

Say hello to Warhol Hall, Oates album lures new fans

By Scott Harrah
Daily Nebraskan Staff Reporter

The Cars, "Hello Again":
Pop art virtuoso Andy Warhol directed this delightfully depraved video that's an eclectic blend of every sexual connotation ever

Video Review

imagined. Transsexual strippers, panting mouths, people playing with snakes and a buxom girl make this video an erotically eccentric extravaganza.

Men Without Hats, "Where Do The Boys Go":

This Canadian synth-pop band enjoyed ephemeral success with their '83 pseudo-political hit,

"Safety Dance." I hope they enjoyed that success because this video proves they're headed downhill. It shows shots of Montreal, several guys in idiotic snowman suits (I'm serious) and the band trying to be so "artsy." What did we ever do to Canada to deserve this inane bomb of pretension?

Dennis DeYoung, "Desert Moon":
Only a member of Styx would make a video this schmaltzy. The story is about Dennis returning to his hometown to see old friends and get all teary-eyed. Bring out the barf bags! What's even more preposterous is that viewers are forced to listen to DeYoung spew platitudes about his girlfriend after the song is over. Your eyes will probably be wet after seeing this tearjerker — because you will shed tears of joy since it's finally over!

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According to the music magazine Billboard, Hall and Oates is one of the top grossing artists of the '80s — so far.

They are an extremely capricious duo that has gone from sleep-inducing elevator music (like their mid-'70s hit "Sara Smile") to musical excellence.

Gone are the subdued easy-listening tunes that once made some label their music "blue-eyed soul." They used to have a reputation for putting one or two good songs on an LP and filling the rest of the vacant vinyl with pulp. After nearly a decade of sharpening their skills, the two have created "Big Bam Boom," which more than makes up for their past flaws.

The album commences with "Dance on Your Knees," a short

but sharp dance number that resembles a product of one of those West German post-punk bands and introduces listeners to the overall sound of the LP: beat-crazed and progressive.

The hit single that follows, "Out of Touch," bears the band's distinctive vocals and is a bit redundant — but it's so catchy that it doesn't matter. "Method of Modern Love" comes next, keeping up the hard pace that doesn't flag until the final cut, "Some Things Are Better Left Unsaid."

Side two starts out funky and harmonic with "Going Thru The Motions," a song that belies the group's image because of libidinous lyrics.

"Cold, Dark and Yesterday" is an eerie yet vibrant tune that would have been better if it had been done as dismal as the lyrics:

How can a man survive when the weak meet the soft and the hard meet the eye/Left to right, up and down/It's picture post-card time/Hear the sounds save the image from my mind/Cold, dark and yesterday.

"All-American Girl" is a delightful send-up of the trivial aspects of vanity and fashion. The most interesting track is the last, "Possession Obsession." It sounds like a composite of Soft Cell's whimsical synthesizers and Spandau Ballet's crooning updated by the fluid force that's rife throughout this entire album.

Just because Hall and Oates is "commercial" doesn't mean they

don't have the ability to come up with original material. "Big Bam Boom" is explosive and will not only thrill the duo's old fans — but snare new ones as well.

There is an old cliché that states, "If you haven't made it in America, you haven't made it." This philosophy is true for Britain's Allison Moyet, former vocalist for Yazoo (known as Yaz in the United States). Yazoo was the forerunner to Eurythmics because their unique sound was based on a good male keyboardist and an androgynous female singer. Moyet looks like Truman Capote wearing make-up and her voice is just as bizarre.

Allison is still working on the completion of her LP, but she's got a maxi-single released, "All Cried Out," that features two new songs.

"All Cried Out" musically sounds nothing like the techno-pop that made Yazoo famous, but it still sports Moyet's vivacious voice. Some have compared her to Culture Club's back-up singer Helen Terry because they both sound like black torch singers. However, Moyet, unlike Terry, doesn't force the emotion in her songs — it comes naturally.

Natural ebullience flows smoothly through the other tune, "Steal Me Blind," a powerful dirge that will surely top the charts if it's ever released here. That's the problem with Moyet — she's not getting U.S. airplay.

BLOOM COUNTY



by Berke Breathed

Playhouse holds tryouts Monday for opening show

The Lincoln Community Playhouse will have auditions for the season-opening Gallery Theatre production, "Standing on My Knees," by John Olive. Director Florence Dyer will hold the auditions at 7 p.m. Monday at the playhouse, 2500 S. 58th St. Auditions will be held for one night only and callbacks are scheduled for 7 p.m. Wednesday.

Roles are available for one man and three women, 20-years-old and older, in this character study of a gifted young poet who struggles to understand her schizophrenia. Her art and life are undermined by the schizophrenia.

Scripts for "Standing On My Knees" will not be available before auditions. Applicants should prepare for cold readings from the script.

"Standing on My Knees" will be produced Nov. 23 through 26.

For more information, call the Lincoln Community Playhouse at 489-9608

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The Lincoln Community Playhouse, aided by a grant from the Nebraska Committee for the Humanities, will present "Beyond the Drama: Life and Love in the Age of Henry VIII," at 8 p.m. Tuesday.

The program of dance and music from the Tudor period features the Plymouth Brass, music director John Levick and the cast of the playhouse production of "Anne of the Thousand Days." Commentary about the music of the period will be provided by Brian Mann of the UNL School of Music.

Dick Terhune and Sheila Garrison, cast members of "Anne of the Thousand Days," will read selections from the love letters of Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn. Commentary will be provided by Roger Cognard, an English professor at Nebraskan Wesleyan University.

"Beyond the Drama" is open and free to the public. The playhouse requests that tickets be reserved in advance. To reserve tickets, call the Lincoln Community Playhouse box office at 489-9608.

Poet to give reading

Poet James Brummels will give a reading tonight at 7:30 p.m. in the Heritage Room of the Bennett Martin Public Library, 14th and N streets.

The reading is part of a series sponsored by the Nebraska Literary Heritage Association. For more information, contact the Library Administration office, 435-2146.

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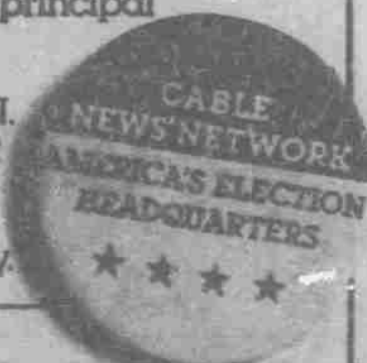


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