A party in my head

Talking Heads in concert at the Orpheum Theatre, Friday, August 27.

While the freshmen cavorted and the fraternities rushed, some of us could be found at the only other good time in Boston on the last Friday in August, a performance by America's most innovative new rock band, the Talking Heads. The Heads chose to remind us of their presence (as if anyone could forget them) with a short tour to preview their forthcoming studio album, although it also provided the individual band members an opportunity to perform segments of their earlier solo efforts in public.

Joining onstage by the Talking Heads Auxiliary (percussionist Steve Scales, keyboardist Bernie Worrell, guitarist Alex Weir and singer Dottie McDonald), the band performed a set that concentrated on the Four Of Music and Remain In Light albums. Singer/guitarist David Byrne added yet another interpretation of "Psycho Killer" to the repertoire, backed by McDonald he altered the phrasing of the chorus in a manner that lent a streetwise air to the song, rather than the original portrait of urban paranoia we've all learned to love. Most of the tunes received a similar treatment - looser renditions that added slightly different interpretations. "Like Me To The River" was transmitted into a Sunday revival meeting, while "Life During Wartime" became a non-stop ecstatic dance raveup in spite of the lyrics in effect, "This ain't no party, this ain't no static dance raveup in spite of the lyrics in

The highlight of the set was Byrne's inclusions of his three big songs ("Big Business," "My Big Hands," and "Big Blue Disco" chorus). The loose funk groove the band fell into seemed a natural expan-

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The Hasty Pudding Theatre presents Hair, the American Tribal Love Rock Musical. Performances are at the Theatre on 12 Holyoke Street, Cambridge; tickets are $8 and $6; performances begin at 8pm Friday-Saturday, and at 3pm on Sunday. For more information call 497-5477.

The MIT Musical Theatre Guild presents Stephen Sondheim's Company, in the Blackstone having its Boston premiere. Performances are at the Theatre on September 9, 10, & 11 at 8pm. Tickets are $5/$3 with MIT ID, available in Lobby 10 Tech, and reservations call 497-5477.

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