

LET'S GO! **STREET SCENE**

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BUE MASON, EDITOR  
953-2105  
CHRISTINA FUOCO, MUSIC WRITER  
953-2130

(O)7B



Multimedia event: Queensryche's record company calls the band's live shows "Zooropa meets Pink Floyd meets a Rush show."

## Queensryche interacts with 'Land'

BY CHRISTINA FUOCO

STAFF WRITER

Fans of the conceptual rock band Queensryche will be able to find their "Promised Land" at area computer stores this June.

The Seattle band is releasing a two CD-ROM set which documents the five-month recording process of Queensryche's latest album "Promised Land."

"We decided to do a CD-ROM because we wanted to be able to give our fans a vehicle to interact with us," said Chris DeGarmo, guitarist/songwriter for Queensryche in a statement to the press. "We've always explored different media to express ourselves both musically and visually, and this just gives you another perspective of what we're about."

What sets this apart from other rock bands' CD-ROM offerings is that it interweaves with the documentary a five-level game which shows each band member's own "trippy animated world."

"The individual worlds of each one of us is a really trippy, animated world," drummer Scott Rockenfield said. "It represents what we are as individuals. You have to solve an impending disaster in each one of the worlds."

"The gaming aspect is what's different. Nobody has done that yet. It's going to require a lot of hours of gaming, but you get a lot of bang for your buck."

The game begins in a surreal, computer-generated animated forest similar to those of the Pacific Northwest's San Juan Islands where "Promised Land" was recorded. As users explore the forest, they come upon 3-D versions of the "Big Log" recording studio. Inside they can peek into the rooms where the band lived and recorded the album.

The games begin within the forest. The five band members' individual worlds have more than 25 interrelated puzzles, games and interactive obstacles.

Players who reach the end of the game, are rewarded with a bonus Queensryche track. A spokeswoman for the band said that Rockenfield's world is the wildest. Instead of talking about it, he would rather let players see for themselves.

"It's kind of an à la Blade Runner type of thing in a futuristic bizarre film score-oriented type of world," he said before the start of the band's tour.

The CD-ROM is a natural progression for the band whose live shows are considered "Zooropa meets Pink Floyd meets a Rush show." The tour for the moody, dark and emotionally heavy "Promised Land" leads at The Palace on Friday, April 28, with more of the same — with the emphasis on more.

Queensryche is bringing a host of actors and stage sets to tell the story of "Nikki," introduced in the album "Operation: Mindcrime." Rockenfield describes it as a "big Broadway play about the course of one's life."

"It's definitely something that's different," he said. "In a nutshell, it's a theater combined with movies combined with a lot of volume. We're playing 'Promised Land' in its entirety. During the course (of the show) we interject songs from our past."

"Promised Land" is a conceptual record about the course of one's life. Along with that record and the other songs, we're weaving a story basically making 'Promised Land' an extended record."

Queensryche and Type O Negative perform Friday, April 28, at The Palace of Auburn Hills, 1-78 and Lapeer Road, Auburn Hills. For more information, call (810) 377-0100.

## Changing time Pine Knob has new view for patrons

■ Lawn seat patrons at Pine Knob will have another view of the stage this summer with the additions of video screens, but it's not all the improvements planned by Palace Sports and Entertainment.

BY CHRISTINA FUOCO  
STAFF WRITER

To Pine Knob patrons sitting on the lawn, the performers pay to see look like the size of ants.

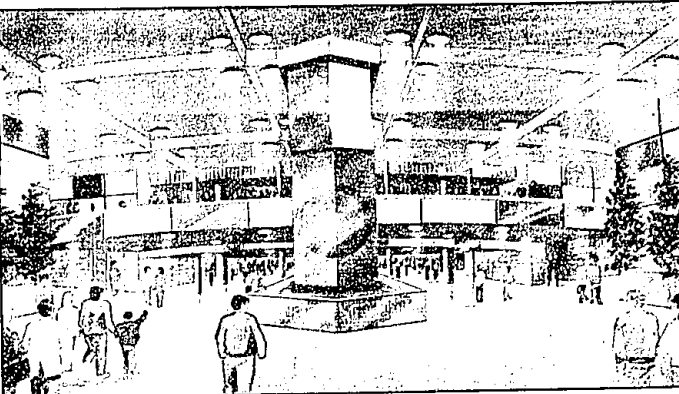
This summer they will get a better view when the venue adds three 9-by-12-foot video screens under the roof at the back of the pavilion.

"(With the screens) you can sit out and enjoy the open air, look down at the stage or look a little higher and see the video screen," said Jim McCue, events coordinator. "It makes Pine Knob, without sounding like I'm waving the company flag, a lot more intimate."

By mounting the screens under the roof, the units will be protected from rain and the glare of the sun. Aside from the screens, the outdoor concert venue will add an upper level to the women's restroom at the pavilion's stage left. The lower level will be renovated into a men's restroom. Concession stands, parking, the Machus-run restaurant and the handicapped viewing area will be expanded.

Including this year's \$3.5 million improvement project, Palace Sports and Entertainment has invested more than \$17.5 million in Pine Knob enhancements since taking over the outdoor venue in 1991.

"For the third straight year, Pine Knob was acknowledged as the nation's busiest outdoor amphitheater,



Renovated Palace: The Palace of Auburn Hills' new west entrance, slated to open in the fall, will house a virtual reality arcade, NBA and entertainment Halls of Fame and a Great Stuff store.

and every summer since we took over its attendance has grown," said Tom Wilson, president of Palace Sports and Entertainment, which runs Pine Knob. "We want this trend to continue, so we strive to offer more features and comforts to go along with our wide range of shows."

"We aspire to make certain our guests enjoy not only the concert, but the entire evening they spend at Pine Knob."

The series packages underwent a facelift as well. This year, they've been expanded to include Oakland University's Meadow Brook Music Festival in Rochester.

Jim McCue, events coordinator, said the organization got involved

with Meadow Brook too late last year to revamp the series packages. They jumped on the chance this year.

Come next basketball season, The Palace of Auburn Hills' west entrance will have a dramatically new, \$15 million look. An all-glass exterior and lobby/atrium will showcase the entrance at night. The arena's two-level lobby will house a virtual reality arcade, interactive music areas, mini-theater, Pistons' and NBA Hall of Fame, a Celebrity Hall of Fame with memorabilia from Collective Soul, Madonna, Rod Stewart and other performers, large-scale video walls and highlights of upcoming events and a Great Stuff store.

"Our new lobby has some really

exciting possibilities," Wilson said. "Our goal is to give our guests a great experience from the minute they walk through our doors, whether it is to attend an event or to purchase tickets."

"We want people to come out early and get the same sense of excitement when they walk in the lobby as they get when they take their seats in the arena."

Construction of the 100,000 square foot addition is scheduled to be completed by early November and will proceed while the entrance remains open. Rossetti and Associates, original designers of The Palace, is the architect for the project, and Frank Rewold and Son is the contractor.

## Stars come out at Palace's outdoor venues

Now's the time to get your series tickets for Pine Knob. They're available at The Palace Box Office or charge by phone by calling (810) 377-0100. All shows are at Pine Knob Music Theatre in Clarkston unless otherwise noted.

■ Series 1: Bonnie Raitt with Ruth Brown and Charles Brown June 14, Jimmy Buffett and The Coral Reefer Band with Marshall Chapman Aug. 15 and Chicago Aug. 18. (\$78 pavilion; \$48.50 lawn)

■ Series 2: The Music of Andrew Lloyd Webber starring Sarah Brightman June 1, Yanni Live: The Symphony Concerts '95 June 17 and "Jesus Christ Superstar" Aug. 8. (\$95 pavilion; \$55 lawn)

■ Series 3: Luther Vandross June 24, George Benson July 29 and Harry Belafonte Aug. 21. (\$80 pavilion, \$48 lawn)

■ Series 4: The Music of Andrew Lloyd Webber starring Sarah Brightman June 2, Deep Space Spectacular Dazzling Laser Show July 6 and the Detroit Symphony

Orchestra with Neemi Jarvi, conductor (Meadow Brook) July 21. (\$85 pavilion, \$38.50 lawn)

■ Series 5: Ricky Van Shelton with Marty Stuart and James House May 29, Billy Ray Cyrus with Martina McBride on June 3 and The Highwaymen featuring Johnny Cash, Willie Nelson, Waylon Jennings and Kris Kristofferson June 8. (\$67.50 pavilion, \$37.50 lawn)

■ Series 6: Eddie Money July 2, Huey Lewis and the News Aug. 3 and Cheap Trick and Loverboy Aug. 27. (\$47.50 pavilion, \$30 lawn)

■ Series 7: Frankie Valli with The Association June 4, Jackie Mason July 25 and Peter, Paul and Mary Aug. 4. (\$67.50 pavilion, \$37.50 lawn)

■ Series 8: Barry White with Chante Moore June 9, Luther Vandross June 24 and Natalie Cole July 16. (\$87.50 pavilion, \$50 lawn)

■ Series 9: Lynyrd Skynyrd with Tesla and Bloodline July 1, Hank Williams Jr. with Tracy Byrd July 23 and The Allman Brothers Aug. 30. (\$72.50 pavilion, \$37.50 lawn)

■ Series 10: The Giants of Motown featuring The Four Tops, The Temptations, The Spinners, Jr. Walker, Mary Wilson and The Supremes June 23, Smokey Robinson Aug. 11 and Neville Brothers (Meadow Brook) Aug. 29. (\$67 pavilion, \$37.50 lawn)

■ Series 11: Seal with Des'ree June 15, Sarah McLachlan (Meadow Brook) July 1, Hootie and the Blowfish Aug. 9 and The Cranberries with Todd the Wet Sprocket Aug. 16. (\$92.50 pavilion, no price available for lawn)

■ Series 12: Boston May 28, Ted Nugent and Bad Company with Chris Duarte on June 16 and Steve Miller and Doobie Brothers July 21. (\$77.50 pavilion, \$46 lawn)

■ Series 13: The Smiths Brothers with The Lettermen Aug. 10, The Righteous Brothers Aug. 24 and Roger Whittaker (Meadow Brook) Sept. 1. (\$72.50 pavilion, \$37.50 lawn)

■ Series 14: Donna Summer July 12, The Village People with K.C. and the Sunshine Band July 28, and

another band to be announced later. (\$77 pavilion, \$37.50 lawn)

■ Series 15: Foreigner with Firehouse July 3, Ringo Starr July 10 and REO Speedwagon/Fleetwood Mac/Pat Benatar Aug. 5. (\$67.50 pavilion, \$37.50 lawn)

■ Series 16: Stephen Stills (Meadow Brook) June 16, Three Dog Night and America June 21, Electric Light Orchestra II and The Little River Band June 25 and Jefferson Starship with John Kay & Steppenwolf and Procol Harum on July 15. (\$72.50 pavilion, \$40 lawn)

■ Series 17: 30 Years of Rock'n'Roll, featuring Otis Day and the Knights, Badfinger with Joey Moland and Tiny Tim, May 30, The Beach Boys Aug. 12 and the "Monkey Superstars," featuring Mickey Dolenz and Davey Jones, Aug. 31. (\$57.50 pavilion, \$40 lawn)

■ Series 18: Pat Metheny (Meadow Brook) July 11, Jeff Beck and Santana Aug. 17 and Robert Cray (Meadow Brook) Aug. 19. (\$80 pavilion, \$40 lawn)

### BEST BETS

Thursday, April 27

PORTLAND

Industry, 15 S. Saginaw, Pontiac. (Personally, I think she should stop whining about nobody loving her or get a job. None-the-less, judging from the ads and posters, it should be a pretty dramatic show — maybe a mini version of the Pet Shop Boys' show at the State Theatre in Detroit a few years ago. Portland is working on their new record so they may play a few new songs.) (810) 334-1999

Friday, April 28

DETROIT

With Crossover Wind at Grand Fig. 208-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. (Personally, I think it's a good idea to go around town about Nineteen Wheels, which rose from the ashes of East Lansing's The Handmade. Chris Moore, lead singer of Crossover Wind, is a perennial winner of the Detroit Music Awards Best Songwriter prize.) (313) 995-8555

BLIND BOB

With Crossover Wind, 3-D Invisibles, Mavis, The Volcanoes and Turkish Delight perform during Turner Records Review at Allen's, 3758 Cass Ave., Detroit. (Three of Detroit's most interesting bands — the first gave Blue Dog, experimental music and the last 3-D Invisibles — all appear in one night.) (313) 832-3353

TODD SNIDER

With Stewart Francis at Majestic Theatre, 4140 Woodward

Ave., Detroit. (Todd Snider's quirky pop style — à la Wally Pfister — is vastly underrated. He's funny, serious, and all-around fun. Stewart Francis scored a coup recently when Spicing Productions chose to use his single "Kiss Kiss Bang Bang" in the May 8 episode of "Nurses Edge.") (313) 963-7680

BIG BLOCK

With Jeroen Tumpke and Speedball at The Ritz, 17590 French Road, Roseville. (Big Block's "pop with an edge" is one of the reasons they were chosen as The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers' 1994 Band of the Year. There's no other reason to push the show. But metalheads Speedball was soon nationally released their CD "Do Unto Others, Then Split" on Energy Records. The growing Jeroen Tumpke is an up-and-coming Ohio band that has formed a strong following through touring. The three appear as a promotion for the 89X/Roots Records compilation "Riot '97.") (810) 776-6404

Saturday, April 29

TEARJERKS

U.S., 2930 Jacob, Hamtramck. (Just like Todd Snider, the Tearjerks is a band that should get way more attention than it gets. Its debut CD is due out early this summer. Make sure to get it. It's a guaranteed hit.) (313) 276-6555

Sunday, April 30

G. LOVE AND SPECIAL SAUCE

Industry, 15 S. Saginaw, Pontiac. (G. Love and Special Sauce's 1994 album was a sleeper hit in Detroit until WHRT got wind of it — that could be because they're sponsoring the show through "My Baby's Got Sauce" has been a top request on the station — and for good reason. G. Love's laid-back "reggae" style appeals to the radio's usual run-of-the-mill playlist.) (810) 334-1999

## Have a listen

To hear music by G. Love and Special Sauce (message 2), Queensryche (message 3), Todd Snider (message 4), Better Than Erotica (message 5), Orange (message 6), Mother's Hips (message 7), and Stewart Francis (message 8), you can call the Street Scene Music Line at (313) 953-2025 on a Touch-Tone phone. Fast-forward to the corresponding message by pressing 33. To repeat a message, press 4.