

Rush returns with 'Test For Echo'

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Staff Writer

In a year that has been highlighted by the uprising of older rock and roll groups (Styx, Boston, the Who, Jethro Tull, etc.), it was no surprise when Geddy Lee, Alex Lifeson and Neil Pert, the trio that forms the Canadian band Rush, announced that they too would return to the studios.

Their new album *Test for Echo* has shown, once again, that Rush is not too old to return to its "Working Man" roots. Even if it's for just a song or two.

Test for Echo could easily be dubbed a "concept" album. Then again, when has Rush done anything different? The mystery and story lines that surround their lyrics are enough to make any fan hope for more instrumentals. True, we may not get it, but they do, and that means something.

Test for Echo falls into the category of "another Rush album." This can be viewed two ways. First: it isn't new. It follows the same patterns, both musically and lyrically, the band set even before their *Moving Pictures* days. Many fans were hoping for a new sound from Lee, Lifeson

and Pert but, then again, that just wouldn't be Rush. Second: it's a standard Rush album.

Like the above, it shadows the band's past albums, but it does it well! Songs like "Half the World" and "Totem" prove the band



hasn't changed through the years; they have matured. That's what we hoped for.

Musically, the album is a success. Vocalist and bassist Geddy Lee has always provided the band's identifiable sound. Lee's high-pitched vocals and background, yet ever present bass, has been Rush's trademark. As in the past few albums, the intensity of Lee's voice has lowered but not failed him. He can still wail the

lyrics to their hit single "Working Man" or softly moan the lines to *Roll the Bones* track "Ghost of a Chance." Look for impressive vocals on *Test for Echo* tracks "The Color of Right" and "Totem."

Neil Pert's rhythm section is, and always will be, a prime example of rock drumming. Pert has eased off some of the more intense fills that he once thrived on but, unless you were looking for them, you would probably never even notice.

Alex Lifeson seems to have become just the opposite of Pert, using harder, more driving guitar lines on the new album than has been featured in a long time. On tunes like the instrumental "Limbo" and the title track, Lifeson's guitar blends perfectly with Geddy Lee's bass, providing the listener with hard-hitting instrumentals that prove he isn't time worn. None of them are.

They're still Rush; they're still around; they're still rock icons. *Test for Echo* is not new material for the band but it has proven that for Lee, Lifeson and Pert, time is just the space between albums.

NEW MUSIC FOR OCTOBER

Compiled by Mairin-Anne Moore
October 8

Chris Isaak "Baja Sessions"
Heads "No Talking, Just Heads"
Iris DeMent "The Way I Should"
Marilyn Manson "AntiChrist Superstar"
Sammy Davis Jr. Compilation CD

October 15

Counting Crows "Recovering the Satellites"
Phil Collins "Dance Into the Light"
Phish "Billy Breathes"
Lemonheads "Car Button Cloth"
Dr. Dre "The Aftermath"
Korn "Life Is Peachy"

October 22

Van Halen "Best of, Volume 1"
Mary Chapin Carpenter "A Place in the World"
Da Brat "Anuthatantrum"
Chuck D "The Autobiography of Mistachuck"
Babyface "The Day"
Rusted Root "Remember"

October 29

Joni Mitchell "Hits and Misses"
Alan Jackson "Everything I Love"
SpaceJam Soundtrack
Charlie Daniels Band "The Roots Remain"
Neil Diamond "In My Lifetime"

INTRODUCING The new & Improved MINDBENDER By Jon Roberts

From an idea by Matt Jones.

This mindbender is devoted to famous quotes from new and old Sci-fi/Horror movies. Name the movie these quotes came from. The answers are on the opposite page. "So, now you know what we are, and now you know what you are. You'll never grow old Michael, and you'll never die...but you must feed!" (1987)

"Now listen good. I'm not Captain Walker. I'm the guy who keeps Mr. Dead in his pocket, and I say we're gonna stay here, and we're gonna live a long time, and we're gonna be thankful, all right!" (1985)

"Give me your shirt, your boots and your motorcycle." (1991)

"Mother - what's the phrase - isn't quite herself today." (1960)

"I'm looking for a great warrior." "War does not make one great." (1980)

"I thought you were good Paul ... but you're not good, you're another lying old dirty birdie!" (1991)

"Humans make illogical decisions." (1986)

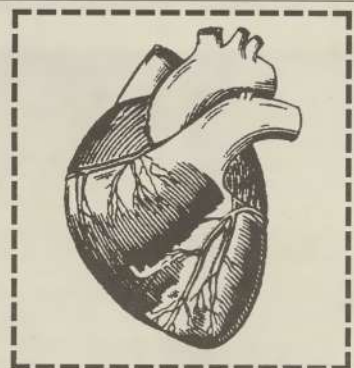
"Mr. Mayor, we are here tonight because a psycho-magnathetic slime flow of immense proportions is building up beneath the city." (1987)

"He-e-e-re's Johnnie!" (1980)

"Drop it ... Dead or alive you're coming with me!" (1987)

"Wake up, it's time to die." (1982)

"Welcome to Earth!" (1996)



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