

Styx "light up" crowd

By JAMES BROCK

The Styx Grand Illusion concert tour stopped in Fredericton last Sunday night. With Styx were a Vancouver based group by the name of Prism.

Prism opened the show by doing 45 minutes of raunchy rock 'n' roll which did not really impress the audience, as this was not what they were expecting to hear. When I listened to the radio ad, I thought they would be something like Yes and many other people expressed the same opinion. After Prism was done, there was about 45 minutes of intermission so the stage could be prepared for Styx's part of the concert. One last thought on Prism: They and other Canadian groups who are trying to "make it" seem to think that they have to play hard rock to get anywhere. This is not so and more Canadian artists could "make it" if they realized this.

For all of you not familiar with the members of the Styx and their background, these next two paragraphs are for you.

The members are:
Dennis DeYoung - Keyboards, vocals and synthesizers
Chuck Panozzo -- Bass guitar and vocals

John Panozzo -- Drums, percussion and vocals
James Young - Guitars and vocals
Tommy Shaw -- Acoustic and electric guitars and vocals.

All the members of Styx grew up in Chicago except for Tommy who is a native of Alabama. In fact, Dennis, Chuck and John all grew up on the same street. Chuck and John are twin brothers but one would never know it by talking to them. James Young (known to all as J.Y.) is a native of the Roseland district of Chicago and the other three Chicago natives are from the Pullman district. J.Y. at 6'2" in his bare feet, is very formidable looking on stage compared to Tommy, who is about 5'6". The two of them go through a lot of antics on stage which adds to the stage effects. Dennis, Chuck and John are the

actual founders of the band. J.Y. joined them just before their first album and Tommy joined the group in December 1975.

When the lights went out for the start of the Styx part of the concert, a roar went up from the crowd that did not end until they had started their first song which was the title cut from the Grand Illusion. This cut was excellently done and the visual effects added to the song. After this, the next cut was "Lorelei" from the Equinox album. Well done, with the stage antics of JY and Tommy adding to the effect. JY introduced the next cut, "Mademoiselle", which was written by Dennis & Tommy, after the group met a couple of Canadian girls on the Equinox tour. "A Man in the Wilderness", from the Grand Illusion album was next. This was not so well received by the crowd, possibly because the song has not received much airplay in this area. After that was "Suite Madame Blue", a song inspired by the American bicentennial. Dennis' solo vocal was spectacular but some of the effect was ruined when some idiot threw a firecracker in the middle of the vocal. In introducing the next cut, Tommy asked if there was any magic in the crowd, to which the crowd responded enthusiastically. He then said that they were going to try to capture some of that magic in their next song, which was the title cut from the Crystal Ball album, which was written and sung by Tommy. There was a quite interesting crowd reaction when the next song was introduced. This was "Light Up" and the crowd did exactly that, by lighting their lighters and holding them up over

their heads. It must be said that this was a very interesting visual effect, although it was not planned. "Come Sail Away", from the Grand Illusion album was next. The excellent visual effects added immensely to the song. Dennis introduced the next song, which, after an excellent piano solo introduction, turned out to be "Lady" from the Styx II album. Next was "Midnite Ride" from the Equinox album which turned out to be the last song of the set. The crowd rose to the occasion and after Styx left the stage they cheered and clapped for almost five minutes until the group returned for one encore which was "Miss America", from the Grand Illusion. The crowd cheered through the entire song. It appeared the concert was enjoyed by all present.

After the concert, I talked with John Panozzo, drummer for the group. When I complimented their light show, John thanked me and said the credit had to go to their "excellent lighting director." He also remarked that although they don't do many visual effects, they put a lot of effort in the ones they do.

I also had the opportunity to talk to Tommy Shaw, guitarist and newest member of the group. Tommy joined the group in December 1975. At that time he had been playing guitar for 13 of his 22 years. He and the other members of the group hit it off immediately and anybody who didn't know better would have thought they had been playing together for years.

I then asked Tommy if the group has considered a live album. He

said that they have and that they did some recording in Kansas City in September. The group is pleased with the attempt even though a couple of members had the flu at the time. The release of the live album will depend on how long the Grand Illusion stays on the charts. If the Grand Illusion stays on until next summer, they will most likely release another studio album and save the live material until a later date.

When asked about a Greatest Hits Album that is on the market, Tommy replied that one album was released by RCA without the knowledge of the group. Styx originally recorded on RCA but changed to A & M before the Equinox album which Tommy says was a "great move" and that A & M does a lot of promotion for Styx.

As far as their albums go, in Canada both Crystal Ball and Equinox are platinum and Grand Illusion is almost there. A & M are hoping Grand Illusion will be double platinum by next spring as it has sold 1/4 million copies in the last 3 1/2 weeks.

Styx will be on tour next in Ontario. After that they are going to the southern U.S. and will wrap up their tour in Hawaii in February.

It was an excellent concert with one memorable moment provided free of charge by one of Fredericton's finest who demonstrated his talent in frisbee catching and received a standing ovation for his feat.

Judging by the crowd's reaction, I was not the only person who enjoyed the concert. Hopefully they will see fit to return next year.

Dan Hill - "Step Out" - Klaatu

Taking a deserved break from his National Canadian Tour, Dan Hill has time to reflect on his phenomenal success being achieved at all levels across the country.

SRO audiences at major concert halls, rave reviews on his show and accolades pouring forth about his new GRT album "Larger Fuse" and his new single "Sometimes When We Touch".

In four short weeks the elpee turned gold and is currently selling 10,000 copies per week as Dan prepares himself to perform on the western part of his tour due to start in Vancouver B.C. for two shows Oct. 25 and Oct. 26. As a solo performer who can draw in excess of 3000 people for consecutive nights as he did at Toronto's Massey Hall Oct. 10 and 11 and the National Arts Centre in Ottawa Oct. 8 and 9, Dan is proving to be the outstanding success story of the year.

The single, which is co-written with Barry Mann, has attained the number one play slot at all western Moffat stations (CKLG Vanc., CHED Edmonton, CKXL Calgary, CKY Winnipeg) in advance of his performances in those markets plus top ten positions in major markets such as Kingston (CKLC no 1) Peterboro (CHEX no 3) Ottawa (CFGQ no 5) Toronto (CFTR no 6) London (CJBK no 2) and is gaining steadily on the two majors of CHUM no 17 and CFGM no 27 (Montreal); well on its way to being Dan's first national number one song.

At time of writing 20th Century; Dan's international record company representatives have just released "Sometimes When We Touch" and report over 130 stations playing the song within the first week! Dan has been given the green light as a priority

act on their roster; thus as does Christmas rapidly approach so will the international status of singer/songwriter Dan Hill blossom to his full potential.

You've read about, you may have even seen it; now you can take it home.

GRT of Canada is pleased to announce the immediate simultaneous release of not only the album soundtrack; the first single entitled "Step Out"; but also a 12" pressing for the dancers amongst you.

Call out the stranger living inside; There ain't no danger, You've got to step out

"Step Out" by Paul & Brenda Hoffert

From the sleeper sensation of the year, starring Craig Russell and Hollis McLaren comes the equally sensational soundtrack "Outrageous". It combines the winning elements of many of the top films of the recent past. "A Star is Born" meets "Rocky" meets "Cuckoo's Nest". Adapted from a true short story in the collection "Butterfly Ward" by Margaret Gibson, it depicts McLaren and Russell (Liza and Robin) finding happiness in learning to realize "craziness" is only individuality in drag and sanity comes through acting out one's "craziness". For Russell, this leads to outrageous impersonations of Mae West, Carol Channing, Barbra Streisand, Bette Midler, Pearl Bailey, Peggy Lee, Tallulah Bankhead and Judy Garland.

Russell in fact personally knows most of the women he plays; he even lived with Mae West for nine months! This intimate knowledge

of those classic ladies lends to Russell's remarkable performances. It is side two of the GRT soundtrack that captures this magic. The magic of Russell live in concert can be seen in his new hit revue "A man and his woman" which previews to sold out houses on Oct. 31st (appropriate) off Broadway (also appropriate).

Much of the music throughout the film is original; composed and arranged by Paul and Brenda Hoffert. Two cuts in particular, namely "It Ain't Easy" sung by Brenda and "Step Out" (the first single) sung by Cecile Frenette stand out as strong pieces with definite hit potential.

Charles Champlin of the LA Times puts it this way:

"The music by Paul & Brenda Hoffert is up tempo pop and disco flavoured for the club atmosphere in which much of the action takes place. It is a strong asset to the movie. (August '77)

Paul, who was the founding member of "Lighthouse" and certainly no stranger to film scores has this to say about his score: "Outrageous" was the best script I've read in the past five years, we worked very closely with the producers, they adapted the film around my music as well as us scoring around their script. When all was done I knew it had the potential to be a successful cult film but I never dreamed it would draw the response it did.

Well it has, and is still garnering acclaims daily. Already nominated for best film (Richard Brenner) best actor (Craig Russell) best actress (Hollis McLaren), as well as best editing, screenplay adaption and best original music score; by the Canadian Film Awards; it will not stop there.

Like Russell's ladies, the movie

is already a classic; the resulting score by the Hofferts will prove to be one of the most delightful soundtracks of the year and GRT Records of Canada is proud to be associated with this success.

The first single from "Hope" Klaatu's 2nd album recently certified GOLD by the CRIA for sales of over 50,000 units in Canada will be shipping to all earthlings on November 16, 1977.

With 2 Gold albums in Canada in less than six months, a Klaatu song in the U.S. Top 40 and the English Top 10 ("Calling Occupants" by the Carpenters) and their

"Hope" album in the U.S. Best Sellers list Klaatu have prepared a newly re-mixed version of the opening cut of their "Hope" album. "We're Off You Know" was mixed using the new APHEX AURAL EXCITER SYSTEM, a recording technique that enhances and clarifies the mixing process. It can also be heard on both James Taylor's and Linda Ronstadt's new singles.

GRT has prepared a special sleeve and record label, available to both the consumer and the media, to launch this very special Klaatu single.

"Oh, What a Lovely War"

The University of New Brunswick Drama Society is presenting "Oh What a Lovely War" with 5 performances in Memorial Hall, U.N.B. Fredericton. Performances are Wed. to Sun. (inclusive) November 23 to 27 at 8 p.m. each evening.

This unusual musical entertainment illustrates the story of the First World War using dialogue, news bulletins, photographs and above all, the songs of the era. Old favorites such as "Pack Up Your Troubles in Your Old Kit Bag", "Keep the Home Fires Burning", "I Don't Want to be a Soldier", "There's a Long Long Trail" and "Oh, It's a Lovely War", the song made popular by the Dumbells, provide a light-hearted counterpoint to the gripping photographs and newpanels showing the grim reality of the "War to end Wars".

The fast-moving show, with its rapid switches from comedy to

tragedy has proved an exciting challenge for director Anne Matthews and her cast of twelve men and six women. Mainly composed of students, the cast includes several familiar faces from past Drama Society productions. A large back stage crew has constructed the striking pierrot-style costumes and the all-purpose set, both of which have been planned in shades of cream and brown to give the impression of an old photograph.

Valuable assistance has come from CFB Gagetown military museum who are lending the many military hats, rifles and kit items in the production. Also from Gagetown is the show's military advisor Lt. Col. G.D. Hunt who has enjoyed instilling a military air into the civilian cast.

Tickets available at SUB information desk, Westminster Books on King St., Maritime Frame-It in Kings Place, and at the door. Students \$1, Adults \$3.