

# ROCK

## Rush evolves into superstardom

By Anastasia Pantisios

It's taken 10 years of playing and recording, periods of misunderstanding, criticism, media apathy and dislike and then finally the undeniable adoration of millions of fans. No one doubts it anymore. Rush is the hottest group ever to come out of Canada.

The Toronto-based trio will be playing the second night of a two-night stand tonight at the Richfield Coliseum.

Calling from Chicago, drummer Neil Peart commented on the band's long, slow rise to superstardom. "We've never had a big hit single and we still don't get radio air-play. We've had to fight hard for the freedom to do what we do, and to maintain it is a constant battle.

"You have to be aware of how many people want to tell you what to do. I play music I like to play or I don't play at all. What can they say? Not wanting to make money is the ultimate argument. The joke is: If we had done what we were told to do, we would have had no success."

Rush has changed in the course of 10 years, a change that Peart views as evolutionary. "We never had to make a radical change; we were never totally on the wrong course. The major difference is that now I think we're pretty good; back then we weren't very good. It took us awhile to learn certain things, like how to focus on the vocals — how to write in a register that is best for Geddy. That isn't as easy as it sounds."

One change that has evolved with the band's latest albums is lyricist Peart's move away from the science fiction/grand-scheme-of-the-universe style of lyrics that had fascinated him for so long, into concrete, personal lyrics dealing with people and situations.

"At a certain point in your life when you are growing up, you are devoted to pulling yourself together," Peart explained. "You have a lot of erroneous ideas; I know I did. There comes a point when you can look back a little because you have established principles and values, and you can start to apply them."

"Our early albums dealt with establishing values. Now we can apply them. There are only so many different principles, but the applications are infinite."

Rush's complex, serious lyrics always have invited analysis, criticism and praise. But Peart casts a suspicious eye at people

— including musicians themselves — who take too seriously a band's role in influencing people.

"I can't really expect people to take something away from our music; that's presumptuous. I must want to go away feeling good about my performance. If I deliver a good show, that's what matters. I can't concern myself with how anyone sees us."

Peart is critical of the hype that creates "inspirational" stars

like Bruce Springsteen. "That whole Messiah complex is created by the media and music industry. Sometimes musicians will go along with it because they think it's a gag. But how can anyone think they'll make a person re-evaluate their lives after sharing an hour or two, or should anyone even attempt to? It doesn't make me mad; it just makes me laugh."

Still, Peart has been something of an inspiration to kids in one area: He's widely regarded as one of rock's premier drummers. That sort of inspiration he sees as practical and not particularly life-tampering.

"If I can inspire someone to copy stuff I do and work hard on his drumming so that he becomes a better musician, I don't think there's any harm done."



MERCURY

Drummer Neil Peart of the Toronto-based trio Rush says the group has had to struggle for artistic freedom. Rush will perform tonight at the Coliseum.

### ROCK

Blossom Music Center, 1145 W. Steels Corners Rd., Northampton Township, 566-8184 (Cleveland), 1-920-8040 (Akron) — .38 Special, Thursday, 8 p.m.

Coliseum, Richfield, 659-9100 — Bruce Springsteen, Sunday and Monday, 8 p.m. Sold out.

Cuyahoga County Public Library — At South Euclid Branch, 4645 Mayfield Rd., 382-4880; Predator, Monday, 7:30 p.m. Free. In case of rain, indoors.

The Front Row, 6199 Wilson Mills Rd., Highland Heights, 449-5000 (Information) or 524-0000 (to charge to MasterCard or VISA) — Air Supply, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 8 p.m.

### Hot hits

The following are Billboard's hot record hits for the week ending tomorrow as they appear in this week's issue of Billboard magazine.

Hot singles

1. "When Doves Cry" Prince (Warner Bros.)
2. "Dancing in the Dark" Bruce Springsteen (Columbia)

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3. "Jump" Pointer Sisters (Pionet)
4. "Self Control" Laura Branigan (Atlantic)
5. "The Reflex" Duran Duran (Capitol)
6. "Eyes Without a Face" Billy Idol (Chrysalis)
7. "Time After Time" Cyndi Lauper (Portrait)
8. "Almost Paradise" Mike Reno and Ann Wilson (Columbia)
9. "The Heart of Rock 'n' Roll" Huey Lewis and the News (Chrysalis)
10. "Less" ZZ Top (Warner Bros.)
1. "Born in the U.S.A." Bruce Springsteen (Columbia)
2. "Sports" Huey Lewis and the News (Chrysalis)
3. "Footloose" Soundtrack (Columbia)
4. "Heartbeat City" The Cars (Elektra)
5. "Can't Slow Down" Lionel Richie (MCA)
6. "She's So Unusual" Cyndi Lauper (Portrait)
7. "1984" Van Halen (Warner Bros.)
8. "Love at First Sight" Scorpions (Mercury)
9. "Rebel Yell" Billy Idol (Chrysalis)
10. "Seven and the Ragged Tiger" Duran Duran (Capitol)

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