

Thursday, September 18, 1980

The cars: They tune up to the delight of crowd

By NICK CHARLES

... beep ... beep. Congratulations gentlemen, we have created the world's first totally computerized automobile. When the complete catalogue is exhausted, we will call them: T-H-E-C-A-R-S.

Our first mission was to electronically transport five of our cars to Clarkston, Michigan's Pine Knob Music Theatre on Sept. 6-8.

The standard car radios have been replaced with actual musical instruments and each of the five cars has been given a human name.

When by itself each car is quite helpless, but when all five cars are together something totally unbelievable will happen. It will be called a rock concert... beep... a beep.

The music of "Shoo-Be-Doo" was heard in the darkness from the stage. The metal risers on the left contained one drum set and one drummer named David Robinson.

Robinson made the crowd pleasantly

slip into mood with rhythmic pounding. The right side of the chrome-gridded platform was happy to hold one little professor known as Greg Hawkes.

The first one to actually enter the stage was guitarist Elliot Easton, who was dressed in white pants and a black and white striped shirt. The futuristic fashion show continued as bassist/vocalist Benjamin Orr entered from stage right dressed all in black, accented with mirrored sunglasses and a French beret.

The number one "Misfit Kid" rhythm guitarist/vocalist/composer Ric Ocasek, danced his way to the center of the stage. Ric was wearing black leather pants, a black and white incoherently striped sports jacket, a black and white tie on a black shirt and of course black sunglasses. Thank you, Ric.

The tall and lanky Ocasek sang "Touch and Go" from their third and latest release "Panorama" (Elektra).

Once the Cars were all inside with their motors humming, the backdrop

rose like an electronic garage door. Behind the corrugated door was a perfectly organized pattern of polka-dots on a black background. The light that shone through the polka-dot holes made them the desired color.

BOTH ORR and Ocasek traded off lead vocals throughout the show.

With his long black hair combed back, Ocasek sang "You're All I've Got Tonight" from their debut album. Easton brought out a turquoise arrow-shaped guitar from "Double Life" from their second album, "Candy-O."

The professor, Hawkes, played his signature notes on "Just What I Needed," as his little body moved like a wind-up toy.

Many songs were squeezed into their short 90-minute set since they said almost nothing to the crowd.

They swiftly played their synthesized songs, many of which came from their latest release, such as "Getting Through," "Down Boys," "Don't Tell Me No," and the title track.



The Cars take on human life in the form of Greg Hawkes, Elliot Easton, David Robinson, Ric Ocasek and Benjamin Orr.

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