

SUNDAY AGE
Melbourne, VIC.

DRUM MEDIA

Date . . . - 6 DEC 1992

RECORD OF THE WEEK

'Arkansas Traveller' by Michelle Shocked: Released earlier in the year but still timely in the light of Shocked's national tour, 'Arkansas Traveller' is eclectic in both its songs and musicianship and almost perfect in its delivery. One cannot help feeling Shocked is destined for even greater things. While the roots of the album lie in the American musical tradition, its message is unerringly contemporary.

Date . . . 8 DEC 1992

• The Warner Brothers who are Melbourne recording artists rather than a multinational record label, are touring Sydney at the moment of writing for Michelle Shocked, so you'll see them at the State Theatre Thursday 10 and up in Newcastle University Friday 11.

JUKE

Date . . . 12 DEC 1992

International Tourists

Pt. 2: While Michelle Shocked is visiting Australia, overseas magazines are claiming that she's disappeared! An English court recently ordered her to pay \$300,000 to her former manager who she sacked in October 1989. The ex-Mr. Ten Per Cent's lawyers tried to contact her in L.A., only to find she'd moved out of her last known address three months ago and hadn't been spotted since!

LTD.

THE ADVERTISER
Adelaide, S.A.

Date . . . - 9 DEC 1992

Music

Stories and fun for y'all

Michelle Shocked
The Old Lion Hotel
Monday

IT WAS a night of yee-haws and y'all from Michelle Shocked, the powerful Texan singer and songwriter who brought folk-tinged fiddle music, swing and country into the mainstream through deft use of poignant lyrics and intriguing stylistic collages.

In a performance highlighted by old favorites including Anchorage and Don't You Mess Around With My Little Sister, the concert was a forum through which to renew

old acquaintances with local audiences and to expose new material from her latest offering, Arkansas Traveler, made with the collaboration of musicians discovered or sought out during a caravan trip through America.

The many different sounds and influences which have inspired much of her work were easily recreated by a backing band of three multitalented musicians, who worked furiously, using a variety of instruments from the mandolin to the violin and acoustic guitar.

After crediting her father, "Dollar" Bill Johnston, for his

contribution to her work on Arkansas Traveler, Shocked whipped through new numbers including an adaptation of the Cotton Eyed Joe folk story, retitled Prodigal Daughter, and Shaking Hands (Soldier's Joy), the sorrowful tale of a soldier addicted to morphine. While she colorfully recounted stories behind many songs, she was careful not to become overly introspective or reflective. The performance was as much storytelling and thigh-slapping fun as it was musically enthralling.

Shane Sutton