

Arts & Entertainment



Ward Williams/Daily Nebraskan

Morrison wears the heels.

Omaha's High Heel makes money playing the music they play best

Analysis by **Bandy Ptacek**
Staff Reporter

High Heel and the Sneekers is the most polished band in the area. Their show is draped with professionalism and precision from beginning to end. Unlike many road

Band Profile

bands who don't quite know where they're at on a given night and are still wiping the sleep out of their eyes between chords in the second set, High Heel and the Sneekers seem to display in each performance the same unbridled raw energy that the crazed Richard Simmons used

to show us every morning.

The band not only has a spectacular stage presence, but also demonstrates a brand of musical accuracy and finesse that is very rare among most cover bands. Their cover songs are note-for-note reproductions of the original recording. Add this precision to a killer sound system and you have the best-sounding band in Nebraska.

The nucleus of the band was formed when singer John Rogers placed an ad for a female singer in the Daily Nebraskan 6 1/2 years ago. Enter Becky Morrison. They recruited Dan Sullivan on guitar and Kevin "Doc" Nelson on keyboards, and formed a Southern-boogie band named High Falootin'. During the next 2 1/2 years High Falootin'

gained Berry Clark on drums and abducted Rex Meyer from Shades and Danger to play bass. This lineup evolved into High Heel and the Sneekers about four years ago.

The band now plays almost strictly top-40 material. This is the same material that is termed "commercial" by some people and looked down upon by many people who subscribe to the rockers' code of ethics. They consider musicians who play top-40 to have sold out because they're not playing originals or "good music."

I guess if you're the kind of person who would rather stomp bunnies or eat worms than listen to top-40, this band might not be your best bet.

Musical in Omaha

"Mama, I Want to Sing," the long-running New York musical, brings its jubilant gospel sounds and powerful rock rhythms to the Orpheum Theater Monday at 7:30.

The Omaha performance by the National Touring Company is a benefit for the LaFern Williams Association programs, which include Center Stage Theater.

Written, produced and directed by Vy Higgensen and her husband, Ken Wydro, "Mama, I Want to Sing" is a story in concert of a young gospel singer who, against her mother's wishes, leaves her father's church choir to pursue a pop-singing career.

This high-energy musical celebration, which has audiences clapping their hands and dancing in the aisles, is loosely based on the life of Doris Troy, Vy Higgensen's older sister, who crossed over from gospel to pop music with the chart-topping hit "Just One Look" in 1963.

Since its debut in 1983, "Mama, I Want to Sing" has emerged as the longest-running black off-Broadway show in theater history. The show plays to capacity audiences at the Heckscher Theatre in New York City, and a national touring company performs throughout major cities in the United States.

The National Touring Company stars 18-year-old Deitra Hicks as the young singer Doris Winter. Doris Troy plays Mama Winter, a traditionalist who objects to her daughter's secular singing. Backed by a 15-member choir (the Reach Ensemble), the cast also features Charles Stewart as the minister of music, Alexander Plummer as Rev. Winter, Kathleen Murphy Palmer as Sister Carrier and Diane King in the role of a disc jockey, who narrates the show.

Reserved seat tickets for the Orpheum performance are \$25, \$18.50, \$14.50 and \$10. Tickets are on sale now at the Civic Auditorium, all Brandeis and TIX. Charge by phone at 342-7107.

Division of University Housing STUDENT ASSISTANT POSITIONS for Fall Semester 1987

If you are interested in and qualified for an SA position, you must attend one of the following application meetings to pick up application material. (Meetings are held in the Nebraska Union. Check daily events calendar for room location).

MONDAY, JANUARY 26th, 3:00 PM
TUESDAY, JANUARY 27th, 7:00 PM

Qualifications

- Strong commitment to helping students in a residential setting.
- Sophomore class standing or above as of Fall Semester 1987
- Cumulative GPA of 2.0 or better
- Normal academic course load
- No outside employment
- Commitment to learn and apply developmental theory

Benefits

- Full room and board
- Rewarding personal and professional growth experience
- Opportunity to investigate helping professions as a career option

QUESTIONS? Call 472-3881 or 472-3885 AA/EEO



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