

# What music fans didn't see or hear

## ROCK ON



ETHLIE ANN VARE

We were cleaning out some old files here at Rock On, and having a blast reading the grand pronouncements of rockers about their upcoming projects — projects that many times never saw the light of day.

In the music industry (as with the rest of Hollywood), "in development" is often a synonym for "wishful thinking."

A few of the great ideas that might have been:

Lisa Marie Presley was going to record an album for her famous father's original label, Sun Records ... Madonna was doing a special six-song release for Christmas of 1987, featuring old material ... Rolling Stones bassist Bill Wyman was writing a tell-all biography of the band ... Soul great Marvin Gaye's life was being profiled



Hall (left) & Oates

In a made-for-NBC movie called "Divided Soul," and Bobby ("I Fought the Law") Fuller's tragic story was to be dramatized in the feature film "Never to Be Forgotten."

An R&B version of "Oliver Twist" was in the works and headed for the big screen, to be entitled "Twist!" ... "Miami Vice" creator Michael Mann

(who based the series on a scrawled note reading "MTV cops") was preparing a new prime-time TV show set behind the scenes in the music biz; it was to have been called "Tropix" ... Another rock-oriented TV series was set for ABC, called "Starstruck," revolving around an aspiring band. And on the syndication side, "Rock Candy" was to have been the sitcom tale of a staid music teacher and his punk-rock daughters.

Gee, some of those even sounded good.

• In this summer of mega-tours — The Who, the Stones, half of the Beatles, three-quarters of the pop charts — what band just sold out Dodger Stadium, Giants Stadium and a dozen other enormous venues nationwide? The Cure.

That's right, a British cult band that has never even had a Top 10 single (although "Lovesong" looks like it will be their first.)

"They're like the Pink Floyd of our time," says a Cure spokesperson, and they certainly have slowly and steadily acquired an enormously loyal following.

Of course, ticket sales weren't exactly hurt by the fact that, before embarking on the 25-city trek, bandleader Robert Smith announced that the group will never play live again.

Speaking of the Who tour, their Labor Day weekend appearance in Dallas was the anchor of an unusual fundraising event sponsored by Miller Beer. Called the "Texas Party" and

guaranteed to raise \$1 million for the Special Olympics, the event tied the Who concert by satellite with five other rock shows being staged simultaneously in San Antonio, Houston, Odessa, Mercedes and Corpus Christi.

The talent lineup included Stevie Ray Vaughan, Huey Lewis, the Fabulous Thunderbirds, Cheap Trick and Hall & Oates.

• And on the subject of rock sponsor Miller Brewing Co., it's that time of year when they start soliciting tapes from bands who aspire to be part of the Miller Network. The marketing program helps up-and-comers with financial and advertising support.

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