

# Helen Reddy's slick show draws smaller crowd

By MARK GALLO

Last August Helen Reddy set an all-time attendance record at Meadow Brook Music Festival; Friday night she barely filled the pavilion and saw a patch of green in the usual sea

of people swarming the slopes. Many persons attribute this lack of support to her curt, short set last year. This year saw little change in her demeanor. Opening the evening with a brief 20-minute stage time was a young comic

from California, named George Miller. A mediocre talent by Meadow Brook's usual standard for quality, he ran the cliché gamut of jabs at sex, drugs and family.

"My brother, the doctor, is such a quack. He once diagnosed a patient as having a rare form of jaundice of the fingers. It turned out to be Cheezit stains."

Delivering his material in the hands-in-the-pocket, shy style of the fledgling nightclub comic, Miller is somewhat of a young veteran. He has appeared on Carson's "Tonight Show" as well as having played clubs in Las Vegas and Tahoe.

MS. REDDY's one prolonged set was vibrantly manifested from start to finish. Her professionalism and consciousness of timing and choreography were all apparent.

## Review

Backed by an excellent young band and three women singers, she was energetic and bouncing throughout the performance. Flavored by a few minor irritations (getting the mike cord snagged in the stage's floor boards and lead guitarist Lenny Coates breaking a string at nearly the first strum), Ms. Reddy was a visual experience, tastefully and professionally executing a song list that was composed of about an even number of old and new songs.

Her stage presence is magnetic, a ballet of walking twirls and disco jerks, she is in perpetual movement. Much of the evening spotlighted songs from her soon-to-be-released album, including its title tune, Gayle

Garnett's "We'll Sing in the Sunshine."

Disclaiming any intended puns, she introduced the energized disco-energized "Ready or Not," backed superbly by her trio of vocalists, and complemented sublimely by the dual guitar riffs of Coates and rhythm guitarist Michael Sturges.

A RENDERING of the sympathetic "Lady of the Night" preceded an exquisite medley of songs, sandwiched between "I Don't Know How to Love Him" and "I Believe in Music," both sides of a very successful single for her some years ago.

Easily the highlight of the evening, the medley presented Reddy standards "You and Me Against the World." "No

Way Lady" and "Leave Me Alone" with Van Morrison's "Crazy Love."

Ms. Reddy's trio of women musically reminded her to "Keep on singing, you're going to make a lot of people happy someday," and indeed she was doing just that Friday night.

"I Am Woman." The Reddy trademark served as the concert's closing number, and the professionally terse Ms. Reddy gave a very proper singular curtain call and graciously accepted a bouquet of beautiful yellow roses from a gentleman in the front row.

Considering the brevity of the evening (under 90 minutes from start to finish, including the comedian), an encore was certainly expected.

# Jerry Hubbard delights his fans

By SYLVIA MURPHY

## Review

Another leading member of the infamous "America 2-Night" crew played the Birmingham Theatre in a well-received show Saturday evening.

Fred Willard, whom we all know as Jerry Hubbard, opened his comedy act by slithering on stage in a green and blue silk cape. He did a great take-off on Elvis Presley, shakes, shades and all. As he sang, the audience went out of control with laughter having had no idea of what to expect.

The James Quill Smith Band warmed up the crowd with new rhythm and blues songs and then accompanied Hubbard during the musical portion of his act. Excellent music from a versatile group of four musicians that had the sound of eight.

Once the audience calmed down after Hubbard's opening number, he went into his freestyle comedy routine. He complained facetiously about his Greyhound bus ride from New York to Birmingham stating that he couldn't figure out why he was always being woken up from his sleep to get off the bus for a rest stop.

HE THEN BEGAN talking about pranks like yelling, "Bus is leaving," just as everyone begins their meals.

Hubbard's humour was naive but clever, and although he acted as though he rarely understood the meaning of his own jokes it was apparent that the "America 2-Night" fans did. He was very much at home on stage at the 7:30 p.m. show and by the 10

p.m. performance he was really silly and crazy, particularly when he went into his impersonations of Nixon, Jack Benny and Ed Sullivan.

Hubbard is originally from Cleveland and was with the Ace Trucking Company comedy group for some time.

Most of his wit played up the little man in Hollywood. He kept name-dropping and claiming that many celebrities were close friends when, in fact, all Bob Hope had ever said to him was "Excuse me," as he stepped in front of Hubbard.

AT TIMES it was difficult to tell whether the character Hubbard or the real Fred Willard was talking, as he tended to drift back and forth from humorous illustrations to silliness. He definitely seemed to enjoy what he was doing on stage, particularly when finishing up with a medley of songs from Fats Domino, Ray Charles and them more Elvis. He even sang a few self-styled blues numbers that were hilarious.

Closing to a standing ovation Hubbard did an encore of "One Night With You" and thanked everyone for one night with them in Birmingham. Martin Mull would have been proud of him.

# Top stars wrap up final concert week

Award-winning songstress Dionne Warwick steps into the Meadow Brook spotlight on Friday for the final week of the season at the music festival.

Ms. Warwick will demonstrate her classic style when she sings a wide variety of her popular and timeless tunes including "Then Came You" and "Do You Know the Way to San Jose." Ms. Warwick's opening act will be the comedy team of Edmonds and Curly. Pavilion seats and lawn tickets are available.

The Bobby Goldboro concert, originally scheduled for Saturday, has been canceled. There will be no replacement.

Closing Meadow Brook's 1978 summer musical festival on Sunday is the all-American father-and-daughter team of Pat and Debby Boone. Young Debby has become known for her recent hit song "You Light Up My Life," while her dad has sung more than 60 hit tunes during his many years as a vocalist.

The opening act is comedian Greg Studeier, best known for his humorous vocal sound effects. The pavilion is sold out; lawn tickets are still available.

All performances begin at 8:30 p.m. and are held in the outdoor Baldwin Pavilion on the Oakland University campus in Rochester. Festival grounds open two and one-half hours prior to concerts for picnickers and them more Elvis. He even sang a few self-styled blues numbers that were hilarious.

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## Boone tickets still available

The Community House in Birmingham still has some tickets available for the Pat and Debby Boone concert on Sunday at Meadow Brook Music Festival.

Pavilion seats are included in a package along with catered picnic supper under the spacious Meadow Brook Tent and round-trip transportation from Birmingham.

Reservations can be made at The Community House, Bates and Townsend, or by calling 644-5822.

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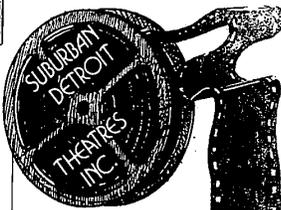
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**EYES OF LAURA MARS** (R)



Goldie Hawn Chevy Chase  
**FOUL PLAY** (PG)

Warren Beatty Julie Christie  
**"HEAVEN CAN WAIT"** (PG)

John Travolta Olivia Newton-John  
**"GREASE"** (PG)

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**"GREASE"** (PG)

John Travolta Olivia Newton-John  
**"HEAVEN CAN WAIT"** (PG)

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