

Big Daddy does 80s hits in 50s style

By KARL PALLMEYER
Music Reviewer

THERE ARE PROBABLY A FEW other music fans out there who would rather listen to Buddy Holly, Elvis Presley, Dion, Bo Diddley, Chubby Checker, Bill Haley, Gene Chandler, the Big Bopper, Gene Vincent or Eddie Cochran than Cyndi Lauper, Willie Nelson, Prince, Phil Collins, Men Without Hats, Michael Jackson, Culture Club or Van Halen. Unfortunately neither radio nor MTV give you much choice. That's why Big Daddy is so much fun.

The story of Big Daddy is one of the strangest in rock history. In the late 1950s, Big Daddy, then one of rock 'n' roll's greatest acts, was asked to play on a USO tour of Southeast Asia. The tour was kept secret since American involvement in the war in Asia had not yet been made official. Big Daddy was forced to ride in an ox cart behind the tour bus since the rest of the acts on the tour would not associate with a mere rock 'n' roll band. One day in Laos, Big Daddy was captured by communist rebels. The communists took the band to heart because they had



Big Daddy "Meanwhile... Back in the States"

Rhino Records
Album provided by Camelot Music

heard on American radio that rock 'n' roll music was a communist plot to corrupt American youth. They welcomed Big Daddy as comrades.

The band played for the captors until 1980 when they were rescued by an American CIA task force. The task force, disguised as aliens for a science fiction film being made in Laos, freed the band and brought them back to America. During the

debriefing at Camp David, government officials realized the band would have trouble adjusting to the music industry of the 1980s. To help the band prepare for their comeback, the government purchased sheet music of some of today's biggest hits and set up a recording studio at Camp David. Big Daddy recorded their first album, "Big Daddy," a collection of 1980s hits done in 1950s style. Big Daddy's second album, "Meanwhile... Back in the States," follows the same hilarious formula.

ON "MEANWHILE... BACK IN the States," Big Daddy does a version of Cyndi Lauper's "Girls Just Wanna Have Fun" that sounds a lot like Gene Chandler's "Duke of Earl." Their version of Phil Collins' "Sussudio" sounds like Dion and the Belmonts' "Runaround Sue." Their version of Willie Nelson's "Always On My Mind" sounds like the Big Bopper's "Chantilly Lace." I not going to say anymore. If I told you about their interpretations of Bruce Springsteen's "Dancing in the Dark," Prince's "Purple Rain," Michael Jackson's "Billie Jean" or Van Halen's "Jump," it would spoil your fun.

But seriously folks... Big Daddy is

a joke. Big Daddy is the creation of the twisted geniuses at Rhino Records. Rhino is a small record company based in California that specializes in the old and the weird. Rhino re-releases classic rock 'n' roll albums by such artists as the Monkees, the Turtles, the Bobby Fuller Four, Richie Valens, the Box Tops, the Chocolate Watchband, the Nazz and the Troggs. Rhino also releases "novelty" albums by such artists as Dr. Demento, Gefilte Joe and the Fish, Oy George and Kosher Klub, Barnes and Barnes, Rodney Dangerfield, the Three Stooges and Big Daddy. Rhino has a good time with their albums. A Turtles EP is pressed on green vinyl and shaped like a turtle. The EP by Gefilte Joe and the Fish, rock's only senior citizen Jewish Heavy Metal band, is shaped like a Star of David. And Barnes and Barnes' "Fish Heads" EP looks like a fish head.

There are only four record companies I admire and Rhino tops the list. If you are interested in Rhino's records, you can beg, plead, con, threaten or simply ask your local record store to carry their albums. Or you can write Rhino Records, 1201 Olympic Blvd, Santa Monica, CA 90404, for a Sears & Rhinobuck Catalogue. You won't be sorry. □

Kline keeps changing

By BOB THOMAS
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — His first four films have been a tragedy, a Gilbert and Sullivan operetta, a contemporary drama and a Western. No wonder the film world has trouble getting a fix on Kevin Kline.

That often happens with extravagantly talented actors, but Kline even looks different in each film. He was Meryl Streep's crazed, passionate lover in "Sophie's Choice," the madcap Pirate King of "The Pirates of Penzance," and then Harold Cooper, the yuppie host to the college reunion in "The Big Chill."

Now he appears full-bearded as the reluctant gunfighter Paden in "Silverado," co-written and directed by Lawrence Kasdan, who worked with Kline in "Chill."

A suave, witty actor who appears equally at home in comedy and drama, the 37-year-old Kline still had the beard during a brief visit here for the "Silverado" opening.

He's currently starring in a revival of George Bernard Shaw's "Arms and the Man" in New York, where he won critical raves as the calm center of a histrionic storm directed by John Malkovich. The beard also did duty in the unreleased "Violets Are Blue" with Sissy Spacek.

In "Silverado" Kline seems perfectly at ease racing flat-out over the

plains and blasting away at the bad guys. Part of that came naturally.

"I have no fear of horses," he says. "In fact, when we were preparing for 'Silverado,' I learned to roll out of the saddle, stand up on the horse, also the croup mount — jumping into the saddle from the rear — and hoping that the horse doesn't decide to kick."

However, all the horse tricks were reserved for Kevin Costner, who played Jake, and Kline didn't get to show off.

"I hate guns," Kline adds, "but I overcame my feelings and trained with Arvo Ojala, who has taught Western actors for years and is, I believe, the other gunfighter in the opening shot of 'Gunsmoke.' I learned to do all kinds of twirls, but again Larry said, 'That's for Jake.'"

Kline, Costner, Scott Glenn and Danny Glover spent four weeks in training together for their rigors in "Silverado."

"Larry was smart to put us all together, just as he had done for 'The Big Chill,' cast," Kline says. "The intrinsic quality of both pictures is friendship and fellowship, and establishing the bonds early worked for them."

Kline grew up in St. Louis watching "The Cisco Kid," "Zorro" and "Hopalong Cassidy" on television, but he admitted that his education in the classic Westerns was lacking — "I had to rent copies of 'Red River' and John Ford movies like 'She Wore a Yellow Ribbon.'" □

movies-movies-movies

Movies are listed alphabetically. The Grove movies will be shown on listed date only. The rating and theater code name are in parenthesis. The theater codes are:

GR — The Grove	845-1515
ME — Manor East	823-8300
P3 — Plitt Cinema III	846-6714
PO — Plitt Post Oak	764-0616
S6 — Schulman Six	775-2463

Back to the Future (PG,P3)

A new Spielberg film about a kid who gets transported back to the 50s and sees his parents as high school sweethearts. Great Film. See related story on De Lorean time travel car.

The Black Cauldron (PG,ME)

New Disney film.

Butch Cassidy and

The Sundance Kid (Mon.,PG,GR)

Robert Redford and Paul Newman star in this classic.

Casino Royale (Wed.,PG,GR)

This comedy is a spoof of James Bond movies. Peter Sellers stars as agent 007.

Cocoon (PG-13,P3)

Ron Howard directs this science-fantasy adventure about people in an nursing home who want to regain their youth. Good movie.

E.T. (PG,S6)

This tear-jerker starring our friend from outer-space is back.

Fright Night (R,S6)

The PR reads: There are very good reasons why you should be afraid of the dark. Three teenagers suspect that the newcomer to town (Chris Sarandon) is a vampire. One of the stars is Amanda of "All My Children" fame.

Frisco Kid (Thu.,PG,GR)

Gene Wilder stars as a rabbi and Harrison Ford plays a cowboy in this comedy-adventure.

The Heavenly Kid (PG-13,S6)

A guy dies and comes back as a young kid's guardian angel.

Mad Max

Beyond Thunderdome (PG-13,S6)

Mel Gibson and Tina Turner star in this Road Warrior sequel. Max is a little mellower, but there's still a lot of action. It's worth it to see Tina.

The Man With One Red Shoe (PG,S6)

A Tom Hanks film that looks promising. Remake of the french film "The Tall Blond Man With One Black Shoe."

National Lampoon's

European Vacation (PG-13,PO)

A second movie in Chevy Chase's adventures. I hope it's better than the first.

Pale Rider (R,S6)

Clint Eastwood is back in the saddle after a nine-year absence.

Rambo (R,P3)

Sylvester Stallone in First Blood II.

The Rescuers (Sun.,G,GR)

An animated Disney film.

St. Elmo's Fire (R,PO)

Sort of a Big Chill for the college crowd. Mixed reviews.

Sesame Street

Follow That Bird (G,ME)

A favorite for kids.

Silverado (PG,ME)

A great new western with an impressive cast. (Kevin Kline, Scott Glenn, Rosanna Arquette, John Cleese, Kevin Costner, Brian Dennyhe, Danny Glover, Jeff Goldblum and Linda Hunt to boot).

Weird Science (PG-13,PO)

This new film looks remarkably similar to another new film, "Real Genius." But this one looks better. Stars Anthony Michael Hall ("Breakfast Club," "Sixteen Candles").