

'Gallipoli' among attractions of Australian film festival

Three films from Australia — *The Man from Snowy River* by George Miller and *Gallipoli* and *Picnic at Hanging Rock* by Peter Weir — are featured in a festival in the Nebraska Union Rostrum by UPC's Foreign Film Committee. *Picnic at Hanging Rock* shows 7 p.m. Friday in the Rostrum, *Gallipoli* shows Friday and Saturday 9 p.m. and *The Man from Snowy River* shows Saturday night at 7.

Brenda Nelson, foreign films committee chairperson, said she expects the Australian Film Festival to do well. The two Australian films in the regular series at the Sheldon each

drew more than 400 people. *Smash Palace* and *Starstruck* were among the two most popular of the series.

Many Australian films have featured exquisite and sharply naturalistic visual styles, and two of the films this weekend bring this out. *The Man from Snowy River* is a straightforward love and adventure story, but curiously real and unsentimental in its feel. *Picnic at Hanging Rock* is a wonderful picture in which certain mystic, druidic, and Sapphic overtones destroy a girl's school and threaten the placid life of a small town.



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FEDERALLY LICENSED

Steve Walsh is at his best as he takes to new Streets

By Randy Wymore

Steve Walsh is a man of few words. You can ask the former front man for Kansas, and current keyboardist/vocalist for Streets, about a lot of things and his answers will be simple and to the point. But ask him to talk about his music and he's more than happy to sit down and carry on a discussion with almost anybody.

And that quality shouldn't come as such a shock when you consider that this St. Joseph, Mo., native has been involved in music since starting classical piano lessons at the age of 12. Dig a little deeper and one finds that after that first lesson, Walsh's teacher told him that within a week Walsh was to have written a song.

Walsh had that spark, and his piano teacher saw it. Within a year, he was playing in his first garage band. By the age of 14, he was playing with people who were quite a bit older and were already playing in clubs.

His travels with older musicians lead him to another group of people in Topka, Kan., in 1970.

This was the birth of Kansas. And now, almost 10 years later, Walsh has left behind the 30,000-seat arenas that were the stomping grounds of Kansas, to start all over again with Streets.

With an impressive debut record on the racks Walsh has made plans for the next two albums. Some might ask if this sort of long-range plan might force a band into a mold. He hits this issue straight on.

"I'm a rock 'n' roll musician," Walsh said, "and if that's the boundaries of the mold, then yes."

Walsh said live performances and studio albums are the future. He warns

that projects such as scoring films are not things that can be planned on. A band trying to get a spot in a music world that has become severely factionalized in the past two years, has to have a goal — something to work for and build on.

"Anybody that starts a band has to have an objective," Walsh said. "If you don't plan two or three years ahead, you get left behind."

A common mishap that all bands must deal with today is the effort by people to pinpoint or label something as "new wave," "mainstream," "political," etc. Walsh feels that labels, especially that of mainstream or corporate music, are quickly being tossed to the side of the road.

"I think that the music atmosphere is so diversified now that it's hard to pin that label on anybody," he said. "Appeal in any shape or form is valid."

Walsh doesn't deny the fact that at this stage, part of Streets' appeal — at face value — is his association with Kansas. But he says that once the crowd has a chance to experience Streets as a new and separate entity, the band establishes its own identity.

Walsh said audiences used to come expecting Streets to be another Kansas. "But three-fourths into the set they know we are who we are," he said.

So, if you plan to catch Streets' performance tonight at the Royal Grove, 340 W. Cornhusker Highway, don't expect to hear old Kansas material.

However, you can look forward to seeing Steve Walsh at his best — when he's under the lights, playing his music.

Tickets for the show are \$8.50 and can be purchased at the Grove during the day and at the door. The doors open at 7 p.m.

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