

Caught Live

Spirit of the West
Horizon Stage (Spruce Grove)
October 29

by Tom Coxworth

John, Geoff, Linda and the professor (Hugh) turned the comfortable Horizon Stage into their livingroom and invited the audience to join in their hospitality.

Fresh from the studio, it soon became apparent that we would be treated to a night of new material. They wasted no time with the first track, "Wrecking Ball," showing the tightness of the bands harmonies...then straight into the Stein Valley sage "Homelands" with it's uptempo social consciousness.

John's manic stage dance then slowed down for a serious 'love lost' song, "Swinging Single," with its haunting chorus...still echoing in this reviewer's ears. "The Crawl" had the sold-out crowd on their feet dancing and singing along with this Spirit standard. "From the Source" benefited from the cohesiveness of the group and new songs, "Mr. Jones," "Roadside Attraction," "Save this House" did not feel out of place or cause the patrons to cry out for more familiar songs. "Water to the Well" had Geoff's crooning creating the comic highpoint of the evening...something akin to Monty Python meets Wayne Newton complete with Beatlesque ooooo's and ahaa's.

The second set started with "That's What You Said," a new fast-paced tune that maintained the group's momentum. Geoff's borhan and whistle playing with their celtic rhythms held the excitement level high with other new material. Linda and Hugh added a precise musical foundation to the group and have allowed the band to be more daring with the instrumentation. Hugh's statuesque baritone filled the harmonic bottom on "On the Sentimental Side" while Linda's according playing added a new dimension to the sound.

Thirteen of the 20 songs were new and showed the growing strength of this band's abilities. "Not Just A Train" left the audience in amazement in the power of a

song. Spirit of the West once had to sleep in the hall that they had previously played and if there is any justice, their new WEA contract will see them attain the stature they deserve.

Stephen Fearing
Sidetrack Cafe
November 14-15

by Andy Donnelly

After two sold-out nights at the Sidetrack on November 14 and 15, Stephen Fearing was hitting the road once again, this time home to Vancouver for a few days of 'R and R' then out to continue his tour.

He had just returned from his second British tour where he played in many different venues from small folk clubs in upstairs rooms in pubs to his personal highlight of the trip (opening for Richard Thompson at the Royal Festival Hall in London to a crowd of 2,700)

Plans have been laid for a long-awaited second album from Fearing who goes into the studio in early January in England with producer Clive Gregson.

The new album will be a live recording featuring solo guitar, bass and percussion and if the performance he gave at the Sidetrack was any indication, this new album should be wonderful.

As well as the old favorites from his "Out to Sea" recording, he tried out a few new songs that touched the heart. "Little Child's Eyes," a story about alcohol addiction, was beautiful and "Blue" a jazzy upbeat number, had his band (Russel Shumsky on percussion and Paul Blaney on acoustic bass) working overtime. One of my favorites, "Welfare Wednesday," was introduced with a story of London's homeless and their cardboard towns under bridges in Englands capital city.

Fearing's lyrics are haunting at times and are complemented totally by his band who anticipate his every musical movement.

The Burners
The Power Plant
November 16-18

by Jennifer Sauriol

There weren't alot of people out to see The Burners during the latest stint at The Power Plant, but those few who did catch the show were treated to an impressive night of west-Texas style rock 'n' roll.

The band has just come off a tour which included a few dates at Toronto's famed Horseshoe club, opening for Jack DeKeyser. The experience has left the band much tighter and improved. The stage show was led by charismatic acoustic guitar-harmonica-percussionist-vocalist Mike Stack who kept the audience rocking while he played with them on the dance floor.

Bassist Bob Brennan's songs add strength to the bands repertoire. His style ranges from the rootsy pop song, "About the Weather," to the deep and mysterious, "Real World."

It's a shame that the Burner's haven't received a major record deal. If their independantly released EP is any indication, they sound as good on vinyl as they do live.

Jazz Butcher/Custommade
Dinwoodie Lounge
November 25

by Christine Chomiak

All was fine that Saturday as I trekked to the U of A campus to catch a glimpse of the Jazz Butcher. Hallelujah. I made it (well, you see, last time I went to a Dinwoodie, I never made it. But that's a different story, plus our rockin' editor won't let me relay my adventure. Oh, drat).

I must say that the show which Pat Fish, along with his almighty group the Jazz Butcher did that night was 100 per cent better than their appearance at the S.U.

continued next page.



D E W E Y ' S

Mon.-Sat. Deli 7:30-7:30
 HUB Mall Bar 3:00-1:00

MAJOR
 important

READ OR READING

to read someone is to tell them off; to give someone a reading session means to tell them off in a major way.

DOPE

fresh

OVERDONE

beyond done

TIRED

old news; been done before
 (That magazine is tired)

BLINDING

overdone (i.e. Liberace)

HYPE

another word for fresh
 (Those shoes are hype)