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Bono, vocals, The Edge, guitar, Adam Clayton, bass and Larry Mullen, drums, formed the rock band U2 as students in Dublin, Ireland.

COURTESY PHOTO

U2 concert to include huge set, unusual props

The band, which will visit Eugene in May, has a history that is as unique as its show

By Matt Garton
Oregon Daily Emerald

For some University students, U2's song "I Still Haven't Found What I'm Looking For" may bring back haunting memories of standing in the rain last Saturday morning, waiting to get those precious "front row" tickets but coming away empty-handed.

But those students who did (or will) find some tickets for the Eugene stop on U2's "Popmart" tour can expect a show of sound and light that will be sure to entertain. It's not surprising to find that ten years after being named *Time* Magazine's Rock's Hottest Ticket, U2 still consistently sells out in each city they visit.

When U2 toured in 1992, more than 5 million people attended the concerts in stadiums and arenas across the globe. The tour was acclaimed by musicians as the most ambitious

series of rock concerts ever performed.

And now, in 1997, with the "Popmart" tour, U2 is scheduled to play in more than 62 cities in 20 countries by December. U2 will haul with them nearly 1,200 tons of sound and lighting equipment packed into 15 buses and 52 trucks.

Among the list of U2's "props" for the show is the world's largest television, which is 150 feet by 50 feet and weighs 65,000 pounds (approximately 32.5 tons).

Other props include a single golden arch stretching more 100 feet tall, a 12-foot-wide lit stuffed olive balanced on a 100-foot-tall toothpick and a 35 foot tall "mirrorball lemon."

The stage set includes 5,000 feet of "disco rope lighting" and a large Plexiglass dance floor.

With Tuesday's release of U2's newest album, *Pop*, U2 adds an 11th album to its list of award-winning releases. Among previous titles are *Achtung Baby*, which sold 10 million copies, and *Joshua Tree*, which sold 15 million copies.

Outside of these albums, U2 has produced songs for several movies. "Hold Me, Thrill Me, Kiss Me, Kill Me" appeared on



Bono plays guitar during a studio session with the rest of the band.

COURTESY PHOTO

the *Batman Forever* soundtrack, and "Theme from *Mission: Impossible*" was rewritten for the '90s by drummer Larry Mullen and bassist Adam Clayton.

U2 was formed in Dublin, Ireland in 1978 and has continued to make Dublin its home ever since.

In all of U2's nearly 20-year history, no band member has left or been added since the band formed in 1978.

U2 has a long political and social history, as well. They participated in a Greenpeace demonstration in Manchester, England, and in 1986 they headlined for Amnesty International's Conspiracy of Hope Tour of the United States. The tour featured artists such as Bryan Adams, Peter Dinklage, Lou Reed and Sting, who would later write the song "They Dance Alone." The song was inspired by the goal of Amnesty International to free political prisoners and victims of apartheid in Africa and around the world.

Including Eugene, the "Popmart" tour will visit the following U.S. cities: Las Vegas, San Diego, Denver, Salt Lake City, Eugene, Phoenix, Dallas, Memphis, Clemson, Kansas City, Pittsburgh, Columbus, Washington D.C., Raleigh, New York, Philadelphia, Winnipeg, Edmonton, Oakland, Los Angeles, Madison, Chicago, Minneapolis, Detroit, St. Louis, Tampa, Jacksonville, Miami, Indianapolis, New Orleans, San Antonio, Atlanta, Houston and Seattle.

Several U.S. cities, including New York and Chicago, will host two U2 performances because of high ticket demand.

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