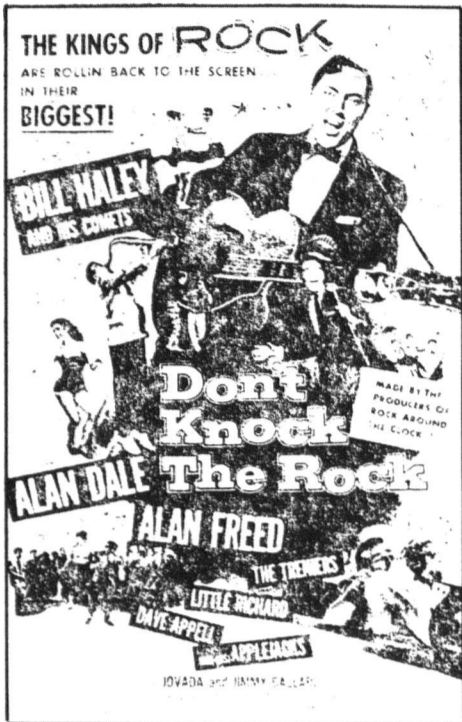


Entertainment

Bill Haley and the Comets, Little Richard, Elvis Presley and more



by Dean Bennett

For Ralph Horak, the idea of putting on a film festival of fifties rock musicals came while chatting with one of the employees at the downtown branch of the Edmonton Public Library.

"She told me how surprised she was that albums by Bill Haley and the Comets and Little Richard were being lent out so often. This sort of confirmed some earlier suspicions of mine, so I decided to look into the project," he said.

The "project" has become *Rock! Rock! Rock!*, the Edmonton Film Society's four-night, eight-film tribute to the rock 'n' roll exploitation films of the 1950's; and for Horak, who recently stepped down as president of the film society after seven years ("It was time to give someone else a chance," he said) it hasn't been easy getting the project off the ground.

"When I first presented the idea to the film committee, they laughed at me, but it's a matter of salesmanship, I guess. When we realized we had enough films to pull it off, we started talking finances," he said.

From Monday September 16 to Thursday September 19, the Society will show two films every night in the 500-seat Tory Theatre II. The admission price is a scant \$5.00 a night.

"We can't ask people to pay premium prices because our distributor does not look after its prints very well; the ones we receive are splicy and not in the best condition," said Horak. "The company handles prints from four major Hollywood companies. They seem to worry so much about their new stuff that they don't seem to care about old 16 mm prints."

As for the films, themselves, although Horak can't vouch for their storylines the singing and dancing sequences, he says, are first rate.

"The dancing in these films is great. It's a combination of jitterbug and rock'n'roll, more than making up for the standardized and grungy plots. Fortunately, the storylines are broken up every ten or fifteen minutes for

the singing and dancing."

The eight films in the festival are:

Monday September 16

The Girl Can't Help It (1956) This is the tale of a theatrical agent who grooms a ganster's dumb girlfriend for stardom. Modelled after the 1950 film "Born Yesterday" this is a satire on the music industry. Jayne Mansfield and Tom Ewell star. The music is performed by Gene Vincent, Little Richard, Fats Domino and Eddie Cochran.

"This film is in color and on widescreen. It's a class production all the way," said Horak.

Let's Rock (1958) Julius La Rosa is a lame-ass ballad singer who "ain't sellin' records till he turns into the new sound" Music is by the Royal Teens, Danny and the Juniors, Paul Anka, and others.

Tuesday September 17

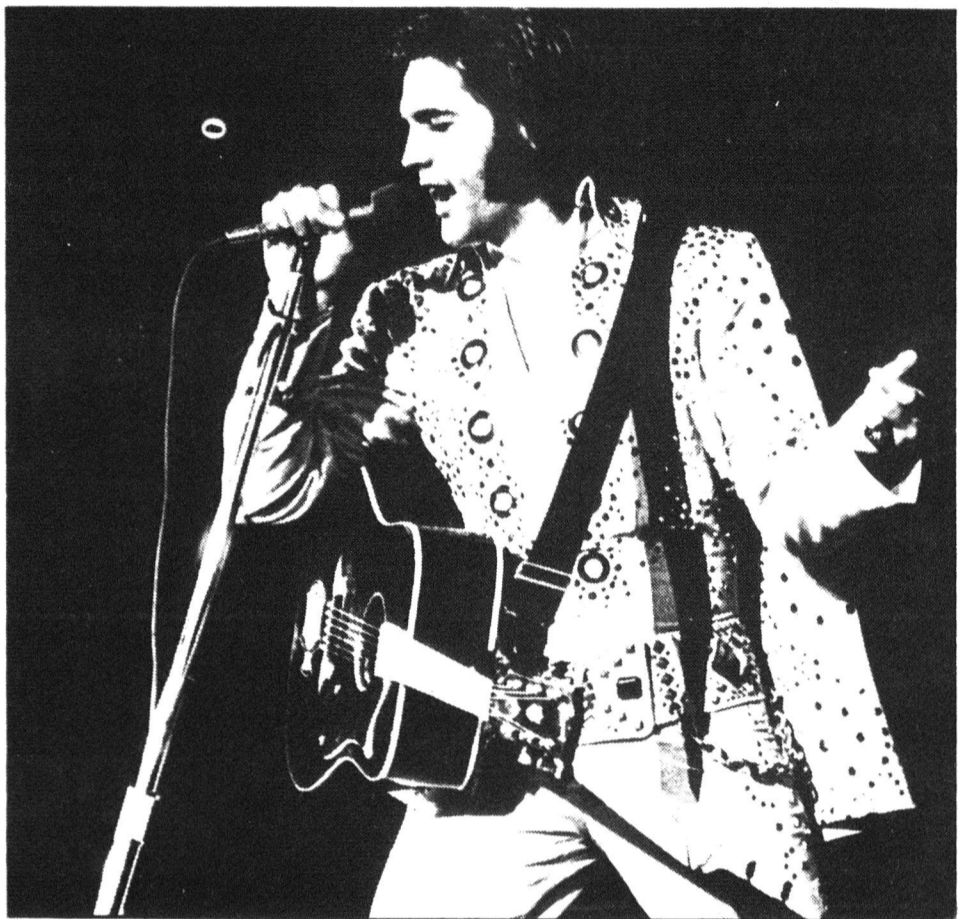
Rock Around the Clock (1956) This is the story of a band that plays a new form of jive-rock 'n' roll and becomes a nationwide sensation. It's the first film about rock 'n' roll and highlights the origin of Bill Haley and the Comets. The show includes nine songs from the Comets including "Rock Around the Clock" and "See You Later, Alligator".

Don't Knock the Rock (1957) is the hastily made sequel to *Rock Around the Clock*. Music is by Bill Haley and the Comets and Little Richard ("Long Tall Sally" and "Tutti Frutti")

Wednesday September 18

Jailhouse Rock (1957). Elvis Presley, in his third movie, plays a convict who learns to play in prison and becomes a rock star. Music is, of course, by Elvis. Judy Tyler co-stars.

Rock, Pretty Baby (1956) is one of the first of the 'A' rock films. A high school group struggles to win a big-time musical contest.



The show stars John Saxon and Sal Mineo and features 16 vintage hits.

Thursday September 19

Rock! Rock! Rock! (1956). "Forget about the plot in this one," said Horak. "This is almost a concert movie, but anybody who knows about the history of rock 'n' roll will be applauding like crazy."

The film was shot in nine days in the Bronx and features 21 rock numbers by such luminaries as Frankie Lymon, Chuck Berry, and La Vern Baker. Tuesday Weld stars as a 13 year-old with a money landing scheme.

Let The Good Times Roll (1973) is a look at 50's rock, highlighting many of the teenage customs of that era. Split screen is used to show the performers then and now. Stars include Bill Haley and the Comets, Little Richard, Bo Diddley, Fats Domino, Chuck Berry and others.

The shows start each night at 7:30 p.m. with tickets available only at the doors on the night of the films.

Mr. Horak expects a really good turnout for this festival and "If we have to turn crowds away at the door, we'll probably run the whole festival all over again next week."

Test your Chuck Berry knowledge

by Don Teplysk

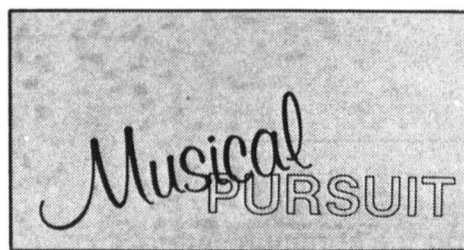
Fans of fifties music, you now have the opportunity to show off your knowledge as this column's feature artist is Chuck Berry.

Also, in this column and in columns to come, Musical Pursuit will feature a new contest — **The Continual Pursuit**. Each week a clue to the identity of an artist or band will be given. The first person to correctly identify the artist will receive a prize that won't be determined until my next column, but believe me, it'll be substantial.

Get down the answers to the nine questions listed below and drop them off at The Gateway offices in Room 282 of SUB. The winner is the one who correctly answers the most questions. A draw will be held in case of tie. The prize is a five dollar token redeemable at Auracle Records (10808 - 82 Ave.) If you think you know who the mystery band is — after only one clue — drop your guess off at the same time.

FEATURE ARTIST: CHUCK BERRY

1. Chuck Berry was born in what mid-western U.S. city?



- 2. Berry's early recordings appeared on what label?
- 3. In what song did Berry encourage Ludwig to "dig these rhythm and blues"?
- 4. Berry spent thirty months in prison after being convicted of what felony in 1961?
- 5. Of all Chuck Berry's hits, he has managed only one U.S. #1 pop song. Was that song a) "Maybelline" b) "School Days" or c) "My Ding-a-ling"?
- 6. What British bands first three singles were "Hong Kong Garden" (1978), "The Staircase" (1979) and "Playground Twist" (1979)?

- 7. Who was the drummer for the Monkees?
- 8. A few of his early bands included the Castles, Steel Mill and Dr. Zoom and the Sonic Boom. He is . . . ?
- 9. Buddy Holly's last touring band included a now legendary country music outlaw. Who was Holly's last guitar player?

THE CONTINUAL PURSUIT

Clue #1 — A band formed in Scotland, 1969.

Last Week's Answers

- 1. "Get It On (Bang A Gong)" — The Power Station 2. "Walking on Sunshine" — Katrina and the Waves 3. "If You Love Somebody..." — David Lee Roth 5. "Never Surrender" — Corey Hart 6. "Walk of Life" — Dire Straits. 7. "Would I Lie To You" — Eurythmics 8. "Everything She Wants" — Wham. 9. "Heaven" — Bryan Adams.

Winner: Susan Petruszczak Arts III

CORRECTION

BOOKSTORE HOURS

for Thursday, September 12/85 were printed incorrectly. The Bookstore will be open from **9 AM - 8 PM** on Thursday, Sept. 12.

We don't skin volunteers alive, in fact, we like them. Join the Gateway, Room 282, SUB.

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