead opting to underline his status as the Godfather of Grunge. Amidst the Gibson-drenched carnage, there's a bluesy take on *Mr Soul* that holds up well and a tender *Human Highway*. The driving 11-minute *Slip Away* and 13-minute *Danger Bird* are more representative, showcasing Crazy Horse's trance-inducing drone rock.

£ Rarest 1997 Reprise £95
Latest Out of Press



OLD WAYS (1985)

Coming after the Brylcreemed folly of *Everybody's Rockin'*, *Old Ways* is Young's most consistent outing on Geffen, although it remains the lowest-seller of his career. As the title suggests, we're back in old-timey country territory. Willie Nelson and Waylon Jennings guest. "It's hard to teach a dinosaur a new trick," Neil sings on the tongue-in-cheek title track. The most notable thing here is the counterpoint between Young's esoteric lyrics and the traditional Nashville backing.

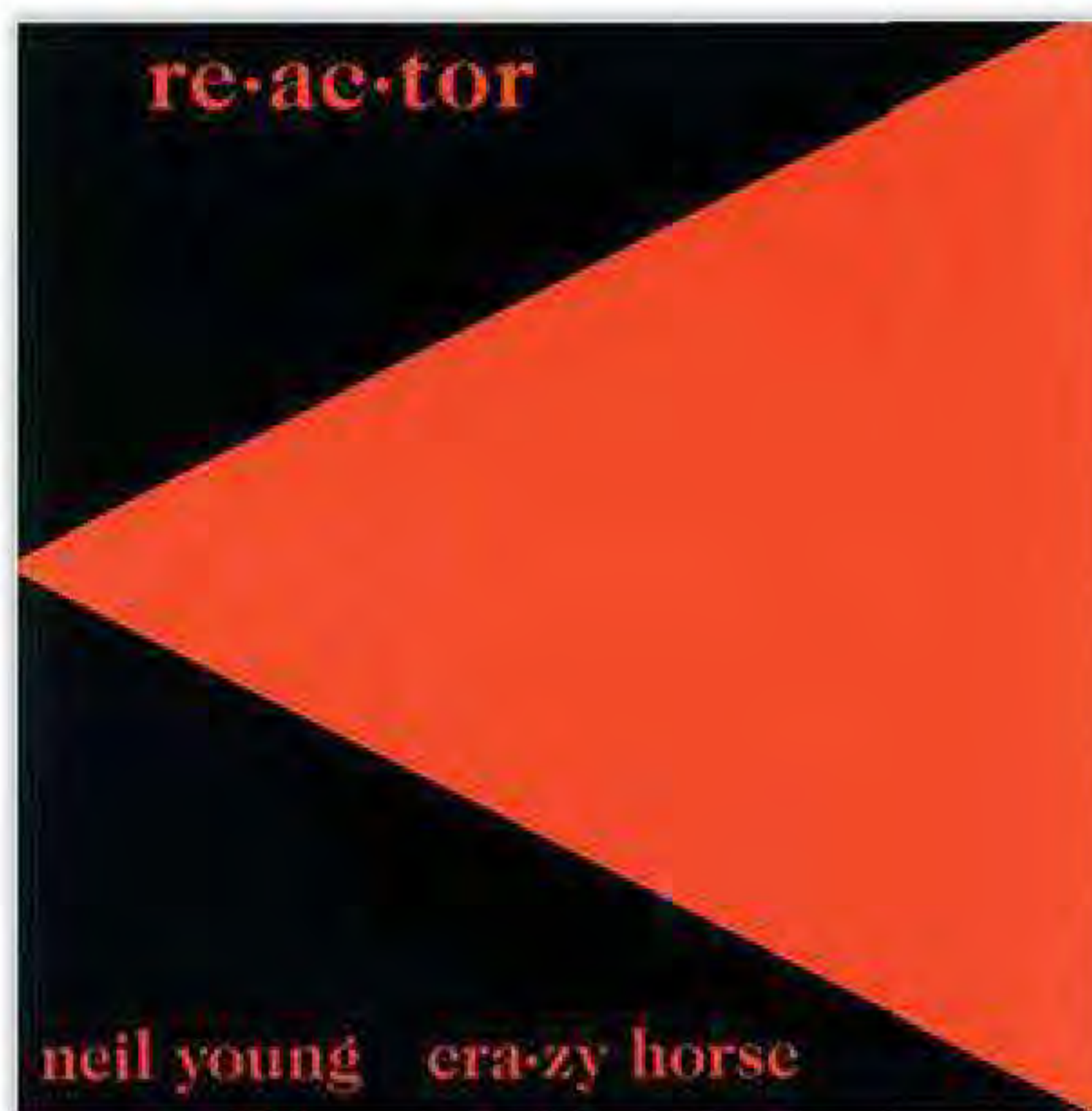
£ Rarest 1985 Geffen £9
Latest Out of Press



THIS NOTE'S FOR YOU (1988)

Another 80s genre experiment on Geffen. Sitting outside Young's usual comfort zone, this is a horn-filled excursion into blues, jazz and soul. Backed by 10-piece band The Bluenotes, it's worth reassessment. The anti-consumerism title track gave corporate sell-outs like Michael Jackson the middle finger ("Ain't singing for Pepsi, ain't singing for Coke. This note's for you!"). From the late-night jazz of *Coupe De Ville* to the blues rock of *Life In The City*, this is an intriguing outlier.

£ Rarest 1988 Reprise £10-£15
Latest 2018 Reprise £15



RE-AC-TOR (1981)

Brutal and uncompromising. Punkish squalls abound, although the repeated refrain of "Got mashed potatoes, ain't got no Tbone" that runs through the nine-minute *TBone* will test the patience of a saint. *Get Back On It* is a simplistic mid-tempo rock 'n' roller and the MC5-lite *Rapid Transit* is throwaway fun. Closing track *Shots*, Young's first use on record of the Synclavier that he explored more fully on *Trans*, is an extraordinary assault on the senses.

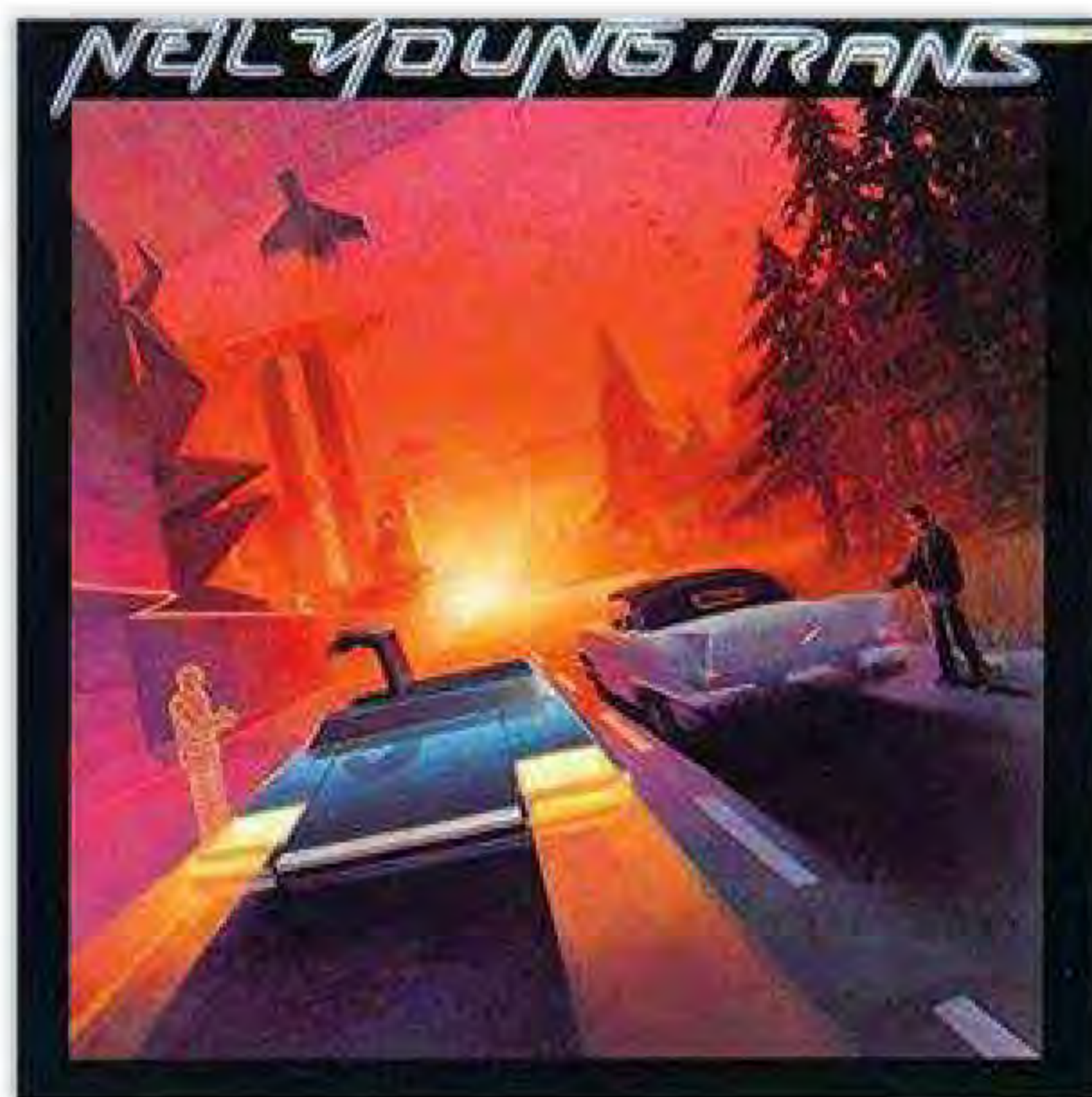
£ Rarest 1981 Reprise £12-£15
Latest 2018 Reprise £15



HAWKS & DOVES (1980)

Another oddity in the canon. The opening side of *Hawks & Doves* contains songs from as far back as 1974 and pinballs between the sprawling standout *This Old Homestead*, throwaway *Lost In Space* and tasty fingerpicking of *Captain Kennedy*. Side two features Nashville hoedowns such as the piss-taking *Union Man* and worrying title track, which seemed to suggest the writer of *Ohio* had crossed the tracks to become a Reagan-supporting Republican.

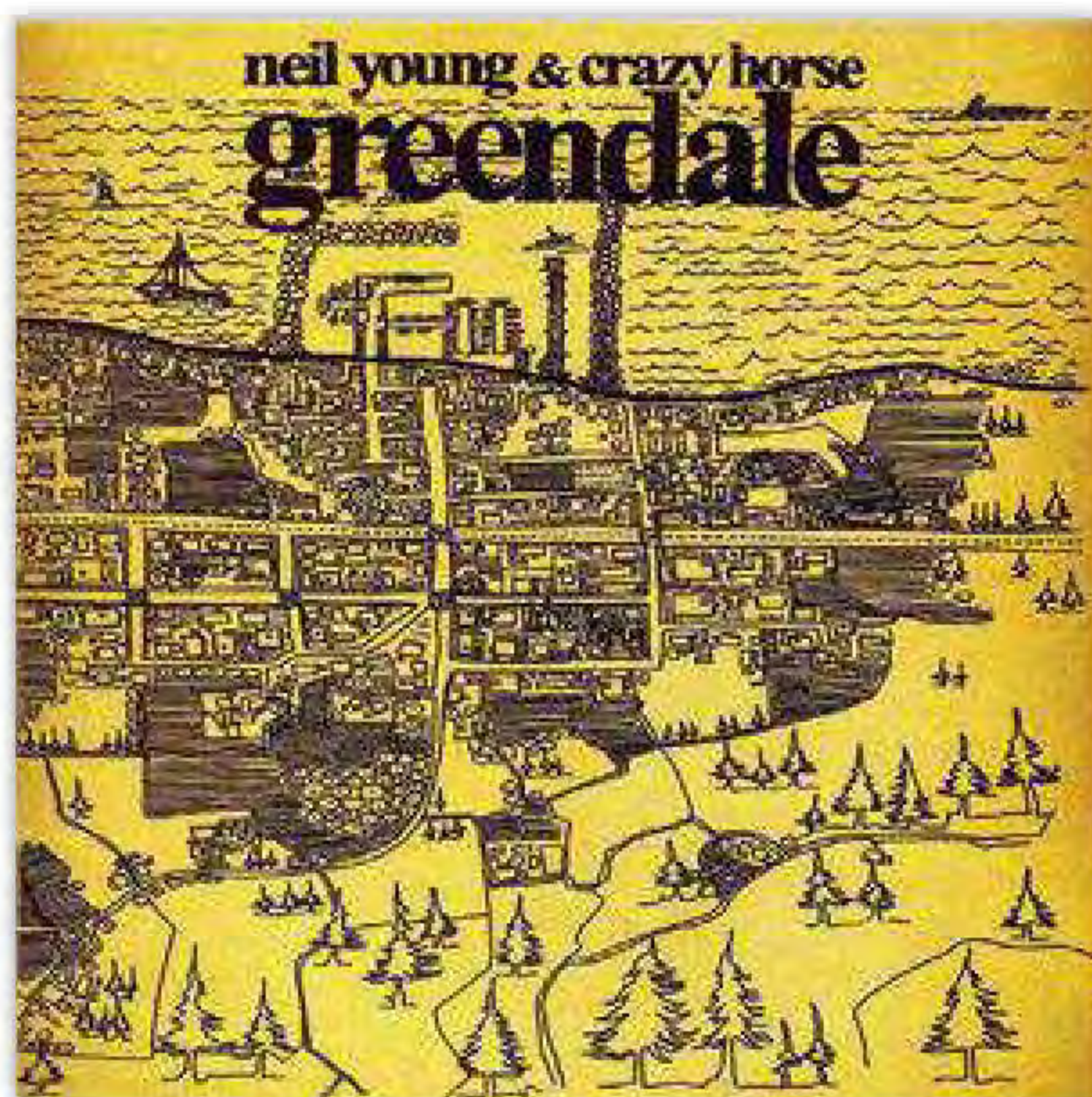
£ Rarest 1980 Reprise £15
Latest 2018 Reprise £15



TRANS
(1982)

Arguably Young's most controversial release, *Trans* now stands up well as a period piece. Moulding Kraftwerk's *Computer World* into his own guitar-based soundscape, *Trans* saw the songwriter explore new ways of communicating with son Ben, who was born with cerebral palsy. The meeting of vocoder vocals and Synclavier melodies is intriguing. *Computer Age* and the Big Brother protest of *We R In Control* are the pick of the bunch, along with the Devo-like *Computer Cowboy*.

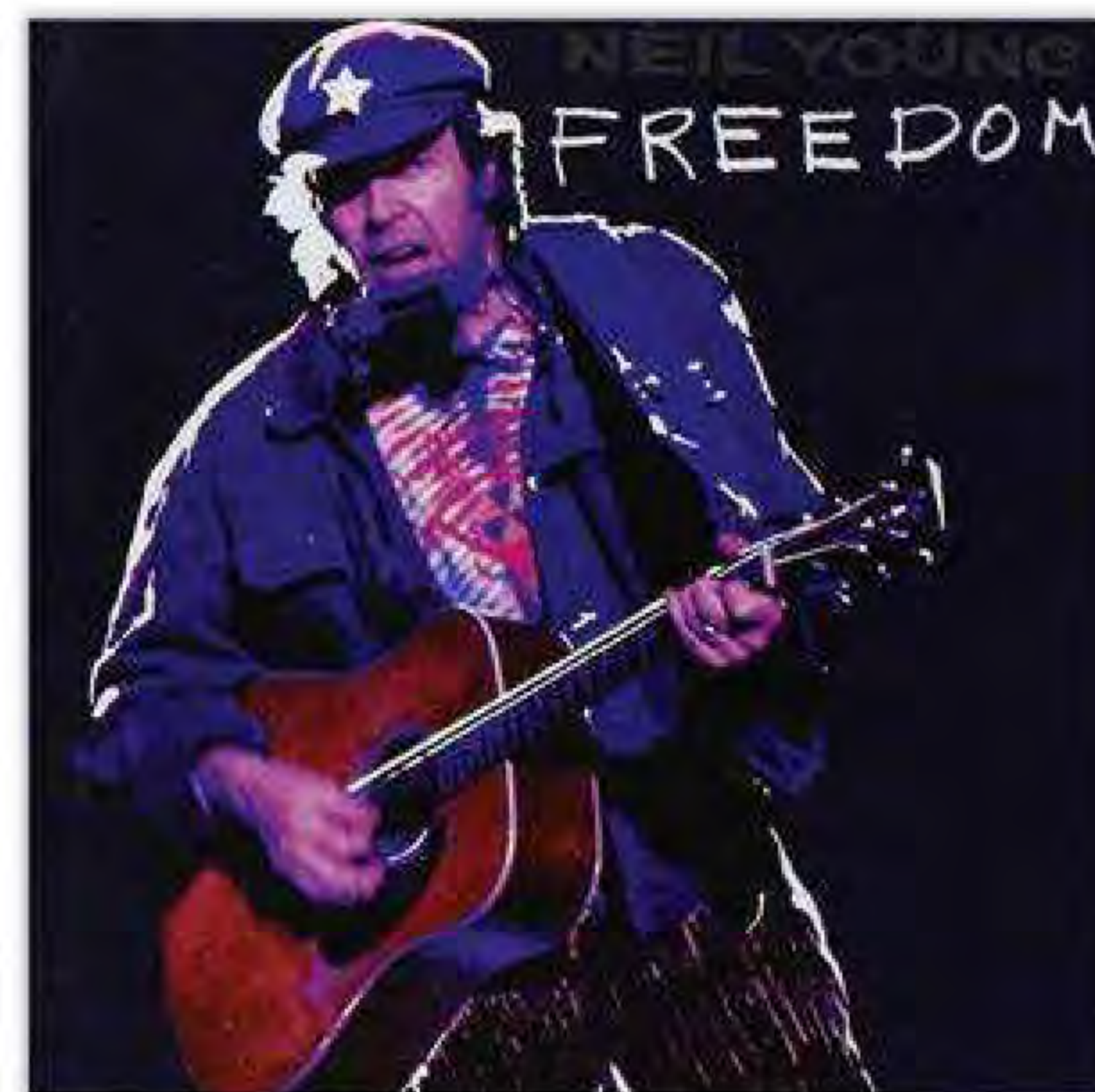
£ Rarest 1982 Geffen £10
Latest 1999 Geffen £10



GREENDALE
(2003)

Hugely divisive at the time of release, this ecological concept LP was part of a larger vision that included a longform movie, graphic novel and stage show. Crazy Horse provide the power-trio backing. Its narrative about an imagined West Coast town is flaky, but a strong second side including *Sun Green* and the anthemic *Be The Rain* lasted longest in the memory. Young's 60s idealism and contempt for political corruption were still very much in evidence.

£ Rarest 2003 Reprise £235 US boxset
Latest Out of Press



FREEDOM
(1989)

If Young tested all but his most devoted fans during the 80s, his renaissance starts here on an LP bookended and dominated by two versions of *Rockin' In The Free World*. *Don't Cry* bursts into life with an explosive overdriven solo, alongside exotic centrepiece *Eldorado*. In among exceptional originals, a surprising cover of Drifters chestnut *On Broadway* includes a rant about the evils of crack. His best album since *Rust Never Sleeps*.

£ Rarest 1989 Reprise £20
Latest Out of Press



UNPLUGGED
(1993)

Asserting Young as the elder statesman for the MTV generation, *Unplugged* covers a lot of ground. Early classics such as *The Old Laughing Lady* and *Mr Soul* work perfectly as acoustic and wheezing harmonica laments. Fresh arrangements of *Helpless* and *Like A Hurricane* are pulled off with effortless style, and his Stephen Stills collab on *Long May You Run* gets a chance to shine. They even recast the electronic Kraftwerk homage *Transformer Man* as strum-along folk.

£ Rarest 1993 Reprise £65
Latest Out of Press

After a goldrush?

Get your hands on Neil Young's most collectable vinyl

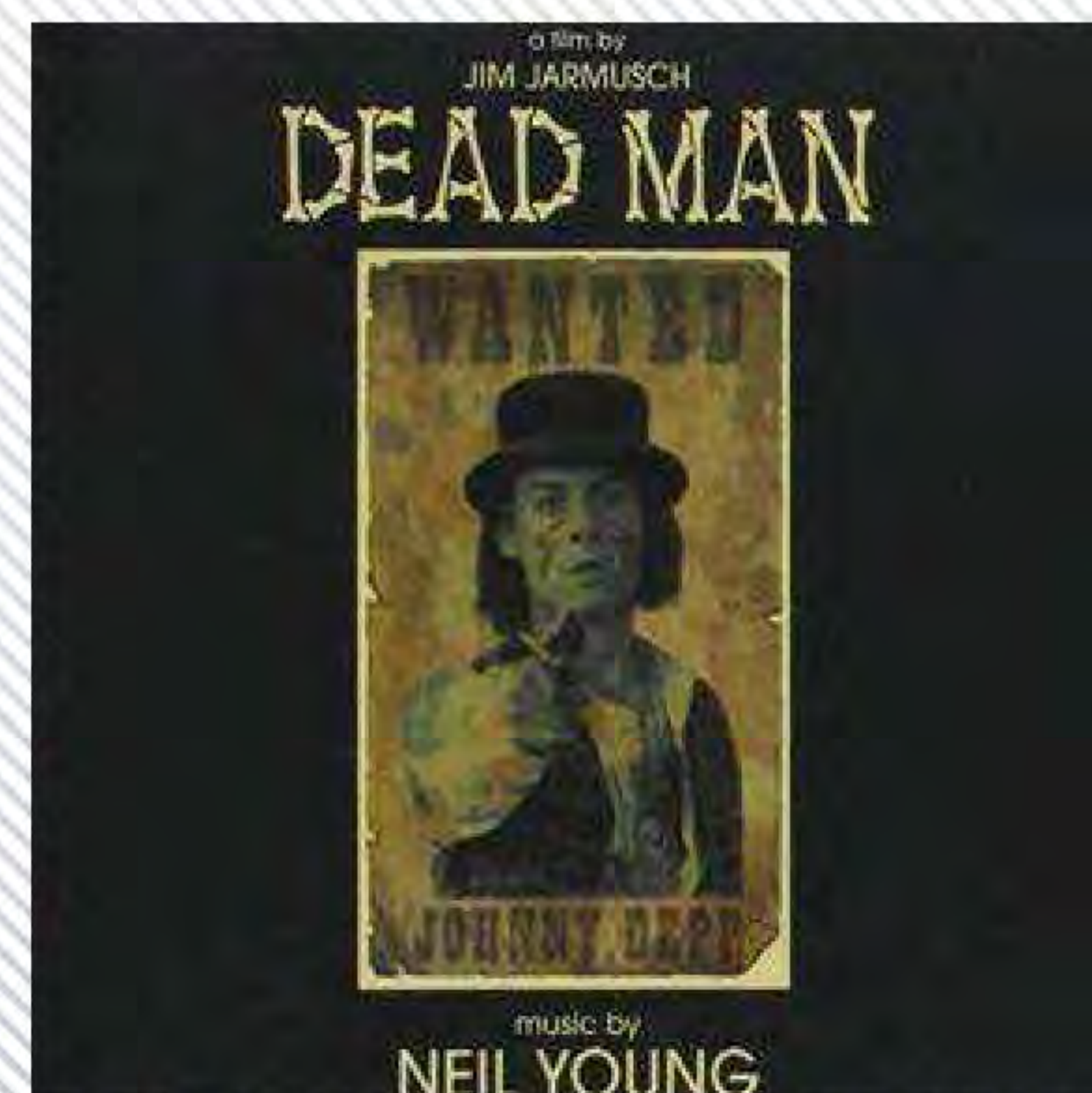
Neil Young may have attempted (and failed) to revolutionise the music industry with his high-resolution digital media player and download service Pono, but he's still made a considerable contribution to the vinyl scene across his career.

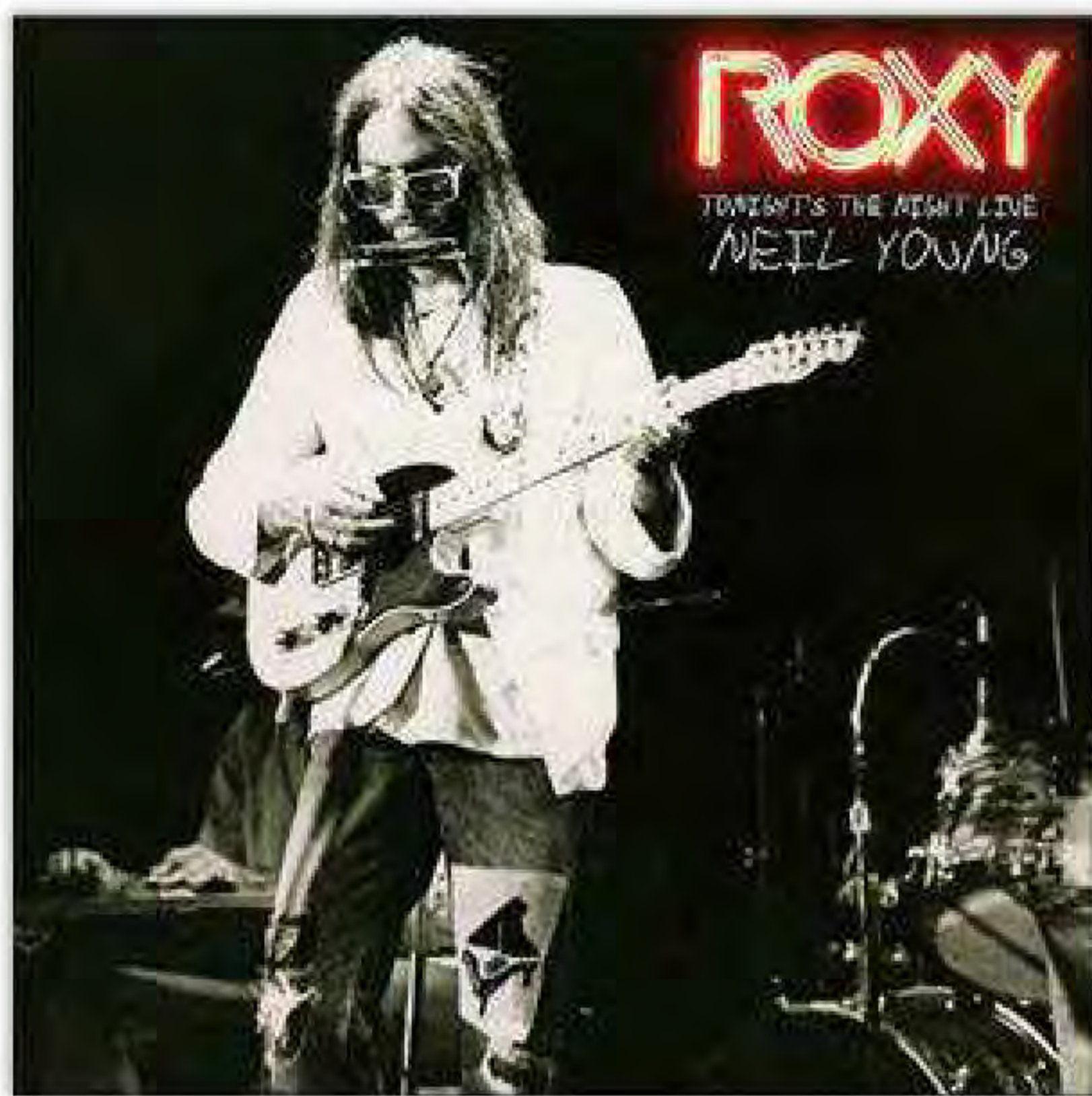
Naturally, plentiful supplies of his biggest-selling albums are available in the second-hand marketplace; mainstays such as *After The Goldrush* and *Harvest* can always be picked up at competitive prices.

Go off piste in the Young canon, though, and the collectible market quickly gathers pace. Rarities such as the Canada-only 7" single release of *The Sultan* by The Squires on V Records in 1963 could set you back an eye-watering \$3,000 (£2,270). The Holy Grail for Young collectors, only 300 were ever pressed and then sold at live shows in the Winnipeg area, where Young spent much of his early childhood.

Look out, too, for the first UK pressings of *Everybody Knows This Is Nowhere* issued on Reprise's Steamboat label. Expect to pay up to £400. Meanwhile, red lettering versions of *After The Goldrush* can make upwards of \$500 (£380).

Other rarities to seek out are Young's soundtrack to the Johnny Depp movie *Dead Man* (£100) and the Australia/Japan-only release of the *Eldorado* EP, which goes for a similar price.

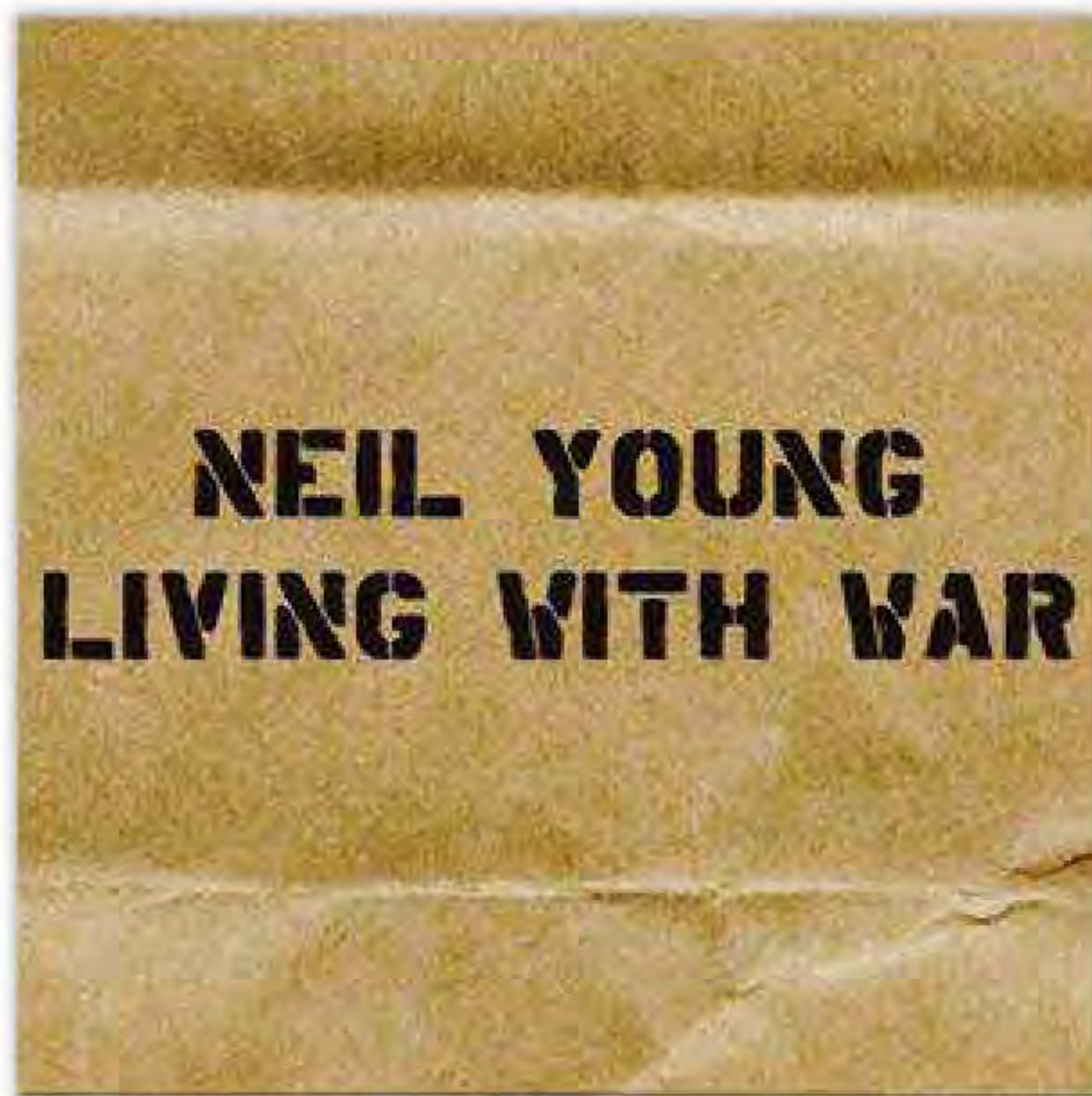




ROXY: TONIGHT'S THE NIGHT LIVE (2018)

Recorded during the 1973 gigs where Young played his as-yet unreleased *Tonight's The Night* album in its entirety. Although the setlist differs from the studio incarnation, these live versions retain the LP's narcotic craziness. The stunning title track finds him in reportage mode, with Nils Lofgren adding striking solos. *Mellow My Mind* has Young going beyond his vocal range – it's all part of the torn-heart feel of the album, though.

£ Latest 2018 Reprise £25



NEIL YOUNG LIVING WITH WAR (2006)

Described as the singer's "musical critique of US President George W Bush and his conduct of the war in Iraq", this was written and recorded in just nine days then rush-released for maximum impact. Young called it "metal folk protest music" and, conscious of making a headline-grabbing splash, he added a 100-strong choir to these rough-and-ready rockers. The punky thrash of *Shock And Awe*, and many others besides, were his most powerful political missives since *Ohio*.

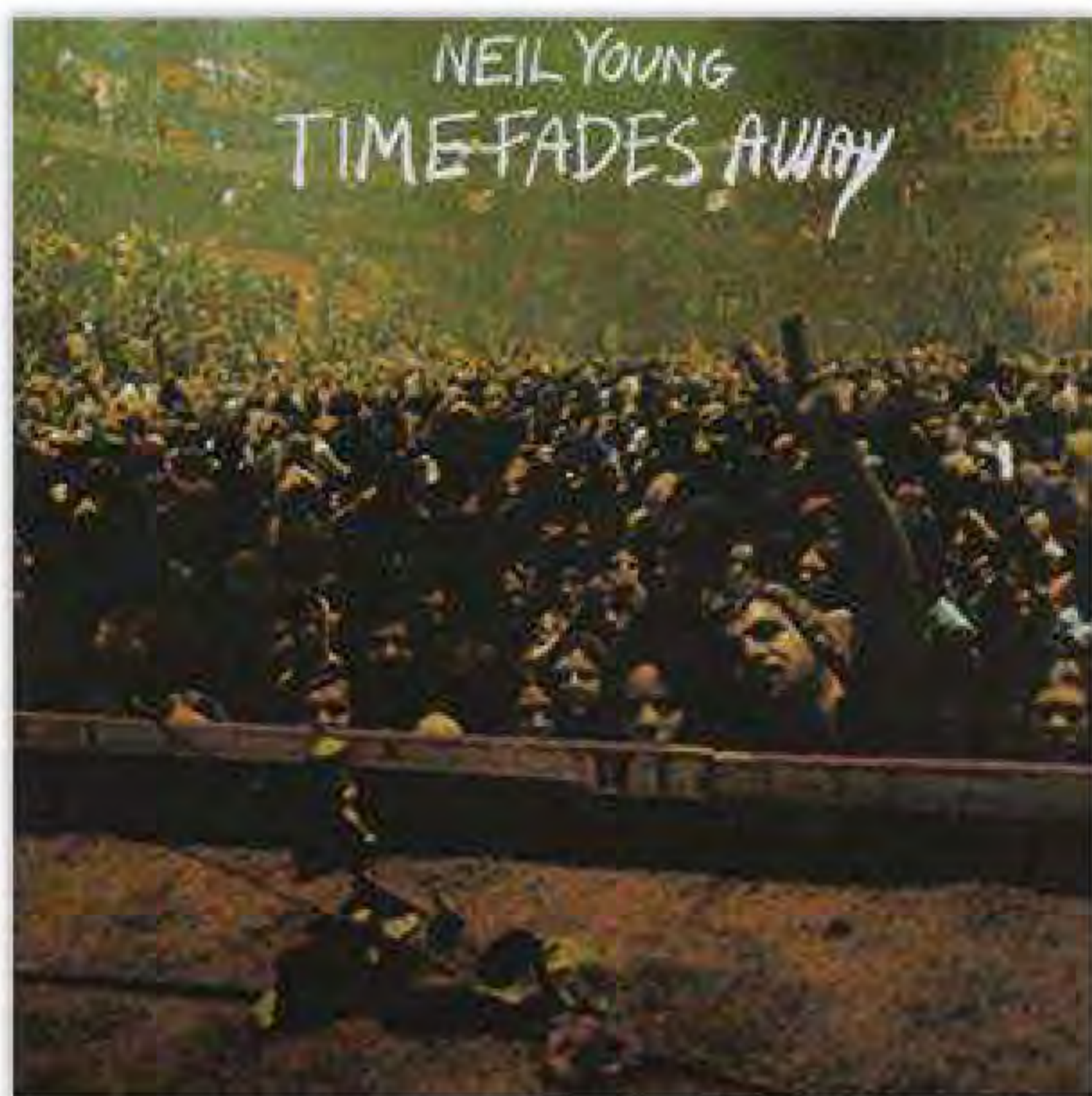
£ Rarest 2006 Reprise £75 (US import) Latest Out of Press



SUGAR MOUNTAIN: LIVE AT CANTERBURY HOUSE (2008)

The most obvious meshing of Young's Buffalo Springfield years and his first solo outings, this intimate concert predates his debut album by a few months. The majority of the audience would have been hearing *The Loner* and *I've Been Waiting For You* for the first time, but it's the Buffalo Springfield favourites (*Mr Soul*, *Expecting To Fly* and *Nowadays Clancy Can't Even Sing*) that shine brightest in this low-key hushed environment.

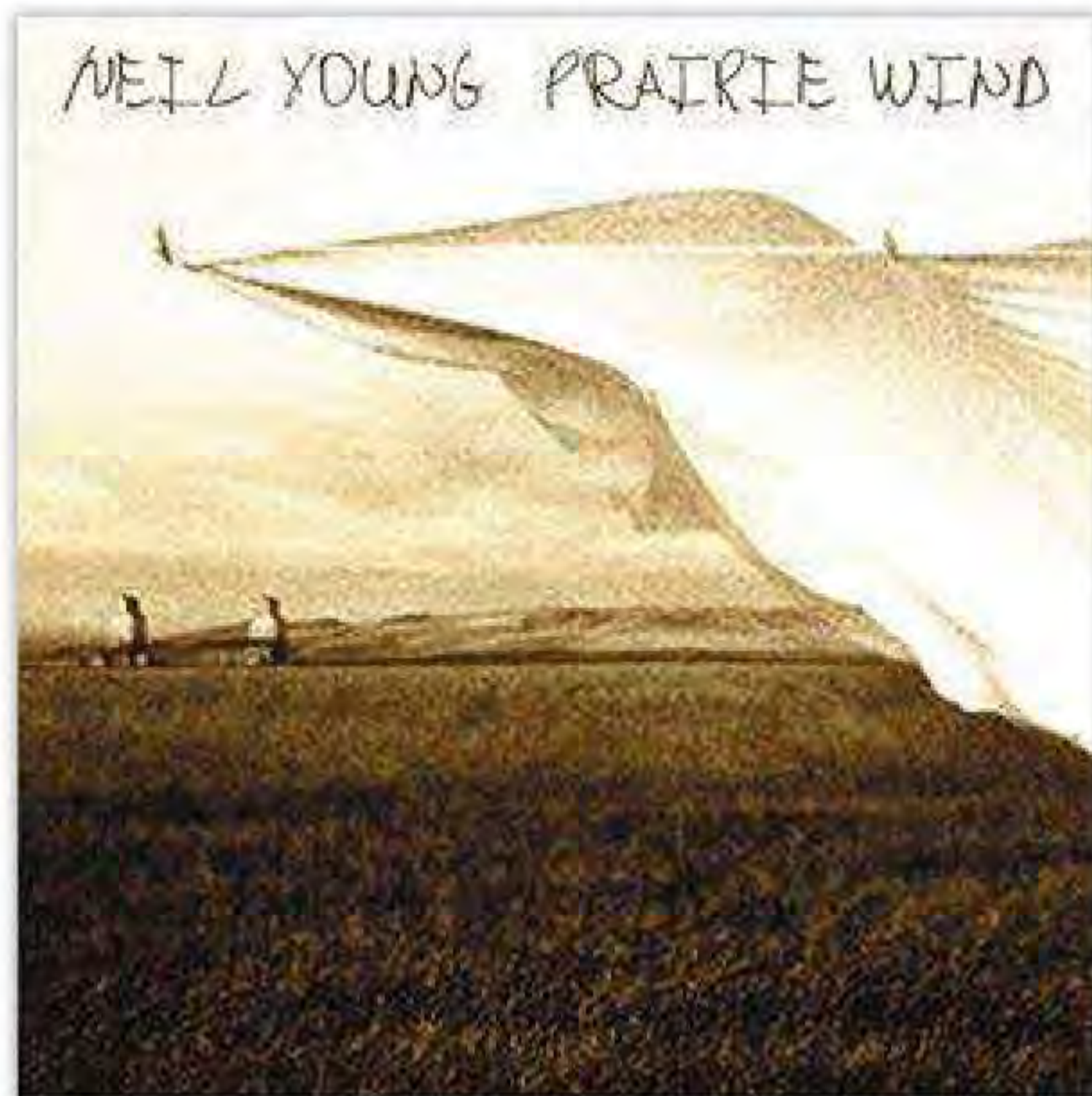
£ Rarest 2008 Reprise £63 (US import) Latest Out of Press



NEIL YOUNG TIME FADES AWAY (1973)

Like *Tonight's The Night*, the death of Danny Whitten before this tour, an astonishing 65 arena dates in just 90 days, dominates the atmosphere here. Young's black mood was made worse by band fall-outs over cash, and he's gone on record to say this is the least favourite of his own albums. Issued on vinyl in 1973 and withheld from CD for decades, this acted as a clearing house for previously unreleased material. It's seat-of-the-pants stuff.

£ Rarest 1973 Reprise £30 Latest 2016 Reprise £18



NEIL YOUNG PRAIRIE WIND (2005)

The sound of Young staring down his own mortality. Recorded after he suffered a brain aneurysm and amid the dying days of his father, this intensely personal record mostly finds the singer-songwriter back in acoustic territory. Ben Keith's dobro, steel and slide guitar add wonderful nuance to one of Young's most affecting latter-era albums. *Falling Off Of The Face Of The Earth* feels almost like a goodbye and Neil's cracked vocals on *It's A Dream* are nakedly affecting.

£ Rarest 2005 Reprise £75 (US import) Latest Out of Press



SILVER & GOLD (2000)

If you can see past the appalling cover art, certainly among Young's worst, there's a wonderfully reflective and ruminative appeal to his first album of the new millennium. Rarely given to nostalgia, Neil indulges himself for once with the lump-in-the-throat wistfulness of *Buffalo Springfield Again*, which mourns the dissolution of his former band. Elsewhere, *Good To See You* is like a hug from an old friend and the old-timey hoedown of *Daddy Went Walkin'* is rather cute.

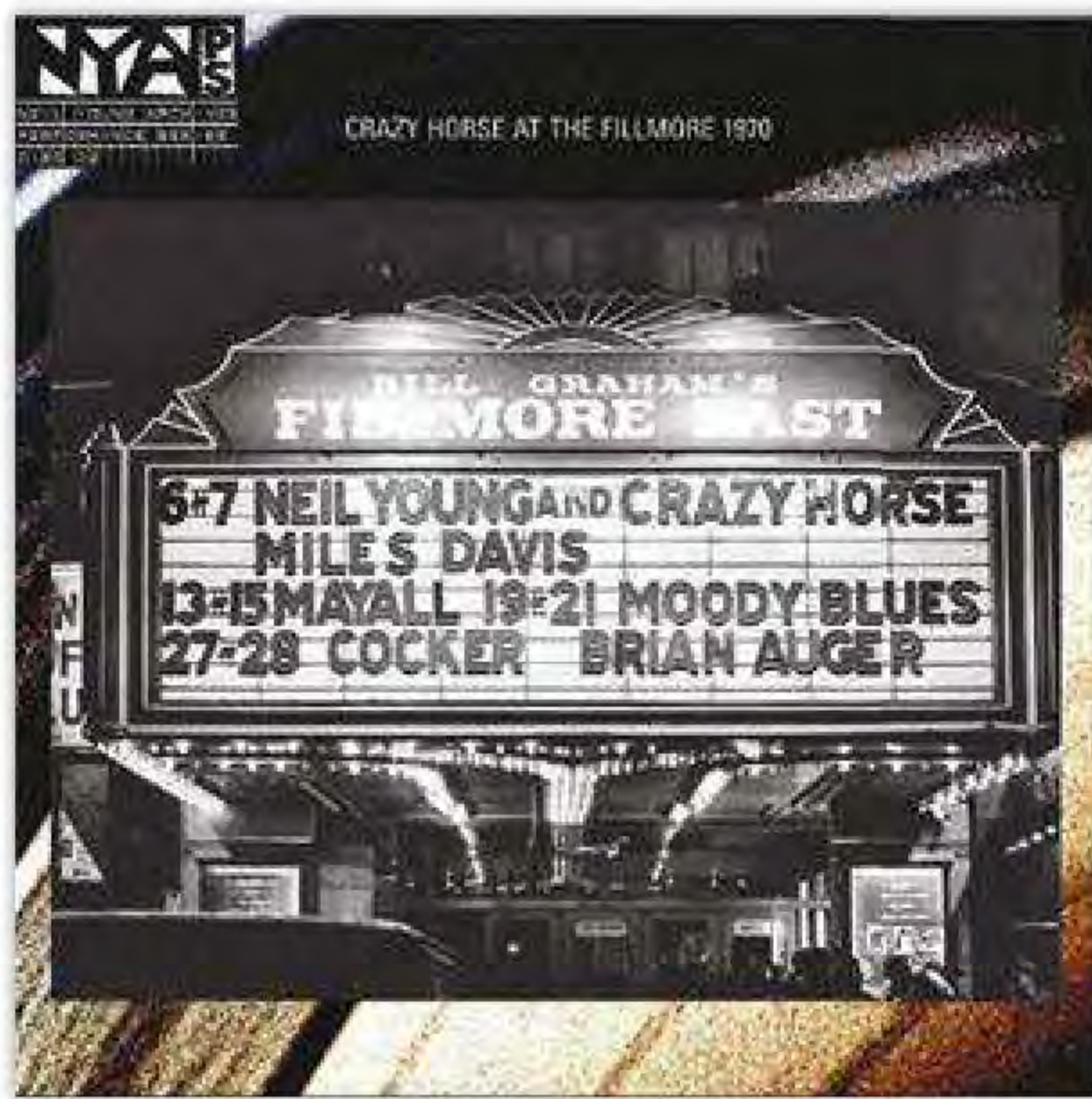
£ Rarest 2000 Reprise £15-£20 Latest Out of Press



LIVE RUST (1979)

Wringing more juice from the Rust Never Sleeps tour, this followed within a few months of that original companion album and puts those new *Rust Never Sleeps* cuts within the context of Young's back catalogue. Simple acoustic takes of early classics such as *Sugar Mountain* and *I Am A Child* nestle alongside more contemporaneous material like *Comes A Time*. Crazy Horse add muscle to *When You Dance I Can Really Love*, *Powderfinger* and *Cinnamon Girl*.

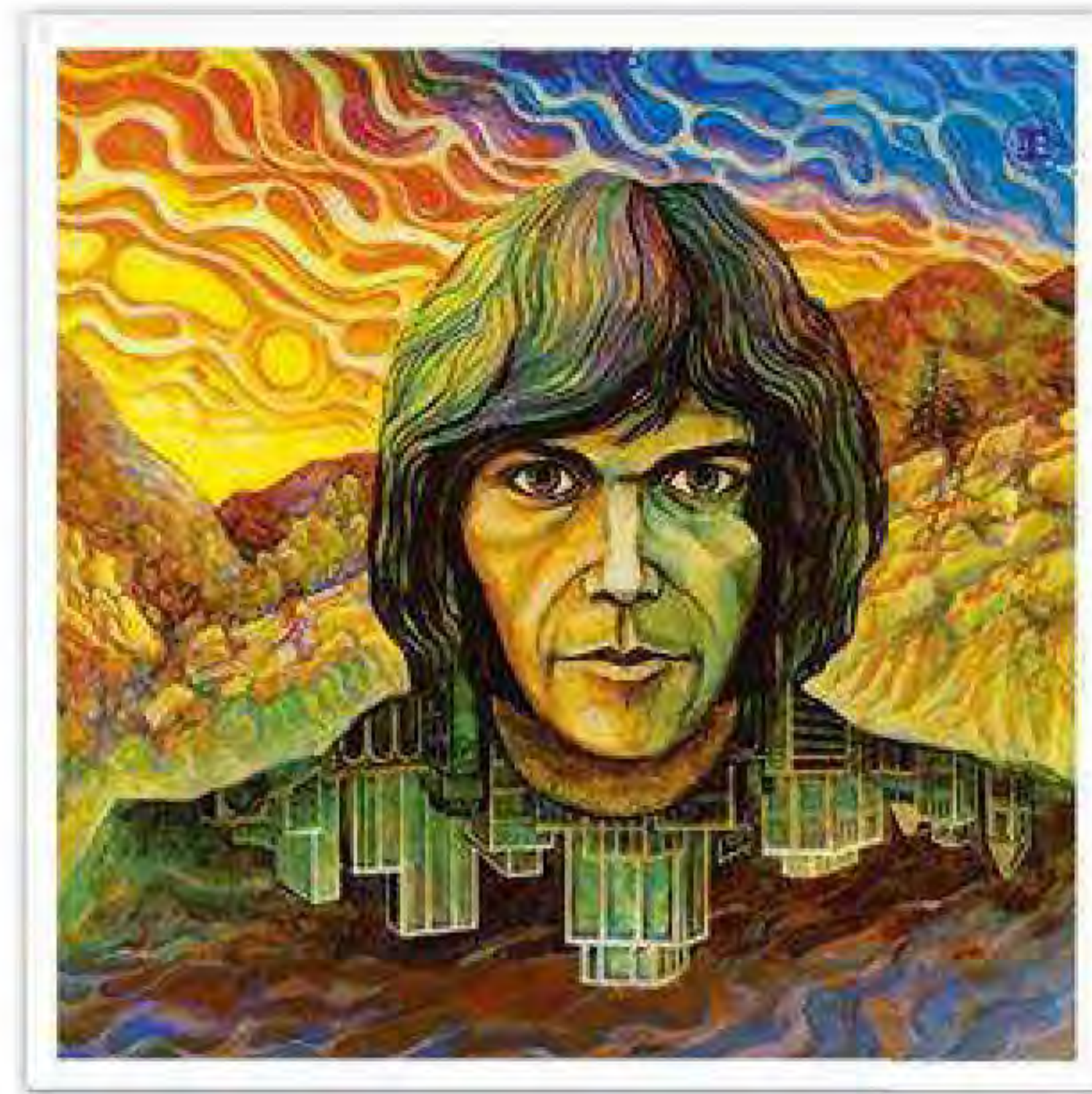
£ Rarest 1979 Reprise £20-£25
Latest 2017 Reprise £20



LIVE AT FILLMORE EAST (2006)

This first release from the *Archives* treasure trove is totally without self-indulgence. Clocking in at just six tracks and 40 minutes, Young and Crazy Horse are touring here to promote *Everybody Knows This Is Nowhere*. That album's title track kicks things off before a superb *Winterlong*, languorous *Down By The River*, *Cowgirl In The Sand* and Whitten-Young co-write *Come On Baby Let's Go Downtown*.

£ Rarest 2006 Reprise £35
Latest Out of Press



NEIL YOUNG (1968/1969 UK)

After the success of Buffalo Springfield, where Young competed with Stephen Stills and Richie Furay for songwriting supremacy, this was a tentative first step in his solo career. There's an instrumental and orchestral interlude to pad out the tracklisting, but *The Loner* rocks hard and *The Old Laughing Lady* showcases his acoustic, plaintive side before building to an unusually soulful mid-section, while the wistful *Here We Are In The Years* also impresses.

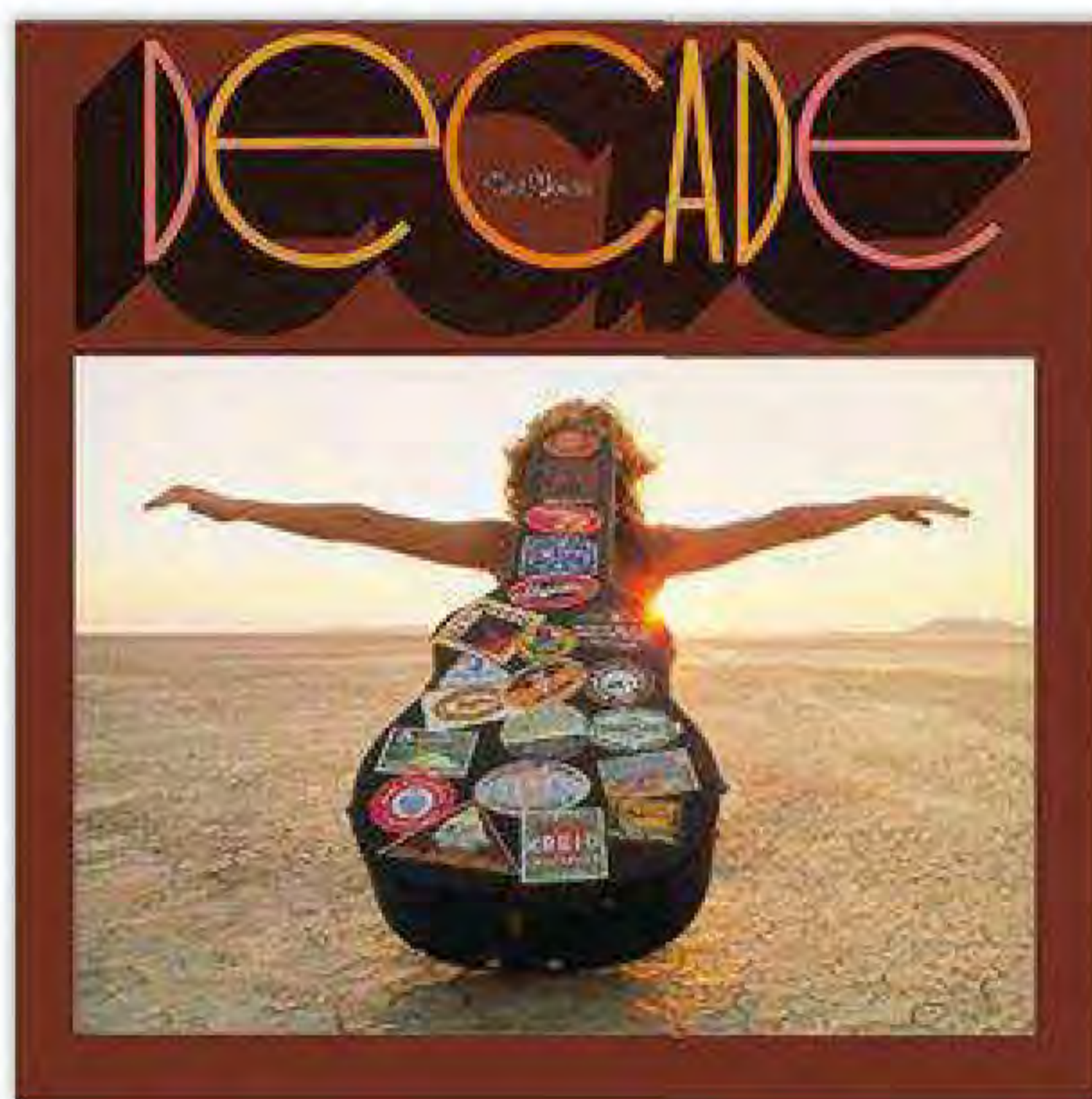
£ Rarest 1969 Reprise £100 (without name)
Latest 2009 Reprise £30 (gatefold)



HITCHHIKER (2017)

One of Young's most talked about unreleased albums finally saw the light of day in 2017. Recorded solo in a single day "pausing only for weed, beer or coke", *Hitchhiker* was rejected by his record company Reprise, who thought its stripped-back demo feel was crying out for a full-band treatment. Its material would be sprinkled across various LPs over the next 30+ years, although *Hawaii* and *Give Me Strength* appeared for the first time here.

£ Latest 2017 Reprise £18



DECADE (1977)

For years, the excellent triple *Decade* was the only Neil Young compilation on the market. In 1993, *Lucky Thirteen* scooped up his less than essential 1982-88 output, but it was a far inferior 'hits' package than its illustrious predecessor. *Decade* remains the best retrospective out there, running to 35 songs and covering his 1966-76 peak. The 2004 *Greatest Hits* includes later highlights such as *Rockin' In The Free World* and *Harvest Moon*.

£ Rarest 1977 Reprise £30
Latest 2017 Reprise £25



MIRROR BALL (1995)

If it's structured songcraft that you're after, then keep on moving – *Mirror Ball's* not for you. This 1995 team-up with Seattle grungesters Pearl Jam (uncredited on the sleeve due to label politics) was recorded over a pair of two-day sessions. There's a plug-in-and-play free spirit to this, as Young jostles for space in the mix with guitarists Stone Gossard and Mike McCready. The seven-minute *I'm The Ocean* takes the spoils on this scuzzy grunge-rock feast.

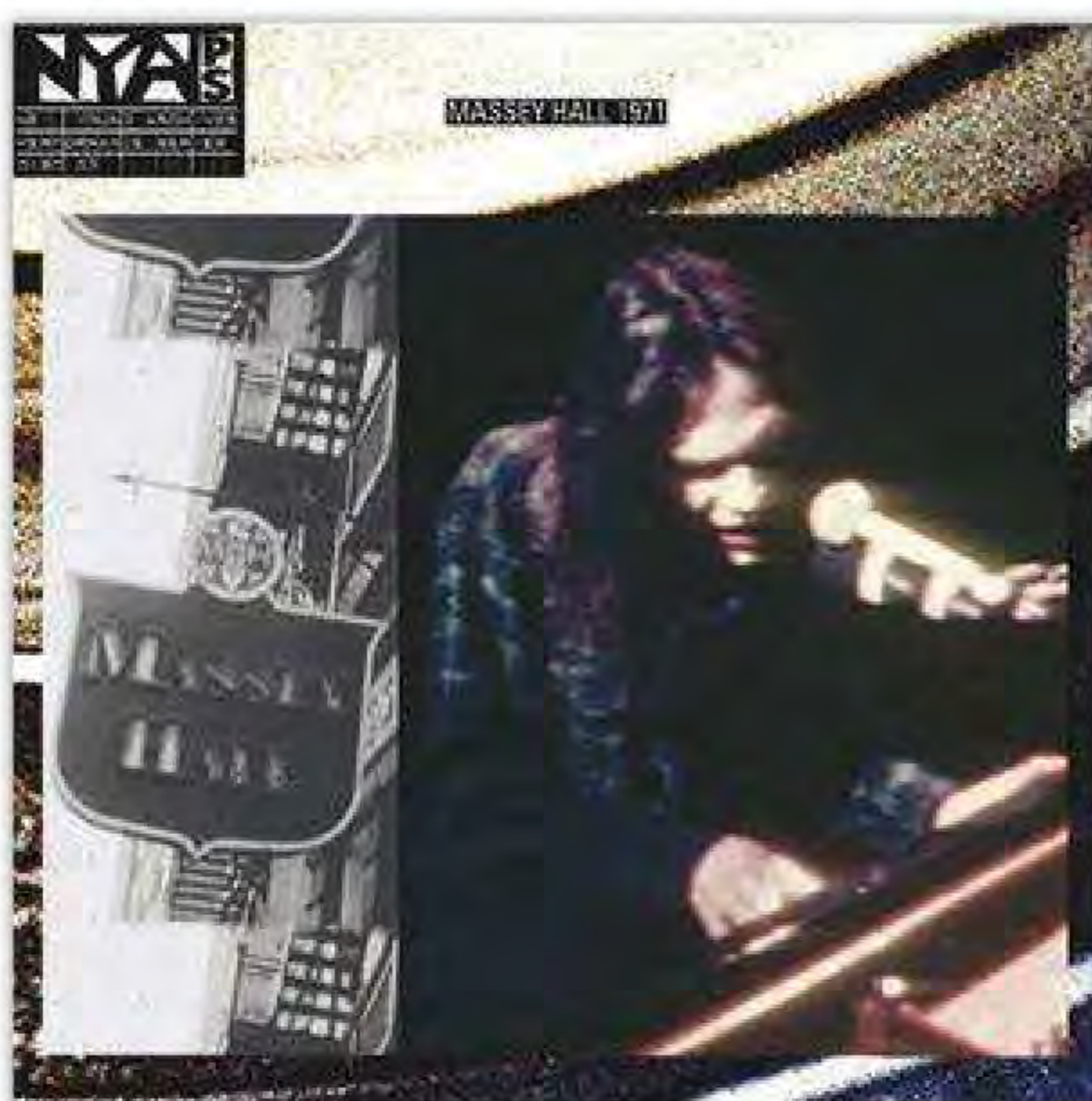
£ Rarest 1995 Warner Brothers £70
Latest Out of Press



SONGS FOR JUDY (2018)

Old Shakey's frantic release schedule in 2018 continued apace with this wide-ranging 23-track acoustic (guitar, banjo, organ and piano) live album culled from his 1976 US autumn tour. The rarities are headline news – *No One Seems To Know*, *White Line* and *Give Me Strength*. Nailed-on bankers including *After The Gold Rush*, *A Man Needs A Maid* and *The Needle And The Damage Done* satisfy occasional fans, but it's the rare cuts that really pique the interest.

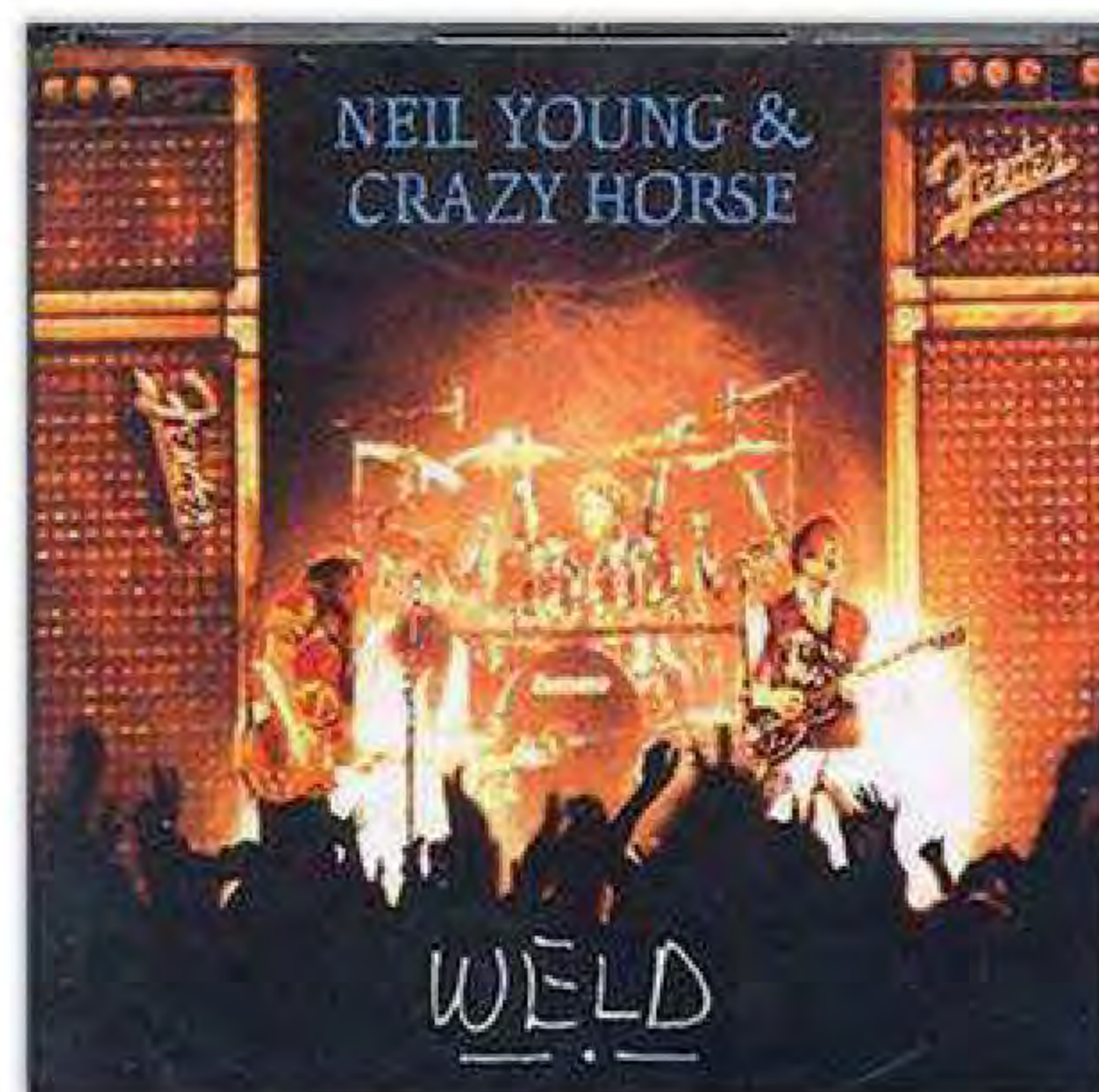
£ Latest 2018 Reprise £25



LIVE AT MASSEY HALL 1971 (2007)

The second release from Neil's *Archives* series was taken from the *Journey Through The Past* solo tour and recorded at Toronto's fabled live venue in January 1971. Belying the tour's title, this is no backwards-glancing nostalgia trip. Instead, only eight of the 18 songs performed had been released on record. Among the highlights are tracks that would eventually turn up on *Harvest*, *On The Beach* and *Time Fades Away*. A staggering glimpse into Young's future.

£ Rarest 2008 Reprise £30 (US import)
Latest Out of Press



WELD (1991)

Across two blitzkrieg hours, this is the ultimate expression of the face-melting electrified power of Neil Young and Crazy Horse. It's an unrelenting and punishing listen at times (and that's not even taking into account its companion album *Arc*, comprising 35 minutes of feedback, that this was originally released with). A relatively snappy, and thunderous, *Cinnamon Girl* sits nicely alongside epics including *Powderfinger*, *Cortez The Killer* and *Like A Hurricane*.

£ Rarest 1992 Reprise £60
Latest Out of Press

Stills waters run deep

Locking horns with a long-time sparring partner

The McCartney to Young's Lennon (or vice versa?), Neil's competitive nature was always piqued by collaborating with the fiery Stephen Stills – 'Captain Manyhands' to his friends, thanks to an astonishing multi-instrumentalist prowess. These most strong-willed of artists have regularly butted heads over the years, but a strange draw has seen them reconvene their working partnership on numerous occasions. In their early days, they shared the songwriting spoils in Buffalo Springfield with Richie Furay, turning out two stellar albums (third LP *Last Time Around* was released after the Springfield's dissolution). The band's second LP, *Buffalo Springfield Again*, in particular, is a high point of US psychedelic pop, with Young's *Mr Soul* and *Expecting To Fly* two standouts. After the Springfield's bitter split, fans were amazed that Young was later invited to join Crosby, Stills & Nash, although

few would argue his contributions to the band's superb *Déjà Vu* album helped seal their supergroup status. In 1976, Stephen and Neil joined forces for the imaginatively monickered The Stills-Young Band and the *Long May You Run* album, only for Neil to bail out after a few dates via telegram: "Dear Stephen, funny how things that start spontaneously end that way. Eat a peach. Neil."



COMES A TIME (1978)

Comes A Time may sound like Young's most easy-going album of the 70s, but a fraught genesis lay behind the birth of this downhome country offering. After various false starts and rethinks, Neil eventually served up this oddly uneven collection. Its first side is uniformly excellent, but then it tails off noticeably on the second side. A ragged mix on 200,000 copies destined for Italy and Japan saw Young shoot the consignment with a .22 calibre shotgun.

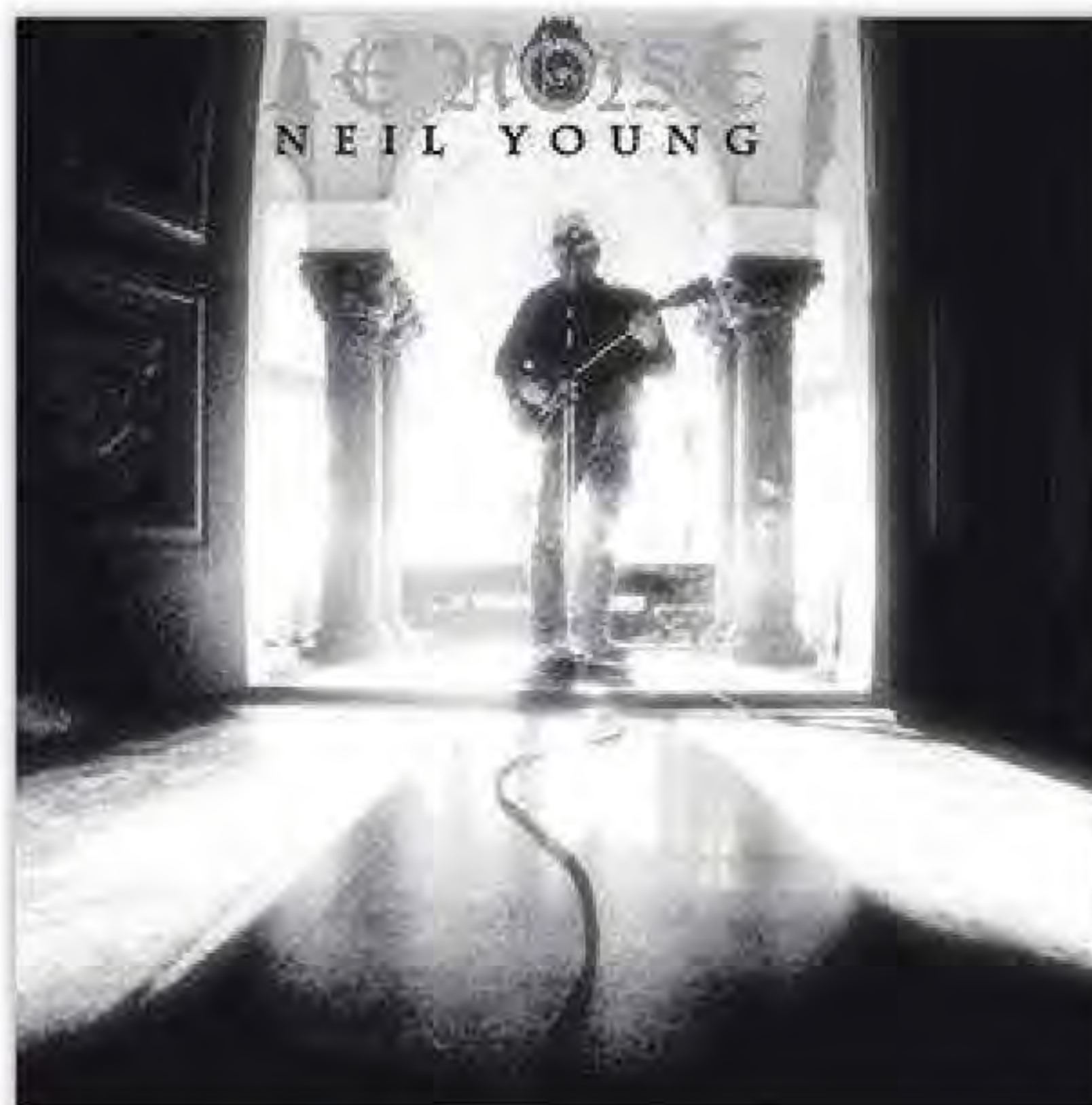
£ Rarest 1978 Reprise £15-£20
Latest 2016 Reprise £18



SLEEPS WITH ANGELS (1994)

Often wrongly characterised as Young's heartfelt tribute album to Kurt Cobain, only the title track was written after the Nirvana icon committed suicide. Instead, the plaintive tone for this 1994 long-player was set by the title track Young wrote for Jonathan Demme's AIDS-themed drama *Philadelphia* in late 1993. *Change Your Mind* is a trademark Crazy Horse chugger, while *Safeway Cart* aims a disappointed shrug at consumerism. *Trans Am* is another spooked highlight.

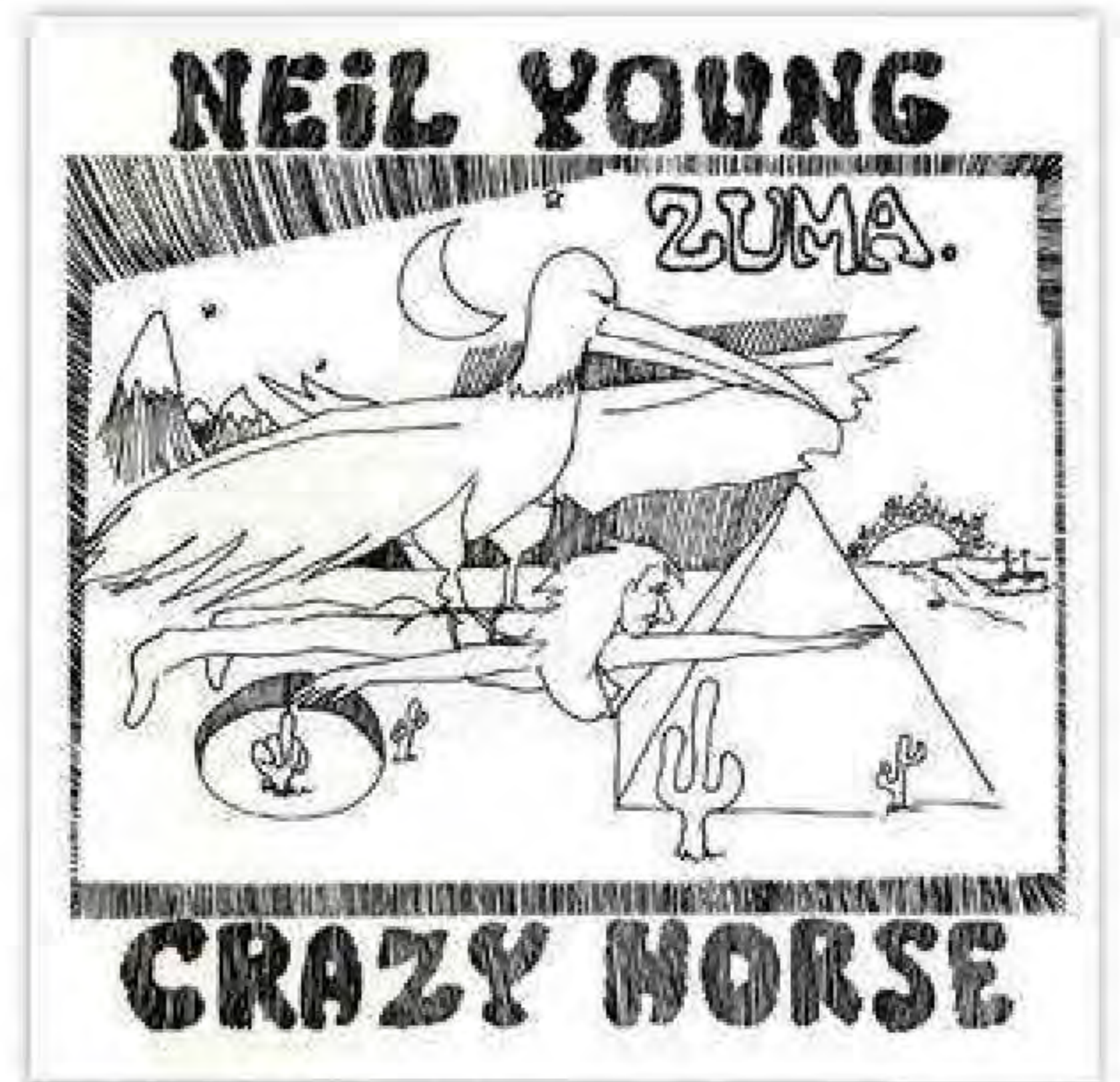
£ Rarest 1994 Reprise £50
Latest Out of Press



LE NOISE (2010)

In the present decade, there's as much excitement about Young's archival rescue jobs on unreleased tracks as there is for new material. Reunited with his trusty Old Black, Young grabs an arsenal of guitar effects pedals and turns things up to 11. Produced by Daniel Lanois (hence the punsome title), the headline for fans was the long-awaited appearance of the track *Hitchhiker*. Elsewhere, Lanois coaxes the best set of songs out of Neil for a decade or more.

£ Rarest 2010 Reprise £75 (US import)
Latest Out of Press



ZUMA (1975)

The long-awaited return of Crazy Horse, with little-known guitarist Frank 'Poncho' Sampedro replacing the late Danny Whitten. Although there's a darkness to the lyrics here, the Horse's ragged style somehow imbues these songs with an upbeat energy. Young's whip-smart lyrics are at their best on the knowing *Barstool Blues*, while the epic seven-minute *Cortez The Killer* would go on to become a key song in Young's live arsenal over the years.

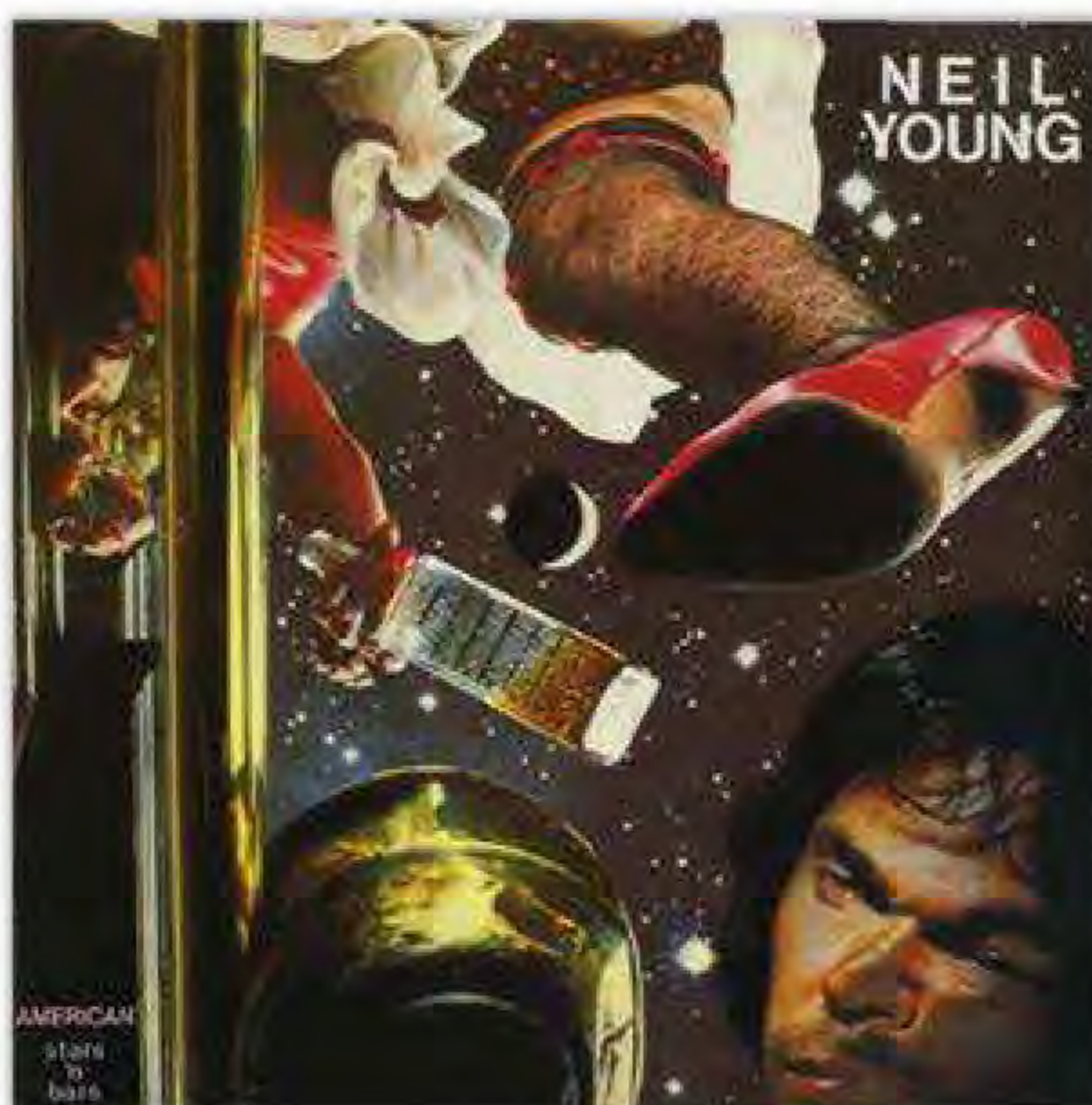
£ Rarest 1975 Reprise £30
Latest 2016 Reprise £15



HARVEST MOON (1992)

'Inventing' grunge took its toll on Neil's eardrums, so to stave off an attack of hyperacusis came this low-key acoustic collection. The title's an explicit nod to *Harvest*, and superstar backing vocalists James Taylor and Linda Ronstadt return to add their honeyed tones. The nostalgic *From Hank To Hendrix* crystallises the slick sound here, and the ambitious *Such A Woman* found Neil returning to the symphonic arrangements of *Expecting To Fly* from Buffalo Springfield's second LP.

£ Rarest 1992 Reprise £45
Latest 2017 Reprise £20



AMERICAN STARS 'N BARS (1977)

By 1977, Neil Young was stockpiling material at an alarming rate. If fans expected any coherence from his output they were in for a shock with this scattergun effort. *American Stars 'N Bars* was a freewheeling dumping ground for countryfied efforts such as *Saddle Up*, *The Palomino* and *Hold Back The Tears*. The kicker was the extraordinary *Like A Hurricane*, another stone-cold classic.

£ Rarest 1977 Reprise £10-£15
Latest 2016 Reprise £15



RAGGED GLORY (1990)

Can a multi-millionaire knock out a garage-rock classic more than 20 years into his recording career? Well, if you're Neil Young, yes you can. The title perfectly encapsulates the raucous thrills here, as Neil dips into his unreleased song collection to rescue 70s-penned tunes such as *Country Home* and *White Line*. *Fuckin' Up* is a foul-mouthed punkish squall, while *Farmer John* recycles an old Brit Invasion hit by The Searchers given a radical Crazy Horse overhaul.

£ Rarest 1990 Reprise £40
Latest Out of Press



RUST NEVER SLEEPS (1979)

A typically perverse Young concept, a live album of all-new songs where, for the most part, the crowd noise has been removed. *Rust Never Sleeps*, the title a reference to Neil's obsession with artistic forward momentum, is a strong collection. Its first side features acoustic numbers such as *Pocahontas* and the countryfied *Sail Away*. The electric second side is classic Crazy Horse proto-grunge, including *Hey Hey, My My (Into The Black)*.

£ Rarest 1979 Reprise £25-£30
Latest 2016 Reprise £20



ON THE BEACH (1974)

In his liner notes for the *Decade* compilation, Young wrote: "Heart Of Gold put me in the middle of the road. Travelling there soon became a bore, so I headed for the ditch." The first in the so-called 'Ditch Trilogy' was *On The Beach*. Highlights include *Walk On* and the banjo-led *For The Turnstiles*. In the wake of the Manson killings, *Revolution Blues* was so on-the-money, it scared the bejesus out of David Crosby, who plays rhythm guitar on it.

£ Rarest 1974 Reprise £70
Latest 2016 Reprise £20



AFTER THE GOLD RUSH (1970)

Those expecting more sprawling overdriven guitar-rock for the follow-up to *Everybody Knows...* were knocked out by this predominantly introspective set. *After The Gold Rush* became a set text for the burgeoning Laurel Canyon singer-songwriter enclave, with the piano-led title track and swooning *Only Love Can Break Your Heart* shining brightly. There's still space, though, for the fiery protest fury of *Southern Man* to prove Young hadn't left his Gibson at home.

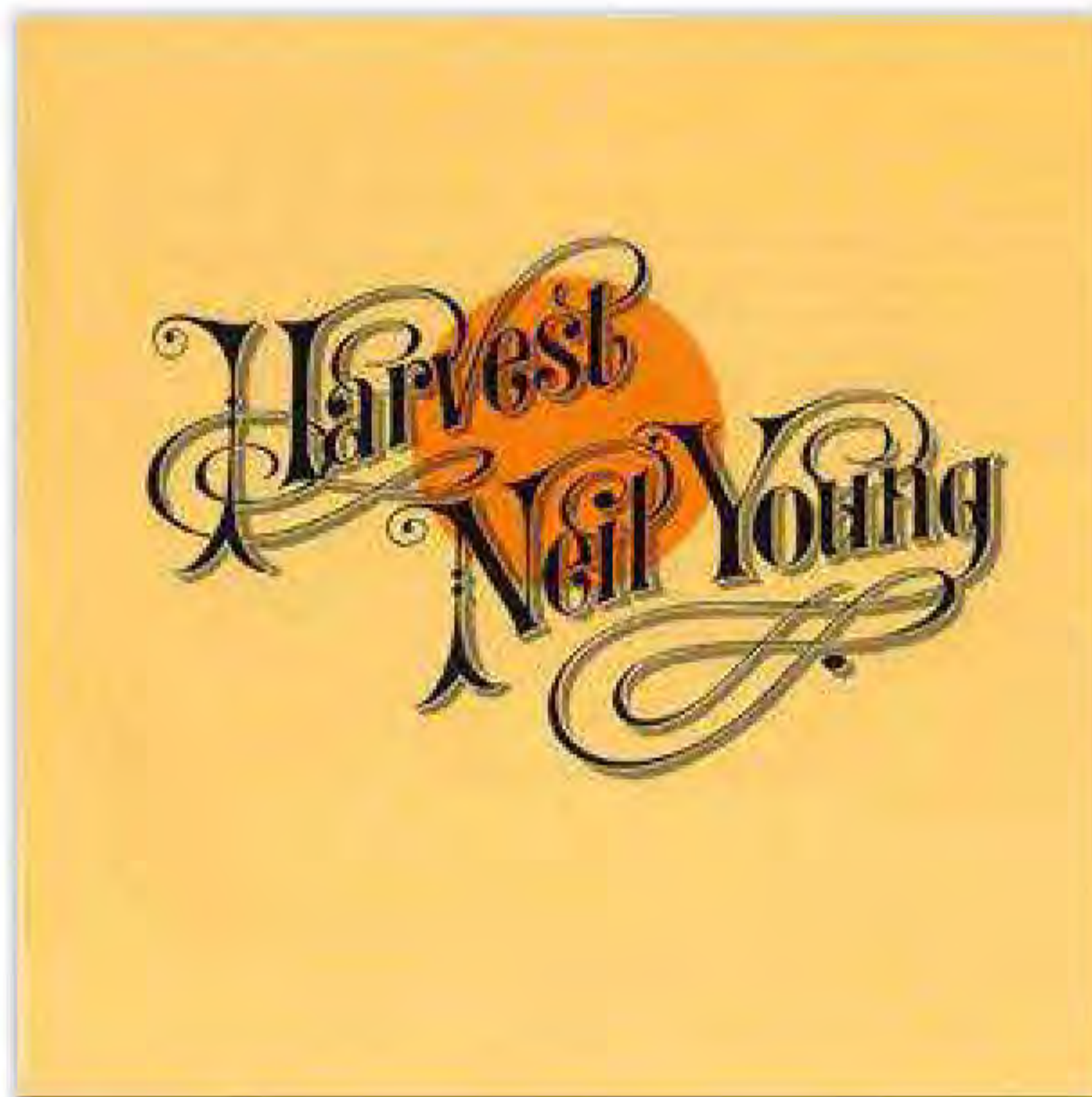
£ Rarest 1970 Reprise £50
Latest 2010 Reprise £25



TONIGHT'S THE NIGHT (1975)

This boozily ramshackle album may sound like a riot, but there's real pain behind the hedonistic carnage. A direct response to the drug-related deaths of Danny Whitten and roadie Bruce Berry, this was recorded before *On The Beach* but delayed for a year. Wasted on tequila, Young howls through the wracked title track and overreaches his vocal range on *Tired Eyes*. Astonishingly raw, many fans consider this to be Young's most powerful work.

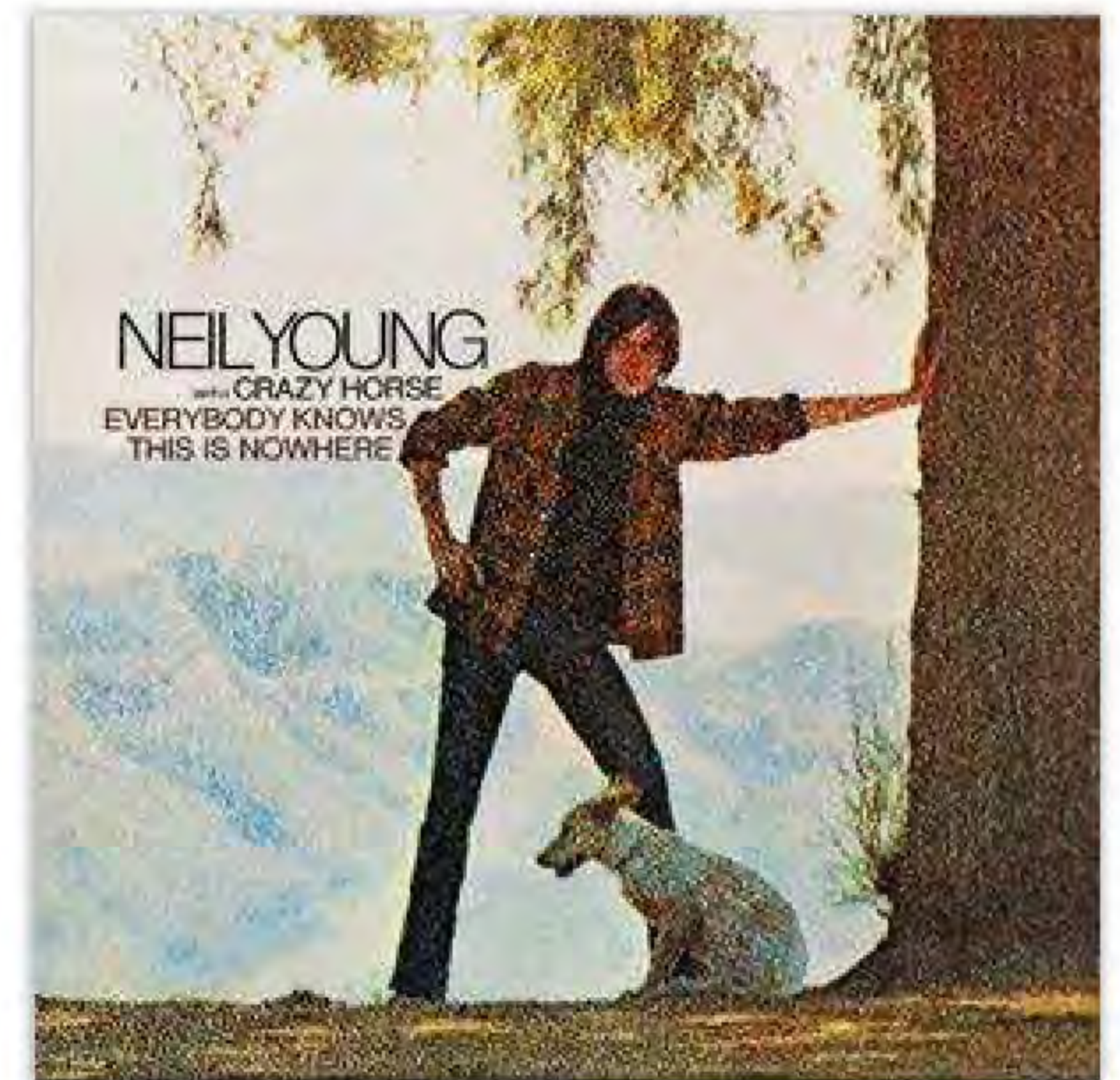
£ Rarest 1975 Reprise £30
Latest 2015 Reprise £20



HARVEST (1972)

The album that turned Young into a superstar was a wonderfully diverse and accessible collection featuring the purity of the waltzing title track, strumalong *Heart Of Gold* (a hit single!) and the stark fingerpicked acoustic ballad mourning the death of Crazy Horse's Danny Whitten, *The Needle And The Damage Done*. Only the overblown orchestral backing to *A Man Needs A Maid* feels at odds with this most tasteful of Young efforts.

£ Rarest 1972 Reprise £45 (cardboard sleeve)
Latest 2010 Reprise £25



EVERYBODY KNOWS THIS IS NOWHERE (1969)

A quantum leap on from his eponymous debut solo LP, Young's first album with Crazy Horse laid the groundwork for vast swathes of his career to come. Remarkably, the rocking opener *Cinnamon Girl*, done and dusted within the space of three minutes, and sprawling epics *Down By The River* and *Cowgirl In The Sand* were all written in a single afternoon while Young was in a state of delirium suffering a 103°F high fever.

£ Rarest 1969 Reprise £70
Latest 2009 Reprise £30