

Music

Rush popular with the fans, if not the critics

A COUPLE OF WEEKS ago, during an interview with Neil Peart of Rush, the talk turned to the Canadian rock trio's reputation—a reputation as a band that, as Peart put it, "the press was always dumping on. Though I don't know why people think that," he added with some puzzlement, going on to say that the group has gotten good reviews over the years as well as rotten ones.

Nevertheless, it's not hard to see why few people would figure Rush to be critics' darlings. For one thing, the band's power-trio format, forged in the early 1970s, has not been fashionable for some time. In a time when short, snappy, danceable tunes are in vogue, Rush goes in for a lot of lengthy, quasi-philosophical numbers. Even so, the lyrics matter far less than their musical approach, which tends to alternate between hard rock—that bludgeons the listener into a stupor—and spacey dirges.

THAT THERE IS still a surprisingly large market for what Rush offers, however, is equally evident. Thursday night's show at the International Amphitheater, where the band is playing through Sunday, was sold out, and so

are at least two of the remaining three nights. There is no opening act. This is partly because of the band's extremely lengthy sets, and partly because past experience has shown that their audiences tend to be so consumed with Rush-just that they are unwilling to sit patiently while a hapless opening act does its stuff, or rather tries to.

At any rate, nobody can fault Rush for not delivering in terms of quantity. Thursday's concert ran more than two hours, during which drummer Peart, guitarist Alex Lifeson, and shrill-voiced singer, bassist, and occasional synthesizer player Geddy Lee reprised material from their earliest albums to their current "Permanent Wave," which, thanks to the Top 40 success of the single, "The Spirit of Radio," is their most successful effort to date.

THAT SONG, like "Free Will," "Natural Science," and a number of others in Rush's repertoire, is concerned with the band's concepts of integrity, ideas that are heartfelt though simply stated ("art as expression, not market campaigns"). Another theme is science fiction, with the band making occasional use of film to accompany such songs as "Cy-

nus X-1," which has to do with black holes in space.

A couple of firepot flashes, fog effects, and special lighting effects also figured in the evening's entertainment. Meanwhile, offstage, there was a distressing display of fireworks launched at random by idiots in the audience, and others turned cigaret lighters into perpetual torches to indicate their approval of everything the band did.

What Rush is doing, however, is nothing all that special: There is nothing all that overwhelming about their music or their performance. Nevertheless, at their best, which is when they are rocking the hardest, Rush is appealing enough in their own way. Despite their lengthy set, although few segments really soared, few really dragged.

NOTES: Robin Trower and Shooting Star have been booked for a show at the Granada Theater April 12, the same night Graham Nash headlines at the Auditorium... Joe Smith, formerly of Aerosmith, brings his new band, the Joe Perry Project, to Park West on April 19.

Lynn Van Matre

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11:27-11:57 MATINEE SHOW ONLY
"GILDA RADNER LIVE"
9:00-9:50 10:00-10:50 R
"THE CHANGELING"
1:30-2:30 3:30-4:30 R
CHILDREN 1:30 AT ALL TIMES

EVANSTON

EVANSTON 1
EVANSTON 1 ONLY
P. Newman-B. Holden-J. Bisset
"WHEN TIME RAN OUT" (PG)
Friday at 7:30 & 9:45
EVANSTON 2 • ALAN ARON &
Madeline
"SIMON"
Friday at 8:30 & 10:00

HIGHLAND PARK

HIGHLAND PARK 1
443 CENTRAL 432-3300
"THE JERK"
STEVE MARTIN 6-8-10 (R)

LIBERTYVILLE

LIBERTYVILLE
ALL SEATS
362-3011
"CHAPTER TWO"
7:00-8:15 (PG)

MUNDELEIN

MUNDELEIN
ALL SEATS
500-5444
"THE PRIZE FIGHTER" PG 8:50
"CAN WASH" 11PM-ALL SEATS \$1.50

NILES-MORTON GROVE

MORTON GROVE
3200 BURNHAMPTON 481-8418
"SERIAL"
2:15, 4:15, 6:15, 8:15, 10:15
WEEKDAYS TO 6 PM

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10:25 a.m.-1:30-4:45-7:55 p.m.

Chicago Phone 782 7011
There's only one way out,
and 100 fools stand
in the way!
PENITENTIARY
9:00 a.m.-10:45-12:30-2:20-4:15-8:10
8:00-10:00 & 12:00 Midnight
United Artists Phone 782 8919
GEORGE C. SCOTT
8:00 a.m.-11:05-1:15-3:25-5:35-7:45-9:50 & 12:00 Midnight
THE CHANGELING

Water Tower 1234
VALIDATED REDUCED PARKING
SERIAL
10:15 a.m.-12:15-2:15-4:15
6:15-8:15-10:15 p.m. R
5:20-7:45-10:10 p.m. R
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337-1117
VALIDATED REDUCED PARKING
at Two East Oak Street
GILDA LIVE
7:30 & 9:30 R
Nortown 6320 N.
Western
BARGAIN MATHEZ FR. & SAT. TUE
Sun 11:30
BLACK STALLION
1:00-3:15-5:30-7:45-10:00 G
For groups over 50 call 728-5200
Will Rogers
8435 W. Belmont
ACADEMY AWARD NOMINATED
BLACK STALLION
1:00-3:15-5:30-7:45-10:00 G
For groups over 50 call 728-5200

River Oaks 1234
LITTLE DARLINGS
2:00-4:00-6:00-8:00-10:10 R
THE BLACK STALLION
1:00-3:15-5:30-7:45-10:00 G
For groups over 50 call 728-5200
Paramount Changeling
2:00-4:00-6:00-8:00-10:10 R
LEGACY 8:05 R
Orland Square 1234
Mon. to Fri. 11:35-10:15 p.m.
CHANGELING
IN FULL DOLBY STEREO
2:00-4:00-6:00-8:00-10:10 R
COAL MINER'S DAUGHTER
7:00-9:30 PG
Hillcrest 42 until 5 p.m. Mon-Fri. 12 until 2:30 Sat., Sun., Hol
or 1st show capacity
COAL MINER'S DAUGHTER
7:00-9:30 PG
Bolingbrook 1234
42 until 5 p.m. Mon-Fri.

La Grange 84 S. La Grange
JESUS
5:50-7:45-9:55 G
Oakbrook 3400 Spring Road
854-1160
KRAMER VS. KRAMER
7:45-9:45 PG
Mercury 42 until 5 Sat. Mon. to Thurs. 12 until 2:30 Sun. and Hol
Grease
7:15-9:10-10:05
Daily
4:20-8:10 PG
Woodfield 1234
12:00 until 5:00 p.m. Mon. to Fri. only
12:00 until 2:30 Sat., Sun. & Holidays
843-7233
LITTLE DARLINGS
2:00-4:00-6:00-8:00-10:10 R
COAL MINER'S DAUGHTER
7:15-9:40 PG
Varsity 864-
8300
CHANGELING 30+
LEGACY 7:30 R
Hawthorn 1234
12:00 until 5:00 p.m. Mon. to Fri. only
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