

60. Volume 27 No. 25 Sept 17, 1977 CENTS

COVER STORY

Rush - an international happening

Cancon for Goldrush

Nashville Swing to syndication

Rush - An international happening The Toronto Star's Peter Goddard recently wrote: "Rush may be Toronto's most pronounced success story". By every indication, Rush can now qualify as a Canadian of the canadi

similarly accredited internationally.

The making of Rush and ultimately the album A Farewell To Kings, began back in the late sixties. Even at that time Rush had established their sound as progressive rock and began fighting for an audience and one that wasn't, going to come from airplay. Rush began as a people's group not a programming entity.

Rush's first album, titled under their name, was produced early in 1974 and released on Moon Records. The session was financed by Ray Danniels and Vic Wilson. Other than boasting an album release, there was really not much accomplished by the release. The album did serve to bolster the morale of the group and to open, very slightly, the door to the south ATI, a U.S. booking agency indicated an interest in the group resulting in Mercury Records moving in with a long term recording con-

the prophets of doom, the messengers of mediocrity, will be overwhelmed by the new generation of competent, creative, confident artisans and by all those of preceding generations who have already demonstrated their freshness of mind, their talent and their capacity for inspired leadership."

Pierre Juneau

tract and an international release for their



RPM MUSIC PUBLICATIONS LTD.

6 Brentcliffe Road Toronto, Ontario M4G 3Y2

M4G 3Y2 (416) 425-0257 Telex: 06-22756

Publisher & Editor - Walt Grealis
Director Special Projects - Stan Klees
Sales & Advertising - Sammy-Jo
General News - J.J. Linden
Chart Editor - Rob Mearns
Subscriptions - Carol Best
Art & Design - MusicAd&Art

The following codes are used throughout RPM's charts a key to record distributors A&M W MOTOWN Y CBS H PHONODISC L CAPITOL F POLYDOR Q CRT T QUALITY M LONDON K RCA N MCA J WEA P

But ac . . 1.

MAPL logos are used throughout RPM to define Canadian content on discs



M - Music composed by a Canadian A - Artist featured is a Canadian Production wholly Recorded in Canada L - Lyrics written by a Canadian

Advertising rates on request Second Class Mail Registration No. 1351 PRINTED IN CANADA initial Moon album. There was an obvious concentration on the U.S. market and an American tour was firmed and then Rush's first disaster struck. Drummer John Rutsey left the group because of ailing health. Fortunately, Neil Pert was seemingly waiting in the wings and joined the group with a scant two weeks before tour time. The chemistry was right however and Geddy Lee, Alex Lifeson and Neil Pert were musically welded together for their initial thrust into the heavy metal marketplace.

So successful was their unique approach to the music business, it was found necessary to set up another album session, less than one year after their debut on Mercury. Their Toronto Sound production resulted in Fly By Night which went on to earn a gold award in Canada and what was regarded as "respectable sales" in the U.S. The album was also credited with bringing the group into Canadian recognition and their Juno win as Most Promising Group.

Early in the game Rush realized there

churning out albums or singles and relying on radio play. The name of the game was "acquiring and holding an audinece". Neil Pert explains: "There are only two ways open to survival for a band in the music business - one is by a quick capitalization on a manufactured or accidental hit single and the other is a slow steady climb accomplished by long hard touring. So, we toured".

was more to the recording business than

Blair and Boas

announce merger

Don Boas and Underdog Management have announced a merger with Lou Blair and his production company Blair is the owner of Calgary's top entertainment spot. The Refinery's The merger comes about due to the positive reaction CBS act Fosterchild, who hall from Calgary, have had since the release of their first album. Fosterchild is currently the lone act handled by the newly formed management firm but future signings will be taking place in the near future. Underdog Management will have

Phonodisc attracts crowds with pair of Scottish pipers

its offices in the Refinery, Calgary.

A pleasant addition to the din of the CRIA Pavilion was supplied by two Scottish pipers who attracted a large crowd to the Phonodisc exhibit. The pipers, part of the Scottish World Tattoo, entertained the crowd with renditions of marches, Scottish Airs including Amazing Grace.

After the departure of the pipers, Phonodisc staff were kept busy answering questions about available albums. One of the most popular album displays was the fold-out package of the Wembley Tattoo.

Joe Woodhouse, Phonodisc promotion, reports that Canadian Bill Badgley also became a popular item at the exhibit with resultant sales of his album at the CRIA. Pavilion record store.

July of 1975 saw another album session at Toronto Sound and the release of Caress Of Steel. Says Pert: "We went in serene and confident and emerged with an album that we were tremendously proud of, as a major step in our development and featuring a lot of dynamic variety and some true originality." The lack of recognition (and sales) of this album was another disappointing phase in the life of Rush. Into the studios once again and says Pert: "We came back with a vengeance with 2112, perhaps our most passionate and powerful album yet. We were talking about freedom from tyranny and we meant it. This was the first real blend of our diverse and schizophrenic influences and it was alos our first really successful album". The success of 2112 led to the recording of Rush's first live album, All The World's A Stage, which was recorded in Toronto's Massey Hall from three performances of June 11, 12 and 13, 1976.

Rush now consider themselves entering chapter two of their musical life, and perhaps their most critical in a never ending fight for survival in a business that almost demands a shattering finale.

Perhaps Neil Pert better explains the beginnings of Rush's phase two with his fact and fantasy treatise on their most recent album release. A Farewell: To Kings, a superb production that should serve to create an even greater international market for this Anthem group.

Classics, Rush & Max top Polydor CNE list

The crush of bodies at Polydor's CRIA Pavilion exhibit has kept the staff moving at a hectic pace. The label's Dieter Radecki reports the top request items are Rushland Max. Webster, but that the classics would appear to be top sales items across the aisle at the record store.

There have been some complaints that the prices charged at the Pavilion record store are a little too high to attract buyers and many of these potential buyers are discovering a Midway hustler who is selling rock product for \$2.00 less than those featured at the CRIA record store.

Disco, classics & rock score at London exhibit

London's exhibit at the CRIA Pavilion gives passersby the apportunity to state their preference in music by way of index cards, resulting in interesting results. The three forms of music, having equal preference, are disco, rock and the classics.

Gary Chalmers, National Promotion Manager for London, was surprised at the type of questions he was fielding from CNE visitors and was equally surprised at the balance of the above mentioned forms of music;

The three weeks of statistic taking will give London a rare insight into what record buyers are really looking for.