

# Rich brings his big band sound to town

By Steve Abariotes

When Frank Sinatra comes to town Thursday night, he will bring one of the hottest big bands to open the show for him.

Jazz drummer Buddy Rich and his Big Band are the warm-up act for Sinatra. Sinatra and Rich are, as they say, friends from way back, and recently have been touring on and off together. Their first concert together was televised from the Dominican Republic August 20, 1982.

In a telephone interview, Rich, 66, described his health as "marvelous" following a mild heart attack that prevented him from performing a concert at the Peony Park Ballroom last year in Omaha. Rich has played in Omaha three times during the last ten years at both the Joslyn Art Museum and the Orpheum Theater.

Rich elaborated on why he decided to tour with Sinatra this time around.

"We've known each other a long time," Rich said, speaking quickly in a deep voice. "We were room-mates back when we were with Tommy Dorsey's band. We're friends. We go way back so it's only natural," he said.

Rich has been in show business nearly his entire life. He performed with his parents, travelling the vaudeville circuit when he was 18 months old. He was a practicing musician by his early teens and soon turned up in the bands of Bunny Berigan, Artie Shaw, Tommy Dorsey and Benny Carter.

During the 1940s, Rich jammed with "bop" innovators such as Charlie Parker, Dizzy Gillespie, Thelonious Monk, Al Haig and Buddy DeFranco. But Rich never abandoned "swing" and the big band sound, and has been swinging ever since.

Rich and his jazz "orchestra" play in a traditional, high-energy swing style. In concert, Rich and his band give off, if you'll excuse the expression, a rock

energy and intensity when they really cook, as well as a smooth, overwhelming sensuality on their slower numbers.

His band will open the show tonight with a repertoire that includes brand new arrangements of some popular tunes, as well as some more obscure ones. His trademark hit, "West Side Story," will, of course, be included.

Rich said he and Sinatra would never be on stage at the same time, but look for the drummer who claims to be the "best drummer in the world" to back "ol' blue eyes" during an encore. His brazen cockiness aside, Rich's first and foremost concern is the music. "We just play good music," he says. And he means it.

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## Television

• NBC's latest sitcom, *Duck Factory*, is an interesting mix of animation and live comedy, a la the late, lamented *My World and Welcome To It*. Although the series is still in the process of fully developing, its fine cast, headed by veteran character actor Jack Gilford, gives it a good chance at ultimately succeeding. Its time slot also adds to its chances of survival. Airtime is 8:30 p.m. on channel 3, wedged between two of NBC's most successful series, *Cheers* and *Hill Street Blues*.

## Radio

• Jim Anderson, the host of *Nothin' But the Blues* (Thursdays, beginning at 11 p.m. on KZUM, 89.5 and 99.3 FM) guarantees that he plays "some of the most creative and enjoyable musical sound your ears will ever hear." This week's program focuses in on local blues bands, including Cocktail Shorty and the Tablerockers and the Backbeats.

• Christopher Wilkins will conduct tonight's edition of the Cleveland Orchestra (8 p.m., KUCV, 90.9 FM) Pianist Youngshin An is the guest soloist. Pieces include Debussy's "Petite Suite," Saint-Saens' "Piano Concerto No. 2," opus 22 and Beethoven's "Symphony No. 1 in C," opus 21.

## At the Sheldon

• *Streamers*, Robert Altman's latest film, will be screened in the Film Theatre tonight through Monday. A review of the film appears on page eight. Screenings are at 7 and 9 p.m. Admission is \$3.

## On Campus

• Rain put an end to last week's scheduled Tracterz/New Movement outdoor concert. Everything looks good for today, however. The event is set for the Plaza north of the Nebraska Union, beginning at 3:30 p.m.

## Around Town

• Tracterz will also be appearing over the weekend at Little Bo's, 2630 Cornhusker Highway. Cover charge is \$2, which also covers admission to Judges next door. High Heel and the Sneakers are playing there.

## HOTSPOTS



Craig Andresen/Daily Nebraskan

Charlie Burton (above) and the CutOuts will be playing tonight at the Drinnstick, 547 N. 48th St. The cover charge is \$2.

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## Corrections

The article on the Scarlet and Cream Singers' tour to the North Atlantic inadvertently omitted one of the singers' names. Rob Reeder, pictured here at the right, is a sophomore from Lincoln.

In addition, due to a typographical error, one of the singers' names was misspelled. It should have read Greg McCown.

The date for the Scarlet and Cream's Kimball Hall concert is April 27 and 28.

The Daily Nebraskan apologizes to the Singers for the errors.



## WRESTLING

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