

Hearing loss, hotties accompany 'N Sync show

ELENA BORYSKA
Sports Editor

The concert experience of the year, possibly even the decade, came to Portland on Sun., March 3. On the opening night of the second leg of 'N Sync's "Celebrity" tour, thousands of pre-teen girls dragged their parents to the Rose Garden for a night filled with singing, dancing and a whole lot of screaming.

To open the show for at least the beginning part of this tour, 'N Sync brought in none other than the r&b/hip-hop sensation, Ginuwine. While he did a great job of doing what show openers are supposed to do, which is get the crowd ready for the headlining act, I'm not sure if Ginuwine was the best choice for 'N Sync to choose as a touring mate.

I mean, who was he trying to turn on, the thousands of twelve-year-olds, or their 40-year-old mothers? And by the

way, Ginuwine, no matter how famous you are, repeatedly humping the stage isn't cool. Despite this complaint, I must admit that some of his dance moves were pretty cool. Okay, so only one of them was. He had his dancers and backup singers make a sort-of human car, which he rode on while bouncing along to the beat. Other than that, I was pretty disappointed in his whole performance.

"I found myself adding to the insane level of noise filling the Rose Garden."

After Ginuwine finally got off the stage, the real show began. To

sang the feel-good "Do Your Thing." I don't think I will ever be able to recover from the hearing damage caused by the sound that filled the building

when Justin Timberlake's face was first flashed up on the big screen. I do admit though, that when I first saw the guys slowly rise from the middle of the stage, I found myself add-

play of pyrotechnics, lights and amazing dance moves.

One of the highlights of the two-hour show was when the 'N Sync guys came out in some nifty retro suits and did a

Sync also remixed some of their older songs just for the tour, one of the most impressive being a blues version of "Tearing up My Heart," which was definitely a crowd favorite.

The energy never stopped for even a moment, but 'N Sync did slow things down a couple times. During the slow ballad, "God Must Have Spent a Little More Time on You," I only saw one girl who was crying. But that might have had something to do with the fact that I couldn't take my eyes off the smoking-hot Lance Bass long enough to look around at the crowd.

After a short encore, which included the singles, "Gone" and current radio hit, "Girlfriend," the guys said good-bye with the energizing "Pop," which brought down the house and further increased my hearing damage.

All in all, this was the greatest, most amazing concert that I have ever had the pleasure of going to. My ears are still ringing and my throat is still a little raw, but this show has convinced me that nobody knows how to shake their booty like the guys of 'N Sync do.

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start things off, the guys from 'N Sync

ing to the insane level of noise filling the Rose Garden. Once that song was over, they launched into their ever-popular hits "Bye, Bye, Bye" and "It's Gonna Be Me." After that, the rest of the songs flowed smoothly into an awesome dis-

Beatles/Motown medley. A special catwalk was lowered and allowed the guys to walk about 20 feet above the perimeter of the fans with really close lower-level seats, all the while singing such classics as "Hey, Jude," "Twist and Shout" and "My Girl." 'N

A musical debut that calls for patience

ELENA BORYSKA
Sports Editor

Have you ever heard a band who kind of sounded like another band, who sounded like another one, and so on? Well, that is what The Calling's debut CD, "Camino Palmero" is like. With their "almost-rock" music, thought-provoking lyrics and the intense lead vocals of Alex Band, The Calling comes across sounding a whole lot like Lifehouse, which in turn sounds like Creed, which also sounds a little like Pearl Jam. It makes an interesting mix, and one that actually turned out pretty well.

The single "Wherever You Will Go" was what first convinced me to plunk down the cash to buy this CD, but most of the remaining songs assured me that my money had been well spent. In the opening "Unstoppable," Band's rich voice sings about having one night with that special someone, when together they would be, of course, unstoppable. The mildly sensual lyrics include a part about drinking wine, which is pretty funny since Band is 20 years old and looks all of 12.

A must hear on "Camino Palmero" is the revenge-oriented "Adrienne." The whole feel of this song is very smooth and is a lot like a boy-band-kiss-off song minus the

boy band, and comes out sounding pretty cool. Another song on this CD that can't be skipped is the ultra-funky "Just That Good." Imagine this: a mix of Lifehouse and Matchbox Twenty thrown together for your listening plea-

"All of the songs had a tendency to sound amazingly similar."

sure. That's how good "Just that good" is.

They also know how to address some serious issues. In "We're Forgiven," the band sings about people who ignore the helpless but still think that they are good people and will be forgiven. They paint a sad portrait of some people who feel that their time on earth has been nothing but a curse, and encourage listeners to help the not-so-fortunate because it could be them needing help someday.

There is also the appreciative "Thank You," with the message that each day is a blessing, and "Stigmatized," where judging homosexuality is condemned. These slow songs are less fun than the

rest of the CD, but bring up important issues to think about.

I must admit that when I first listened to this CD, I wasn't so sure that I liked it. All of the songs had a tendency to sound amazingly similar. But after listening to it a couple times through, I was able to differentiate between the songs, and it began to grow on me.

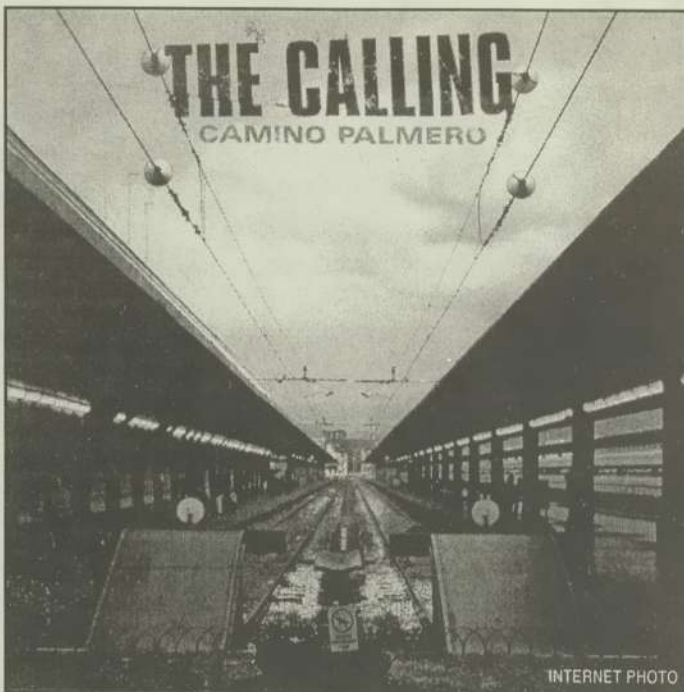
Now, if you are one of those people out there who doesn't enjoy the whole "this band sounds like that band" thing, I wouldn't recommend "Camino Palmero." And if you expect the rest of the CD to sound like "Wherever You Will Go," don't be surprised when it doesn't. The bottom line here: if you are really itching for a good CD and are willing to take a big chance on these guys, The Calling may be for you.

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The Calling Camino Palmero

Track list:

1. "Unstoppable"
2. "Nothing's Changed"
3. "Wherever You Will Go"
4. "Could It Be Any Harder"
5. "Final Answer"
6. "Adrienne"
7. "We're Forgiven"
8. "Things Don't Always Turn Out That Way"
9. "Just That Good"
10. "Thank You"
11. "Stigmatized"



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