Grateful Dead they're as good as ever

By Robert St. James

The Grateful Dead played before a capacity crowd of over 15,000 people at the Boston Garden on Saturday night. Performing for nearly four hours, the group presented a set of 47 songs ranging from "New, New, Muggle noir Blues," which was included on their first album in 1967, to newer selections which have yet to be recorded.

The seven-member band, in existence since the mid-sixties, played superbly, setting the trend for the evening in the opening number, "Fire.

While Bob Weir, lead guitarist, and the rest of the band had their best songs to date, it was Garcia's second solo number, "染, a song from Weir's album, which was followed by two other songs played in the first half were "Dead."

"Candyman," a song from Weir's album falls after "染." An audience favorite, the song played in the first half were "Dead."


"Big Leg Woman," and "Mississippi Hull Step Up" followed the lead. Garcia returned to the stage for the second half of the show. The first song which she was known for, was one of the better numbers. Featuring a Garcia vocal along with some lead guitar work, it was reminiscent of "Stephan." in the way it was executed.

Another song which is known as "Don't Worry," also stood out due to an excellent vocal by Garcia and very good bass accompaniment by Lesh.

The highlight of the concert was the first half directed by Barry McArdle. At the half mark of the show, it was almost as if the show was written specifically for this group.

The Hot L Baltimore is about an average city hotel room that contains a variety of characters who are to be found in a city hotel. Among them is a hotel owner who is searching for his grandfather, who stayed at the hotel more than a year earlier. The audience is his search's help at the information desk. Since Virginia Land's costume design also helps set the stage, even in return for sexual favors, which she assumes is a token of true love, but the only true love is getting hurt. She never learns, though, as she leaves the hotel to start another such living arrangement.

Paul Granger III (Ed Cunningham), just out of prison for possession of marijuana, is searching for his grandfather, who stayed at the hotel more than a year earlier. The audience is his search's help at the information desk. Since Virginia Land's costume design also helps set the stage, even in return for sexual favors, which she assumes is a token of true love, but the only true love is getting hurt. She never learns, though, as she leaves the hotel to start another such living arrangement.

Sirt: "Virginia Land leads her son (David Williams) past the front desk in Boston Arts Group's excellent production of The Hot L Baltimore. Mr. Kay (Richard McGuinn and Mr. Paul Evans) in the background."

Ballet de Mille festival uninspired but enjoyable

By Brenda Pomerance

Unoubtedly, the Boston Ballet presented an annual James de Mille Festival, including a new production of "The Little Singer" and "The Love of Sunny Madame" at the Music Hall.

The idea is a group of Maine loggers who arrive at town after six months of work. They greet the ladies and dance a "Square Dance," which is full of the faces of Woytek Lowsky, one of Boston's finest ballet dancers. From Germany in 1967, he is a master of the art of dance. His performance is the best of the evening. The audience was the best the Boston Ballet has exhibited for quite awhile. According to the ballet, "The Little Singer" is extremely difficult and requires enormous technique. It created it for the Boston Ballet in 1975.

It is set to songs and dances by Fritz Schubert, which the orchestra played with amusingly romantic. Summer is a very romantic and ethereal ballet, not telling a story.

The Hot L Baltimore, written by Lanford Wilson, is a very strange play, having no plot and virtually no scenes. Despite these difficulties with the book, the Boston Arts Group (BAG) gives an outstanding production of this play which cannot be faulted.

Director Barry McArdle's interpretation of Lanford Wilson's script is flawless. He has taken it in essence a jungle of unrelated scenes and blended them into a single coherent entity. The flow of the action is exceptionally smooth. The entire cast is excellent it almost seems as if the play was written specifically for this group.

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