

Entertainment

Tribute to Hall of Fame inductees Writer finds *The Who* worthy of nomination

by Gary L. Nolan
Collegian Staff Writer

In the ever-changing world of classic rock, no group more exemplifies the spirit of rock and roll than The Who. Their recent nomination for Hall of Fame status proves a deserving gift from all the listeners who have grown up with The Who's powerful music.

Pete Townshend, John Entwistle and Roger Daltrey all began as a group called the Detours in 1962. They performed on the local club circuit with then drummer Dougie Sandom. One night at the Royal Oldfield Hotel in England, a cocky, young kid announced that he could play drums better than the Detours' drummer. He then proceeded to prove it, in the process demolishing a drumkit. Keith Moon was in, and The Who was born.

The Who developed quite the reputation as a live band, likely due to the mayhem caused by instruments being destroyed. This practice started rather innocently. Townshend accidentally broke the neck of his guitar on a very low ceiling, he then smashed it into pieces. Moon quickly joined in by kicking over his drumkit. This later became the typical ending of a Who performance. It also proved to help the group avoid encores.

The Who's first demo was the now classic "I Can't Explain" written by Townshend, who contributes about ninety percent of The Who's material. England's youth later joined together in support of the smash single "My

Generation," a perfect anthem for an angry youth, exemplified in the line "I hope I die before I get old."

Internal differences in the band later became a problem due to personality clashes, led by the many zany antics and practical jokes by Keith Moon. The group also experienced financial difficulties, even with many club

The band's live reputation thrived on the mayhem caused by the destruction of instruments

bookings and several songs on the chart. This was caused almost entirely by the large amount of money spent on equipment later to be demolished on stage.

The Who continued to be a singles band until the release of the revolutionary rock opera *Tommy* in 1969. This production about a deaf, dumb, and blind boy lent art to their singles repertoire.

The Who later played at Woodstock, a performance that confirmed their future success in the United States. It also lent a canvas to show off The Who's talent.

In 1971 the group released *Who's Next*, unquestionably the band's greatest work. It is notable because for the first time in the band's history they were able to capture the live energy that they

had, and project it in the studio. The release contained "Goin' Mobile," "Won't Get Fooled Again," and the anthem "Baba O'Riley." The record also contained Entwistle's premiere work "My Wife."

The Who continued to release many more albums, now firmly established on the playlists of the AOR radio stations. Their last original release was *It's Hard* in 1982.

The band recently confirmed many rumors and reformed for a twenty-fifth anniversary tour. The Who, looking much older and sponsored by Miller Beer, played stadium shows all over the world to the audiences of two generations. Townshend, now in his forties and suffering from hearing loss, thwarted critics by delivering outstanding performances, complete with his trademark windmills and stage antics.

The Who charted with 19 hits in both the U.K. and America. They proved through power and energy, both live and in the studio, that they truly are rock classics deserving of this Hall of Fame nomination.

Liner Notes

Stones win RS reader's poll

by Robb Frederick
Entertainment Editor

Happy Valentine's Day. And for all you lovers out there trying to improve certain physical aspects of your relationships, take heed - *Food & Wine* magazine reports that 20 percent of 900 people surveyed say they like food more than sex.

Rolling Stone magazine has announced the winners of the magazine's 1989 reader's poll. This year's top prize of Best Artist, as well as awards for Tour of the Year and Best Comeback, goes to the Rolling Stones.

The cinema world is abuzz over the elaborate production of *Dick Tracy*, which will star Warren Beatty. The film will include cameos by Al Pacino and Dustin Hoffman, and will place Madonna, who has contributed three songs to the film's soundtrack, in the female lead. At this rate, the only superhero without a feature film in the next decade will be Ultraman.

Rocker Billy Idol has been hospitalized after a motorcycle accident he was involved in last Tuesday. Idol is listed in "fair" condition with a broken arm and

a severely fractured leg. Plans for his upcoming tour have been canceled, and he may have to abandon plans to act in Oliver Stone's next film, which will the career of Jim Morrison and The Doors.

Speaking of Stone's new project, actor Crispin Glover (*River's Edge*) has won the role of late artist Andy Warhol.

Now for some more exciting New Kids on the Block news. The *National Enquirer* reports New Kid Donnie punched a teenaged fan in the face after leaving an L.A. eatery, breaking the youth's nose. Maybe Donnie was still a bit upset about scoring poorly in *USA Today's* recent New Kids Popularity Poll.

Tom Hanks has been casted as the lead in the film adaptation of Tom Wolfe's "Bonfire of the Vanities." The movie, which documents a successful businessman's fall from grace, will also star Melanic Griffith and Bruce Willis.

Three members of the group Dokken have won an injunction barring band founder Don Dokken from using the band's name in his solo career.

Filming for *Aliens III* will

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Pianist at Behrend



photo by Audrey Acosta

Pianist at Behrend: Steven Smith, pianist and Professor of Music at University Park, provided a recital in the Reed Lecture Hall on Thursday, February 8.

