'70s survivors a '90s success story

Rush just keeps touring, recording

By Rick Bird

Canadian rock tenure still kicking sound from the '60s and you may have heard such names as Aeronauts, Steve Scroggins, Lenny St. John, etc., however, are likely to mention Rush.

The group hasn't won any Grammys or been involved in any sensational stories of drug abuse or rampages in hotel rooms. All Rush has done is quietly put out 19 albums since the band formed in 1972.

Rush has had the same lineup since it started - vocalist Geddy Lee on bass, Alex Lifeson on guitar and Neil Peart on drums.

The hardrocking Canadian trio brings its show to Riverfront Coliseum today, touring in support of its "Counterparts" album, released last fall.

Rush is one of those groups that critics love to bash and the fans can't get enough of.

Rolling Stone magazine once called Rush "possibly the second-hardest band in the world," going on to say Lee had a voice that sounded like a "cross between Donald Duck and Robert Plant."

It's a classic case of the critics be damned. Rush has never had any problems.

Rush: How we've hung on

- "We've bridged so many stylistic and technical ones that we've tended to help us rather than hinder us," says Rush drummer Neil Peart. "It seems kind of incredible that we've made it this far, because there's so many factors involved."
- "But we never let ourselves get frustrated," Peart adds. "Nowadays, come along in the late '70s with purists and new-wave and all through the '80s with world music and electronic dance music and the '90s with the birth of rock bands again and the whole alternative scene. Rather than being threats to us, they've all been nourishing. It's always been: Well, here's something fresh. Let's see how it can apply to us and how we can use it."
- "Just watch what everyone is doing on stage," Peart says. "Watch Geddy and Alex's feet. Geddy is triggering keyboards, bass and vocals and I'm triggering keyboards through drums. All of the stuff takes an enormous amount of work just to choreograph."

Children at Play

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