

RUSH

Working Men

Most bands today run on a variety of elements: special effects, amplification and attitude. Very few possess the most essential quality of them all, endurance. Rush is one of the few who have endured, with nineteen years of quality music and an ever-expanding fan base.

"We are unique in that we always did what we wanted

to our lyrics. Now we have a more social focus," states Lifeson, "After *Hemispheres* in 1978, we let that go. We got the most out of what we wanted to do but it was time to move onward."

What is equally amazing to Rush's exquisite music, is their fan base. Rush has some of the most dedicated fans in the rock world. "Our fans are very good. They've been there since the beginning. they range from fourteen/fifteen year-olds to forty-five year-olds and to us it's very special that they stay with us and we act as a part of their lives. But, what's wild is that they really understand the band. The band is as important to them as it is to us. That alone gives us great freedom 'cause we have to please ourselves musically before we can please anyone else. Overall it's been a good relationship," reflects Lifeson.

Rush has a very illusive and addictive quality about them. Even Lifeson is left baffled, "I like to think that we stir people's thought process a bit through our music and lyrics. People see the seriousness in it and they see that it's something special, something they can relate to, as opposed to a passing trend."

Another Rush hallmark is their stage show. Known for their laser light show and state-of-the-art techniques, Rush always gives it their all. "To coincide with the altercation in our music, the stage show has changed a bit as well. Howard Underline, who is our lighting director, left for awhile but now he is back and we'll be working closely with him on a new show and set design. Howard is wonderful...a real dramatic artist in his own right. Just to give you a taste of what's to come, the video screens from the last tours will return and so will the openness of the stage. We found it puts more focus on the band, which is what we are looking for," demands Lifeson.

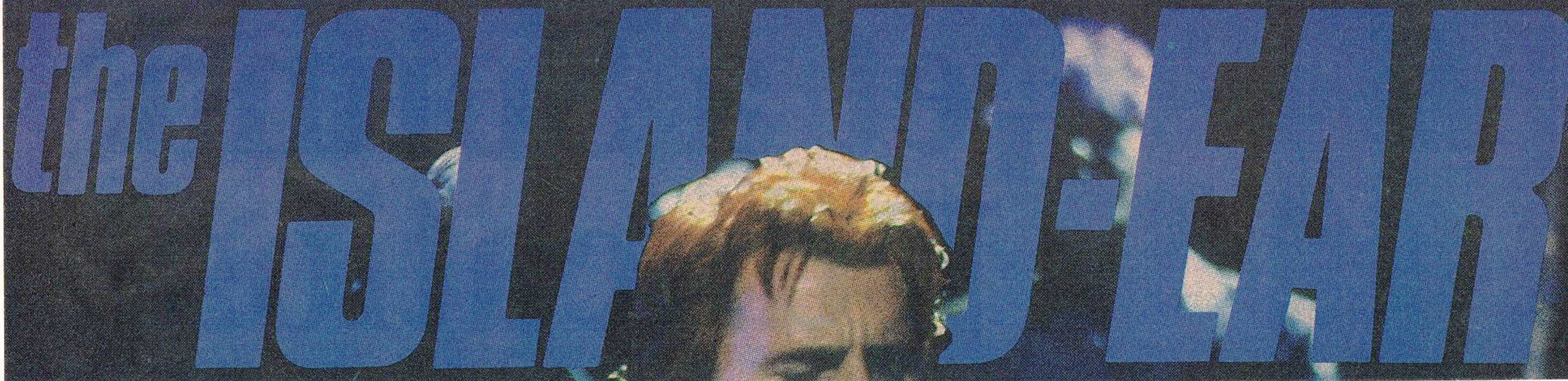
After over nineteen years and nineteen albums what has Rush learned? "We have learned that we have set a standard and that we must keep up that standard. We found that we must strive to be the best that we can be in order to bring out the best in other people," states Lifeson, "But really, the true story is we are just three guys who got together, started playing and just kept on playing — the end." ●

David J. Criblez



RUSH

the ISLAND-EAR



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PROFILE

RUSH

WNEW-FM 102.7 CLASSIC ROCK & MORE

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|--------------------------|------------------|
| 1. John Mellencamp | Human Wheels |
| 2. Pearl Jam | Go! |
| 3. REM | Everybody Hurts |
| 4. Radiohead | Creep |
| 5. Red Hot Chili Peppers | Soul To Squeeze |
| 6. Rush | Stick It Out |
| 7. Soul Asylum | Without A Trace |
| 8. 4 Non Blondes | Spaceman |
| 9. Jackson Browne | I'm Alive |
| 10. Melissa Etheridge | I'm The Only One |

PROGRAMMING:

Monday-Friday: Six At Nine 9a.m.
 Work Force Blocks 12 Noon - 1p.m.
 Live At Five 5 p.m.
 Get The Led Out 8 p.m.
 Live From The Archives 10:35 p.m.
 Overnight Work Force Blocks 3 a.m. - 4 a.m.

to do," declares guitarist Alex Lifeson. "Our focus has always been to play as best as we could. We were always motivated by good musicianship and have always strove to become better songwriters. That's where we are now, we are more focused on the completion of a song than showcasing our musicianship."

Rush has just completed, *Counter parts*, their latest effort which seems to shed new light on another side to the band who, in turn, are letting go of their past. Lifeson explains, "During the last tour ('Roll The Bones' — 1991), we had a set and a clear idea of what we wanted to do. We wanted a streamlined stripped-down approach toward recording, yet topped with that polish that we are used to."

"This is where the return of Peter Collins came in. Peter [producer of Rush's LP, *Power Windows*] is a responsible, reliable person. With him, you don't worry about anything but being a musician. He plants the seed that keeps you growing, which causes you to expand in different directions. And at times, he acts as a policeman jumping in between the three of us," claims Lifeson.

Things haven't always been so straightforward and direct in the band. Rush's older music wove a twisted macramé in the fantastical depths of the obscure. "In our past we used a fictional sword and sorcery background