

the arts

Small town boy makes good in 'Merton'



Photo by Jerry Wheeler

The cameraman (Paul Dittman) takes a break between takes during a filming sequence from "Merton of the Movies," while the janitor (Doug Smith) and one of the running crew (Tom Day) look on.

"Merton of the Movies" is the current comedy production of the Clackamas County Repertory Theatre now showing Friday and Saturday nights at 8 p.m. through Nov. 20.

Merton, played by Brent Crook, is a small town boy who dreams of being a great dramatic actor in Hollywood movies. After carefully saving up all his money, he makes his dream come true and goes to Hollywood.

The rest is the reliable formula of a hick in the big city. The group does a good job of acting out this formula for comedy putting in a few unique twists for added hilarity. Two of these twists are Merton's impeccable honesty and his simple ideas which cause his dream of acting dramatically to be totally destroyed by some corrupt Hollywood people.

"Merton of the Movies" is a hilarious comedy on the surface, but it also has a deeper meaning making it even more worthwhile to see.

Bluegrass festival set at Portland State

On Friday, Nov. 19 the PSU Progressive Arts Committee is presenting the biggest Bluegrass concert to hit Portland in five years. The show starts at 8 p.m. in the Student Center Ballroom.

The groups appearing are "The Muddy Bottom Boys" and "Dr. Corn's Bluegrass Remedy", both from Portland and "The Sawtooth Mountain Boys" from Corvallis.

"Sawtooth" has been together for over ten years, with three of its members hailing from the Southeastern U.S. where bluegrass got its start. They offer a hard driving, traditional style that is complimented by excellent three and four part singing. They can be heard on their new album "Bluegrass -- The Sawtooth Mountain Boys" on the Home Comfort label.

"The Muddy Bottom Boys," who have the distinction of being the tallest bluegrass band in the world, started playing in 1971. They have also released a new album recently entitled "Slaughter on the Highway." They've played at many Portland area taverns and colleges and their popularity has landed them such prestigious engagements as the Pendleton Round-Up.

"Dr. Corn's Bluegrass Remedy" are starting their fifth year at Frankenstein's Tavern in Portland and have played at six bluegrass festivals in the northwest. They've also appeared on the nationally televised NBC Today Show for their "Bicentennial Salute to Oregon" last year. They are currently working on their first album which should be available by this March.

This concert is a unique opportunity for Portland area bluegrass fans to hear what many regard as the cream of Northwest bluegrass. Advance tickets are available at the PSU Box office, Everybody's Records, Longhair Music, and Chrystalship Records. Phone 287-8811 for information.

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In review

'Rush' earns name at Paramount

By Vicki Josi
Feature Editor

Last Saturday night Portland area rock fans were given a treat as 'Rush' appeared for two shows at the Paramount Theatre.

Originally from Canada, this group played two shows -- one to a full house, the other about half full. But during each performance, the band gave their all.

Starting out with "Bastille Day" from their third album "Caress of Steel", the band got their audience moving and never let them down. "Anthem", "Temples of Syrinx" and "Something for Nothing" are just a few of the superb tunes they played.

The band, consisting of Geddy Lee, bass guitar and vocals; Alex Lifeson, lead guitar; and Neil Peart on the drums, released a static electricity that kept the crowd on its feet and howling for three encores.

As far as concerts go, this show stands out noticeably. There were no fancy costumes or stage acts. With the exception of a couple of shooting flares, there was also no evidence of being overprofessional. The group is excellent and they gave their audience what they wanted without disappointing them.

The piercing waves of music wailing from their instruments was well channelled through the theatre for the Paramount's acoustics are magnificent. This provided for the full effect of the "Rush" experience.

After viewing this group's show and becoming better acquainted with the music, it is inevitable that they will be heading in coliseums and stadiums. The concert was well worth the time and money and was a magnificent value in entertainment. Undoubtedly the next time they appear in Portland will be at the Coliseum.

Al Stewart hits Portland

By Denise Linck
Staff Writer

Wednesday, Oct. 27, at 8 p.m., the English rock balladeer Al Stewart came to the Portland Civic Auditorium with special guest Denny Brooks.

Brooks opened the first thirty minutes of the show. Then came the moment everyone had waited for.

The lights dimmed and red beams illuminated the stage as Portland welcomed back Al Stewart. With the stage melting from one color to another Stewart and his band began their act with "Apple Cider Re-Constitution".

When Stewart got ready to play "The Road to Moscow", a screen was lowered behind the band and started to show pictures coinciding with his song, making the back drop for this piece. The song tells about the work of Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn. The applause following was deafening.

Stewart sang songs from his other albums too, such as "On the Border", "You're Not the One", "So Ho", "The Sirens of Titan" and one that's on his latest album, "The Year of the Cat".

Thursday, November 4,

