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Aerosmith dubbed "mtvICON," Kid Rock, others to cover band's hits

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Sure, there are Grammys and a spot in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. There are MTV's Video Music Awards and platinum albums, too.

But Aerosmith's Steven Tyler said the ultimate accolade comes when well-known artists cover the songs that made his band a household name.

"We've had people cover our stuff for years. You can go into a lot of bars and hear it. That's an honor in itself. But then when you hear Kid Rock or Run-DMC or somebody else perform your songs, it brings it to a whole new level," Tyler told The Associated Press.

Now Tyler and his bandmates get to see it firsthand when they are honored on "mtvICON," a star-studded cover-song salute. It airs Wednesday at 9 p.m. on MTV.

Among those taking the stage to perform versions of Aerosmith's music: Kid Rock, Pink, Train, Papa Roach, Shakira and Nas. Aerosmith will perform.

The show includes testimonials from Mila Kunis of "That '70s Show" and Alicia Silverstone, who have appeared in Aerosmith videos, as well as Janet Jackson, who was the subject of the first "mtvICON" special a year ago.

Aerosmith, with its 32 music videos, was a natural choice for the honor, said Brian Graden, MTV's president for programming.

"They were one of the first to play in other genres. They embraced the infusion of rap and rock, and they have continued to work

with other artists," he said. "They really have become generational icons."

Guitarist Joe Perry shrugged off the icon status.

"You stick around long enough and you get noticed," he joked. "It's fun. It's another adventure for us. That's why we're doing it."

He and Tyler formed Aerosmith in 1970. They became the U.S. answer to British invasion bands like the Rolling Stones and The Who, with hits like "Dream On."

But along with success came alcohol, drugs and infighting that caused the band to split.

A sobered-up band reunited in the mid-1980s. They teamed with rappers Run-DMC for a remix of Aerosmith's signature song "Walk This Way." The success continued in the '90s. They won Grammys and hit the top of the singles charts for the first time with "I Don't Want to Miss a Thing" (the love theme for the movie *Armageddon*).

In preparation for "mtvICON," which includes Aerosmith interviews, the band members admitted to reflecting on their careers.

Tyler said one night recently before he went to bed he compiled a list of the band's ups and downs.

"Aerosmith has been eaten, beaten, cheated, ignored. We've been loved, hated, censored, quoted, banned, scanned, honored, offered, rewarded and reported. We've been seen, heard, read, near dead. So where do we see Aerosmith going?" he read from the list.

The answer, he said: "Wherever the road

doesn't take us, that's where we'll be."

After three decades, Perry said he came to recognize that his association with the band is "about the journey and the most out of it."

"As long as I still get goose bumps and watching Steven hit those high notes, I know I'm doing OK," he said.

For bassist Tom Hamilton, the show brought the band full circle from beginnings.

"All these things that were supposed to replace us have come and gone — punk, new wave. It's all gone and we're lingering," he said.

It is that staying power that has the attention of many performing in the show.

"If there's anybody to look up to for it's them. They are one of the only bands left from the '70s," said Papa Roach guitarist Jerry Horton. "They are still doing it and doing it well. We definitely are grateful for that kind of longevity in our careers."

Shakira said she admired not only the band's longevity but its generational fan base.

"So many people — children, older people — know who they are," she said.

Horton, whose band performs "Semi-Emotion" during the tribute, admitted to few nerves prior to taking the stage before Aerosmith.

"I don't normally get nervous. But it's something to cover a song from a band, it's easier to cover it while they are listening to it," he said.

Broadway hit *The Producers* has change of cast, Goodman dismissed

NEW YORK (AP) — Bye Bye Bialystock. Henry Goodman, who took over last month from Nathan Lane as the rascalion Max Bialystock in *The Producers*, has been let go from the Broadway musical hit after playing the role for only four weeks.

The show's more than a dozen producers, including author Mel Brooks, were mum Monday about Goodman's dismissal, leaving it to Susan Stroman, the musical's director-choreographer, to comment on the firing.

"I have the utmost respect for Henry Goodman," Stroman said. "He is a wonderful actor and I would happily work with him again on another project. Henry has been well received nightly by audiences, but the producers have decided to pursue a different quality for the role."

Goodman was given notice after the Sunday matinee. The English actor will be replaced Tuesday by Lane's understudy, Brad Oscar, who portrays Nazi playwright Franz Liebkind in the show. Goodman joined the musical March 19 along with Steven Weber, who followed Lane's co-star, Matthew Broderick. Weber, who plays Leo Bloom, will remain in the production.

The Producers is based on Brooks' 1968 movie about a pair of con artists who overfinance a Broadway musical in the hopes of producing a flop. Of course, the show is a hit — just as big a smash as the stage version of *The Producers*, which has been a steady sellout since opening last April at the St. James Theatre.

Although *The Producers* continues to play to capacity business (grosses over \$1.1 million each week), the musical is not quite the hot ticket it was while Lane and Broderick were in the show. The line for cancellations has noticeably shortened since its original stars left, and the demand for \$480 premium seats has slackened.

Goodman, who starred in London revivals of *Gypsy* and *Dolma* in *Chicago*, could not be reached for comment Monday. He was acclaimed for his portrayal of Shylock in a National Theatre production of *The Merchant of Venice*, recently seen on PBS. The actor's only other Broadway appearance was in the replacement cast of *Art*, the Yasmina Reza comedy.

Oscar frequently subbed for Lane while the star was recovering from vocal problems during his yearlong run in the show.

Goodman's performance was darker, more serious than Lane's, according to theatergoers who saw him.

"Henry may have been more than they bargained for," said Alice Carey, a fan of the actor who attended Goodman's first performance last month. "He was creepy in a way Zero Mostel (the star of the movie) was creepy. He made the show more dangerous."

High-profile departures from big musicals are infrequent, but not unknown. Two years ago, David Shiner took a vacation from *Seussical* so Rosie O'Donnell could step into the role of the Cat in the Hat. Shiner eventually came back, but later left and was replaced by gymnast Cathy Rigby.

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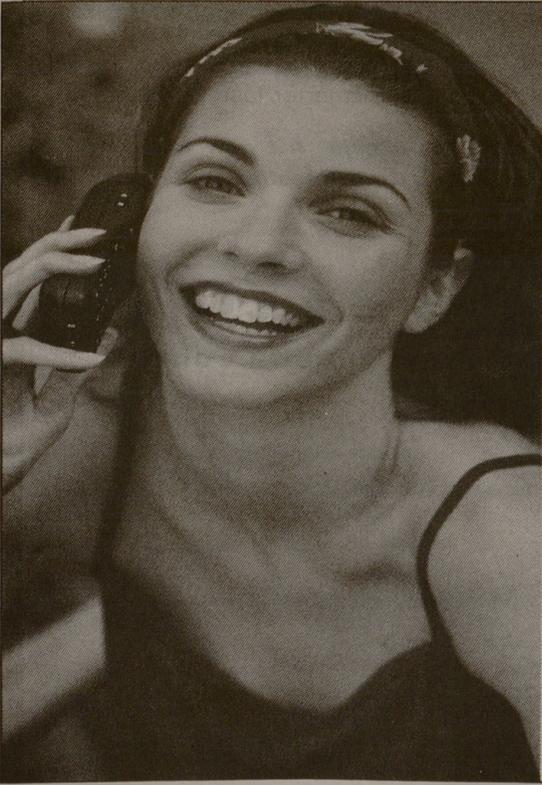
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