

Rock n' Roll, Roulette and Room Service

BY SEAN DEFRANK
STAFF REPORTER

Guitars and Gambling—trying to find a hotel in Las Vegas that features both has been like trying to find Clark Kent and Superman at the same location.

But when the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino opened its doors on March 10, the two items were intertwined to create a setting that even brought out Superman.

"It's young, it's exciting, and it's fun," exclaimed Dean Cain, star of ABC's "Lois and Clark." "And that's perfect."

That's the element the Hard Rock brings to Sin City—no cheesy lounge acts, no new-age elevator music—just a rock and roll setting created for a younger generation.

The newest creation of Hard Rock Cafe founder Peter Morton, the \$100 million resort caters to a different clientele, one that prefers a more intimate, personal hotel.

"It's a nice place," said actor Jon Lovitz. "It just seems like a club. It doesn't seem like a casino."

With only 340 rooms, including 28 suites, priced from \$85-\$300, the 11-story hotel is equipped to provide its guests with the one-on-one service that the bigger mega-resorts can't deliver.

"It's a lot of fun," said comedian Sandra Bernhard. "It's small. You can run into people. It's a nice, intimate, fun hotel."

Upon entering the Hard Rock, underneath the 90-foot-tall Fender Stratocaster guitar that graces the facade, and beneath the Stevie Ray Vaughan lyrics inscribed above the doors—"If the house is a rockin', don't bother knockin', come on in"—one gets the feeling they are entering a rock-and-roll museum, rather than a casino.

"It's small and contained," said actor Corbin Bernson. "It's not filled with the normal crowd that hits the hotel scene."



The newly reunited Eagles were among several artists appearing at the grand opening of the Hard Rock Hotel. They performed selections from their new album *Hell Freezes Over* along with old favorite hits.

Memorabilia from rock's most popular artists—such as Jimi Hendrix, Pearl Jam, Van Halen and others—adorns the establishment in the Hard Rock tradition.

Tim Allen, star of ABC's "Home Improvement," said he was particularly impressed by the original manuscript of Jim Morrison's "The Changeling" by the hotel elevator.

Even the gaming devices in the 30,000-square-foot casino are music related. The chips, which feature The Red Hot Chili Peppers, Jimi Hendrix and Tom Petty on the \$5, \$25 and \$100 chips, respectively,

may prove inseparable from some patrons. Other musical features are piano-shaped roulette tables and Fender guitar handles on 250 of the casino's 803 slot machines.

Even the hotel's gift shop, which features everything from \$6 Hard Rock drum sticks to a \$400 leather-Hard Rock Hotel jacket, has a Fender Stratocaster guitar-shaped counter.

Two distinctly different restaurants, Mr. Lucky's 24/7 and Morton's, are featured inside the hotel. While the 220-seat Mr. Lucky's is a 24-hour coffee shop, Mor-

toni's serves dinner only. The Italian gourmet restaurant, which seats 125, includes 30 additional patio seats which oversee the pool.

The pool area, known as the Hard Rock Beach Club, is a tropical setting—right down to the sandy beach that leads into the water. A water slide connects the two-tiered pool, while whirlpools and spas are also nearby for guests' usage. Eighteen luxury cabanas line the upper deck of the pool and can be reserved for \$75 per day. Underwater speakers, which filter the Hard Rock's omnipresent rock and roll, provide swimmers with a backbeat while they do the backstroke.

The music—that is the constant of the hotel. From the pool, to the elevators, to the casino area—from The Beatles to Nirvana—the rock-and-roll rhythms fill the air.

"The music's incredible," said actress Tia Carrere. "It's got a great energy. The elevator music is definitely something to experience."

A 1,200-seat concert venue, known as "The Joint," will provide an opportunity for patrons to see many of today's musical performers. A far cry from the stereotypical Las Vegas lounge, this close-knit club setting was christened by acts that included The Eagles, Sheryl Crow and Duran Duran opening weekend, and is scheduled to provide upcoming shows by Chuck Berry, Counting Crows and Matthew Sweet, among others. Offers to appear have also gone out to rock legends Bob Dylan and Lou Reed.

"They've got it all stacked here," said Carrere before the March 11 concert by The Eagles. "I'm ready to rock out. I rocked a little too hard last night, so I hope I still have a little rock in me tonight."

In the Earth-friendly tradition of the

Please see *Hard Rock*—9

Dance Arts Concert III: A Variety of Entertainment

BY GENA BERLETT
STAFF REPORTER

UNLV's Dance Department outdid itself with colorful routines ranging from banging garbage can lids in "Stomp!" to dancing around baby dolls in "Child's Play."

The Gala Dance Concert, held at the Judy Bayley Theatre March 3 and 4, offered a variety of dance styles for those who attended the event.

It began with a wonderful performance called the "Blue Danube Waltz." The dancers performed the number with great timeliness and finesse. The concert started with a flair that engrossed the audience instantly.

The following sequence, entitled "Idiosyncrasies," provided food for thought. Some of the more thought-provoking numbers in the sequence included "Child's Play," "Comic Karma," "Karma Reprise" and "Talent For Rent." The numbers were performed in a funny, lighthearted way.

Cathy Allen should consider herself to be at least an amateur actress as well as a professional dancer. "Child's Play" included many facial expressions and gestures that were beyond the call of only dancing. All of the dancers in "Idiosyncrasies" performed exceptionally well and everyone seemed highly impressed. Some of the more shallow con-



Three of the dancers recently featured in Dance Arts Concert III.

cerns of life were addressed in "Impressions of a Supermodel," a visual display that was as revealing about the fakeness of the modeling world as it was funny.

The performance of "Woman," by Indraneel Clarke and Jessica Pillsbury, was per-

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'Bye, Bye Love' Takes a New Look at Divorce

The new movie entitled *Bye, Bye Love* attempts to shed a humorous light on the subject of divorce. The film's principle stars play middle aged divorcees who all have problems adjusting to their respective situations in life.

Donny (Paul Reiser) is a man who still loves his wife and whose difficulties with his teenage daughter seem insurmountable. Dave (Matthew Modine) is an immature person who has trouble staying faithful in his relationships. And Vic (Randy Quaid), who rounds up this sorry cast of characters, is an emotionally unstable father who is given to sudden uncontrollable outbursts of violence.

About one fifth of the entire film takes place at McDonalds, a location referred to as "neutral territory" for the exchange of alimony and children. The three characters naturally meet here in order to get their kids for the weekend. (It is interesting how Hollywood seems to have discovered yet another way to increase their profits—by this devious tactic of having advertisements in films. Isn't it bad enough sitting through countless TV ads at home? They don't seem to think so and have come up with this final assault on one of the last



BY JAMES KIM

Bye, Bye Love
(1995)

Cast
Paul Reiser
Matthew Modine
Randy Quaid

5 (out of 10 possible)

bastions of commercial free entertainment.)

Not surprisingly, Vic, Dave, and Donny are very excited about the prospect of spending a few days with their children. The initial euphoria is soon shattered after a series of unusual incidents that serve to bring the problems of these three divorced men into sharper focus.

The film was officially dubbed as a comedy, but half of the movie was concerned with overly dramatic issues that seemed rather to espouse a certain viewpoint: that held by the typical divorced man who does not have custody of his children and who pays a great deal in alimony. In fact, at times the movie seemed more like a commercial for the association of divorced, disenfranchised, and angry former husbands of America.

The audience, however, did not agree with this position and many of them seemed to like the film. This was probably due to the fact that most members of the audience were themselves single and divorced; it was singles night at this particular theatre. In all fairness, many people will probably receive some amount of enjoyment from the movie, even if they haven't experienced a bad marriage.