

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Tuesday, September 20, 1994

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Reznor, band delight Omaha throng

By Joel Strauch
Senior Reporter

OMAHA — Nine Inch Nails were driven into the Omaha Civic Auditorium Monday night.

Playing to a crowd of more than 5,000, they delivered a thrashin' performance in the half-sized Civic.

The Jim Rose Circus set the stage with its revelry of disgusting, but compelling, antics.

The Amazing Mr. Lifto pendulumed a concrete block that was dangling on a chain from his nipple rings.

Mimi the beautiful circus queen climbed a stairstep of scimitars and laid down on a bed of nails while Rose stood on top of her.

The Armenian Rubber Man put his whole body through an old-model tennis racket.

Even Mr. Rose himself swallowed and regurgitated razor blades.

And that was just for starters.

John Moffatt of Omaha had eagerly anticipated the Nine Inch Nails show.

"I'm so stoked to see Trent," he said. "It's all him."

Moffatt was up by the stage and planned to stay there.

"These young kids had better stay out of my way," he said.

One of those young kids was 14-year-old Joe Knapp of Omaha, who was attending his first concert.

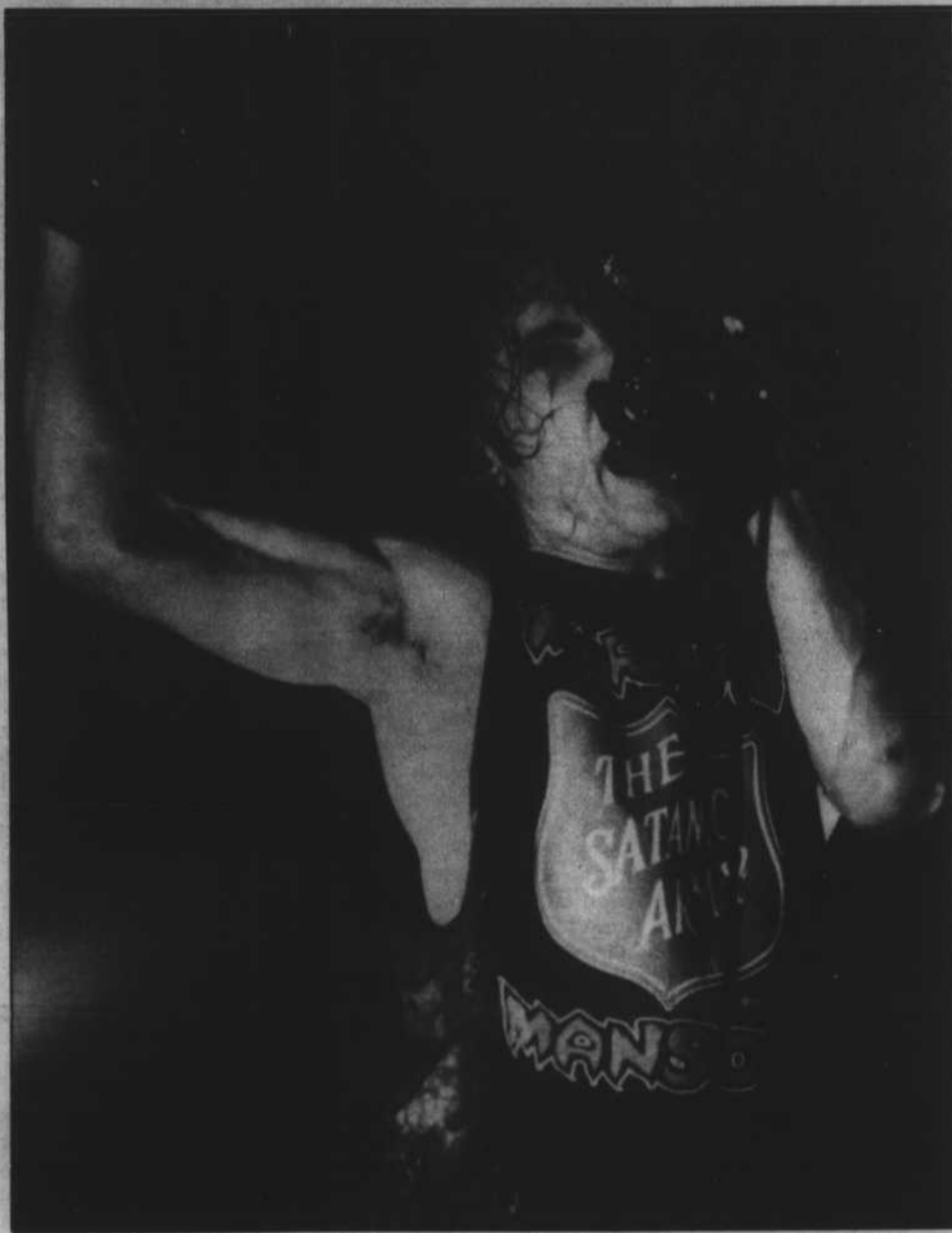
"It's gonna be a great concert," Knapp said before the show. "Bigger than the universe."

Trent "Mr. Self Destruct" Reznor came out singing that song to a wild, crowd-surfing throng. Alternating between types of songs, Reznor and the rest of the group kept the crowd in a mild rampage for the rest of the night.

The stage was set with wooden pillars covered with nailed-in shreds of cloth. The light show was just short of mesmerizing. Strobe effects, coupled with yellow, hexagonal lights gave the band a holographic appearance.

After almost an hour of intense mosh music, the group gave the audience a slide show. Black-and-white time-lapse photography on

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Shaun Sartin/DN

Nine Inch Nails' Trent Reznor performs Monday night at the Omaha Civic Auditorium. The freak show opening act, the Jim Rose Circus, featured Mr. Lifto, who uses various pierced body parts to lift cinder blocks, clothes irons and suitcases.

Wagon Train to perform spirituals

By Joel Strauch
Senior Reporter

The Wagon Train Project, in partnership with Lincoln Public Schools and Mid-America Arts Alliance, presents the return to Lincoln of the Harlem Spiritual Ensemble.

The ensemble will be performing with choirs from Lincoln public schools at 7:30 tonight at Lincoln High School.

"They are just love," said Amy Lamphere, the director of the Wagon Train Project. "They are so warm and very nice to their audiences."

The ensemble gave a performance at the Lied Center for Performing Arts last November and was well-received.

"The concert at the Lied was so packed that we decided to bring them back," she said.

The group, consisting of six singers, a pianist and a percussionist, will be performing "Free At Last," "Go Tell it on the Mountain," "Rockamumba" and many other spirituals.

Founded and directed by Francois Clemmons, formerly the singing policeman from "Mr. Roger's Neighborhood," the ensemble is devoted to the preservation of the American Negro spiritual.

"They are spiritual, not gospel," Lamphere said. "The whole concert is American music and also very rich in African traditions."

The mission of the Wagon Train
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Quik Facts

Show: The Harlem Spiritual Ensemble

At: Lincoln High School, 2229 J St.

Time: 7:30 tonight

Tickets: \$12, available at door

People

Playboy offers jazz film fest

WEST HOLLYWOOD, Calif. (AP)— Movies and jazz have always been a big part of what Hugh Hefner sees as the Playboy way of life. Now Playboy is offering movies ABOUT jazz.

Hefner said his Playboy Jazz Film Festival would give fans a sample of the best and most historically significant movies available from archives and private collections.

"We will be able to share with jazz fans the cinematic record of the roots of this uniquely American music, from Dixieland to Bebop — the music of the 1920s, 1930s, 1940s and 1950s," Hefner said.

The three-day festival, "Bix to Bird," opens Sept. 27 at a theater in West Hollywood. It will feature the theatrical premiere of "A Great Day in Harlem," which chronicles the 1958 gathering in New York City of dozens of jazz legends for a magazine photograph.

Jazz orchestra will feature blues pianist

By Paula Lavigne
Senior Reporter

From Kansas City, Mo., to Lincoln, the Nebraska Jazz Orchestra will open its 1994-95 season tonight with a combination of national and local talent.

The orchestra's first Lincoln performance will feature Jay McShann, an internationally known blues pianist and singer from Kansas City.

McShann's release, "Paris All Star Blues," was nominated for a Grammy Award in 1992.

McShann's interest in jazz stemmed from his childhood. His father owned a furniture store, and inside was an old Victrola. On occasion, he would bring home jazz records for his son.

"I really took care of the records, especially the ones that I liked," McShann said. "That's when I really started fooling around on the piano."

When McShann came to Kansas City, he developed an admiration for the city's jazz musicians.

"When you came to a club in Kansas City, you heard the music piped outside, and you had to get in as fast as you could," he said, laughing.

McShann said Kansas City jazz varied from New Orleans-style to eastern or western jazz.

Quik Facts

Concert: Nebraska Jazz Orchestra with Jay McShann

At: Main ballroom of Ramada Hotel and Conference Center

Time: 7:30 tonight

Tickets: Adults \$12, senior citizens \$10, students \$6; available through Nebraska Jazz Orchestra office.

"New Orleans jazz has a two-beat, like marching jazz," he said. "Kansas City jazz doesn't have a march beat. It has a four-four beat, a steady, full beat."

"When Kansas City jazz is compared to eastern or western jazz, Kansas City jazz always swings more."

McShann just finished performing at a jazz blues festival in Kansas City two weeks ago. He'll be with the NJO for two performances.

Dean Heist, executive director of the NJO, said the orchestra really was excited to have McShann for its first performance.

Heist said sometimes it was difficult to bring in musicians of McShann's stature because the orchestra was in a financial struggle.

"We're a nonprofit group. We can't afford to pay a lot of money for musicians," Heist said. He said the orchestra schedules performances on weeknights to accommodate musicians who might have prior commitments on weekends.

"We rely on ticket sales, the generosity of our fans and corporate sponsors," Heist said. "We're facing a very specialized audience. There is a strong, but small, contingent of people in Lincoln who support us."

And they are a loyal group. Last year, about 250 people attended each concert.

"That's close to a sellout," he said. "For (Tuesday's concert), we're expecting a full house."

Heist said jazz was a fun type of music that "rubs off" on the audience.

"It's a very creative art form that's constantly changing and evolving," he said. "A lot of other types of musical events happening in the city don't have that spontaneity."

Heist said many students came to the concerts, thanks to NJO saxophonist Dave Sharp. Sharp, a jazz professor at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, requires his students to attend NJO performances.

"You'll see several students huddled in a corner taking notes for Dave's class," Heist said.

An NJO performance is not expensive. Heist said, and student tickets are half-price.

The orchestra will perform at 7:30 p.m. in the main ballroom of the Ramada Hotel and Conference Center in downtown Lincoln. Adult tickets are \$12. Student tickets are \$6. Tickets for people 65 and older are \$10.

The orchestra's next performance will be Nov. 8. The concert will feature saxophonist Jeff Newell, a native Nebraskan now living in New York.



McShann