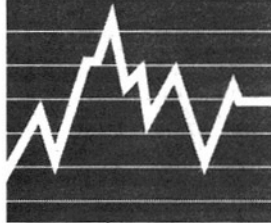


Business News

IN BRIEF



Dame Shirley spurns majors with first album in 10 years

■ Dame Shirley Bassey is the latest artist to spurn the major music labels and release her latest album through an independent distribution channel. *Get the Party Started* will be released next week through the Lock, Stock & Barrel label which has signed a global marketing and distribution deal with Absolute Marketing & Distribution which will spend £100,000 promot-

ing the album. Distribution companies like Absolute and Integral offer independent labels the chance to keep hold of artists by providing marketing expertise and financial backing when releasing an album. Dame Shirley plays at the Glastonbury Festival this weekend and has appeared on Marks & Spencer advertisements to promote the record, her first in 10 years.



Dame Shirley Bassey GARETH CATTERMOLLE/GETTY IMAGES