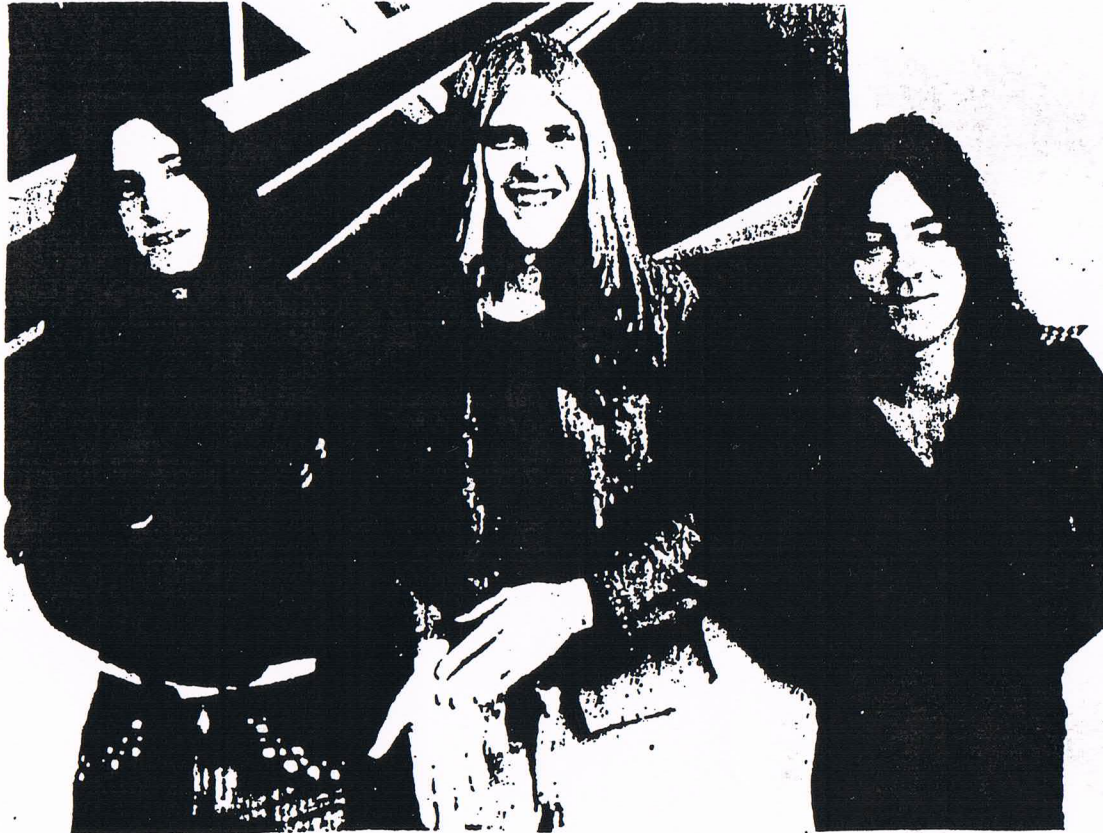


# Rush: deadly serious about their music



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By JOHN AYEARST

Rush is Alex Lifeson, lead guitar and background vocals, Geddy Lee, bass and lead singer, and John Rutsey on the drums. They are a three-piece heavy metal band, similar to Uriah Heep and Led Zeppelin. Originally from Toronto, they formed the group about five years ago.

Their music is loud, to say the least, but it is very tight. The music flows, with each and every guitar run, cymbal crash and bass throb leading logically into the next one. Rush creates a total sound environment, and if one were to close his eyes, it would be hard to believe there were only three persons on stage.

Geddy's unique voice, which almost sounds like he just swallowed some razor blades, compliments the fine guitar work of Alex and the tasteful drumming of John, as well as his own pulsating bass.

Besides the obvious impact, Rush also creates a spectacular video impact while on stage. Bedecked in gleaming satin, jewellery, and fingernail polish, they thrust themselves into the very essence of their music. Amid the flashing lights, they grimace, smile and cavort around the stage, truly enjoying themselves.

Most of Rush's music is original, but occasionally they pick up another artist's song and play it in their own energized style. Two fine examples that come to mind are Buddy Holly's "Not Fade Away", which was their first single released in the summer of 1973, and a superb rendition of an old Junior Walker tune on which Alex uses an echoplex for a stunning effect.

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