

U2 Concert of the decade The Joshua Tree

What can be said about this band that nobody else has said? *Rolling Stone* said "Concert tour of the decade... not to be missed!" This quote could almost be an understatement.

The Olympic Stadium in Montreal was the setting for the concert. 78,000 people had come to see what was to some a pilgrimage or a colossal event. The stage itself was ten meters high by forty meters wide. Huge pieces of cloth covered the scaffolding which depicted a Joshua tree.

To begin the concert Little Steven and Los Lobos played

their music but the sound quality was the shifts and you could tell that nobody was there for these two groups.

After a long forty minute intermission the 78,000 ecstatic fans broke out into an ear splitting roar as U2 walked out onto the stage. They quickly broke into "I Will Follow", "I Still Haven't Found What I'm Looking For" and "Sunday Bloody Sunday".

On the floor of the stadium there were 18,000 people which crammed towards the stage to get a closer look at Bono and the rest of U2. With the people at the front so close

together the bouncers were plucking people out of the audience like roses from a garden, who had passed out from being too cramped or from the heat.

After this U2 did their song "Bad" from the 1984 album "The Unforgettable Fire". The song had special significance to Bono, as you could tell by the way he sang with so much emotion and feeling. The song had been written about one of his best friends who had died from a heroin overdose. This rendition went on for about ten minutes with Bono singing a couple of verses from The

Doors "Riders on the Storm" and the Edge, creating the guitar solos which have made him so famous. U2 also did songs from the Beatles such as "Let it Be".

At the end of the concert, U2 came out for two encores. For the first encore they performed "With or Without You", "Bullet the Blue Sky", and "Running to Stand Still" to the delight of the crowd.

For their second encore U2 performed the song "40" which has become a tradition for the group. U2 will always close a concert with "40", with each band member leaving the

stage one at a time. First Bono, then Adam Clayton, The Edge, and lastly Kevin Mullin Jr. Thus leaving the crowd to sing "How long to sing this song?" over and over. It was incredible to see people leaving the concert still singing "How long to sing this song?" While standing in the subway car everyone would still be singing the same thing.

U2 has definitely earned its place as the greatest band of the 80's. This concert shall always be etched in my memory. The band, the music and the emotions that Bono, the crowd and I displayed at the concert.

By STEPHEN SEABROOK

The Cars - Door to Door

The 5-Piece Boston outfit, The Cars, have been around for a long time. Since Feb. 1977 when they became regulars at The Rat, Boston's premier alternative club, they have maintained consistently high quality music and songwriting, they have remained 'current' and had numerous hit singles, and they have continued to explore and expand the dark pop music that is their forte. They are critically and commercially respected. What more can a pop group ask for?

'Door to Door' is the band's seventh album and possibly one of their best. Like most of their recordings to date, the guitarist/lead vocalist Ric Ocasek does all the writing (except for the song "Go Away," which he co-wrote with keyboardist Greg Hawkes). However, buying a Cars album isn't like buying a Ric Ocasek album, although there are obviously some similarities. The group as a whole have such enthusiasm and skill that it is immediately apparent they are a group and not just a bunch of session players.



On this effort The Cars experiment, musically at least. The album's sound veers from the rough, Velvets-influenced pop of their first record on cuts like "Ta Ta Wayo Wayo" and "Leave or Stay," to the smooth atmospherics of "Fine Line" (sounding like a cross between Wall of Voodoo and The Cure!), to even straight ahead guitar rock like the song "Double Trouble." And then there are the singles: "You Are the Girl" and "Everything You Say," both sounding like they could have come straight from "Heartbeat City." And that's just the first side!! The album's eleven cuts are all impeccably performed and produced (production by Ric Ocasek) and cover such varied stylistic ground that I'm sure this is an album I'll be listening to for a long time.

Lyricaly the songs are mainly tortured-joyous-gloomy-reflective variations of the love song. Pretty standard stuff that I've come to expect from this band. Then there's "Door to Door," the title track. A hardcore song!!

Ric Ocasek has been involved with the music underground for a long time (through productions/collaborations with Bad Brains, Suicide/Alan Vega, New Models, Ministry...etc.) but this is the first time he's really stuck his own neck out. The song is an overt statement about life in big-city America today. And it isn't pretty. And it isn't nice. And it shocked me when I first hear it. And I love it.

RICHARD THORNLEY

Gabba Gabba Hey! The Ramones Halfway to sanity

"I don't like synthesizer stuff. I think it's very sterile. There's no guts, no soul, no heart. It's as crap as Styx. There's no difference."

Joey Ramone - The Ramones
Sure, ah, write some words about the Ramones, right, ah, NEW YORK, ah, right!! Hey free trade, say with that d'ya suppose we could trade Corey Hart in for the Ramones?? Canada needs 'em. Album, ah, ya right FANTASTIC (as usual). The only good thing ever to come up from below. Garden of serenity, not quite our literary heritage but happenin'

stuff nevertheless. This time the boyz from New York have brought to us such greatly outspoken philosophical statements as:

I LOST MY MIND/
GIVE ME SOME SKIN GIVE ME SOME GIN/GIVE ME SOME WINE/I LOST MY MIND. (Crazy, man! - Ed.)

And on, and on, and on. Man, And on, and on, and on. Man, these guyz are power hammer factor five, four chord trash, nothing better to start off your school year with better than...ew gurl your roommate has or had (until he heard the album)

sure they do their usual drippy sob sob love song, and do seem to have stolen the line "you were always on my mind" from some guido type seedy country superstar.

So put your faith in me kidz, and buy it, do it for your country, for your grade three teacher that you fell in love with, do it for your fellow citizens, they need all the help you can give now that the BEEGEES have hit again. Do it for the advancement of mankind, do it for the lobotomy effect.

MATTHEW SMITH

NOISE.

STEVE STAPLES

KILLER KASSETTEN

Naked Orthodontists

(2 song demo)

Upon first listening I really liked this Ohio band. Side A is a quick-paced song called "Naked Orthodontists." Attacking beat-box and groovy bass creates a steady rhythm for a phased distorted guitar and lead trumpet. Immediately this tune makes your ears prick up. Side B's "Some Sorta Space Jazz" is a duet by a meandering string bass and trumpet. When listening to tapes for this column I always look for something interesting, and this tape has it.

(GGE Records, P.O. Box 5088, Keat, Ohio 44240)

Alkali

(5 song demo)

Experiments with feedback and reverb, Alkali is a collection of tape effects created by voices and other industrial sounding concoctions. The songs never contain more than a few tracks, which allows the listener to concentrate on the sound and move with its subtle changes. A quite different experience as compared to other experimental groups who bombard you with a multitude of sounds creating aural overload.

(GGE Records)

* Next Week: a review of the latest Fredericton band's cassette by the Druids, Lost Meato and more.