

Arts & Entertainment

'Steady' pop duo reels off hits

Hall and Oates fail to make lasting impression

By Ward W. Triplett III
Sports Editor

In just under two hours Wednesday night, Daryl Hall and John Oates managed to reel off 16 hits with no errors and several nifty lighting effects. Needless to say, this made the concert at the Bob Devaney Sports Center professional and upbeat from start to finish.

REVIEW CONCERT

But like their records, the concert didn't make for many great memories. Hall and Oates are still the pop music equivalent to the old tale on Chinese food. When you hear them, they're great. There's enough hooks in the duo's material for any audience and a steady-in-concert beat made even their chummiest AM radio material like "Kiss on My List" and "You Make my Dreams Come True" pure rockets. But still, when it's all sung and done, there's not enough meat in those hooks to keep you sated. Somehow, despite those two overplayed encores, you feel there should have been more.

I have never been a great fan of Hall and Oates, and I don't feel like I'm any more of a fan now. However, the concert was a fine you-had-to-be-there performance.

Perhaps the singing of Daryl Hall made it that way. Hall, whom Rolling Stones magazine calls perhaps the greatest singer rock has ever had (in terms of vocal capability and range), betrayed that by shouting his way through the opening "Dance on Your Knees-Out of Touch" medley that also opens the *Big Bam Boom* album. Then, he gave credence to it by adding special parts to "Method of Modern Love," "Rich Girl" and "Some Things are Better Left Unsaid," to show off doo-wop, gospel and classic touches.

Oates is, in effect, a glorified backup band member to Hall, who dominates the stage side of the band as he does the recording side. Oates practi-



David Bourke/Daily Nebraskan

Daryl Hall of Hall and Oates performs Wednesday night at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

cally disappeared for several songs, but emerged long enough to share a lead vocal on "You've Lost that Loving Feeling," and handle the lead on "Possession Obsession," one of only two songs the duo performed that have not been major hits.

"Loving Feeling" was a highlight for

the singers and the audience, who chose this moment to rush the stage.

The elaborate lighting effects were unfolded here. The stage was surrounded on three sides by nine lighting grids, which rose and fell with the major hits.

polite response through their first five

songs off their debut Epic album before getting good response for "Voices Carry," their first release and No. 71 on this week's Billboard listings. Their concert performance was polished enough to suggest MTV exposure isn't the only reason they merited the opening act bill with Hall and Oates.

music. With some glaring gold and aqua-blue color schemes, the lights showed a bit more diversity than the average concert beams. The standards were there as well, but were used with a bit more imagination. For the first part of "Loving Feeling," the nine grids shined a dim red on the duo to accompany two main spotlights, which also were red. When the drums kicked in for the second half, all nine exploded with blinding white lights.

Above those grids, another set of horizontal lights also dipped and dove with the sounds. By the end of the regular set, all the lights lowered and extended to resemble something George Lucas should have thrown into "Star Wars."

The rest of the band was more than adequate, and Hall was kind enough to leave the stage for a while as each member took his shot at a solo. The band tried to liven this up with "rap" introductions, but lead guitarist Gene Smith solo was good enough to merit the break in Hall's singing. Smith also was featured on another special effect borrowed from the Jacksons' Victory show as a grid he was standing on rose five feet from the stage during his solo on "Maneater."

The overall effect of all this was instantly pleasing, but it's unlikely it was good enough to win the band new fans or destroy their reputation as commercial pop lackeys. But in Lincoln, the only ones going to a Hall and Oates show are those who are already big fans or those starved for entertainment. Wednesday's concert gave both of those groups more than enough.

The show opened with "Til Tuesday, a Boston-based four-person band that can best be described as a Missing Persons who have found themselves. The crowd of over 8,000 still was wandering in throughout "Til Tuesday's 25-minute set, reducing them to little more than background music. But, lead singer Ameer Mann's high voice and the rare (for Lincoln) mix of heavy rock guitar and bass with synthesizers made "Til Tuesday an interesting sight and sound at the very least. The group got a

Contest offers \$5,000

Murder game 'legalizes' homicide

By Tom Mockler
Staff Reporter

If murder is your hobby, you're in luck. Now you can plot them for money — legally. University Games of Menlo Park, Calif., is offering over \$5,000 in cash and prizes to people or groups who can create the best Murder Mystery Parties.

Murder Mystery Parties are group activities where each of eight participants is a suspect in a fictitious murder. Clues that incriminate the murderer are revealed throughout the evening. Each person role-plays his or her innocence in an attempt to confuse the other participants.

"The Murder Mystery Party is based on the parlour game concept of medieval Europe," according to University Games President Bob Moog. "The upper classes entertained themselves by playing word games and mysteries based on imagination and creativity. This was before radio and television. We expect Murder Mystery Parties to become a new form of social interaction for college students."

University Games has published three games. They are "The Willing Dead," "The Icicle Twist" and "Revenge in Rome." These games are available at college bookstores throughout the country and at some selected specialty games stores. Moog said the games could be available at the Nebraska Bookstore this month.

Entries for the contest are welcome from all students or groups of students 18 or older, and who were registered in school during the spring session 1985.

First prize will be \$2,500 in cash and a royalty contract with University Games if the entry is published. Second place is \$1,000, and five honorable mentions receive \$300 in prizes and cash. Winners will be selected based on originality, character development, writing skill and game playability.

All entries must be received by July 1, and should be submitted to: CONTEST, University Games, 4055 Bohannon Drive, Menlo Park, Calif. 94025.

All entries become the sole and exclusive property of University Games. Moog said non-winners could be eligible for royalty contracts (if they are published), since the rules of the contest and the rules for publication are different.

All entries must include eight characters with descriptions, four rounds of clues, a solution to the murder and the name, address and phone number of all author(s).

A typical Murder Mystery Party lasts two to three hours, Moog said. After buying a game, which typically costs "around \$10," a host mails out eight invitations, telling what character each person will be. After receiving a one-page description of the character, people are ready to play.

After forming a circle, each person draws four rounds of clues, or "dirt" on another person, with which they can publicly question another character. At the end of the rounds, people must decide who the murderer is and make their

accusations.

Finally, the host reads off how the murder was committed and who did it. One rule is that everyone must tell the truth except the murderer. If the invitations are mailed out randomly, it is possible for the host to be the murderer, in which case he or she could lie about the true circumstances.

By all indications, the Murder Mystery Party is in its rebirth infancy. The three games that University Games carries were created only earlier this year.

They were created by child psychologists in Denver, who originally had published them themselves, but were not selling well. According to Moog, since University Games took over with a nationwide distribution network, sales have increased 10-fold in the past two months, to a total of 2,000 units.

Moog said other small murder mystery firms may exist, but University Games is the only one targeting a college audience. Moog said he hopes to have 100 college accounts by September.

He said he hopes to have five games on the market by December and introduce a new one every month next year.

Moog said the games are appealing because they provide a new form of social interaction.

"A person can get to know people without having to talk about one's self. The games provide a lot of social interaction, similar to trivia, and don't require a lot of concentration."

HOT SPOTS

At the Sheldon

● **They Don't Wear Black Tie**, a Brazilian film directed by Leon Hirszman, will be shown at the Sheldon Gallery Theatre, at 3, 7 and 9:15 p.m. on Sunday and 7 and 9:15 p.m. on Monday.

The film, sponsored by the University Program Council's Foreign Film Series, is a warm family drama that deals with an important problem in Brazil — the question of democracy. The lives of one family reflect change and political progress. Tickets are \$2.50 for UNL students and \$3 for general admission.

Around Town

● **Stephen Kiser**, a candidate for a doctor of musical arts degree at UNL, will give a viola recital at 8 p.m. Saturday in St. Mark's Episcopal Church.

● The Union College Family Entertainment Series will present a film, **The Road to Timbuktu** by William Stockdale. The film will be shown Saturday at 8 p.m. in the college auditorium, 49th and Prescott Streets.

"The Road to Timbuktu" takes viewers on an adventure through Africa while capturing the interesting sights and people in route to Timbuktu.

● **Charles Musselwhite with the Tablerockers** will play Friday and Saturday nights at the Zoo Bar, 136 N. 14th St. Cover charge is \$3.

● **The Model Citizens and the Reno Brothers** will play Friday and Saturday nights at the Drumstick, 547 N. 48th St.