



James Moshling/DN

## TV's Batman to come to Lincoln to autograph his book, help zoo

By Joel Strauch  
Senior Reporter

Holy Barracuda! Batman is coming to town!

Adam West, who was television's Batman from 1966 to 1968, is coming to Lincoln this weekend to support the Folsom's Children's Zoo and to autograph his new book at the Nebraska Bookstore.

Entitled "Back to the Batcave," West's book takes a look behind the scenes of the "Batman" series.

"It's everything you ever wanted to know about 'Batman,'" West said. "And a lot of stuff you probably didn't."

"It answers a lot of the questions that I've been asked over the years."

West said writing this autobiographical book had been a good experience.

"I've written a lot of screenplays, but this is my first book," he said. "It's tough to write about yourself, but as the wine ages, it's more drinkable."

"Batman," the most popular TV series of the 1960s, remains syndicated worldwide today.

"Batman" is in its third generation," West said. "Half a billion people watch us every day."

West grew up admiring the DC Comics character that he eventually would portray.

"My main heroes were cowboys and jazz musicians, but I always enjoyed Batman," he said. "He was the best of the comic book characters."

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**ADAM WEST**

actor who played TV's Batman

West contrasted the differences between his series and the recent "Batman" movies.

"They are two completely different views," he said. "Ours is lighthearted, family-friendly and hopefully funny. Theirs is sinister, dark and violent."

"Batman kills more innocent bystanders driving to the rescue in the Batmobile than the criminals do. That's just one way to look at it."

West said he approved of the casting of Val Kilmer as the new Batman in next summer's third installment in the "Batman" movie series, "Batman Forever."

"He's probably as good a choice as anyone for a new, young Batman," he said.

West continues to pursue an active acting career. He has a new TV series called "The Clinic" and will star in an episode of "Tales From the Crypt." He also will be in three upcoming movies, including the new Oliver Stone-Michael Tolkin movie

"The New Age."

West even appeared on "The Simpsons."

"I've been immortalized," West said. "It's a great honor to be on 'The Simpsons.' Look at who they've animated."

"I plan to just keep plugging on. I've got 30 years of this. I'll just keep reading stuff and do what seems best."

Tonight from 6 to 9 p.m., West will be at the Masters of the Night bat exhibit at the zoo for "Kids Night Out with Batman." Admission is \$4 for adults and \$3 for kids, and kids who dress up in a Batman costume get a 50-cent discount.

Tomorrow, West will be autographing his new book from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Nebraska Bookstore.

Tomorrow night will be the "Bat Bash" at the Masters of the Night bat exhibit from 8 to 11 p.m. There will be a cash bar, and West will speak about his experiences as Batman.

## Contemporary artist Pratt not your normal pianist

From Staff Reports

With a full head of dreadlocks and a style all his own, pianist Awadagin Pratt admits he is "A Long Way From Normal."

Pratt grew up in Normal, Ill., and released his first recital album: "A Long Way From Normal," last spring. The virtuoso pianist will perform this weekend in Lincoln.

Pratt, who physically resembles reggae king Bob Marley, plays from a much older side of the musical spectrum. His specialty lies in using classical piano music from Beethoven, Brahms, Stravinsky, Bach and others and adding his own contemporary flare.

Pratt started his piano studies at age 6. And at the age of 16, he

brought his talent to the University of Illinois. He moved on in 1986 to receive three diplomas in piano, violin and conducting from the Peabody Conservatory.

He won the 1992 Naumburg International Piano Competition, and has appeared on the "Today Show" and "CBS Sunday Morning."

Fanfare Magazine referred to Pratt as "a rarity among the steely pianists of his generation: a truly tender virtuoso. ... Yet for all its gentle beauty, the playing never declines into the merely pretty; because of Pratt's superb control of inner voices ... the surface of the music is always shimmering ..."

Pratt performs tonight at 8 in Kimball Hall. General admission tickets are \$14, and \$7 for students.

## People Watch

### Aerosmith glad Kennedy won

NEW YORK (AP) — Aerosmith sympathized with Ted Kennedy's re-election bid.

The rock band from Boston sent the senator from Massachusetts a telegram after he defeated Republican Mitt Romney on Tuesday.

"Congratulations to the George Foreman of Massachusetts politics," said the telegram released by the band Thursday. "We always like to see a hometown boy make good. ... We were always behind you. We, more than anyone, know

what it's like to be counted out and then to come out on top."

Romney was given a good chance of toppling Kennedy after 32 years in the Senate, but Kennedy wound up taking 58 percent of the vote.

Aerosmith, whose current hit album is "Big Ones," backed Kennedy throughout the campaign. Bassist Brad Whitford was host of a fund-raiser earlier this year.

### Ted Koppel in the slammer

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — Ted Koppel is going to prison for a night.

The host of "Nightline" will do time next week at the maximum-security Central Prison. His experiences under lock and key will form part of a series of shows on the question: "Do Prisons Work?"

The series, which is to begin

Tuesday, also will include a town meeting broadcast from the prison featuring correction officers, politicians, police and crime victims as well as inmates.

ABC News chose Raleigh because Correction Department officials were cooperative, and the city has several prisons.

### Hanks recognized for roles

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The Hollywood Women's Press Club honored Tom Hanks for taking socially conscious roles.

The star of "Forrest Gump" and last year's "Philadelphia" received the Louella O. Parsons Award, given to a person who "represents the best image of the entertainment industry to the world," a club statement said Wednesday.

"The social consciousness of his films distinguish Mr. Hanks

among stars; his work is proof that responsible filmmaking can also win at the box office," said the club's president, Janet Tighe.

Previous winners include Bette Davis, Cary Grant and James Stewart.

Hanks won an Academy Award for his portrayal of an AIDS-stricken lawyer in "Philadelphia." He played a mildly retarded man who finds love and happiness in "Forrest Gump."

## MUSIC REVIEWS

**"Wildflowers"**  
Tom Petty  
Warner Bros.  
Grade: A-

The Mad Hatter has gone sane. Tom Petty, a true American boy, waxes nostalgic on "Wildflowers," his latest solo release (but with a lot of help from a few Heartbreakers). Always calm, cool and collected, Petty mellows out on "Wildflowers" as he reaches into adulthood.

With his long, ashen blond hair and eyes hidden behind his trademark sunglasses, Petty looks out at the America he has captured in his songs ... and he smiles.

The majority of the 15 songs are relaxing and drowsy, eliciting a hypnotic slump into a surreal reality.

The title song of the album is a wonderful tale of freedom and love for someone by letting her be "among the wildflowers."

"You belong among the wildflowers/ You belong in a boat out at sea/ Sail away, kill off the hours/ You belong somewhere you feel

free." It would take a musical genius like Petty to capture this longing and respect in a light, harmonious song of perfect love.

Petty sums up all he has learned, as many of his past songs have, and offers them as musical advice. He's a rebellious soothsayer in jeans and sneakers.

"You Don't Know How it Feels" sways back and forth with a dark-tinted guitar. "People come, people go/ Some grow young, some grow cold/ I woke up in between/ A memory and a dream."

"Wildflowers" isn't planted in optimism or pessimism, it's planted in reality and respect. The touching, heartbreaking (no pun intended) and yielding songs unify the album into an intricate web of greatness.

Petty's Bob Dylan-esque voice, paired with acoustic guitar, screams for honesty and bare-bones lyrics, which Petty provides with a soft, yet intense style.

He bares a lot of pain and loss. He shows a lot of hope and lets his cynical wit peek out. But, most of

all, he lets his fans in on possibly one of the last chapters in the shrouded mystery of the Mad Hatter and encourages them to follow their dreams and to be, like Petty, a rebel.

Petty offers up a sliver of optimism in "Wake Up Time."

"Well, if he gets lucky, a boy finds a girl/ To help him shoulder the pain in this world/ And if you follow your feelings/ And you follow your dreams/ You might find the forest there in the trees."

— Paula Lavigne

**"INXS: The Greatest Hits"**  
INXS  
Atlantic Records  
Grade: B+

The band from Australia (when INXS formed in 1977, that actually meant something) is back with a spectacular compilation album, "INXS: The Greatest Hits." Part of what made the '80s such

a great decade for music was INXS. The band's 1988 album "Kick" sold 9 million copies and contained four Top 10 singles that stick in your head like Republican incumbents stuck to their congressional seats this year.

The great thing about INXS is that you don't have to be a crazed fan to enjoy their music. Their songs, especially off "Kick" and "X," are so catchy you can't help but love them. And if you still don't like INXS, you'll still recognize their music because they helped to define late-'80s and early-'90s rock.

And this album has it all: their most popular songs from every album they've put out. In chronological order, no less.

Highlights are "What You Need" and "Shine Like It Does" off 1985's "Listen Like Thieves." The guitars on "Shine" are soulful and hypnotic; Michael Hutchence's wonderfully accented slow swing through the chorus isn't half-bad, either.

Of course, all the Top 10 hits from "Kick" are here: "Need You

Tonight," "Devil Inside," "New Sensation" and "Never Tear Us Apart." If you were alive in 1988, you heard these songs and probably loved them.

"Suicide Blonde" and "Disappear" are here from "X," and three more tracks from the band's last three albums round out this compilation. And lest you think that INXS has stopped writing songs and slipped into greatest-hits purgatory, the album offers two new songs: "The Strangest Party" and "Deliver Me."

"Strangest" is not impressive. The uninteresting chorus repeats over and over again. The music just doesn't match INXS's usual quality, either.

"Deliver Me" has a funky pop beat, heavy on synthesizer with a catchy guitar pluck. But again, it falls short of INXS's previous work.

So is the album worth buying? Definitely. Just get it on CD so you can program your player to skip tracks 15 and 16.

— John Fulwider