

Arts & Entertainment

Loverboy, Jett deliver music at its hottest

Review by Randy Wymore

The radio spots promoting Wednesday night's Loverboy/Joan Jett show touted the former as "Lincoln's band." However, judging from the reaction of the crowd, both groups may have deserved the title.

In 1982, Loverboy set an attendance record of 9,136 for Pershing Auditorium. The group, on its return to Pershing Wednesday, did even better, as 9,156 spectators were treated to a driving performance by Jett and Loverboy.

Loverboy, a five-man Canadian band, had the crowd throbbing with excitement from the opening licks of "Queen of the Broken Hearts" to the third encore number, "The Kid is Hot Tonight."

Frontman Mike Reno had the primarily female audience captivated by his every move. The crowd needed no prompting to clap or to join in the singing. During "Turn Me Loose," the band's first hit, the crowd sang along throughout the number.

Loverboy overcame some early technical problems (the sound system was muddy at first, not fully promoting Reno's crisp voice) to end the hour-and-a-half show in full force.

The staging of the show in itself, was something to behold. Blue and green lasers, dancing and bouncing, at one point encircled the band members in green cones.

The band was right on target musically, never missing a beat. Guitarist Paul Dean was guilty of pandering to the crowd during a deadly solo when he approached the microphone with feedback screeching at the crowd and the crowd screeching back.

"I feel like breaking something!" he warned.

After more warnings, Dean turned around and kicked over some amplifiers. Paul Townshend did it first, but as far as Lincoln is concerned, Dean is the new master.

And after Wednesday night, the crowd may not be all that far off.

Jett and her band The Blackhearts were just as inspiring. Jett started out at breakneck speed and never once looked back.

Jett was one step up on Loverboy in the respect that she and her band seemed a bit more sincere and the music seemed a lot more real — no synthesizers or fancy staging, just straight-ahead, raw rock 'n' roll, featuring all of her hits.

The live renditions of "Bad Reputation," "Crimson and Clover" and "I Love Rock 'n' Roll" had the crowd in a frenzy. Jett could come into Lincoln any time and do very, very well.

As an opening act, her days probably are numbered. If she keeps on destroying other opening acts, she'll run herself right up the ladder.

If Loverboy was the crowd's favorite, Jett was a very close second.

Both bands did what they respectively do best. And it looked and sounded great.



Photo Courtesy Nebraska ETV

Glenda Jackson as Queen Elizabeth I: See television.

Madmen and Englishdogs



Staff photos by Craig Andresen

John Lodge (left) and Justin Hayward of the Moody Blues. The band performed at Omaha's Civic Auditorium Wednesday night.

Magnificent Moodies' magic shines

Review by Mary Louise Knapp

In concert Wednesday night at Omaha's Civic Auditorium, the Moody Blues were nothing less than magnificent. In a non-stop performance lasting almost two hours, the Moodies played a wide variety of hits to an appreciative audience.

The band consists of Justin Hayward, vocals and guitars; John Lodge, vocals, bass; Ray Thomas, vocals, flute, percussion; Graeme Edge, drums; and Patrick Moraz, keyboards.

I arrived too late to see the opening performance by Stevie Ray Vaughn and his band Double Trouble. My sincere apologies are extended.

The Moody Blues' show was fast-paced and lively. Although the band never took a break, the enthusiasm of all the members continued to the end.

Thomas and Moraz, in particular, were full of energy and seemed to have a lot of fun performing.

Moraz, whose dramatic keyboard style contained many sweeping motions, displayed amazing versatility, frequently operating three keyboards in the same song.

The intensely energetic performance of Thomas, Moraz and Edge contrasted interestingly with the restrained style of Hayward and Lodge.

Hayward's main attraction is, of course, his voice, which makes flamboyant on-stage antics unnecessary. He was in top form Wednesday evening, demonstrating that the Moody Blues' quality in no way has declined.

The Moodies played almost all of their most popular songs, including "Driftwood," from the album *Octave*, "The Story In Your Eyes" and "Nights in White Satin," and presented a fine selection of their latest album, *The Present*.

The Moodies followed the opening number with "The Voice," "Tuesday Afternoon" and "Long Time." Hayward's vocals were a bit slow on "The Voice," but everything else was excellent.

The series "Painted Smile," "Reflective Smile," and "Veteran Cosmic Rocker," from the album *Long Distance Voyager*, was one of the most impressive numbers. It begins with a slow, swaying beat and builds in intensity. The carnival music in "Painted Smile" was accompanied by colored lights, which circled around the audience, and some clowning by Thomas. Thomas delivered a long and beautiful flute solo later in the number, and the song ended with Moraz's impressive keyboard chords.

The Moodies used many instruments throughout, including tambourine, pipe, grand piano and steel guitar.

"Running Water," another number from *The Present* and one of the slower songs, was sung by Hayward. A background of blue lights, which moved to look like water, highlighted the band, and Moraz used keyboard notes that sounded like drops of water.

The highlight of the concert was "Nights in White Satin," in which Hayward reaches his full vocal potential.

The effect of his voice in this number is breathtaking. As good as it sounds on records, it is many times better in concert.

The Moodies were brought back to the stage after their final song for an encore, "Quetion," a briskly paced song and one of their best-known. The audience members were on their feet throughout most of the group's final songs, which should attest to the group's continuing popularity.

This concert was not one to miss. I have a feeling they'll be back.

HOTSPOTS

Television

- Academy Award-winning actress Glenda Jackson stars in "Elizabeth R," a six-part series dramatizing the life of Queen Elizabeth I. The show begins Saturday at 10 p.m. on channel 12.

- When Richard Pryor suffered his tragic accident in 1980, everyone assumed his career was finished. What they didn't count on was the phenomenal popularity of "Stir Crazy," which was released later that fateful year. The film made Pryor a household name and became one of the highest-grossing comedy films of all time. It will be shown 8 p.m. Sunday on channel 7.

Radio

- KZUM (89.5 FM) Relive the past you may never have lived as host Geoff Reed presents "Trumpets and Trombones." The program features some of the best music from the big band era. The show can be heard Saturday nights at 9, and again Wednesdays at 12:30 a.m.

At The Sheldon

- This weekend's lineup at the Film Theatre illustrates why it is so important both to UNL and the city of Lincoln. Two of 1982's most critically acclaimed films will be shown for the first time in the capital city. Francis Ford Coppola's "One From the Heart" will be shown today and Saturday at 7 p.m. and 9 p.m., and Saturday at 3 p.m. The Turkish film "Yol (The Way)" will show Sunday at 3 p.m., 7 p.m. and 9:15 p.m. Both films are considered classics, and should not be missed.

Around Town

- The Hags, a troupe of musicians specializing in authentic Irish Music, will perform at the Joyo Theatre, 6012 Havelock Ave., tonight at 8. Members in the unique band include two Lincoln natives, Ivy Harper and Erin Mc-

Govern. Admission is \$5. Tickets can be purchased at Dirt Cheap Records, Lincoln's Stringed Instruments or at the door.

- Two excellent programs mark this weekend at Kimball Recital Hall, 11th and R streets. The London Early Music Group brings its unique brand of Early Baroque and Italian Renaissance music to Lincoln tonight at 8. Student tickets are \$4 and \$6. Internationally renowned pianist Alicia de Larrocha performs Sunday at 8 p.m. Student tickets are \$5 and \$7.

- The Model Citizens Club is in town tonight at Johnny's Lounge, 2604 Park Blvd. Cover charge is \$3.50 in advance (tickets are available at Pickles and Dirt Cheap), and that includes free beer!

- Magic Slim continues his week-long stay at the Zoo, 136 N. 14th St., through Saturday. Cover is \$3. In addition, Slim will be at Pickles, 230 N. 10th St., Friday from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. signing copies of his new album, "TV Dinner Blues." The LP is on Lincoln's own Blue Dog Records.

- If the old dancin' shoes are getting dusty, check out The Mistakes, who are appearing Saturday at the Drumstick, 547 N. 48th St. Cover is \$3.