

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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Duran Duran says 'Thank You' to favorites

By **Rainbow Rowell**
Senior Editor

At the beginning of the decade, many people wanted to let the vault of the 1980s slam shut, sealing Duran Duran inside, said keyboardist Nick Rhodes.

The band needed to bring Duran Duran into the 1990s, and the way to do that, Rhodes said, was to produce great songs.

This week, Rhodes, Simon LeBon, Warren Cuccurullo and John Taylor released "Thank You" with eight feet planted solidly in the 1990s.

On "Thank You," Duran Duran covers some of the bandmembers' favorite songs.

"We had all the songs in the world," Rhodes said in a telephone interview.

When choosing and recording the songs, they tried to preserve what they loved about each song, while still bringing something new to it. And, Rhodes said, they tried to pick songs that LeBon could sing.

They didn't want their versions to compete with the originals. Above all, they didn't want to spoil them.

"There are a lot of cover songs that are diabolical..." Rhodes said. "They sound like they shouldn't be played in elevators."

One might think recording covers would be easier than original music, but Rhodes said just the opposite was true. When recording one of their own songs, the band can adjust lyrics and music if necessary.

"But with a Bob Dylan song," Rhodes said, "you can't say 'Hey Bob, forget about the brass bed.'"

The band started recording covers while working on their 1993 album "Duran Duran" (nicknamed "The Wedding Album"). At that time, they recorded Velvet Underground's "Femme Fatale" and the Doors' "Crystal Ship." "Femme Fatale" made it on to their 1993 album, but Duran Duran decided to save "Crystal Ship" and record an entire album of covers.

Besides Duran Duran's admira-

tion, the 11 songs on "Thank You" have little in common. In addition to the Doors and Reed, the band salutes Public Enemy, Sly & the Family Stone, Dylan, the Temptations, Elvis Costello, Grandmaster Flash & Mele Mel, Iggy Pop and Led Zeppelin.

It's tough classifying the album as either alternative, pop or something else. Rhodes said he felt many of the songs would be perceived as alternative, but some alternative-format radio stations thought differently. Still other songs such as Iggy Pop's "Success," he said, are — "forgive the pun" — more pop.

"We're an impossible band to tie down to a sound," he said.

One of the most surprising tracks for Duran Duran to cover is Public Enemy's "911 is a Joke."

"It was an interesting choice for us because, quite obviously, we're not from the same culture as Public Enemy," Rhodes said.

The album does have one Duran Duran song, "Drive By," which features LeBon poetry set over music from "The Chauffeur," a too often overlooked song from 1982's "Rio."

"Drive By" evolved from live performances of "The Chauffeur" during "The Wedding Album" tour. Because it was their own song, Rhodes said, they felt they had license to tear it apart and rebuild it again.

"The Chauffeur" harkens back to a time when Duran Duran was a four-man phenomenon. With hits like "Hungry Like the Wolf," "Wild Boys" and "The Reflex" and millions of screaming fans, the band was on top of the world.

At one point, Duran Duran couldn't even hear themselves performing in concert because of the roaring crowds of adolescent girls. They couldn't understand what was attracting the young women, Rhodes said, but they turned it to their favor.

You can't pick your audience, he said. You can't say you will only appeal to arty types or to five tortured poets.

See **DURAN DURAN** on 13



Courtesy of Capitol Records

Duran Duran released "Thank You" this week. Clockwise from top: John Taylor, Nick Rhodes, Simon LeBon and Warren Cuccurullo.

Cox		CableVision	
<p>\$10.28 24 channels</p>	<p>Service</p> <p>Basic</p>	<p>\$10.61 22 Channels</p>	
<p>7 more, including VH-1, ESPN, CNN and Nickelodeon</p> <p>+\$3.31</p>	<p>Limited Basic</p>	<p>17 more, including Nickelodeon, MTV and FX</p> <p>+\$9.88</p>	
<p>19 more, including MTV, American Movie Classics, Comedy Central, Cartoon Network, Sci-Fi Channel and Disney Channel</p> <p>+\$7.97</p>	<p>Complete Basic</p>	<p>10 more, including Nostalgia Channel, Sci-Fi Channel, E! Entertainment Television and Prime Sports Network</p> <p>+\$4.95</p>	
<p>50 channels</p> <p>\$21.56</p>	<p>Total</p>	<p>49 channels</p> <p>\$25.44</p>	

Cable comparison reveals few company differences

By **Gerry Beltz**
Senior Reporter

It's hard for Lincoln cable customers to judge how their cable service measures up to other cable companies because most people don't have a choice.

Comparing Lincoln with Omaha cable reveals a few small differences.

Both Cox Cable in Omaha and Cablevision in Lincoln have the lion's share of their respective cable markets (60 percent for Cox, 80 percent for Cablevision).

Cablevision does have competition, said Rick Kiolbasa, Cablevision regional sales manager.

"We do have competition on how people spend their money," he said. "The direct competition is further off, but still coming."

Wireless cable will come to Lincoln this summer, Kiolbasa said, and there are always satellite systems. Twenty percent of Lincoln's residents don't subscribe to cable, he said.

Having the big piece of the cable pie in a community has some universal advantages, Kiolbasa said.

"It certainly cuts down on confusion," he said. "Everyone knows who to call, everyone has the same thing on the same channel."

"It's easy for us, for the paper that does TV listings and for the city."

Norton agreed. "With our size and being spread out over a lot of customers," he said, "we can be more up to date with technology, and we can keep growing to meet the needs of our customers."

Like customers of almost every business, UNL students like Matt Topping, a freshman general studies major, wished the cable companies could give "lower prices and better deals."

Kim Kathol, a business administration junior, said she'd like more choices.

"They should make it so you can just select the channels you want," Kathol said, "like only one channel of HBO. It would be cheaper."

Prices between Cablevision and Cox Cable are close, Kiolbasa said, because the government regulates cable companies.

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