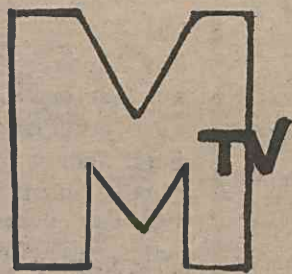


Off The Record

By Colin "Scoop" White
Arts-Entertainment Editor



...Just when you thought it was safe to turn on the television, yet another awards show rears its ugly little head!

And no, I'm not talking about the Oscars, the Emmys, the Tony's or the Grammy's.

I am, of course, referring to the 1ST ANNUAL, (indicating that we can look forward to another one of these every year), MTV VIDEO MUSIC AWARDS.

This "star-studded" gala, telecast live last Friday night on (yep, you guessed it) MTV and rebroadcast throughout the weekend (and next weekend) on various syndicated channels (Check your local TV guide for listings—sorry, I just couldn't pass up the chance.), paid heed to, while at the same time satirized, the all-too-cliche traditions of other awards shows.

Comedian/actor/screenwriter Dan Ackroyd (not exactly what I'd call an experienced musician, unless you count the 30 seconds of sauntering in the finale of the **Ghostbusters** video) and comedienne(?)/singer/amateur actress Bette Midler ('Nuff said) hosted the event, which honored videos appearing on MTV between May 2, 1983 and May 2, 1984. (And believe me, each one appeared over and over and over again—redundancy intended.)

Accompanying the multi-talented Ackroyd and the (oops, never mind) Midler were more than a dozen other celebrities posing as emcees (after all, how much skill does it really take to read a cue card and hand out trophies, anyway?!?).

The prize itself, though, was much more creative and original than a little naked man encrusted in gold (Oscar).

The MTV award consisted of an astronaut with matching flag, both apparently made of silver (or whatever the right stuff is)—yeah, man, the MTV mascot!

But enough of the background info, o.k.? Let's get to the important stuff!

'Merry Wives of Windsor'

The Cultural Arts and Special Events Committee at UNCA will present the North Carolina Shakespeare Festival in its OUT-REACH '84 production of **The Merry Wives of Windsor**, Tuesday, Sept. 25, 8 p.m., in Lipinsky Auditorium.

The production is directed by NCSF's director, Malcolm Morrison. NCSF is the "state Shakespeare Festival" and has at-

AND THE WINNERS ARE:
BEST PERFORMANCE IN A VIDEO: Michael Jackson, **Thriller**. Of course. Unfortunately, Michael wasn't able to be there (that's okay; no excuse needed—and that's good, because no excuse was given), so he asked his buddy Diana Ross to pick up his trophy (assuming he received only one, that is).

BEST NEW ARTIST: The Eurythmics, **Sweet Dreams (Are Made of These)**. New?!?

BEST STAGE PERFORMANCE: Van Halen, **Jump**. Way ta go, dudes!

BEST CHOREOGRAPHY: Michael Jackson, **Thriller**. Good deal. After all, it is a good video (the first ten times you see it, anyway).

BEST GROUP VIDEO: ZZ Top, **Legs**. Or better entitled: Best Video Exploitation of the Female Anatomy.

BEST DIRECTION: ZZ Top, **Sharp Dressed Man**. Nice car, guys.

BEST CONCEPT VIDEO: Herbie Hancock, **Rockit**. Boy, can those robots dance!

VIEWER'S CHOICE: Michael Jackson, **Thriller**. 'Nuff said.

BEST FEMALE VIDEO: Cyndi Lauper, **Girls Just Wanna Have Fun**. Okay, so maybe I'm not her biggest fan, but I still think that she deserved this one. Look at it this way. She was nominated time after time (get it?), nine times to be exact, and ended up winning only one award. And after she did such a lovely job of reading the rules in Babylonian, in memory of the great Hammurabi, too.

BEST MALE VIDEO: David Bowie, **China Girl**. Or better entitled: Best Video Exploitation of the Female Anatomy, Part 2.

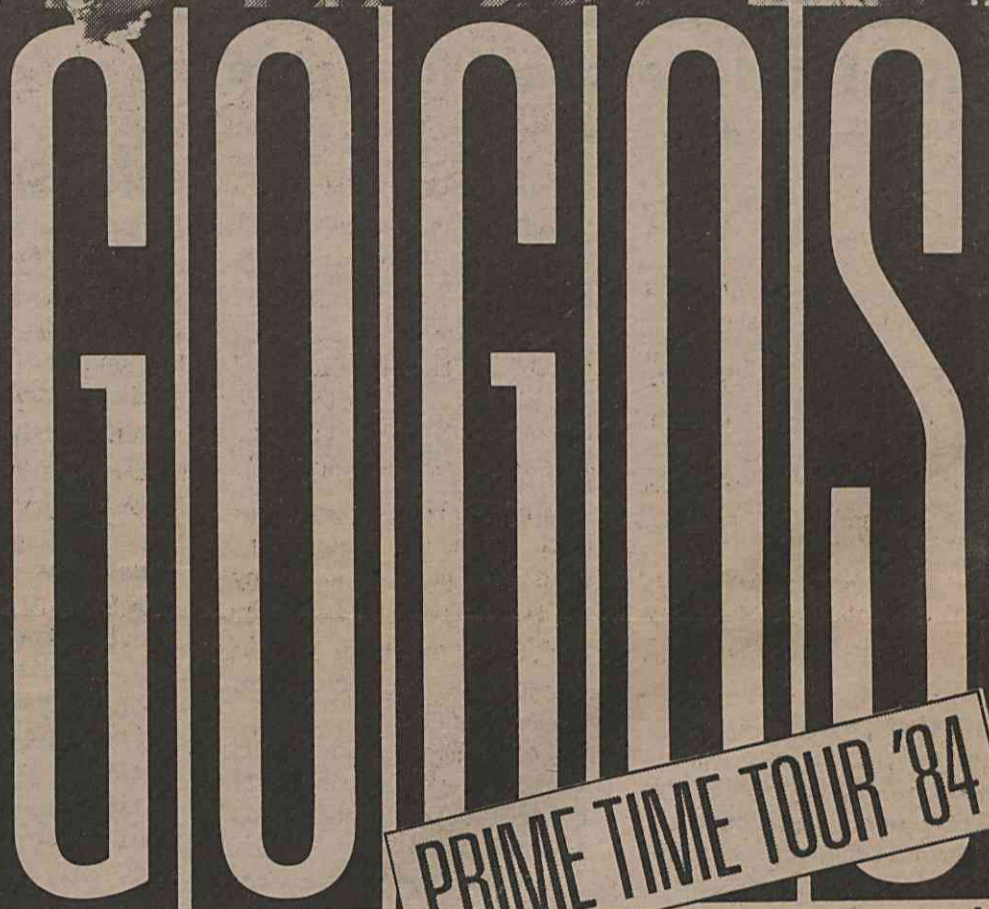
And, finally, **BEST VIDEO OF THE YEAR** (Drumroll, please): The Cars, **You Might Think**. Yay, team!

And now it's time to wrap up the column. But first, I would like to thank my...

tracted audiences from all over the country in its eight year history. The festival selected this production for touring in celebration of the 400th anniversary of the Roanoke Voyages currently held state-wide.

Tickets will be sold in the Highsmith University Center. Prices are as follows: adults, \$5; senior citizens and children, \$4; UNCA faculty and staff, \$3; UNCA students, \$1.

Ricochet Productions Presents



Asheville Civic Center
Saturday, Sept. 22
8:00 p.m.

TICKETS ON SALE NOW AT THESE LOCATIONS:

- Asheville Civic Center Box Office
- Boomer's Rhythm Center - Marion and Morganton
- Commanchee Records - Hendersonville
- Dallas Discount Corner - Candler
- Franklin Chamber of Commerce - Franklin
- L & M Records - Brevard
- Carol's Records - Greenville, S.C.
- Horizon Records - Greenville

\$11 Advance Tickets
\$13 At the door