

18,000-Seat Amphitheater To Be Built Next To Michigan's Palace At Auburn Hills

AUBURN HILLS, Mich.—An 18,000-seat amphitheater will be built next to the Palace of Auburn Hills arena, whose owners will build and operate the shed in this Detroit suburb.

The Palace Gardens, with 8,000 covered seats and a lawn capacity of 10,000, is designed to be the largest amphitheater in Michigan when it opens in May 1991, outranking the 16,000-seat Pine Knob Music Theater.

With ground breaking set for August, the Palace Gardens is expected to host 50-100 events during each May-September season, beginning next year, according to Thomas S. Wilson, president of the Palace/Palace Gardens and CEO of the Detroit Pistons basketball team.

"Just as the Palace [arena] has provided the area with entertainment options which might not have been available otherwise in the marketplace . . . we will actively pursue commitments from touring theater and

Broadway groups to play the Palace Gardens," said Wilson in a statement. The Palace complex is owned by Arena Associates Inc., a partnership of William Davidson, David Hermelin, and Robert Sosnick.

Plans for the amphitheater, to be built on a 50-acre site in the northwest corner of the 140-acre Palace complex, will emphasize its parklike setting and will include numerous amenities. Lawn seating, for example, will face three large video screens suspended from the pavilion roof and vending locations on the lawn will offer chairs, blankets, umbrellas, and rain gear, as well as tour merchandise.

Forty-two suites will be built into the sloping hillside of the amphitheater offering amenities similar to those found in arena skyboxes while avoiding sightline interference for other fans.

The covered pavilion also will fea-

ture video screens and upholstered, theater-style seating.

In addition to concession areas for the Palace Gardens, offering varied fare, arena facilities such as a parents' quiet room, restaurants, and lounges will be open during amphitheater events. Performers at the Palace Gardens will have the use of a private pool and patio area, sauna and whirlpool and workout facility.

The existing parking areas will be expanded by 2,500 spaces for a total parking capacity of 10,900 vehicles. The Detroit architectural firm of Rossetti Associates, award-winning designer of the Palace arena, has been contracted for the amphitheater. The general contractor for the Palace arena, R.E. Dailey, also will build the Palace Gardens. At both buildings, Volume Services is the concessionaire, Ogden Leisure Services the merchandiser, and TicketMaster the ticketing service.

TALENT IN ACTION

SUZANNE VEGA

*Cambridge Corn Exchange
Cambridge, England*

WITH A SET design that resembled a college common room, Suzanne Vega should have been more comfortable playing in this famous university town than she appeared, particularly since she opened her U.K. tour here three weeks earlier.

But Vega was never able to connect with her audience long enough to leave the kind of impression that her deceptively sweet music and hard lyrics merit. There were occasionally lighthearted and impromptu moments; when she said, "Feel free to ask any questions" and promptly got a marriage proposal, or when she took a childlike stance for the "Walla-

bee Song." But there were also long periods of unrelieved introspection when she drifted out of reach.

Vega reserved most of her anecdotes for older songs. In doing so, she shortchanged new, less familiar songs from her current A&M release, "Days Of Open Hand."

Her band's neat baroque folk tended to emphasize the music's pristine qualities, except when the musicians stretched on songs like the ambitious "Those Whole Girls," where they added a dynamic edge that was lacking on songs like "Marlene On The Wall," "Solitude Standing," and "Luka."

The full potential of Vega's songs was realized when she was at her most exposed, playing solo or with acoustic backing and putting numbers like "Some Journey," "Room Off The Street," "Neighborhood Girl," and "Gypsy" into stark relief. But she needs to maintain this impact

if her show is to be more than a dangling conversation.

HUGH FIELDER

**SOCIAL DISTORTION
GANG GREEN**

The Trocadero, Philadelphia

ALMOST APOLOGIZING for the revamped, cleaner sound on his group's major-label debut, lead singer Mike Ness of Social Distortion reminisced repeatedly from the stage at this May 21 show about his punk days, an era marked, he said, by "Quaaludes and gin and tonics."

Yet, no matter how far the songs on the self-titled album for Epic strayed from this Southern California band's hardcore past, they didn't need Ness' defending. "Story Of My Life" and "Sick Boys," though lyrically simplistic, stood on their own and carried a three-chord urgency absent in much of today's pop. The tattoo-covered Ness, spitting from the stage, gnarled out every line.

With the proven formula of finding a melodic chorus and going to it quickly and often, Ness and company played a powerful 90-minute set of mostly new material for the all-ages crowd of a few hundred people. The band was at its best when it jumped into the meaty, blues grunge of "It Coulda Been Me" and "Drug Train" and the very catchy pop single, "Ball And Chain," a first-hand account of Ness' past addictions.

Gang Green, a Boston band that refuses to give up its hardcore stance, pounded things out for about 45 minutes to open the show. Though its distortion-drenched skateboard boogie is a lot less fashionable these days, it was still fun to hear singer Chris Doherty whine the vocals to the band's trademark song, "Alcohol," as well as "Voices Carry," its accelerated cover of the 'Til Tuesday ballad. The rest of the set, most of which came from the group's recent live Emergo/Roadrunner release, "Can't Live Without It," blurred by without incident.

SCOTT BRODEUR

GARDEN STATE SALUTES ITS OWN

(Continued from page 54A)

YZE, rockers John Eddie and Saraya, jazz singer Little Jimmy Scott, soul singer Evelyn "Champagne" King, and the vocal group the Shirelles.

"The difference between New Jersey and other places is you," Eddie

told the audience of about 600 people between songs in his brief set, which included a sizzling cover of Elvis Presley's "Suspicious Minds." "You people are what makes it happen in New Jersey."

Bon Jovi drummer Tico Torres, who showed up to pick up the best pop-rock album award for "New Jersey" and best-pop-rock-male-vocalist award for band mate Jon Bon Jovi, drew shrieks as he thanked the crowd from his home state.

Skid Row won as best new artist, Stanley Jordan's "Cornucopia" took the award for best jazz album, and Joe Walsh's "Rocky Mountain Way" won for best classic performance. The Isley Brothers received an award for best male vocals in R&B or dance and Sandy Saraya, lead singer of the band Saraya, won best female vocalist in the pop-rock category.

In addition, Les Paul and the late Sarah Vaughan were inducted into the Garden State Music Hall of Fame.

AB		BOXSCORE TOP CONCERT GROSSES			
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ARTIST(S)	Venue	Date(s)	Gross Ticket Price(s)	Attendance Capacity	Promoter
PHIL COLLINS	Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum Uniondale, N.Y.	May 31- June 2	\$1,357,200 \$26	52,500 sellout	Ron Delsener Enterprises
DAVID BOWIE LENNY KRAVITZ	Dodger Stadium Los Angeles	May 26	\$1,117,086 \$28.50	40,877 47,000	Avalon Attractions BCL Group
WORLD SERIES OF ROCK '90: WHITESNAKE SKID ROW GREAT WHITE BAD ENGLISH HURRICANE ALICE	Alpine Valley Music Theatre East Troy, Wis.	May 26-27	\$1,033,258 \$32.50/\$25.50	36,831 60,000	Joseph Entertainment Group
MADONNA TECHNORONIC	Rosemont Horizon Rosemont, Ill.	May 23-24	\$955,481 \$30	33,954 sellout	Jam Prods.
AEROSMITH JOAN JETT & THE BLACKHEARTS	Palace of Auburn Hills Auburn Hills, Mich.	May 25 & 27	\$866,385 \$22.50	38,506 sellout	Belkin Prods. Cellar Door Prods.
DON HENLEY	Garden State Arts Center Holmdel, N.J.	May 29-30	\$392,510 \$25.25/\$17.75	20,006 21,604	in-house
AEROSMITH JOAN JETT & THE BLACKHEARTS	Cooper Stadium Columbus, Ohio	May 24	\$375,575 \$22.50/\$20	16,800 19,000	Sunshine Promos.
CHER	World Music Theatre Tinley Park, Ill.	June 2	\$374,750 \$35/\$25/\$15	16,870 20,000	Tinley Park Jam Corp.
DAVID BOWIE	Los Angeles Sports Arena Los Angeles	May 23	\$356,991 \$28.50	12,756 sellout	Avalon Attractions
JULIO IGLESIAS	Garden State Arts Center Holmdel, N.J.	May 31- June 1	\$296,749 \$37.50/\$15	9,185 19,604	in-house
MOTLEY CRUE MONROE	Neil S. Blaisdell Center Honolulu	May 31- June 1	\$290,316 \$19.50	15,722 17,610 sellout	Avalon Attractions
MEL TORME/ROSEMARY CLOONEY	Fox Theatre Detroit	May 17-20	\$279,295 \$50/\$37.50/ \$25/\$5	14,991 23,390	Brass Ring Prods.
JULIO IGLESIAS	Centrum in Worcester Worcester, Mass.	May 30	\$278,589 \$100/\$50/ \$28.50/\$22.50	8,000 10,000	Armenian Church of our Savior
DAVID BOWIE FRANKLY SCARLET	Starplex Amphitheatre State Fairgrounds of Texas Dallas	June 4	\$276,167 \$26.50/\$23	11,538 20,000	MCA Concerts PACE Concerts Fey Concert Co. BCL Group
ROSEANNE BARR RASPYNI BROTHERS	Fox Theatre Detroit	May 9-10, 12	\$274,320 \$25/\$20	12,282 14,490	Brass Ring Prods.
FLEETWOOD MAC SQUEEZE	Pacific Coliseum Pacific Nat'l Exhibition Grounds Vancouver, British Columbia	May 25	\$259,689 (\$305,914 Canadian) \$28/\$26	12,221 sellout	Beaver Prods. Perryscope Concert Prods.
DEPECHE MODE NITZER EBB	Miami Arena Miami	May 31	\$258,720 \$21	12,548 sellout	Fantasma Prods.
MIDNIGHT OIL HUNTERS & COLLECTORS	Radio City Music Hall New York	May 29-30	\$257,140 \$25/\$22.50/\$20	10,837 11,748	Radio City Music Hall Prods.
REGGAE SUNSPASH: BURNING SPEAR FREDDIE MCGREGOR MARCIA GRIFFITHS SHINEHEAD U-ROY SHELLY THUNDER, 809 BAND	Greek Theatre Los Angeles	May 26-27	\$255,165 \$23/\$21/\$16	12,374 sellout	Nederlandler Organization
DEPECHE MODE NITZER EBB	Arena, Orlando Centroplex Orlando, Fla.	May 30	\$230,580 \$20	11,661 sellout	Fantasma Prods.
RUSH MR. BIG	Veterans Memorial Arena, Hartford Civic Center Hartford, Conn.	May 8	\$229,535 \$19.50	11,991 12,513	Cross Country Concerts
ALAN KING/JOEL GRAY	Westbury Music Fair Westbury, N.Y.	May 30- June 3	\$225,477 \$25	10,252 14,350 sellout	Music Fair Prods.
ALABAMA CLINT BLACK LORRIE MORGAN	Patriot Center George Mason Univ. Fairfax, Va.	June 1	\$195,332 \$20	10,076 sellout	Keith Fowler Prods.
TEARS FOR FEARS THE CALL	Irvine Meadows Amphitheatre Laguna Hills, Calif.	May 27	\$193,952 \$24.50/\$22.50/ \$19.50	8,636 15,000	Avalon Attractions
REGGAE SUNSPASH: BURNING SPEAR FREDDIE MCGREGOR MARCIA GRIFFITHS SHINEHEAD U-ROY SHELLY THUNDER, 809 BAND	Irvine Meadows Amphitheatre Laguna Hills, Calif.	June 2	\$186,839 \$25/\$19/ \$17/\$16	10,844 15,000	Avalon Attractions

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