

# VIDEO SCENE

by BARTON WEISS

## Video looking back to '60s



Elvis Costello

These days, every video artist seems to be redoing the '60s.

First in the look-back genre is Elvis Costello's version of the Animals' "Don't Let Me Be Misunderstood." The song is straight '60s, but Costello's arrangement, with acoustic bass and xylophone, has a more subtle drive than the original angry-young-man version.

The video is another story. Costello and his bass player perform the song and shaky shots of the other instruments are inserted. This kind of shakiness is common in uptempo clips, but it almost hurts the eye when it's used with this lyrical

ballad. Once the viewer gets used to it, however, the jerkiness almost becomes another rhythm instrument and adds a rough Animal-like edge.

### They love Lucy

The last look back is the most self-conscious one. Manhattan Transfer starts out

"Blee Blop Blues" with simulated "I Love Lucy" dialogue. When group members finally get into the song, they stay in character — as Fred, Ethel, Ricky and, of course, Lucy.

It's always fun to look back, but isn't it about time that music and video started looking forward again?

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