

Arts & Entertainment

Video antitrends: simps and simplicity

By Todd R. Tystad

Before MTV elevated the making of videos to the status of art-above-art, the viewer found one of two types of video. Either footage of a band on stage or, if a particularly creative mood struck their label, the band went to the studio for a quick and simple story.



Since the creation of MTV (which some say stands for "marketing the videos") the music industry has responded with such force in its filmmaking that few bands are doing what they used to.

Fewer and fewer bands are producing the basic live performance.

Competition from the big-budget artists who dominate the tube is forcing even lesser-known groups to resort to glitter, hype, and the trendiest of fashions. This dangerous cycle is what may one day spell an end to the role MTV now plays so well.

Imagine our future: All day, all night, in quad ... SGTV, Solid Gold Television.

Coming down to earth

Now, in what seems to be an unusual twist in the current video-making behavior, the music fan finds something almost forgotten. The appearance of videos featuring artists not in costume, but in clothes that people we know really do own. Gads! MTV now features more than just a few videos consisting of live footage. Yes, Virginia, they still make videos of people playing music live and on stage.

But beware. The tainted evil of bad music sometimes overtakes the video itself. There is no such thing as perfection.

As a follow-up to the super-visual "Burning Down the House" (Sire) Talking Heads have dealt a sly card with the unusual "This Must Be the Place/Naive Melody." Both songs are taken from the *Speaking In Tongues* album, and exemplify the newest phase of Headsmusic. With "This Must Be the Place/Naive Melody," leader David Byrne has taken one of his most brilliant tracks from the album and put it into spellbinding video. The piece shows the entire group watching home movie clips, and later, moving to another room to end the song playing their instruments.

This video is basic in many ways. No characteriza-



Chris Medley and Dan Wondra/Daily Nebraskan

tion, no plot and minimum visual effects. It represents the branching-out technique of earlier videos. But within this simple cut lies so much feeling from the song and the band members that the viewer receives a sensation greater than that of entertainment. The overall feeling is a positive one, and that fact in itself lends even more distinction to an already successful video.

On the other side of simplicity we find a video from The Police. The latest video from the *Synchronicity* album, "Wrapped Around Your Finger," is a simple piece similar to that of Talking Heads.

While the Heads use two sets, the Police employ a

darkened and bare stage, decorated only with an unbearable number of six-foot candle posts.

The video relies entirely on Sting. His fellow Policemen are relegated to a couple of quick solo shots, but much more variation is needed. This realization surfaces far too late as Sting spills the wax in the end.

In-concert with REO & U2

On the other end of the "back to the basics" movement in music videos the in-concert video resurfaces.

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HOTSPOTS

Television

• This will be a vintage weekend for fans of vintage movies. Films airing include *The Wild Heart* with Jennifer Jones (Friday 10:30 p.m., Channel 12), *They Died With Their Boots On* with Errol Flynn and Olivia DeHavilland (Friday, 1:50 a.m., Channel 6) *Made For Each Other* with Carole Lombard and James Stewart (Saturday, 8 p.m. Channel 12), *Die Monster Die* with Boris Karloff (Saturday, 10:30 p.m., Channel 6), *Lady For a Night* with John Wayne and Joan Blondell (Saturday, midnight, Channel 3), *Blood on the Sun* with James Cagney and Sylvia Sydney (Saturday, midnight, Channel 6) and *The Crowd Roars*, with Cagney and Blondell (Saturday, 1:55 a.m., Channel 6).

• Rock 'n' Roll pioneer Jerry Lee Lewis will perform tonight on *Austin City Limits*. The program begins at 9 p.m. on Channel 12.

Radio

• *La Hora Mexicana* (Sunday, 5 to 7 p.m., KZUM, 89.5 FM) features music and information for the Spanish-speaking community. As far as we know, this is the only locally-produced program for the Spanish-speaking community currently on the air in Lincoln.

At the Sheldon

• Lincoln Friends of Chamber Music is presenting the Nebraska Chamber Orchestra Players Saturday at 8 p.m. The Orchestra, conducted by Jon Robertson, will feature Bela Bartok's "Contrasts for Clarinet, Violin and Piano." Tickets are \$6 for the general public, with a discount for students. If you're not a season ticket holder, your best bet is to get there 30 minutes before showtime.

• *Starstruck*, an Australian film directed by Gillian Armstrong, will be at the Film Theatre beginning Sunday. Screenings are at 3, 7 and 9 p.m. It is being presented by the UPC — Foreign Film Committee.

On Stage

• Not much in town this weekend for those who

love the smell of greasepaint. The only production is *Terra Nova*, which is showing at the Lincoln Community Playhouse, tonight through Sunday at 8 p.m.

On Campus

• Walpurgisnacht, UPC's annual winter festival, will take place tonight, beginning at 7 p.m. in the Nebraska Union. Activities are scheduled to run through 2 a.m. Among the talent appearing at Walpurgisnacht are comedian and raconteur Tom Parks, hypnotist James Mapes, magician Greg Eibert and juggler Randy Esterling. Music will be provided by Entertainment With a Touch of Class, the Tri-Delta Washboard Band, Young Marrieds, Rendezvous and Gene Klosner. There will also be comedy by national comedian Tim Cavanaugh, and local laugh-meisters Jeff Weaks and Bud Anderson. Two films will also be presented: *Risky Business* (8 and 10:30 p.m.) and *The Tin Drum* (10:30 p.m. and 12:30 a.m.).

In addition to all this, there will be other local performers, contests and booths. Although there is no admission fee, there are charges for some events. Tickets, which cost 3 for \$1, will be sold and collected for admission to events with charges.

Madmen and Englishdogs



By Dan Wondra

'Paris' features music, cuisine

Audience members will be transported to the land of love and music when the UNL Music Theatre presents *An Evening in Paris* at the Sheldon Art Gallery auditorium, 12th and R streets. Performances are Feb. 4 at 8 p.m. and Feb. 5 at 3 p.m. There will be a dinner featuring French cuisine prior to the Feb. 4 performance. Unfortunately, the Saturday dinner and performance are sold out, but tickets are still available for the Sunday afternoon performance.

An Evening in Paris consists of scenes and arias from such operatic masterpieces as *Carmen*, *Daughter of the Regiment* and *Tales of Hoffman*. Gregg Tallman, director of the UNL Music Theatre, will accompany the singers and give background information on each piece.

Tickets are \$2 for students, \$3 for general public. For reservations, contact the Kimball Box Office at 472-3375.