

Lincoln fans to taste XYZ's alphabet soup

Tight Fit to open L.A. band's show



By Shannon Uehling
Senior Editor

More than just four pretty boys who play in another rock band from Los Angeles, the members of XYZ are proving they have the stamina to remain afloat in rock's turbulent alphabet soup.

The band will be stopping in Lincoln today to perform at the Royal Grove, 340 W. Cornhusker Highway, in support of their latest album, "Face Down in the Gutter."

Area band Tight Fit will open the show at about 9:30 p.m. XYZ is scheduled to seize the stage at 11 p.m.

XYZ, formed in 1985 in Hollywood, is comprised of Patt Fontaine (bass guitar), Paul Monroe (drums), Marc Diglio (guitar), and transplanted Frenchman Terry Ilous (vocals).

XYZ took the L.A. music scene by



Courtesy of Capitol Records

XYZ members Patt Fontaine (bass guitar), Marc Diglio (guitar), Terry Ilous (vocals), and Paul Monroe (drums) will perform in Lincoln at the Royal Grove tonight.

surprise early in its history, playing consistently sold-out shows at the famed Sunset Strip night club, the Whisky A Go Go. The foursome even broke Motley Crue's attendance record.

The hard rockers have worked industry greats such as Don Dokken,

who produced the band's debut self-titled album, and guitarists Billy White and John Norum, among others.

Singles such as "When I Find Love," "Inside Out," and "Souvenirs" have propelled XYZ into national attention and earned them considerable airplay.

The concert is part of a new effort by Twisters Music and Gifts, under the name "Twisted Productions," to book larger-name groups into the Lincoln area.

For a closer look at XYZ, the band will make an appearance at Twisters at 14th and O streets at 3:30 p.m.

today. This will be an informal, in-store "Meet and Greet" to sign autographs and visit with fans and customers.

XYZ enthusiasts 18 years old and older will be allowed into the show. Tickets are \$4 in advance and \$5 at the Royal Grove door.



Courtesy of JIVE

Hi-Five's "Keep It Goin' On" album features more mature music according to its members.

Hi-Five hoping second album, better music keeps on going with older, broader audience

Reviews



Hi-Five
"Keep It Goin' On"
Jive Records

After their highly successful, self-titled debut in 1990, Hi-Five is back with their sophomore effort "Keep It Goin' On."

The latest LP is an effort for the group to appeal to a more adult audience. Group member and lead vocalist Tony Thompson said, "This album is much more mature."

Despite the group's effort to become more mature, the first song of

this LP, "She's Playing Hard To Get," sounds like last summer's hit, "I Like the Way," revisited.

Even though the first song on this LP seems geared toward the teen-age crowd, evidence of the band's expanded vocal style appears on the next song, "Quality Time." This is a smooth ballad written and produced by up-and-coming labelmate R. Kelly. Kelly wrote and produced four tracks on the LP and definitely leaves his mark.

"She Said," and "Fly Away" are other ballads that showcase Hi-Five's newfound depth.

"A Little Bit Older Now" is a

See FIVE on 16

Latest Lee film suggests Brandon has Bruce's talent, unique flair



"Rapid Fire"



By Gerry Beltz
Staff Reporter

With the release of "Rapid Fire" (Cinema Twin, Edgewood 3), Brandon Lee joins the fraternity of Seagal, Van Damme, and his father, the legendary Bruce Lee, as a true martial artist-turned-actor.

In "Rapid Fire," Lee portrays Jake Lo, a college student who is the sole witness to a mob-related assassination, with head wise guy Serrano (Nick Mancuso) pulling the trigger.

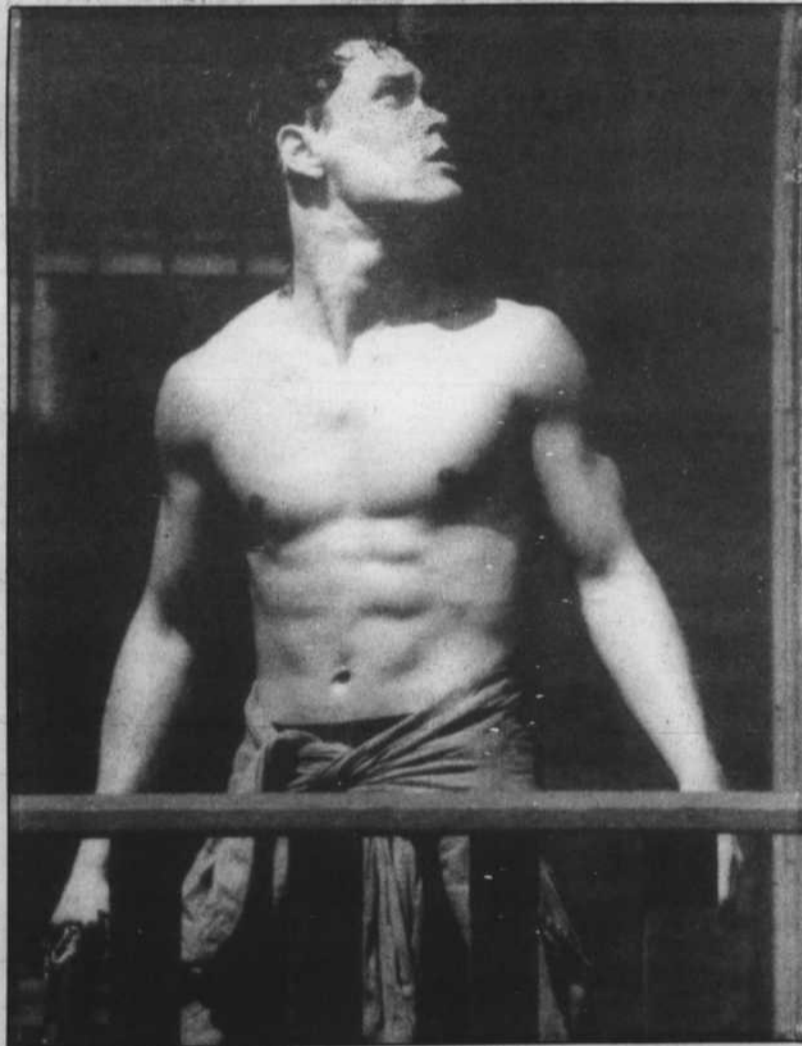
He gets picked up by the feds for the witness-protection program, but, naturally, the mob has some people on the inside, and Jake ends up with only his heavy-duty martial arts training to survive. Along the way, we discover that Jake's don't-want-to-be-involved attitude stems from having seen his father killed during the riots at Tienanmen Square.

The film also offers a look at Lt. Mace Ryan (gruffly played by Powers Boothe), a veteran cop who has been chasing Serrano's archenemy, Tau (Tzi Ma), for nearly 10 years. He and his partner, Karla Withers (Kate Hodge), find Jake and try to convince him to help set a trap, but Jake's life is the bait.

Of course, not a whole lot of depth or character development exists in "Rapid Fire," but the audience can find out a little bit about what makes each character tick.

Lee is great as the smart-mouthed Jake who gets in way over his head but still has time for an occasional wisecrack.

What Brandon lacks in his father's acting capacity and intensity, he makes up for in his fighting ability, as well as breathing a little bit of fresh life into



Courtesy of Twentieth Century Fox

Brandon Lee stars in "Rapid Fire" as Jake Lo, a college student who witnesses a mob killing and must protect himself with his only weapons, his hands.

the martial arts movie business.

Lee and stunt coordinator Jeff Imada choreographed the film's five major martial arts sequences, and all are full of chops, kicks and various other flashy maneuvers that cause body parts to bend in ways they weren't meant to. But they manage to do most of it in ways that have a little more kick (no pun intended) than the typically bad martial arts movie.

For the "martial-arts-movie-without-a-plot" trivia fans, Al Leong, a requisite player in almost any martial arts movie who also appeared in "Die

Hard" and "Lethal Weapon", shows up here as well — and he actually gets some screen time!

He and Jake have a powerful encounter in a blazing Chinese laundry factory. This is one of the best one-on-one fights in the movie simply because he gives Jake a real run for his money in the speed and skill categories. Hopefully, Leong's talent will be explored in future movies.

The promotions for "Rapid Fire" tout that "Brandon Lee has arrived!"

The question is "Does he have what it takes to stay?"