

Two new releases due

GNR brings tour to Charlotte

By DAVID BOWDEN
Editor in Chief

Guns N' Roses, the no-nonsense rock band that was bigger than Jesus a few years ago, is about to release two new albums. To support these records, the Gunners are headlining a national tour for the first time. I caught them in Charlotte last Sunday, and they were phenomenal.

One legitimate knock against the band used to be that they stunk live. Anyone who caught them on MTV live at the Ritz saw a bunch of drunks who could barely walk, much less play music. Well, the New and Improved Guns N' Roses is off the heroin, doesn't drink as much and replaced drug addict drummer Steve Adler with the far superior Matt Sorum. They even have a keyboardist (Dizzy Reed). Last Sunday, the Gunners came to play.

Critics of the band, and even the fans themselves, sometimes forget that Guns N' Roses is much more than just another hard rock band. They are talented (scruffy and tattoo-covered, true, but talented nonetheless). They can play their instruments. They also have the range to play both grungy metal riffs and sentimental acoustic melodies, often in the same song.

The band showed off this versatility Sunday. They played a few old favorites from their rock-hard album *Appetite for Destruction* as well as many new songs that will appear on the forthcoming *Use Your Illusion* records.

The concert as a whole had a slower, softer feel than some would expect. This reflects the band's new song-writing priorities. Guns N' Roses was obviously trying to destroy their reputation as a scuzzy bar band. Lead singer Axl Rose even played piano on one excellent ballad. Now that I think about it, the group's name aptly reflects their music: hard hitting rock combined with beautiful musicianship.

It would take too long to name all of the concert's highlights, but some have to be the band's performance of "Patience" and Bob Dylan's "Knocking on Heaven's Door," lead guitarist Slash's solo featuring the theme to *The Godfather*, drummer Matt Sorum's fantastic drum solo and the amazing finale of "Welcome to the Jungle," "Sweet Child O' Mine" and "Paradise City."

Guns N' Roses brought a huge stage show with them. Two monstrous ramps on either side of the stage led to a second stage that went behind the drum-kit. Axl, Slash and bassist Duff McKagan ran around this area like wild men, to the crowd's delight; no section of the audience was neglected the band's attention.

Charlotte Coliseum welcomed the band warmly. The crowd cheered so hard during the opening song I couldn't even recognize it. During the band's most famous songs (such as "Mr. Brownstone" and "Sweet Child"), the audience sang along throughout, word for word. It was an impressive show.

The only gripe I have about the concert is that they didn't perform longer. It surprised me that the Gunners didn't play their latest single "You Could Be Mine." They also didn't play their cover of Wings' "Live and Let Die," which I've heard is really good.

Of course, if they played all their other really great songs (such as "Rocket Queen," "You're Crazy," "It's So Easy" and "One in a Million," to name a few) they would have played until sunrise. Two full hours is a lot more than you would get from some bands these days, but it doesn't even do them justice.

By the way, opening act Skid Row was quite good. Their new (and number one) album *Slave to the Grind* sounds a lot less commercial than their first release. Skid Row was a great warm-up, grinding out some really tough versions of their best songs such as "Monkey Business" (their new single) and "Piece of Me" (off their first LP). Lead singer Sebastian Bach is an arrogant little worm, but his terrific vocals helped make up for his moronic dialogue between songs.

Skid Row is good; Guns N' Roses is a lot more than just good. If Guns N' Roses' albums are anywhere near as good as their live show, they will truly be the Rock Band of the Decade. Axl, Slash, Izzy, Dizzy, Matt and Duff, awesome show!



Hoopin' it up

Caroline Linder/The Gamecock

Girls high school basketball players take part in USC coach Nancy Wilson's basketball camp. The camp offers weekly programs to players from South Carolina and Georgia.

Play is alive and well

By JACK DUNN
Staff Writer

Trustus theatre is proud to announce its presentation of "Jacques Brel is Alive and Well and Living in Paris."

To someone not familiar with the material, "Jacques Brel" is a lyrical onslaught of intense emotion and depth of feeling. To someone who is familiar with the material, it would probably be the same for them as well.

Who is Jacques Brel? Well, he's not a character in the play, though he is mentioned a few times in the scarce dialogue. The play itself is based on his lyrics and commentary which is combined with the music he wrote.

Jimmy Flannery, Bonita Johnson, Harold Odom and Linda Pollit star in this unique musical, and are brilliant, both as ensemble and solo performers. The four vocalists present the emotions of all of life itself, with its soaring heights and its depths of despair, backed by an incredibly powerful three-piece band.

Without knowing the context in which this play is set (a cabaret in Paris perhaps?), a great deal comes across solely through the emotion invoked by the performers instead of through the lyrics themselves.

As such, "Jacques Brel" looks at life from many different angles and time periods. Numbers such as "My Death," "Middle Class" and "Old Folks" deal with rebellion and the realization of aging, subjects that are dealt with emotionally and not just lyrically.

Opening and closing the play are the musical numbers "Marathon" and "Carousel." Fast-paced and swirling, each also provides an interesting metaphor for life. De-

tails about the characters and their lives, which are shown to be both comedic and desperate in their situations, are contained within the twenty or so odd numbers in between.

Now a word about Trustus theatre itself. Trustus, an "alternative" theatre, is attempting to go mainstream for this production. What makes it alternative? Well, probably its casual atmosphere, and also because it provides a marvelous setting for minimalist plays and musicals, such as "Jacques Brel," where elaborate sets are not needed. There is, of course, nothing minimal about "Jacques Brel."

Another reason Trustus is "alternative" may be because of the seating arrangements. You'll find no cramped fold-downs here. At Trustus you get your own comfortable recliner and you're served popcorn too.

Now back to the play. I feel that I must warn you that this production is partially funded by the National Endowment for the Arts. I have no idea what that means, but for those of you with the guts to support the arts, and those of you with the hope of expanding your horizons on an otherwise dull summer weeknight, "Jacques Brel" is definitely for you.

"Jacques Brel is Alive and Well and Living in Paris" will run tonight through June 29, and from July 3-6 at 8 p.m. The box office will open from 1 to 6 p.m., Monday through Saturday. Tickets are \$15 and \$7.50. The box office and bar will be open at 7 p.m. night for the 8 p.m. performance. Reservations may be made by calling Trustus at 254-9732. Don't miss it!

Controversial call brings rematch

Tyson, Ruddock rumble in Las Vegas

By AARON SHEININ
Carolina Life Editor

"Let's get ready to rumble" will be the war cry Friday night in Las Vegas when Iron Mike Tyson and Razor Donovan Ruddock square off in the square circle in the rematch of their much disputed March 18 bout.

Missing from this fight will be referee Richard Steele, who worked the fight and stopped it in the seventh round, calling out Ruddock, who was still on his feet.

Mills Lane will be the referee for the rematch, Nevada State Athletic Commission Executive Director Chuck Minker said.

For your viewing enjoyment, four Columbia venues will offer the fight. One in Five Points, one in O'Neil Court, one near Midlands Tech and one in Irmo. The Graduate Food and Pub, The Sports Club, Keg O' Nails and I.B.'s respectively will feature the fight.

All of these laid out big bucks to get the rights to the match. This is going to be the biggest thing happening Friday night, so go out and help them earn the money back. Admission is twelve bucks and you can get tickets in advance or you can pay at the door until they fill the place.

Terry Garrett, general manager of The Graduate, said "its more than worth spending the money to be the only bar in Five Points to

have it (the fight). We have five screens and the projection screen so there the won't be any problem in seeing the fight from all angles. People who have reserve tickets can start coming in around 8 p.m., and if you don't have a ticket, you can pay at the door until it gets too packed."

Keg O' Nails, The Sports Club and I.B.'s all have about the same facilities. I.B.'s has 14 televisions including two big screens and all will be exclusively tuned to the fight.

Since Tyson was beat by Buster Douglas this past year, he has settled into the role of contender well. He seems to have regained the killer instinct that marked most of his champion's reign, without the out-of-ring personal problems. However, one big problem he has, in my opinion is his association with boxing mogul-menace Don King. Tyson would do well to leave this association the same place he has left the likes of Trevor Berbick, writhing in a heap of useless flesh at his feet. But that is just an opinion.

Musical notes ...

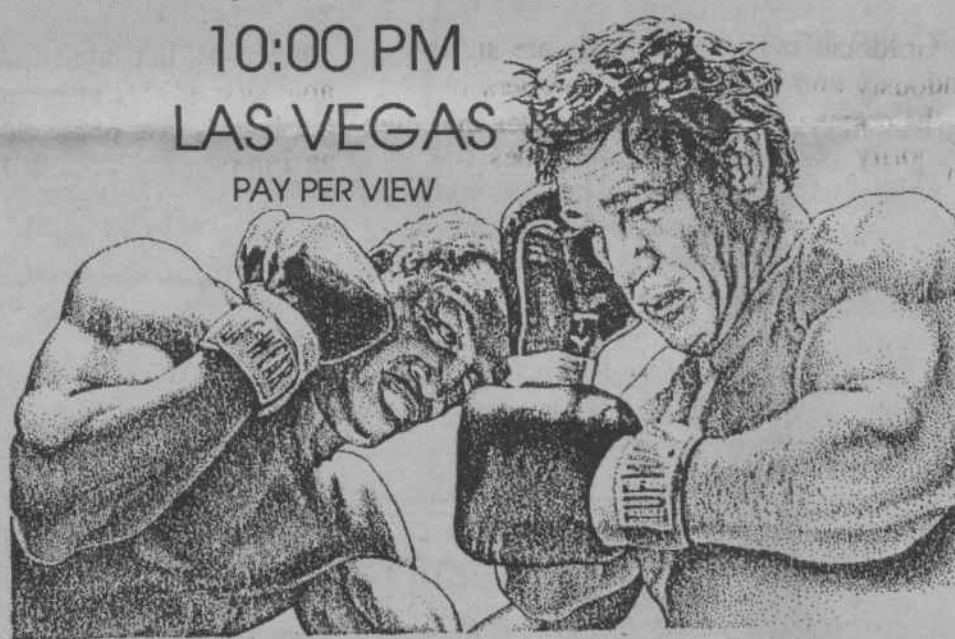
Did anyone else see Peter Bucks remarks in this past month's *Rolling Stone* about Guns-n-Roses? Sorry Dave, but it has to be done. R.E.M.'s resident cynic referred to GNR as a "Benny Hill band." The

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are, he says, a parody of what a rock-n-roll band should be. It was also reported that Buck has an *Appetite For Destruction* welcome mat outside his Athens, Ga. home. When asked about it, Buck replied, "I wouldn't wipe my feet on anything else." You gotta love it. R.E.M. front man, Michael Stipe, also was featured and had some interesting comments worth passing on. He said he has never

heard Whitney Houston or Mariah Carey sing. This may seem a little hard to swallow but when your Michael Stipe, you can almost get away with it. He also said he had no opinion of another Georgia band, this one from Atlanta, the Black Crowes. he did remember, however, that they were from Atlanta. The Stipe man also had no opinion to offer about Wilson Phillips.

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