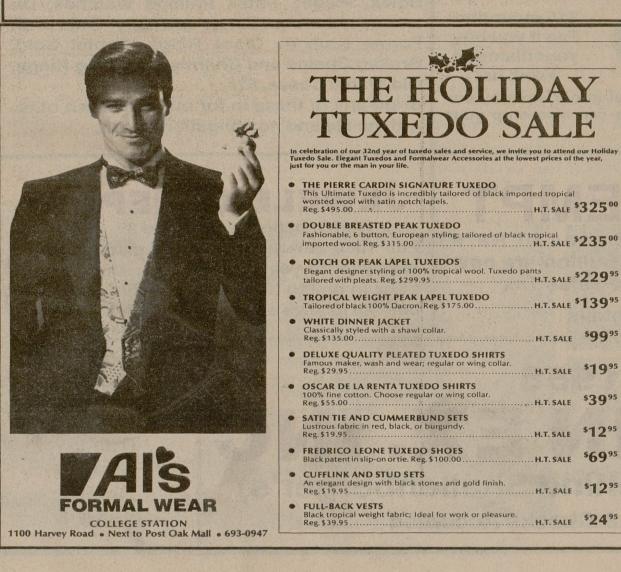


INTRODUCTION: NINA BEALL

LEE ESTES: Parochial Subjects

Located in the Southwest Corner of the Memorial Student Center opposite the Post Office

Admission Free



ice with mus form a sound all their own. With Presto, their latest release, they add social criticism to the mix.

Although *Presto* is not a "concept" album, the 11 songs presented on this effort all comment on human nature. Among other subjects, Rush explores lack of trust, suicide, vanity and insecurity, the marketing of politicians and social and environmental concerns.

The album also marks the opening of a new chapter for the band. On their last four albums, Rush experimented heavily with synthesizers and electronic percussion. With Pre-sto, these instruments still are used, but now are merely used to augment the music, not to dominate it.

A duality to the music also is presented on this album - the first half continues the trend set forth with Rush's last album, Hold Your Fire,, but the second side is almost a throwback to the 2112 and Hemispheres era.

The music has little, if any, synthesizers or electronic percussion, and the title track marks a welcome return of guitarist Alex Lifeson's excellent acoustic guitar playing. In-deed, Presto contains some of Lifeson's best playing since 1981's Moving Pictures.

Although none of the songs ever will become a number one hit, they are all good songs showing Lifeson's and vocalist/bassist/keyboardist Geddy Lee's composing skills and drummer Neil Peart's skill as a lyric-ist. (Try to find lyrics like "tides respond to lunar gravitation / everything turns in synchronous relation. .winds are stirred by planets in rotation" on a Bon Jovi or George Strait album.)

The album starts off with "Show Don't Tell," an examination of people's lack of trust and the fact that people tend not to believe anything unless first offered proof.

The commentary continues with "The Pass." Rush makes it known that there is nothing romantic or commendable about suicide: "Someone set a bad example / made surrender seem all right. . .no hero in your tragedy / no daring in your es-cape / no salutes for your surrender / nothing noble in your fate." The perfect marriage of Peart's lyrics and

security and an advisement to accept move. . .hoping you'll believe others: "all puffed up with vanity we signing to deceive." The so

ad

Hush never has been afraid to change styles and experiment with new sounds. Presto is yet another testament to their philosophy. The band makes no attempt to simplify its music to reach everyone, nord they candy-coat their lyrics or write cliche songs about sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll.

see what we want to see. . .boys and girls together / mistake conceit for pride / ambition for illusion / dreams for self-delusion." This song also features excellent three-part harmony, with Lee singing lead and producer Rupert Hine joining Lifeson on backing vocals.

"Presto," the album's title track, starts the second half of the duality expressed on the album. Lifeson's acoustic guitar cuts through Peart's driving beat like a knife, and the strummed chords are reminiscent of the material found on 1978's Hemispheres. This homage to their earlier material is continued with the song's flight-of-fancy lyrics about love

Further references to past work can be found on "Chain Lighting," the beginning of which bears a haunting, almost exact reproduction of the beginning of "Witch Hunt," from Moving Pictures.

features more of Hine's en backing vocals.

Rush addresses the multi problems facing society and vironment, such as AIDS, ad pollution and the thinn sphere, on "Red Tide." paints a bleak portrait of events, but also makes a cal tion: "too late for debate/u ignore. . . now's the time to t tide / now's the time to fight not go gently to the endles

night." Rush never has been af change styles and experim new sounds. Presto is yet testament to their philosop band makes no attempt to its music to reach everyone they candy-coat their lying cliche songs about sex, du rock 'n' roll. For these reason has accumulated a fiercely lowing, and this albums is 0 fans should be sure to buy.

Aggie Players open audition for spring production casts

Auditions for two of the Aggie Players' spring semester produc-tions, The Fantasticks and Gambler's House, will open Wednes-day at 6 p.m. in the Rudder Forum.

The tryouts for both shows will consist of "cold" (unrehearsed) readings.

Students interested in trying out for roles in "The Fantasticks" also should prepare 32 bars from a musical of their choice.

The Fantasticks, one of the

most successful musicals time, tells a story of young and growing up. Gambler's House, a play

the Spanish Golden Age, is a of an inept gambler who risk erything for the ultimate with hand.

Women's roles for Gamb House will be cast from Ele Experimental theater membe

For more information, a Aggie Players at 845-2621.