



IN PRINCIPAL ROLES — Robert Haftman, left, portrays the Artful

Dodger and Rick Hasselbach plays Oliver in the Capital production.

Fans Jam Floor Of Rush Concert

By Jeannine Lauber
Special To The Dispatch

The show was awful. The show was great. Depending on where your seats were, Thursday night's Rush concert at St. John Arena was one of the above.

As soon as the three-man hard rock team took the stage, a tidal wave composed of human bodies came crashing toward them. Nearly all of the fans seated on the floor of the arena in folding chairs stampeded forward about 10 yards.

This resulted in a messy pileup of a few hundred angry, pushy people in the first 10 rows.

IN ORDER TO SEE the show, the fans, most of whom were in their late teens, had to stand on chairs for the entire two-hour performance.

This, coupled with ticket prices and the fact that a large portion of the crowd was obviously high, caused some fighting and a lot of shoving and bad-mouthing.

Security was a drastically ineffective group of teens.

From the bleachers it must have looked like a human snake pit crammed with writhing bodies. But, from the bleachers, it must have been a super show.

RUSH WAS AT its finest. Rush's brand of rock-'n'-roll is distinctive, especially when combined with the piercing vocals of Geddy Lee. The Rush style has remained pure and unadulterated even in an era where disco and C&W strains have infiltrated in an attempt to please all of the people all of the time.

Sometimes that formula works, but when Lee, drummer Neil Peart and guitarist Alex Lifeson jam it's obvious they intend to continuously breathe life into rock-'n'-roll.

Lee is getting older, and the struggle of road life is apparent on his thin, shallow face, yet his voice has remained as powerful and clear as a

siren in the night. One of the evening's best examples was his high-powered belting out of *Closer to the Heart*, one of Rush's biggest hits.

Many of the other selections came from their most recent LP, *Hemispheres*, including *Circumstances*, *Cygnus X-1 Book II* and the title cut.

BECAUSE THE decibel level was so high, most of the lyrics were unintelligible. That may have resulted in some confusion regarding Rush's visual space show of astral images projected on a giant screen behind the stage.

Half of their latest album recounts the adventures of a spaceship pilot plunging through a black hole in outer space.

The Trees, also from *Hemispheres*, is a beautiful song about the complexities of discrimination/desegregation which surely went unappreciated for lack of audible lyrics.

Peart writes all of Rush's lyrics.

OPENING ACT, April Wine, appeared to be a fairly good band of rock and rollers who, unlike Rush, inject C&W into their music. That familiar country twang and an occasional harmonica chorus or two will restrict them from being classified as a true rock band, but the audience didn't seem to care.

They were busy clappin' their hands and stompin' their feet in a most "country hoedown" way.

April Wine was even called back to perform an encore — rare among opening acts.

The show could have gone a lot smoother had there been better planning and production. But then again, rock concerts are notorious for eliciting such behavior. Comparatively speaking, Thursday night's show was probably "mild."

In any event, it doesn't pay to get trampled when you can see the show in relative comfort for half the price from the bleachers.

Capital University wouldn't be begging for more of the same; they would be asking for more quality, more life.

THE story of a London urchin who meets up with his grandfather through a set of circumstances only Charles Dickens could devise becomes a mish-mash of mediocrity on the Capital stage.

Parts of the play seem to be in need of a couple more rehearsals, while other scenes are too busy to work as they should.

Still other touches that should have been cute failed, and the sound system is partly to blame.

THE opening scene set the pace for a show in which about 50 percent of the dialogue was unintelligible for most of the audience. About a third of the lyrics suffered the same problem.

The youthful chorus that sang the opening number, *Food, Glorious Food* can rest assured they won't be discovered if they botch the lyrics.

Time marches on; presenting the crowd with Linda White who had one of the clearest, strongest voices in the cast. Too bad she is paired with Steve Mohler, who as Mr. Bumble bumbles through his lines with an accent and speed that makes them totally incomprehensible.

FORTUNATELY, the musical picks up with

would have nothing with Fagin's way. From that point, bitter end, *Oliver*, bringing such as Vanessa Schulz. *Long As He Needs* such minuses as Hickman's *My N*. And when it's *Oliver* doesn't ei drops off.

RICK Hasselbach's *Oliver Twist* is as a college student a 13-year-old. Of course, he la innocence, but h better than or initially expect.

Robert Haftman's *Oliver* does as mischievous should be and seems kind of d

Fagin is usual vorite among *O* and Bob Jones at the villain with attitude. Jone pretty harm there's little w that. Even the Sikes (played man) seems a ble.

THE SET of oversized crate ring true. It's ju it does little for

One of the be nents of the pro the musical ense ducted by Ray Eubanks gets right level of vol his ensemble a effective expres On the whol



SUNDAY ARE FAMILY FUN DAYS

- ★ Sports on Giant TV!
- ★ Bingo the Clown!
- ★ Old Time Movies, Cartoons
- ★ Free Peanuts!
- ★ Free Popcorn!
- ★ Kids' Birthday Parties and meals, only \$1.69!!

Join us on Valentine's Day ... and bring a Friend!



WHERE THE GOOD TIMES ARE FOUND.
COLUMBUS
5290 N. High St.
Across from Graceland Shopping Ctr.
864-4424

COLUMBUS
East Broad & James
221-6219
COLUMBUS
9000 E. 14th
(Next to H. Johnson's Meats)
699-94

X-RATED MOVIES
NO ONE UNDER 18 ADMITTED

"X-RATED ENTERTAINMENT THAT CAN BE RECOMMENDED WITHOUT QUALIFICATION" — PLAYBOY

"V—The Hot One"

—Plus Sarah Nicholson in—

HEIDI WARD

Adult Theatre

1320 S. HIGH • 444-7086

DAILY FROM 11 A.M. • SUN. 1 P.M.

HELD OVER
2nd YYY Wash

ALL SEATS
HELD OVER
GREASE
P.G.
TONITE AT
GRACELAND 2
7:15 AND 9:15
(GRACELAND CENTER 883-4007)

Enchanting
More Exciting
Exotic
Kahiki
POLYNESIAN RESTAURANT
3583 EAST BROAD STREET

COL. DISPATCH 2/24/79

PINBALL WORLD U.S.A.
Features Pin Game Classics