

# RUSSELL'S BAND IS NOTHING TO CROWE ABOUT

RUSSELL CROWE may be a mega moviestar, but he and his band, 30 Odd Foot of Grunts, definitely are not rock and roll hall of fame material.

"The band stinks," San Francisco entertainment writer P.J. Corkery tells GLOBE. "If he weren't a Hollywood star, his band would never have a contract or tour."

Corkery reports that a big chunk of the audience left before the end of Crowe's performance in the Golden Gate city during the group's summer U.S. tour.

And according to columnist Liz Smith, even his devoted pal, actress Nicole Kidman, walked out after he sang his first set at the House of Blues in L.A.

The 37-year-old hunk's pop star act leaves a lot to be desired, says Corkery.

"He talked more than he sang," blasts the columnist. "He was sour and heckled the audience, saying to one fan, 'Hey, that hat is really ugly. Take it off!'"

The audience consisted of mostly starstruck, middle-aged gals, desperate for a glimpse of the grungy, bearded sex symbol, says the critic.

But San Francisco scalpers, who were trying to sell the \$25 tickets for \$200, ended up practically giving them away once the show started, sources reveal.

L.A. critics were also



Crowe heckled the audience

unimpressed with Meg Ryan's ex-lover.

"Playing the guitar and displaying a not terribly distinctive voice, he was pointedly low-key," says one scribe.

But Crowe claims the skeptics aren't giving him a chance and are missing the message in his songs.

"If people won't roll their eyes and would just listen to the songs, they'll hear there is a reason we make music," he says.

But music publicist Dick Weaver agrees that the only reason Crowe is getting any notice is that he's a big-screen actor and a Hollywood ladies' man.

"Russell doesn't have to be good," Weaver tells GLOBE. "He's a movie star who slept with Meg Ryan, so people will go to see him perform."

- ROBIN MIZRAHI



**Even pal Nicole walked out after one set**