

Berry disappoints fans

Review by Chris Welsch
Daily Nebraskan Staff Editor

Chuck Berry may have written the book on rock 'n' roll, but after his concert Saturday at the Omaha Civic Auditorium, one has to wonder if he read it.

After an electric set by The Coasters, Berry plodded through a one-hour performance that left fans disappointed. He played about eight of his hits, which averaged out to about a \$1.50 per song.

Part of Berry's problem was the miserable back-up band. Apparently Berry hired them locally, and he said that he arrived only a half-hour before the show began, so there was no rehearsal.

That much was obvious. When Berry paused or sang an extra verse, the band would trip over themselves trying to get into time.

Berry opened with "Roll Over Beethoven." His voice had its characteristic whine — he sounded in top form. But it wasn't until he played his greatest hit, "Johnny B. Goode," that his guitar playing came up to par.

"Johnny B. Goode" was the climax of the concert. His back-up band was tight, everything came together and the crowd stood and danced.

Berry's on-stage patter amused the crowd, but his audience participation plans failed.

He asked for four couples to dance in front of the stage. When about 200 people obliged, he refused to play until only eight remained. There was no danger of a riot — half the small crowd was balding and the other half just wanted to dance.

Berry played several great tunes: "Carol," "School Days," "Sweet Little Sixteen" and "Nadine." He closed with an extended, fast-paced version of "House Lights." The crowd screamed for more than 10 minutes for an encore, but Berry was gone.

Although the show was sloppy, Berry seemed ageless. He looked trim, and he managed to get down and do a couple of his trademark "duck walks."

The Coasters played a half hour of their hits. The sound was muddy, but not as mired as Berry's. They closed with "Yackety-yak (Don't Talk Back)."

Christian singers rock Lincoln crowd

By Ward W. Triplett III
Daily Nebraskan Staff Editor

As the pre-recorded music played and the crowds milled in the Bob Devaney Sports Center Saturday night, it didn't look much different from any other concert. There were the usual tons of sound equipment hanging above the stage, which held a regular-looking drum set, four keyboards and a banner proclaiming the artist's name.

There were the usual bunch of kids running around, a group in the top decks yelling at another group on the floor and the same clapping in anticipation after the 7:30 p.m. starting time passed. Someone in the upper decks even tried to start a "we got spirit" cheer.

But the difference was the artist was not Huey Lewis and the News or some other raucous rocker. It was Amy Grant,

a 23-year-old Christian rock singer from Nashville. Grant was the first Christian singer to be invited to the Nebraska State Fair, and her performance and acceptance would lead one to believe she won't be the last. She was nothing short of spectacular.

"Spectacular" seems like an odd word to use when describing a Christian singer, but then Grant isn't typical of the stuffy gospel singers we grew up listening to on those rare Sunday occasions. Grant has a distinctive voice found more often on country and western songs. She writes music that can be listened to any day of the week. In fact, if it weren't for her songs that spoke of her love of God and her speeches that reiterated that point, she could have broken into "He Broke Your Memory Last Night," without missing a beat.

Continued on Page 20



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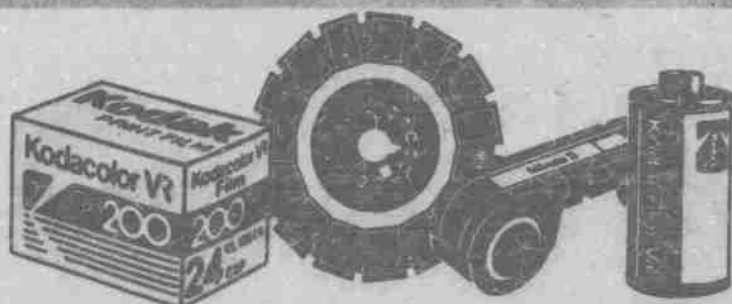
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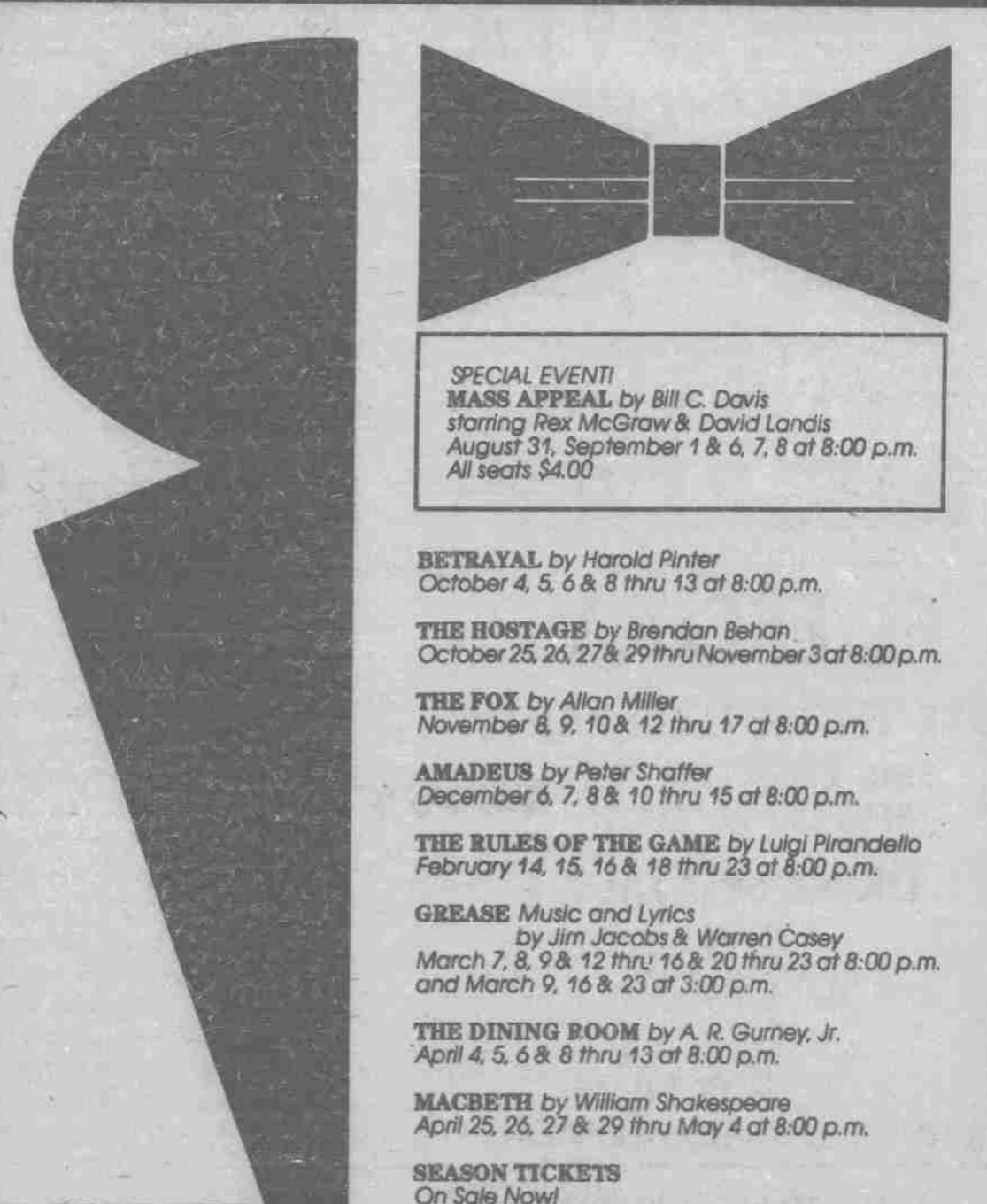


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