

Everlast, Sugar Ray share the stage at Omaha concert

By PATRICK MINER
Staff writer

For most bands in the '90s, 15 minutes of fame is all they get.

Sugar Ray is doing everything it can to stretch those 15 minutes into an actual career. Meanwhile, Everlast is currently enjoying his second 15 minutes of fame since he was a resident of the House of Pain, thanks to a hit record and a hospital visit from a heart attack.

2 Skinnee J's, on the other hand, are just getting the clock started.

Saturday, Omaha's Sokol Hall will be the site of these three contrasting artists for what should be one of the liveliest shows of the year.

Los Angeles-based Sugar Ray may not be the most creative band around, but it gives audiences exciting performances they want. The fivesome, led by front man Mark McGrath, hit it big in the summer of 1997 with the single "Fly" off the debut album "Flooded."

Sugar Ray knew people would expect them to fade like Stacey Q, so the act played on the idea. The band released the aptly titled "14:59" to show it still has some time left.

While the album's first single, "Every Morning," sounds suspiciously like "Fly," the bulk of "14:59" is a much better record than "Flooded," featuring better guitar work and an

appearance by rap great KRS-One.

Regardless of its recorded work, Sugar Ray is a reputed high-energy live act that Omaha crowds will love.

Everlast, however, shouldn't exert himself Saturday as much as Sugar Ray. If there's anyone who needs a good rest, it's the guy who believes he's a battery.

The rapper and guitar wielder, who is also known as Erik Schrody, needed heart valve replacement during the making of his latest release, "Whitey Ford Sings The Blues."

Despite being unconscious for four days, the former House of Pain member Everlast finished the record, which ended up being one of the best of 1998. "Whitey Ford Sings The Blues" went platinum last week, thanks to the hit single "What It's Like."

While 2 Skinnee J's aren't as popular nationally as Sugar Ray or Everlast, the rap-rock act has attracted big crowds in Omaha over the past year.

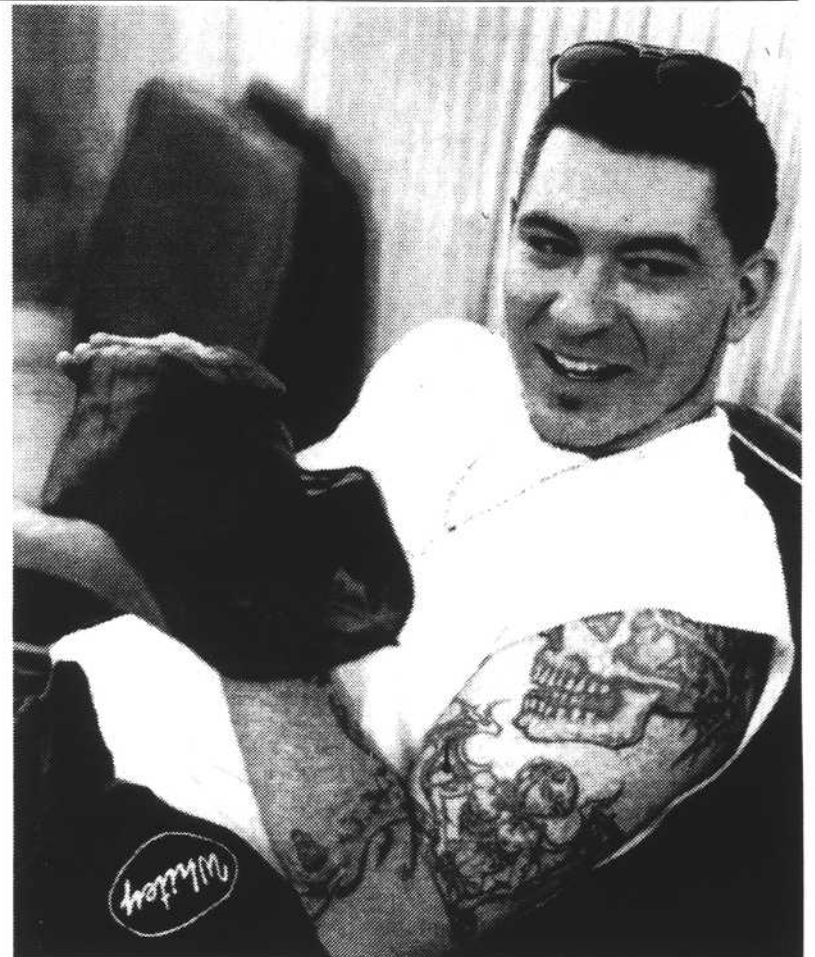
Led by rappers Special J and J Guevera, 2 Skinnee J's are as hilarious as they are exciting. Their act consists of several hook-centered songs mixed with the onstage antics of their manager and owner, A.J. "Stumpy" Johnson.

Last year, 2 Skinnee J's released "Supermercado," their major label debut. The album's features such show staples as "Riot Nrrrd," "The Whammy," and "718."

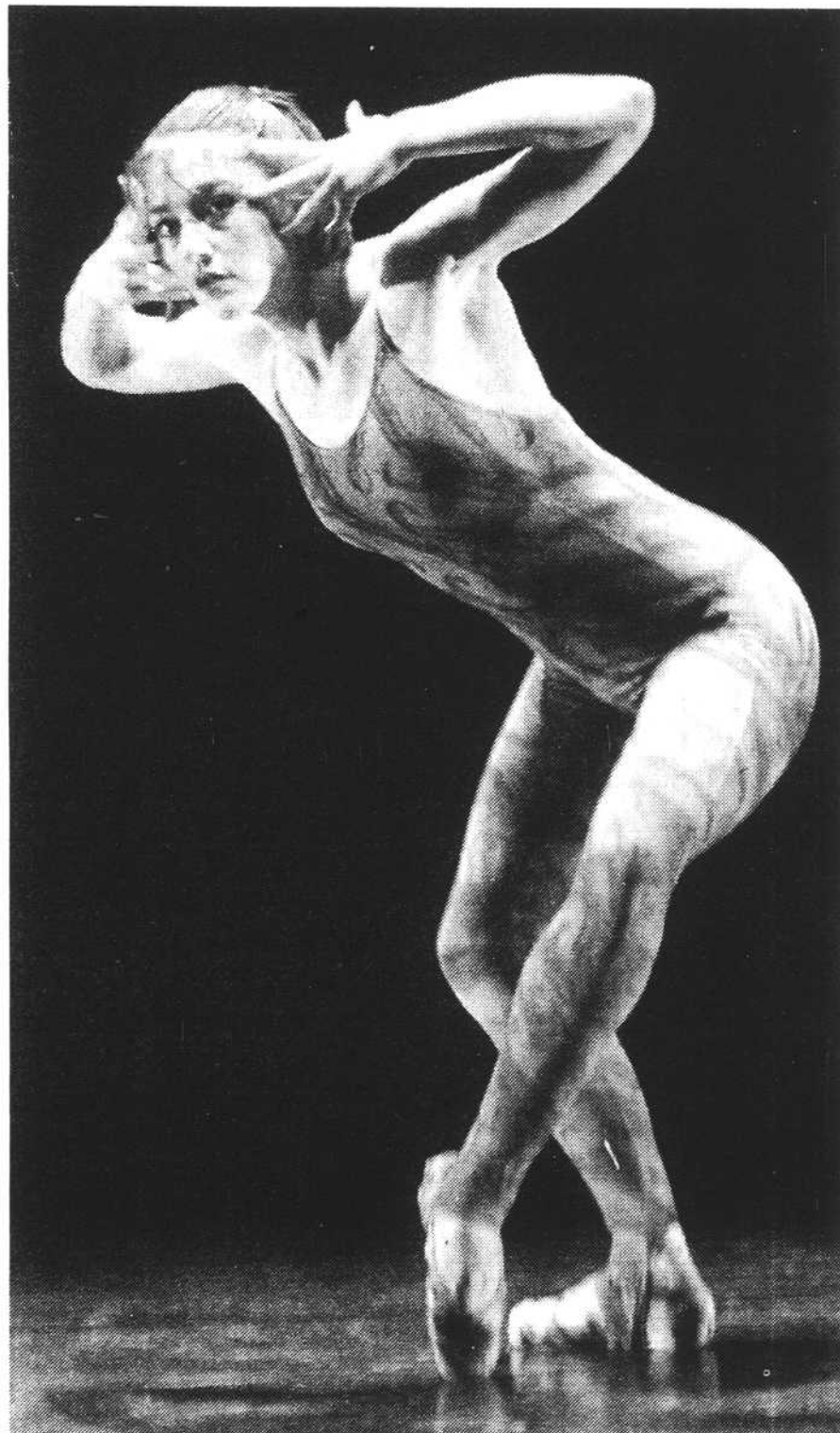
It's an almost guarantee that they will be show-stoppers once again on Saturday. And they may prove to be a touch sweeter than the rock candy of Sugar Ray.

Concert Preview The Facts

What: Sugar Ray, Everlast, 2 Skinnee J's
Where: Sokol Hall, 2234 S. 13th St., Omaha
When: Saturday at 8 p.m.
Cost: Sold-out
The Skinny: Popular acts sell-out Sokol Hall



COURTESY PHOTO
EVERLAST, whose album "Whitey Ford Sings the Blues" just went platinum, is probably the biggest star on the bill that boasts Sugar Ray as the headlining act.



SCOTT McCLURG/DN
KELLY HOLCOMBE, a UNL dance instructor, performs her solo "Climbing Blue Girl" at the Johnny Carson Theatre on Wednesday evening. The solo piece, which follows the progression of a seed from germination to blossom, is one performance within this weekend's Spring Dance Concert.

Rite of Spring

Annual spring dance concert examines the identity and silence of women in modern society

By LIZA HOLTMEIER
Senior staff writer

A group of women stare into the audience, their hands covering their mouths.

As the music progresses, the women try to break out from a mandate of silence, gesturing fervently and urgently, attempting to find a voice.

Finally, each one emerges with her own identity, free from the constraints of society's suppression.

The women are dancing a piece titled "Ladies Speak," one of the highlights of this weekend's Spring Dance Concert.

This year, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln dance program presents one of its most diverse dance performances in years. Classical ballet, modern and postmodern dance all get their time in the spotlight.

The show opens with the energetic, frolicking "These Cats," choreographed by UNL dance teacher Kelly Holcombe. Inspired by music by the Squirrel Nut Zippers, the piece capitalizes on flapper-like moves and the spirit of swing.

The second piece of the concert is Holcombe's "Climbing Blue Girl." Inspired by a rose called a Climbing Blue, this solo follows the progression of a seed from germination to blossom.

The piece capitalizes on Holcombe's extraordinary strength and athleticism, switching from pointe work to virtual gymnastic feats in the blink of an eye.

"Every time I see it, I ask, 'How does she do that?'"

said Sara Schmid, a UNL dance major in the concert.

Following Holcombe's solo, the concert turns to the classical with a ballet piece titled "Courtly Frolic."

Choreographed in January by guest artist Ellen Mills Young, the dance is the first pointe piece UNL dancers have performed in concert since the early 1990s.

UNL dance teacher Julie Kane will dance in her piece "Bridal Bridle" with Lincoln dancer Cat Steinweis.

Kane set the duet to Franz Schubert's "Ave Maria." The piece explores the confines marriage represents for some women in a poignant and sometimes humorous way. Both women dance in full-length wedding gowns, literally throwing themselves around the stage and on the floor.

"It's about busting out of the archetype and shattering the image of the virgin," Kane said.

The dancers will then perform Holcombe's "Ladies Speak." Holcombe choreographed the piece in 1992 for the premiere of a company she had just started. As she set the piece on the UNL dancers, the dance changed to reflect the experiences of the women.

"It changed because of our personalities and the way we dance," said Megan Dant, a UNL dance major in the piece.

"I give them steps, and they give it soul," Holcombe explained.

The concert also includes "The Circle Around the

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