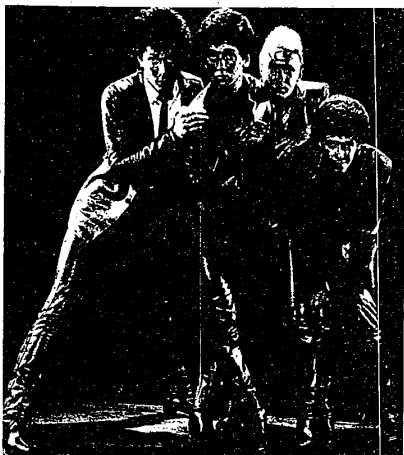


Romantics fill music theater for two big shows



The Romantics are (from left) Jimmy Marinos, Wally Palmar, Rich Cole and Mike Skill.

By NICK CHARLES

The Romantics broke the house record at the Royal Oak Music Theatre recently, during the hometown band's two sold-out shows with special guests Yipes.

In dyed, red leather jackets and skin-tight pants, the four Detroiters opened with "When I Look In Your Eyes" from their debut album, "The Romantics" (Nemperor Records).

After the first few songs, the leather jackets were peeled to reveal short

sleeve shirts and skinny neckties. Palmar yelled a friendly, "Detroit, how are we doing so far?" With no room in the audience to sit, walk or breathe, the answer was obvious.

Rhythm guitarist Wally Palmar took care of most lead vocals as his look-alike, Jimmy Marinos, attacked the drums. Lead guitarist Mike Skill and

bassist Rich Cole filled the other half of the stage.

The band members, all 25, played most of the songs from their album, including "Little White Lies," "Tell It To Carrie" and the single "What I Like About You."

THE ROMANTICS' sound has been compared to the gone-but-not-forgotten Dave Clark Five, and the band has joined the Knack, the Beat, the Shoes, the Boomtown Rats, the Headboys and myriad others in the already overcrowded new wave ranks. Let's hope

the Romantics can pull their sound out of this cesspool of new/old music.

The reason for the change back to simple music is not because people are tired of rock and roll. The reason is economy. It is cheaper to put together an album of short three-chord songs because it takes less studio time. Like Palmar said, "Simplicity is the key to a good song," or is it?

ALL SONGS ON the album are written by Palmar/Marinos/Skill, except "She's Got Everything," written by Ray Davies of the Kinks. Marinos, who sings lead vocals on the single, also thought of the band's name.

The Royal Oak Theatre gig was a breeze for the band members who don't like to be called stars in Detroit, since they played the awesome Silverdome early in their careers.

review

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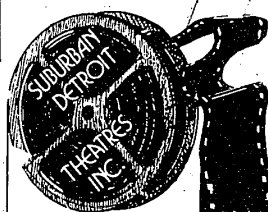
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