LIVE IN CONCERT

RUSH, REIGN
The Agora
August 26

I really don’t see what all the excitement over Rush is about. They’re just another “high energy” rock band who prides itself on its ability to “boogie.” Big deal. I can stay home and listen to Foghat if I want that.

From what I observed Monday night, Rush’s forte is supposed to be the vocals of bass player Geddy Lee. He doesn’t have a good voice, but it’s one that’s hard to forget. Shades of Steve Marriott, Dennis T. Menass and even, at times, Robert Plant can be heard in Lee’s screeches. The latter unfortunately has led to comparisons between Rush and early Led Zeppelin. How ludicrous. Rush’s too-simple compositions and lack of dynamics killed any possible comparison early in the show.

As for the rest of the Canadian trio, I was most impressed with drummer John Rutsey. Though now an especially inventive drummer (they never are in this type of band), he did keep a strong undercurrent going, and was able to insert a few nice frills here and there.

Alex Lifeson’s guitar playing might have been okay, but I couldn’t hear him through most of the set. He was constantly buried under Lee’s screams of “Oooooo-yeah.”

My comments aside, the crowd ate it up. They loved hearing Lee soar into his soprano register and make neat contorted faces. If that’s what it’s about, then I guess they succeeded.

Opening up for them was the Cleveland-based Reign. I was pleasantly surprised to see they weren’t doing the same half-assed copies of other groups’ material they were doing when I saw them a couple years back.

Reign have their own tunes now, and most of their Agora set was devoted to them. The songs were in many cases better than the performances. Bits of a Todd Rundgren influence can be heard in Reign’s material, but unfortunately they don’t have a Todd to sing it. In fact, the singing often ruined what could have been a fine song. But with a little polish, Reign could probably get somewhere. They’re a damn sight more original than the band they opened up for.

Mark Kmetzko
RARE EARTH

One of the last rock festivals of the summer will happen Labor Day (September 2) at Pineway Trails Park (in Munson Township), when Rare Earth, Rush, Rainbow Canyon, East Wind and Sweetleaf all combine forces. The show will begin at noon and go until sundown.

CSN & Y
RUSH, Mercury recording artists, will be playing with RARE EARTH on Labor Day, September 2nd at Pineway Trails Park. Mercury records, I.P.A., Promotions and The Scene would like Scene readers to have a copy of the most melodic cut, "Not Fragile," is that kind of ardent rockers. And it's the kind of energy for the band. Bachman-Turner Overdrive will succeed when the music turns up hit single for you, so the first twenty-five callers who dial August 30 at 3 PM will receive a FREE copy. Calls serve basis: no calls will be accepted after 5 PM today.
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RUSH

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