

rock notes

Even rock 'n roll is being affected by the deepening recession. That's the finding of a new survey of rock promoters across the U.A. and Canada by Susan Scott of Amusement Business, weekly newspaper for the Mass Entertainment Industry.

According to Ms. Scott, rock promoters throughout North America are predicting that concert activity will be cut by a large margin this year, due to the economic crisis.

Frank Barsalona, whose Premiere Talent books \$20 million worth of talent each year, says he saw the slump coming six months ago. "A drop had to come with the economic conditions going the way they were going. The people I deal with are saying business is down 20 to 30 percent around the country."

Barsalona says he has been encouraging many rock acts to work in "packages" to assure good turn-outs. "We've got to offer people who are going to concerts more for their money -- two groups they want to see instead of one -- or the bands are going to be in serious trouble."

Ray Danniels of SRO Productions in Toronto adds that when people start cutting back on their spending, "they start saying, 'why should I pay \$6 to see a band when I can go to a bar and see one free?'"

The super-groups -- currently Led Zeppelin and Jethro Tull -- are still selling out large halls, several promoters noted. But, so far, most of the big acts have shown no signs of wanting to tour this year.

Elton John may tour again in 1975, and he can certainly fill any hall in the U.S. But the middle-level bands are going to have a difficult time unless they either work in packages or play small halls for less money, according to most promoters.

Even Bill Graham, probably the nation's most consistently successful rock promoter, is skeptical about the year ahead. "I'm starting this year off with a prayer," Graham says. "The audiences don't have the money to spend that they had last year... The medium price range bands that have been headlining on their own will have to package themselves in order to survive."

Moody Blues

Justin Hayward and John Lodge, both of the Moody Blues, will launch their debut album as a duo at a unique "playback" session at New York's Carnegie Hall on Mar. 10.

Their long-awaited album, "BlueJays," will be previewed at a "World Premiere Playback" session at Carnegie Hall for some 2,800 members of the press, record officials, and the public. It will be the first time in Carnegie Hall history that a crowd of music fans has come to Carnegie simply to listen to a new record.

The record will be released immediately following the "playback" session, but no copies will be released to anyone beforehand. Justin Hayward and John Lodge have been key members of the Moody Blues throughout their long history.

Steve Miller

A year ago, Steve Miller was riding the crest of his biggest hit single ever, "The Joker", and a smash album of the same title. But in the year since, Miller has not produced a record -- not even a new single. Crawdaddy magazine recently asked him why. Miller explained that following his successful concert tour last winter, he was too exhausted to produce.

"I had been on the road so long that I had nothing to write about," Miller says. "The only thing I could think about was renting Hertz cars and telling the waitress, 'Sure, roquefort dressing...'"

His label, Capital, was anxious for him to cut a follow-up album to "The Joker". So, Miller checked into a Seattle recording studio with James Cotton's rhythm section and Boz Scaggs' organ player. Seven tracks later he left, realizing his efforts were forced.

Says Miller, "Sure I could've put out another album and made another half-a-million dollars and been twice as rich as I am now. But I just didn't have anything to release."

He says he really feels sorry for stars like Jimi Hendrix and Janis Joplin who are encouraged by promoters and agents to "go out and burn their lives out on stage... That's not for me," he says. "I'm going to stay healthy and be around for a long time."

Steve is carefully planning his career for the next two years. The plans include the production of two albums' worth of song material, a world-wide concert tour, and a 30-minute TV concert he would like to film in Phoenix. Beyond that, Steve Miller hopes to allow himself plenty of time to be himself at his sunny Marin, California home.

Simon & Garfunkel

For the first time in a couple years, Paul Simon and Art Garfunkel have been making public appearances together in New York. The two recently showed up together with Arista Records President Clive Davis at the Bottom Line Club to see Melissa Manchester perform. The same week, the two appeared together at a press conference with concert promoter Ron Delsener, who is battling with city authorities to

retain his annual Schaeffer Music Festival in Central Park this summer. Simon & Garfunkel endorsed the continuance of the festival, but declined to comment about the chances of their working together again.

"Tommy" is coming

The biggest promotional and advertising campaign ever mounted for a movie is about to kick off on behalf of the film version of the The Who's rock

opera "Tommy".

The *Village Voice* reports that \$3.2 million will be spent on promoting the film almost more than what it cost to make the movie.

Prior to the Mar. 18th premiere in New York, we can expect a deluge of giant press conferences, as well as all manner of "Tommy" novelties, such as posters, T-shirts, shoes, colognes, balloons, sunglasses, earmuffs, buttons, pinball machines, games, cereal box premiums and radio contests.

New York Mayor Abe Beame will declare March 18th "Tommy" day, and when the film premieres in Chicago on Mar. 21st, Mayor Daley will proclaim an "Ann Margaret" day. ABC-TV's "Wide World of Entertainment" series will cover the pandemonium when it opens in Los Angeles.

The film will feature "Quintaphonic Sound" meaning a system of five speakers. Polydor Records, which will release the soundtrack, is counting on at least a million sales of the \$10 album.

Cadbury visits campus

Good news for all film buffs on campus! (Film Buff: Anyone crazy enough to watch the 2:30 A.M. late show.) A combination of faculties have joined with Edmonton Film Society to sponsor a 3-day treat that should serve as your film-fix for the month -- and, best of all, you don't need to spend a cent, which means the landlady might get her money this month.

The event kicks off on March 5, and centres on the presence on campus of William Cadbury, noted American film critic and teacher. Cadbury runs film courses at the University of Oregon and writes for such magazines as *Film Quarterly*. He's a proponent of the 'auteur theory', which credits the director as 'author' of the film. While actors, technicians and screenwriters are part of every movie, Cadbury says, "the director is the creative imagination in charge of the film."

To elaborate his views, the following events are scheduled: Mar 5: A free public screening of director Josef von Sternberg's opulent, extravagant 1934 film, *The Scarlet Empress*, starring Marlene Dietrich as the notorious Russian ruler, Queen Catherine. Tory Lecture Theatre, 6:45 p.m. Mar. 6: A lecture by Professor Cadbury, on *The Scarlet Empress*. 8:30 p.m. Humanities Centre Av 13. Mar. 7: A seminar chaired by Prof. Cadbury on the teaching of film courses. 3 p.m. Humanities Centre, 5th floor board room.

Sponsorship for the events

is provided by Edmonton Film Society, the Departments of English and Comparative

Literature and the Faculty of Arts.

R. Horak



Marlene Dietrich, one of the most beautiful faces of the 1930's, is the star of Von Sternberg's opulent biography of Catherine the Great - *The Scarlet Empress* (1934). Free public showing at Tory Lecture Theatre, Mar. 5, 6:45 p.m. (U of A Campus)

