

Lenny Kravitz unleashes his emotions on a powerful debut

by Robb Frederick
Entertainment Editor

Musical newcomer Lenny Kravitz is on a mission.

"This is the 90's, not the 60's. Love shall not be subjected to one period of time," he preaches.

And although the directness of this quote clearly defines his intentions, Kravitz diligently reinforces the message throughout his powerful debut, *Let Love Rule*.

Growing up during the 60's, Kravitz enjoyed what was perhaps the music industry's most experimental period. Through the widespread use of psychedelic drugs, artists found a vehicle with which they destroyed all previous boundaries of acceptable music, while constantly returning to the subjects of love and brotherhood.

Kravitz celebrates this musical freedom throughout *Let Love Rule*. Each diverse track pays homage to specific influences, ranging from Jimi Hendrix and John Lennon to Lou Reed and Stevie Wonder.

Yet Kravitz establishes an individualized sound which distances him from commonplace bands which attempt to compensate for a lack of talent by relying solely on an influence's style. He fuses the characteristics of these artistic giants to form an innovative new sound.

The tour through Kravitz' "melting pot" release begins with the track "Sittin' on Top of the World," which fondly recalls the carefree days of youth.

The song begins in a slow, acoustic manner, but Kravitz' powerful lyrics quickly transform the track into an adamant refusal to forget the past.

This is followed by "Let Love Rule," the disc's title track and first single. Written as a tribute to the style of John Lennon, this track demands a continuation of the loving spirit which society seems to have lost.

Like the song before it, "Let Love Rule" moves with a relaxed, subdued style until Kravitz unleashes his determination and batters his listeners with raw, emotional vocals.

The rebellious "Mr. Cab Driver" vividly details the frustration which accompanies

For Sister Someone" recalls the unyielding electric methods used by guitar giant Jimi Hendrix. Kravitz practically screams to be heard above the noise as he shows pity for a young woman destroying her life with drugs.

Kravitz also proves his ability to write on a more uplifting level with the songs "My Precious Love" and "I Build This Garden For Us." These tracks illustrate a softer side of Kravitz, although the pieces stray from the stereotypical ballad form.

Another theme that repeatedly appears on *Let Love Rule* is Kravitz' absolute belief in the significance of religion.

On "Empty Hands," he depicts a Christ-like crusader who uses peaceful methods to end the strife overpowering a western town.

This religious influence prominently appears in "Rosemary," which may be *Let Love Rule*'s most powerful track. The song is a testimony of hope directed toward a five-year-old girl abandoned by her parents. After vividly describing the girl's physical and emotional deterioration, Kravitz explains to her the hope that can be found through religion.

Kravitz' versatility shines throughout *Let Love Rule*, resulting in a kaleidoscope of musical creativity. Each of the disc's tracks experiments with various sections of the musical spectrum, keeping listeners unsure of what to expect for the remainder of the release.

Creativity of this caliber is rare, particularly in a debut release. Kravitz deserves credit not only for creating a musical piece this original, but for doing so without disgracing the artists whose work inspired him.

Kravitz' versatility shines throughout "Let Love Rule," resulting in a kaleidoscope of musical creativity

racial prejudice. Kravitz uses his lyrical ability to verbally assault a cabbie who refused to grant him service because of his color.

The track celebrates the bitterness which ex-Velvet Underground leader Lou Reed has recently allowed to dominate his career. The vocals are delivered in the classic Reed style, with only slight variation from the spoken monologue method, and the emphasized driving bass mimics the characteristic sound of Reed's arrangements.

The guitar crunch of "Blues

Roadhouse Theater offers triple bill

Buck Fever & Other Plays
By Bill Bozzone
Directed by Kim Mc.
Showing Thursday-Sunday
At the Roadhouse Theater
Feb 8 - Mar 4
8 pm (7 pm on Sundays)
Ticket information: 459-8215

McClelland's very loud Ralphie *a la* "The Honeymooners."

Perhaps the playwright was approaching greatness, juxtaposing one of a middle-aged man's biggest fears with raw humor, but I would guess that it was more of a failed attempt to throw a little plot into homosexual-fear-based physical-intimidation humor.

by Rob Prindle

Middle age crisis turned comic theater. What will they think of next?

The first two one-act plays of the three-play package, "Buck Fever" and "Breakdown," dealt with the concerns of middle-aged men blown up to poster size so that they might be presented in one 40-minute act and punctuated with humor.

"Buck Fever," starring Scott McClelland and Joe Giacobello, is a true American farce. The setup is right out of a tabloid's biggest headline. "Hunting buddies lose their wives to a lesbian affair." The play opens with Ernie (Giacobello) drinking whiskey and looking dazed. Ray (McClelland) walks in explaining how he lost an 8-point to *buck fever* and is informed that their wives who accompanied them on the hunting trip, left with their car after Ernie found them in bed together.

The plot gets weird when the two men decide that the woman will be back soon and they decide to show them how it looks. The men climb in bed and what ensues is a strange mix of slapstick and homosexual humor.

This play had some strong acting, but either the direction or the script occasionally left the actors hanging. At times I couldn't tell what Ernie was in the play for. And I don't think that Giacobello knew either. Obviously hurt by what his wife did to him, he turned that into a Stan Laurel imitation opposite

The stage and lighting needed to be basic and sparse because of the three plays that needed to be put on in the space, but I found myself depressed by its drabness. Dark walls, two or three props, a bed in the middle. Not a happy place.

The highlight of the play was a very short appearance by Patrick Driscoll. Driscoll was a very refreshing force after the near-stiffness of Ernie and the loud grunting of Ray. Unfortunately, the direction and the play left the 19-year-old "Tramp Girl" (Cameo Harris) as just a prop. Actually she reminded me of the blow-up doll from "Night Like a Cat" (a previous Roadhouse Theater production). As far as I could tell her direction was to look as drunk as possible for five minutes. Was this character necessary?

"Breakdown" was by far the best of the three plays, mostly due to a standout comedy performance by Bill Kemp as Sid, a frustrated writer, sometimes idealistic, sometimes all commercial, who is one of the main writers of the third highest rated soap, "Quest for Eternity."

McClelland comes back as Ken, a man waiting for someone else's ideas to take him away. The only problem with McClelland's performance is the aftertaste of his previous character that I was unable to get rid of. In "Buck Fever" he was the intimidator and his switch to the passive was not entirely

(continued on page 10)

AOR Hits

taken from Radio and Records

1. Alannah Myles - "Black Velvet"
2. Aerosmith - "What it Takes"
3. Eric Clapton - "Bad Love"
4. Whitesnake - "The Deeper the Love"
5. Rolling Stones - "Almost Hear you sigh"

Spring Break 90's

You'll Flip Over Our Spring Break Vacation Rates!

MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED FOR CANCEL

FINANCING AVAILABLE
CALL TODAY!!! (800) 448-2421

S. PADRE IS. \$99 7 Nights Hotel
BAHAMAS \$399 7 Nights Air & Hotel
CANCUN \$299 7 Nights Air & Hotel

WORD PROCESSING/TYPING SERVICES

- Resumes
- Letters
- Charts/Graphs
- Flyers/Bulletins
- Photocopying and Fax Service
- Reports/Term Papers
- Manuscripts
- Thesis
- Doctorial Thesis

WORD SYSTEMS SERVICES, INC.

731 French Street
Erie, PA 16501

(Corner of 8th & French)
(814) 459-9911

10% Off with this Coupon

THE CARD GALLERY

K-Mart Plaza East, Buffalo Road 899-8782



Show your love with the perfect Valentine's Day card or gift from The Card Gallery.