

Rush tour to be 'very, very visual'

By PAUL CANTIN -- JAM! Showbiz

TORONTO -- When Rush hits the road this summer, expect the legendary rock trio to boldly go where no Rush show has gone before.

Alex Lifeson revealed to JAM! Music that the setlist for the upcoming tour has been finalized, and while he refused to get specific, he did indicate that some songs from Rush's back catalogue will make their live debut when the group hits the road in support of their latest, "Vapor Trails."

"We have the setlist together. In fact, Neil (drummer Neil Peart) started rehearsing this week. I will start as soon as this business (of promoting the release of 'Vapor Trails') ends. I have a couple of evenings just to get started.

"A lot of the material on this tour, we haven't ever played before, or haven't played in a long time."

Lifeson said that while sorting out the tour setlist, he and bassist-singer Geddy Lee recently listened to such early Rush albums as "Caress Of Steel" (1975), "Fly By Night" (1975), and "Hemispheres" (1978).

An online fan petition (rushpetition.com) has been appealing to the band to devote a portion of the upcoming shows to some neglected parts of the 17-album Rush catalogue, and c. Current voting has "Camera Eye," "Hemispheres," "Cygnus X-1", and "By-Tor And The Snowdog" as the most popular fan picks.

When asked if any of those choices will be in the final setlist, Lifeson was coy: "Maybe they are, and maybe they are not."

He did confirm that the band's live presentation would be the kind of elaborate, multi-media feast fans have come to expect.

"We have some great stuff going on. It has to be very, very visual," he said.

The tour kicks off June 28 in Hartford, CT, and arrives in Canada on July 17 at Toronto's Molson Amphitheatre.