

TALENT IN ACTION

(Continued from preceding page)

downer. Gregson's Bozo-the-Clown-ish looks and self-effacing, deadpan humor balanced both the melancholic song lyrics and Christine Collister's dead serious, equally extraordinary vocals.

Gregson even gently put down "This Is The Deal," the first single from the duo's new Rhino album, "A Change In The Weather," as merely a "promo single." But the quip hardly diluted the song's powerful lyric about wife-beating, as it built inexorably on his frightful acoustic guitar strums and tricky, one-note runs.

For her part, Collister slapped out the rhythm on her green skirt while vocally hitting blue notes with precision and dynamic control. When the two sang together, it was with the mutual sensitivity of the great country male/female duos.

High points abounded, but a special standout had to be "Voodoo

Doll," from the new album, a low-down, dirty rockabilly guitar outing full of Collister's black-cat cries. Otherwise, the set showcased the pair's exacting musicianship and ironically engaging personality in the face of such dour duets.

JIM BESSMAN

RED HOT CHILI PEPPERS The Ritz, New York

LIKE PUBLIC Enemy, Red Hot Chili Peppers appear to want to do the right thing. It's just that they keep sticking their feet in their mouths—or rather, their hands on their crotches. At this April 27 show, the Chili Peppers' "testosterone" was repeatedly summed up in lead singer Anthony Kiedis' gesture of machismo: hand-dive into fly, then fist-raise into air. It's a move Kiedis copped from male

rappers and its symbolism of male bonding (and female exclusion) helps explain the L.A. band's appeal.

Its appeal is undeniable: The band sold out a two-night stand here and has sold more than 500,000 copies of its latest EMI album, "Mother's Milk," while its presence on the hit soundtrack for "Pretty Woman" has given the group further exposure still. EMI toned down some of the profanities on the lyric sheet of "Mother's Milk." But there was no covering up the sense of a song like "Sexy Mexican Maid," with its racist and misogynistic leanings. That cut was just one of the many sludge-funk numbers that had the mostly male, mostly white audience slamming; among other enlightening pieces was the anthemic "Party On Your Pussy." At a previous stop on this tour in Florida, two band members were arrested for allegedly jumping off the stage and molesting a female fan. This night, fortunately, they kept their hands to themselves.

While rapping over a churning bass groove, covering Stevie Wonder and Jimi Hendrix, or mimicking B-boy antics, the band's rhythms sounded bagged in taffy. Except for adroit bassist Flea, the musicianship was mediocre. On stage, the Chili Peppers looked like adolescents drunk on ego and hormones—running, tumbling, spitting, screaming, drinking, cursing, and, of course, grabbing their crotches. The band seems to get paid to act out its audience's ids. Or is that idiocy?

EVELYN McDONNELL



New York Jammin' Shabba Ranks, above, was named D.J. of the year in the second annual New York Reggae Awards staged recently by Tamika Productions. Foxy Brown, whose single "Sorry" was a reggae hit, led the winners with five awards, including most promising artist of the year. Other top honorees: Steely & Cleve, producers of the year; Home-T, group of the year; Ziggy Marley & the Melody Makers, international artists of the year; "No Contest" by Dennis Brown and Gregory Isaacs, album of the year; and Marcia Griffiths, presented with the Bob Marley Lifetime Achievement award. (Photo: Earl G. Brown)

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Paladium To Be Renovated N.C. Venue Will Hold 13,000

CHARLOTTE, N.C.—The Paladium amphitheater at the Carowinds theme park here will undergo a \$4 million renovation in the coming year that will increase the shed's capacity from 8,200 to 13,000, the park's owner, King Entertainment Company, has announced.

Plans call for the Paladium to function as a stand-alone facility, rather than as a segment of the theme park, allowing it to host more frequent concerts by larger acts. At least 25 concerts are expected during the 1991 season and as many as 40 per season by 1993.

The planned renovation will include a new steel roof to cover the front 5,000 reserved seats at the shed, replacement of bleachers

with individual stadium-style seats, additional restrooms, concession and merchandise areas, and a new entrance plaza. Work is expected to begin after the theme park closes in October and be completed in time for a premier concert May 25, 1991.

"The new Paladium project is a very efficient use of our resources because the base facility with land, parking, and support staff already exists," says Vicki Sutton, VP and GM of Carowinds in a press statement. "The \$4 million expansion to the present facility will create a major new amphitheater for the area that would cost anyone else four times that much to put together."

MIDNIGHT OIL CARRIES ENVIRONMENTAL TORCH

(Continued from page 32)

rett notes that "Blue Sky Mine" is a departure in that it contains "touring music" written largely on the road, mainly by drummer Rob Hirst and guitarist/keyboardist Jim Moginie.

"This time we wanted to reflect our world experiences—after [our

Australian reflections. Rob wanted it to be more atmospheric—not as drive-y, guitar, upfront rock songs. I wanted to sing in tune—the usual requirements!

"But we wanted the songs to work as songs, so that musically they could handle a lot of listening. They're lyrically direct, stripped down, and have sufficient space to get people hooked in quickly. Quite often, we just poured out as many words as fast as we could. With 'Diesel,' you could stay with it awhile, and that needs to happen for bands to reach a wider audience [in the U.S.]. We're not against doing that, but we want to reach it on the road we build—not someone else's road."

But as Midnight Oil embarks on its U.S. tour—which opened May 16 in Norfolk, Va.—there is full awareness of how vital live performance has been for the band.

"At the end of the day," says Garrett, "the Oils aren't a band you taste fully until you see the show."

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JANET JACKSON CHUCKII BOOKER	Great Western Forum Inglewood, Calif.	April 20-21 & 25-26	\$1,196,448 \$22	57,600 sellout	Avalon Attractions
STEVE LAWRENCE & EYDIE GORME PHYLLIS DILLER	Westbury Music Fair Westbury, N.Y.	May 9-12 & 16-19	\$551,931 \$27.50	22,960 sellout	Music Fair Prods.
WHITESNAKE BAD ENGLISH GIANT	Irvine Meadows Amphitheatre Laguna Hills, Calif.	May 11-12	\$437,513 \$25/\$20/\$17.50	22,516 sellout	Avalon Attractions
DIANA ROSS A.J. JAMAL	Valley Forge Music Fair Devon, Pa.	May 17-20	\$417,491 \$37.50/\$32.50	13,238 14,660 sellout	Music Fair Prods.
CHER DOM IRRERA	Palace of Auburn Hills Auburn Hills, Mich.	May 19	\$380,778 \$25/\$22.50	16,739 sellout	Belkin Prods.
ERIC CLAPTON	Great Western Forum Inglewood, Calif.	May 1	\$361,733 \$22.50	16,654 sellout	Avalon Attractions
BILLY JOEL	McNichols Sports Arena Denver	April 21	\$359,519 \$24.75	14,526 sellout	Fey Concert Co.
DON HENLEY INNOCENCE MISSION	Starplex Amphitheatre, State Fairgrounds of Texas Dallas	May 19	\$358,688 \$23.25/\$18.25	18,600 20,000	MCA Concerts PACE Concerts
ERIC CLAPTON	McNichols Sports Arena Denver	April 27	\$309,922 \$20.35/\$19.25	15,690 sellout	Fey Concert Co.
RUSH VOIVOD	Montreal Forum Montreal	May 14	\$243,180 (\$285,008 Canadian) \$23.50	12,128 12,800	Donald K. Donald Prods.
AEROSMITH JOAN JETT & THE BLACKHEARTS	Thompson-Boling Assembly Center & Arena Univ. of Tennessee, Knoxville Knoxville, Tenn.	May 4	\$225,537 \$19.50	11,566 14,000	Belkin Prods. Future Entertainment
KISS	Palace of Auburn Hills Auburn Hills, Mich.	May 18	\$222,352 \$18.50	12,019 16,000	Belkin Prods.
ERIC CLAPTON	Activity Center Arizona State Univ.-Tempe Tempe, Ariz.	April 30	\$213,453 \$18.50	11,538 sellout	Fey Concert Co.
CHER DOM IRRERA	Cincinnati Riverfront Coliseum Cincinnati	May 20	\$212,036 \$22	9,638 12,000	Belkin Prods. Electric Factory Concerts
WHITESNAKE BAD ENGLISH	Red Rocks Amphitheatre Denver	May 4	\$198,000 \$22	9,000 sellout	Fey Concert Co.
DAVID COPPERFIELD	The Riverside Theatre Milwaukee	May 4-6	\$197,937 \$21.75/\$16.75/ \$11.75	10,538 15,000	Joseph Entertainment Group
AEROSMITH JOAN JETT & THE BLACKHEARTS	Mid-South Coliseum Memphis	May 19	\$196,785 \$18.50	10,637 sellout	Mid-South Concerts
AEROSMITH JOAN JETT & THE BLACKHEARTS	Keifer UNO Lakefront Arena Univ. Of New Orleans New Orleans	May 15	\$189,810 \$18.50	10,601 sellout	Beaver Prods.
AEROSMITH JOAN JETT & THE BLACKHEARTS	Rupp Arena, Lexington Center Lexington, Ky.	May 2	\$187,610 \$19.50	9,621 14,000	Belkin Prods. Future Entertainment
AEROSMITH JOAN JETT & THE BLACKHEARTS	Hirsch Memorial Coliseum, Louisiana State Fairgrounds, Shreveport, La.	May 16	\$172,328 \$18.50	9,609 sellout	Beaver Prods.
DON HENLEY INNOCENCE MISSION PINKARD & BOWDEN	Mid-South Coliseum Memphis	May 20	\$165,690 \$18	9,205 9,500	Mid-South Concerts
ERIC CLAPTON	Tingley Coliseum, New Mexico State Fairgrounds Albuquerque, N.M.	April 29	\$164,795 \$19.50	10,612 sellout	Evening Star Prods.
TEARS FOR FEARS CHALK CIRCLE	Montreal Forum Montreal	May 16	\$157,115 (\$183,668 Canadian) \$22.50	8,163 10,000	Donald K. Donald Prods.
RANDY TRAVIS TAMMY WYNETTE/SHEANDOAH	Tingley Coliseum, New Mexico State Fairgrounds Albuquerque, N.M.	May 19	\$145,620 \$18	8,090 sellout	Special Moments Promotions A.C.T.S.

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