



Vivid Embrace. Living Colour lead singer Cory Glover, while singing the hit "Cult Of Personality," falls off the stage into the arms of fans during the band's homecoming performance at the Ritz in New York. (Photo: Chuck Pulin)

Duo Offers Sophisticated Sound On 'Kaleidoscope World' Swing Out Sister Spins Off 2nd Album

BY JIM BESSMAN

NEW YORK Buoyed by the hit single and video "Breakout," Swing Out Sister's 1987 debut album, "It's Better To Travel," established the British pop/jazz threesome as a refreshing alternative to the prevailing rock radio and video field.

But as keyboardist Andrew Connell points out, that Mercury/Poly-

Gram album was created more or less to capitalize on the single's success. In contrast, "Kaleidoscope World," the group's follow-up album, set for release May 9 on Mercury/PolyGram, "delves deeper into what we actually like and is much more sophisticated than the last one."

Swing Out Sister, formerly a threesome, is now a duo with the departure of Martin Jackson for

more rock-oriented projects. "Kaleidoscope World" veers more toward the classic '60s pop songwriting style epitomized by Burt Bacharach's work.

"He was our first common ground," says vocalist Corinne Drewery. "I was into Dionne Warwick and Tamla/Motown, the vocal side. Andy was into jazz. But we were both into Burt Bacharach."

Jimmy Webb was another role model, and the legendary songwriter orchestrated two tracks, "Forever Blue" and "Precious Words." These tunes and the others, Connell and Drewery agree, run counter to the current, harder-edged, R&B-flavored pop trends. Still, they feel secure in their more adult-oriented niche.

"Our percentage of CD sales of the last album—when CDs were still pretty new—was bigger than the other acts on the label," says Drewery. "That indicates that there's an older audience that listens to our music, whereas if it were a teen market, it would have grown out of us by now, probably." But Drewery says she is also well aware of the potential pitfalls when an act stretches past its audience if that audience is not prepared to follow.

Connell, meanwhile, credits PolyGram (and Phonogram in the U.K.) for its "hands-off approach" in supporting the group's quest for "fully and classically arranged pop songs."

PolyGram's U.S. product manager, Rick Hunt, explains there will be a different strategy taken toward Swing Out Sister's singles by PolyGram here and Phonogram in the U.K.

"There's been a long hiatus between releases in the U.K. market, so they're coming back with the album's first track, 'You On My Mind,' which is a significant departure and shows immediately their musical growth," says Hunt. "We don't have the hiatus problem

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Popsies Prove Popular At Second NAMA Awards

BY JEFF PIKE

SEATTLE Stalwarts of the Pacific Northwest music scene took time to honor their own April 23 at the Moore Theater here as the Northwest Area Music Assn. presented its second annual "Nammie" awards in a briskly paced ceremony.

Concluding a weekendlong NAMA-sponsored music conference, the Nammies show was a predictable love feast, including no less than 56 individual awards, a Hall of Fame induction ceremony, and some great live music from the likes of Ranch Romance and a re-grouped Wailers.

The big winners of the night were the up-and-coming power pop band the Popsies. Nominated in 19 categories, the foursome walked away with 12 of the handsome little plaques, including honors for song of the year (for "I May Hate You Sometimes"), best new band, and group of the year.

Robert Cray was named artist of the year and best blues artist, while his Mercury/PolyGram album "Don't Be Afraid of the Dark" was picked as best blues album. Kenny G won the best-jazz-instrumentalist and best-jazz-artist categories. Neither artist was present to accept his awards. Inde-

pendent record label Sub Pop received a special award for outstanding achievement.

Some concerns were raised during the ceremony itself about the voting procedures, which are now based strictly on a popular tally. Nominees and winners are chosen by the public through ballots distributed via newspapers and magazines in the region. Many people connected with NAMA feel a screening process is needed, although most agree the public should have some voice.

Inducted into the NAMA Hall of Fame this year were the Brothers Four, a folk act that had a hit with "Greenfields" in 1960, and studio-owner Joe Boles. Boles' studio was the recording site for the Fleetwoods' 1959 hit "Come Softly To Me." It has been used through the years by many national and Northwest-based performers, including Frank Sinatra; Buck Owens; Dave Lewis, whose trio toured with Jerry Lee Lewis; Bonnie Guitar, who scored a 1957 pop hit with "Dark Moon;" and Merilee Rush of "Angel Of The Morning" fame.

Hall of Fame inductees in 1988 included the Fleetwoods, Jimi Hendrix, Little Bill of the Bluenotes, producer Tom Ogilvy, the Sonics, and the Wailers.

AB BOXSCORE TOP CONCERT GROSSES

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ARTIST(S)	Venue	Date(s)	Gross Ticket Price(s)	Attendance Capacity	Promoter
BON JOVI SKID ROW	Shoreline Amphitheatre Mountain View, Calif.	April 29-30	\$648,770 \$19.50/\$17.50	35,284 sellout	Bill Graham Presents
AL JARREAU	Radio City Music Hall New York, N.Y.	April 21-23	\$495,525 \$30/\$25	17,622 sellout	in-house
R.E.M. DRIVIN' N' CRYIN'	Capital Center Landover, Md.	April 18	\$312,000 \$19.50	16,000 sellout	IMP
BON JOVI SKID ROW	Irvine Meadows Amphitheatre Laguna Hills, Calif.	April 22	\$306,880 \$25/\$20/\$18.50	15,000 sellout	Avalon Attractions
BOBBY BROWN LEVERT KARYN WHITE	Spectrum Philadelphia, Pa.	April 24	\$286,026 \$19/\$17	16,091 17,104	Al Haymon Enterprises
BON JOVI SKID ROW	Compton Terrace Phoenix, Ariz.	April 20	\$257,153 \$18.50/\$17.50/ \$16.50	16,000 sellout	Evening Star Prods.
R.E.M. DRIVIN' N' CRYIN'	Dean Smith Center Univ. of North Carolina-Chapel Hill	April 22	\$238,473 \$17.50	14,156 sellout	Cellar Door Prods.
MAGIC OF DAVID COPPERFIELD	Fox Theatre St. Louis, Mo.	April 22-23	\$237,712 \$19.90/\$16.90/ \$13.90/\$7.90	14,754 17,196	Fox Concerts Steve Litman
BOBBY BROWN LEVERT KARYN WHITE ROB BASE	Greensboro Coliseum Greensboro, N.C.	April 29	\$232,238 \$16.50	14,075 14,981	Al Haymon Enterprises
SPRING JAM '89: GUY/M.C. HAMMER KID-N-PLAY TONY/TONITONE! TODAY	Oakland- Alameda Co. Coliseum Oakland, Calif.	April 28	\$229,093 \$17.50	13,091 14,500	Bill Graham Presents
BOBBY BROWN LEVERT KARYN WHITE	Civic Arena Pittsburgh, Pa.	April 28	\$222,075 \$17.50	12,659 15,000	Al Haymon Enterprises in-house
BON JOVI SKID ROW	San Diego Sports Arena San Diego, Calif.	April 21	\$210,735 \$17.50	12,603 13,781	Avalon Attractions
GEORGE STRAIT KATHY MATTEA BAILLIE & THE BOYS	ARCO Arena Sacramento, Calif.	April 29	\$202,369 \$19	11,160 sellout	Varnell Enterprises
ROD STEWART	Kiefer UNO Lakefront Arena Univ. of New Orleans	April 25	\$184,815 \$18.50	10,375 sellout	Beaver Prods.
ROD STEWART	Sun Dome Univ. of South Florida Tampa, Fla.	April 27	\$182,682 \$18	10,149 sellout	American Concerts Magic Prods.
R.E.M. DRIVIN' N' CRYIN'	Miami Arena Miami, Fla.	April 29	\$180,893 \$18.50	10,004 sellout	Fantasma Prods.
BON JOVI SKID ROW	Thomas & Mack Center Univ. of Nevada-Las Vegas	April 24	\$177,537 \$17.50	10,145 sellout	Evening Star Prods.
CINDERELLA WINGER BULLETBOYS	Spectrum Philadelphia, Pa.	April 26	\$171,036 \$17.50/\$16.50	10,209 sellout	Concert Company Presents
RATT BRITNY FOX KIX	Capital Center Landover, Md.	April 3	\$169,015 \$17.50	9,658 17,000	Cellar Door Prods.
R.E.M. DRIVIN' N' CRYIN'	Charlotte Coliseum Charlotte, N.C.	April 23	\$166,373 \$17.50	10,068 sellout	Cellar Door Prods.
R.E.M. DRIVIN' N' CRYIN'	Richmond Coliseum Richmond, Va.	April 21	\$165,330 \$16.50	10,020 sellout	Cellar Door Prods.
HANK WILLIAMS JR. & THE BAMA BAND TANYA TUCKER	Kemper Arena Kansas City, Mo.	April 16	\$162,489 \$17.50	9,285 sellout	Little Wing Prods.
BOBBY BROWN LEVERT KARYN WHITE	Sun Dome Univ. of South Florida Tampa, Fla.	April 22	\$161,688 \$17/\$16	10,508 sellout	Al Haymon Enterprises
HANK WILLIAMS JR. & THE BAMA BAND TANYA TUCKER	Thompson- Boiling Assembly Center Univ. of Tennessee, Knoxville	April 14	\$159,068 \$16.50	9,094 sellout	Little Wing Prods.
RANDY TRAVIS K. T. OSLIN	Rupp Arena Lexington Center Lexington, Ky.	April 22	\$156,275 \$17.50	8,930 10,992	Special Moments Promotions

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