

daily nebraskan entertainment

Harrison & friends

Review by Tim Sindelar

The Concert for Bangla Desh was the outstanding musical event of 1971, a year marked by disaster for live concerts. The much touted Festival of Life was closed down after three days of mud and meaningless violence. The Newport Jazz Festival succumbed to masses of gatecrashers and closed after its first night.

The Fillmore ballrooms, both East and West, were closed as promoter Bill Graham decreed the Death of Rock. Concerts in many major cities were marked by violence and an extraordinary increase in the use of downers. It was not the year for live rock music.

Yet, the two performances of the concert for the orphans of Bangla Desh drew sell-out crowds at Madison Square Garden, and came off without any major incidents. The mammoth success of the concert can be contributed both to its nature and more to the outstanding personality that sparked it—George Harrison.

Billed as George Harrison and friends, the concert was more than just a parading of several rock groups before an audience—it was one man and many friends communicating a spirit. Harrison arranged a show of many talented musicians performing together, constituting a real rock revue such as is seldom heard. And throughout this all, there is a pervading spirit, somewhat religious in nature, that, along with Harrison, provides a great cohesive force.

The opening set with Ravi Shankar, performing "Bangla Dhun" conveys the almost-holy flavor of the concert. The quiet, sincere comments of Shankar, followed by the beautifully flowing sitar and sarod piece are excellent in beginning a concert that proceeds in this unlikely atmosphere.

George Harrison then steps forward to further carry on the mood—performing his own numbers, "Wah-Wah," "My Sweet Lord," "Awaiting on You All," and "Beware of Darkness," which are open displays of his religious feelings. And he follows with two of the more moving Beatle tunes—"Here Comes the Sun" and "Something."

There are some disconcerting things about the Bangla Desh Concert. The appearance of only old-line stars, doing mostly established favorites, lends some credence to those that cry today that rock is dying.

It is George Harrison's presence that makes the concert what it is—an amazing piece of musical history. And Harrison, while achieving the status of a demi-god, appears to be the humble and concerned plaintiff of "My Sweet Lord," presenting music that really counts. Both in direction and presentation.

Larry Kubert entertainment

Last Monday, the Lincoln Broadway League presented the U.S. Touring company productions of *Promises, Promises* at the Stuart Theatre. The musical (which is based on the screenplay *The Apartment*) is written by Neil Simon, with music by Burt Bacharach and lyrics by Hal David.

The plot of the show is about a young business man who finds that he can rise quickly in his company to the position of junior executive by loaning out his apartment to senior executives who are cheating on their wives. Along the line, he falls in love with a girl who is one of the girl friends of a senior exec who has been using the apartment.

Not an extremely "heavy-message" plot, but an enjoyable one. And, on occasion, what's wrong with that?

The traveling company production had its good points and its bad, but on the whole it was rather enjoyable.

Will Mackenzie as C.C. Baxter, the young exec who loans out his apartment, was entertaining as he quipped and sang his way through the production. However, Mackenzie lacked the stage presence and timing that Jerry Orbach had in the Broadway production of the show, which won Orbach much praise.

Sydney Balaber as Fran Kubelick, Baxter's love interest, and Mace Barrett as J.D. Sheldrake, a senior exec who is carrying on an affair with Fran, were disappointing.

Balaber was reportedly ill Monday night and her performance supported this. Her singing was strained and she had no drive in her characterization. Barrett's singing was relatively good, but when it came to spoken dialogue he seemed more concerned with the speaking of his lines than communicating with his other actors and the audience.

On the other hand, fine characterizations were turned in by Alan North as Dr. Dreyfuss, Baxter's hazzled and frazzled neighbor, and by Kathie Kallaghan as Peggy Olsen, one of Sheldrake's past conquests and his current secretary.

Also satisfying was Channing Chase as Marge MacDougall, the inebriated "widow" whom Baxter picks up at Clancy's Bar.

The choreography for the show was handled well, especially in the Clancy's Bar sequence, and the orchestra for the production, although rather small, was very good.

Unfortunately the lighting and sound left something to be desired. The follow spots were uneven throughout the performance and on two occasions light cue mistakes were made. In addition the sound system left out a loud band at one point in the first act.

But the audience seemed to overlook these problems and continued to enjoy themselves.

The next production to be sponsored by the Lincoln Broadway League will be another Neil Simon play, *Last of the Red-Hot Lovers*, on Feb. 10. This play is about a middle-aged Sea-Food restaurant owner who tries, unsuccessfully, to carry on affairs with a nymphomaniac, a psycho and one of his wife's best friends.

In case you're a movie buff and have either seen all of the movies in town or don't want to see them, a rundown of the movies which will be aired on television this week might be interesting.

Monday:

KETV, Channel 7, 8 p.m., *Downhill Racer* starring Robert Redford. 1969 flick about a skier's ambitions.

KMTV, Channel 3, 8 p.m., *Story of a Woman* starring Bibi Andersson. Married woman falls out of love with husband and meets ex-lover.

Tuesday:

KETV, Channel 7, 7:30 p.m., *Women in Chains* starring Ida Lupino and Lois Nettleton. Probation officer gets herself committed to prison.

Wednesday:

KETV, Channel 7, 8 p.m., *Flaming Feather* starring Sterling Hayden. 1952 western oldie.

Friday:

KOLN, Channel 10, 8 p.m., *She Waits* starring Patty Duke and David McCallum. Bride haunted by husband's murdered first wife.

WOW, Channel 6, 8 p.m., *The Innocents* starring Martin Stephens and Deborah Kerr. Ghost-type story.

KUON, Channel 12, 9:30 p.m., *Grand Illusion* starring Joan Gabin, Pierre Fresnay, Erich von Stroheim and Marcel Dalio. Jean Renoir's 1936 antiwar classic.

Saturday:

KETV, Channel 7, 7:30 p.m., *Screaming Woman* starring Olivia de Havilland and Joseph Cotton. Mental patient finds woman buried alive.

KMTV, Channel 3, 8 p.m., *Topaz* starring John Forsythe. Espionage and political intrigue.

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