Rush proves to be more than fly by night

At 20, rock group starts new tour

BY HARRY SUMRALL
Knight-Ridder News Service

> **If you go**
>
> ▶ **What:** Rush, with special guest Primus.
> ▶ **When:** 8 p.m. Friday.
> ▶ **Where:** Riverfront Coliseum.
> ▶ **Tickets:** $22.50 and $29.50 plus service charge at Select-a-Seat, 721-1000.

"Twenty years — it's a weird thing being in a band for that long," Geddy Lee says. He's talking about the years he has spent playing bass with the Toronto rock band Rush.

"Sometimes, I think, 'Did the bell ring, and I didn't answer it?' " he says, laughing. "I almost feel guilty for being around this long. Shouldn't we be doing something different by now?"

Lee laughs again at the thought. Then dismisses it.

New disc debuts at No. 2

In the past two decades, Rush — which includes guitarist Alex Lifeson and lyricist-drummer Neil Peart — has been one of the more durable and successful bands in the rock world. From its eponymous 1974 debut album to its most recent release, *Counterparts*, the group has maintained a vast and devoted following that sells out tours and buys the group's records by the millions. When *Counterparts*, the group's 19th album, was released in October, it entered the Billboard charts at No. 2, just behind Pearl Jam's mega-hit, *Vs*

And now there is a new Rush tour, which stops Friday at Riverfront Coliseum.

"I think that Rush has lasted this long because we have always had a civil relationship between the three of us, and we enjoy what we do," Lee says. "It's like we look at each other sometimes and say to ourselves 'What a great job!' It's the best of all worlds. We are constantly trying to do new things with our craft and our music."

On *Counterparts*, one of those "new things" really proves to be old. Unlike such recent albums as *Presto* (1989) and *Roll the Bones* (1991), which included electronic keyboards, the new album is propelled by the pounding, quasi metal sound that was once a hallmark of the Rush sound.

Mission accomplished

Such songs as "Animate" and "Stick It Out" off *Counterparts* come with Lee's helium-high vocals, Lifeson's cranking power chords and Peart's agile drumming. While the songs have a rock-based sound, they are also punctuated by complex time signatures and instrumental forays.

"There is a sense of mission accomplished about this record," Lee says. "We had a sonic goal in mind when we made it, and we're pretty happy with the way it worked out.

"We wanted a bigger, more aggressive sound than we got on *Roll the Bones*. We wanted to update our sound by going backward, in a sense, and playing by instinct. We decided to keep it basically as a trio sound and expand it from there."

The result is an odd amalgam of art-rock sophistication and metal power, which has been at the core of Rush's sound since the beginning. That sound is also crucial to the group's new tour.

"I think the set for this tour is one of the most musically fluent that we've had in a long time," Lee says. "We're doing a wide variety of songs from our past, including songs from albums like *Hemispheres* (1978) and *Moving Pictures* (1981), along with the newer songs. There is a lot of new energy that we get from the older songs. We are able to really look at them more objectively and to add new things to them."

But Lee points out that the current tour is not a 20th-anniversary event: "My fear is that there could be a reunion vibe to the tour. But we're trying not to look at it (that way). That isn't what this group is about. Rush is a current, alive group."

Staying power

Rush has survived — from the punk era to techno-pop, grunge and the rest — and maintained its vast base of older fans while gaining new ones. Hailed by Les Claypool of Primus, Rush has achieved the status of elder statesman to a new generation of rockers.

"There seems to be a great curiosity, but also a contemporary feel about Rush," Lee says. "A tremendous range of fans comes to our shows. There are headbangers and then older people my age." Lee is 40.

And how long can Rush keep going?

"Who knows?" Lee says. "We place a high priority on our performances. And our songwriting is a pride and joy. I don't really see an end to that, because doing it is such an elusive thing. You never know how far you can go with it.

"I think as long as we can be vital creatively that we can keeping going as a group. I guess we'll keep doing it one record at a time."

Ad: Bare-chested young hunk doesn't fear for safety

CONTINUED FROM PAGE D1

reverse sexism. I don't believe in the concept, and even if I did, it isn't present in this commercial. Reverse sexism implies there is a parallel world where women control the economy and the government, where men are expected to serve biology — their highest calling being stay-at-home fathers as they fight for their rights.

If the Diet Coke spot were based on reverse sexism, the man would have to be working for a woman-owned company, in which women consistently out-earned the men. The men would have to be frustrated by the lack of men at the top. They would have to bemoan the fact that a huge chunk of their paycheck goes for child care and that every time their kid gets sick, they have to take time off from work or arrange for special care. The male middle managers would have to feel they just had nowhere to go but sideways.

Down at the bottom rungs, the construction worker would have to feel that he was hired only because his physical package is so perfect, and that pounding nails better than all the gals wasn't enough; that taking his shirt off was the only sure way to get noticed.

To really drive home the point, our bare-chested young man would have to be just a tiny bit nervous as he walked to his car every night, looking straight ahead, wondering if one of those leering ladies from next door might be capable of actually harming him.

An impossibly silly scenario, isn't it?

But, honey, it works for me.

THEATER REVIEW

'The Rights' winds up being boring

BY JACKIE DEMALINE
The Cincinnati Enquirer

Pryor (Keith Brush) is a wannabe producer, who whines into his cellular phone — a lot. He's always calling El-lay. "What are we if not full-time part-time help?" he yelps to his cohort. "I'm almost 30, and I'm out of the loop. I'm loopless."

Pryor would sell his family for *The Rights*. The rights to a perfect, wretched, vaguely reality-based movie-of-the-week.

He thinks he has one in Joy (Nicole Callender), who claims to be Prince Charles' illegitimate daughter, but then he looks around: at his brother, Lyle (Buz Davis), an artist and escaped mental patient who has imprisoned their father Worth (Robert Browning), in a subcellar. Lyle is not without familial feeling — he drops Oreo cookies through a tiny air shaft. Mom (Joanna Olsen) takes it all in stride, so much so that she puts you in mind of Nancy Reagan.

Lee Blessing is a facile playwright, but *The Rights*, in its world premiere at Ensemble Theatre, is too often as flat as one of Lyle's paintings. (Lyle's single claim to artistic fame is a show at the Whitney Museum comprised of blank walls and title cards. His artistic statement has to do with the superficiality of art and life.)

The most intriguing thing about *The Rights* is that many of the subjects Blessing mocks are exactly what make his play much too long for its mere two hours.

Worth, a poet, waxes eloquent from his prison, which he's come to love in his three days' incarceration with a true artist's zest for solitude and suffering and self-involvement.

But too much talk about art is — forgive me — boring. Just as too much talk about television is mindless. A night of talking about

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THE FUGITIVE (PG-13)	12:50 3:30 7:10 9:50
WAYNE'S WORLD 2 (PG-13)	1:05 3:05 5:05 7:05 9:05
SISTER ACT 2 (PG)	12:20 2:30 4:45 7:15 9:45
COOL RUNNINGS (PG)	12:30 2:45 4:50 7:20 9:35
ADDAMS FAMILY VALUES (PG)	1:10 3:10 5:10 7:25 9:25
JURASSIC PARK (PG)	12:00 2:20 4:40 7:00 9:20
THE THREE MUSKETEERS (PG)	12:10 4:30 7:30
BLINK (R)	2:25 9:30
IRON WILL (PG)	12:15 2:20 4:30 7:35 9:40

BIGGS PLACE EASTGATE
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WAYNE'S WORLD 2 (PG-13)	1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00

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CENTRAL PARK 11
$1.50 ALL SEATS ALL SHOWS
NORWOOD LATERAL MONTGOMERY RD. EX. 531-7655

WAYNE'S WORLD 2 (PG 13)	12:35 2:50 5:05 7:20 9:50
SISTER ACT 2 (PG)	12:20 2:35 4:50 7:05 9:20
BLINK (R)	12:15 2:35 4:55 7:15 9:45
HOUSE PARTY 3 (R)	12:30 2:40 5:20 7:30 9:35
THE FUGITIVE (R)	12:20 3:10 7:10 10:00
THE GETAWAY (R)	1:00 3:15 7:25 9:55
ADDAMS FAMILY VALUES (PG-13)	12:45 5:20 7:30
COOL RUNNINGS (PG)	12:15 2:30 4:45 7:15
MAN'S BEST FRIEND (R)	9:45
JURASSIC PARK (PG 13)	12:25 3:05 7:00 9:35
IRON WILL (PG)	12:45 3:05 5:25 7:45 10:05
THE 3 MUSKETEERS (PG)	12:40 3:05 5:30 7:55 10:15
I'LL DO ANYTHING (PG-13)	2:45 10:05

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CAROUSEL 369-3366 All Seats $1.00 Except Fri-Sun $1.50 after 6PM
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BARGAIN SHOWS BEFORE 6PM
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MONKEY TROUBLE (PG)	
FLORENCE	12 55 3 00 5 10 7 25 9 40
CINEMA 275 EAST	4 55 7 00
NORTHGATE	12 50 3 00 5 10 7 30 9 35
COVEDALE	4 30 7 10
KENWOOD TOWNE CENTRE	2 30 4 45 7 15 9 15
TRI COUNTY	1 00 3 00 5 00 7 00 9 00
THE REF (R)	
FLORENCE	1 20 3 40 5 50 8 00 10 10
NORTHGATE	1 15 3 30 5 40 8 00 10 10
KENWOOD TOWNE CENTRE	1 15 3 30 5 40 8 10 10 20
TRI COUNTY	1 30 3 30 5 30 7 30 9 30
GUARDING TESS (PG13)	
FLORENCE	1 10 3 20 5 30 7 45 9 55
CINEMA 275 EAST	5 40 7 40
NORTHGATE	1 00 3 15 5 25 7 45 10 00
COVEDALE	5 00 7 40
KENWOOD TOWNE CENTRE	12 45 3 00 5 00 7 50 10 05
THE CHASE (PG13)	
FLORENCE	1 45 3 50 8 20 10 20
CINEMA 275 EAST	5 25
NORTHGATE	2 15 4 20 6 45 9 00
TRI COUNTY	3 20
GREEDY (PG13)	
FLORENCE	2 00 4 30 6 55 9 20
CINEMA 275 EAST	4 40 7 20
NORTHGATE	2 00 4 35 7 20 9 50
KENWOOD TOWNE CENTRE	1 00 5 15 7 35
TRI COUNTY	1 45 4 45 7 15 9 45
WHAT'S EATING GILBERT GRAPE (PG13)	
FLORENCE	1 30 4 00 6 30 9 10
KENWOOD TOWNE CENTRE	1 30 4 00 6 45 9 30
TRI COUNTY	2 00 5 15 7 45 10 10
ON DEADLY GROUND (R)	
FLORENCE	2 40 4 55 7 10 9 30
CINEMA 275 EAST	8 00
NORTHGATE	2 30 4 50 7 05 9 20
KENWOOD TOWNE CENTRE	3 15 9 50
TRI COUNTY	1 15 5 45 8 00 10 20
MY FATHER THE HERO (PG)	
FLORENCE	2 15 4 15 6 40 8 40
NORTHGATE	1 30 3 45 5 50 8 10 10 20
IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER (R)	
FLORENCE	12 45 3 30 6 15 9 00
KENWOOD TWIN	2 00 4 45 7 30 10 20
SHADOWLANDS (PG)	
KENWOOD TWIN	1 00 4 00 7 00 10 00

FLORENCE 7585 FLORENCE MALL RD 525-8400
275 EAST Rt 28 at 275 831-8900
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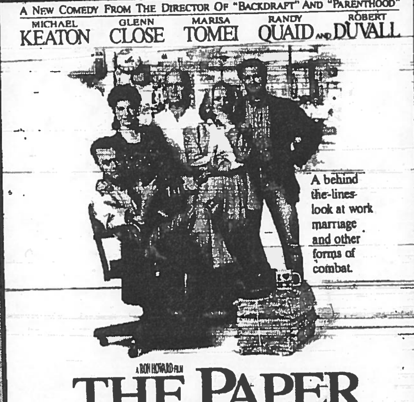

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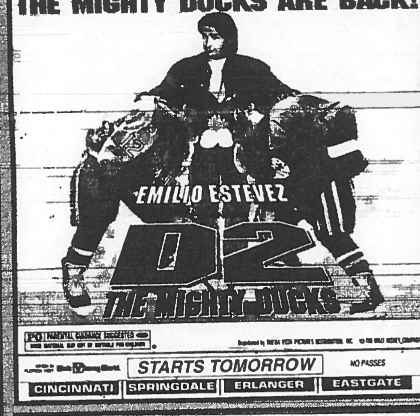

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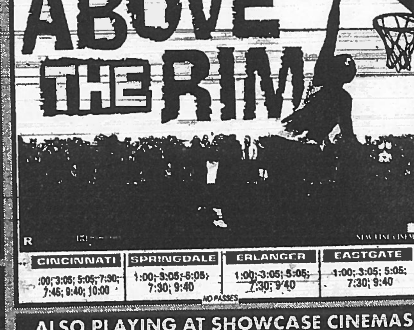

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NEW LINE CINEMA
CINCINNATI 1:00; 3:05; 5:05; 7:30; 7:45; 9:40; 10:00
SPRINGDALE 1:00; 3:05; 5:05; 7:30; 9:40
ERLANGER 1:00; 3:05; 5:05; 7:30; 9:40
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REALITY BITES (PG-13)	1:10 3:15 7:40 9:45
ACE VENTURA: PET DETECTIVE (PG-13)	1:20 3:20 5:25 7:35 9:35
LIGHTNING JACK (PG-13)	1:15 3:20 5:25 7:30 9:35
SUGAR HILL (R)	1:30 4:30 7:35 10:10

SHOWCASE ERLANGER

REALITY BITES (PG-13)	7:40 9:45
ACE VENTURA: PET DETECTIVE (PG-13)	1:20 3:20 5:25 7:35 9:35
LIGHTNING JACK (PG-13)	1:15 3:20 5:25 7:30 9:35
SCHINDLER'S LIST (R)	1:00 4:30 8:00
ANGIE (R)	1:10 3:25 5:35 7:50 10:05