

Feliciano

Performance Just Too Short

by Susan Edgett

When the house lights were turned up at about 8:07 last Friday night at the Rebecca Cohn, many people remained seated, convinced there was an intermission. But alas! Just 54 minutes after his opening number "Feel Like Makin' Love", Jose Feliciano brought his concert to a close.

The stage lights and music equipment were swiftly switched off and the star and his back-up band disappeared before the audience fully realized the performance had come to an end. There was no question of an encore either. Many people were astonished, if not dismayed, when the ushers announced it was time to leave.

Frankly, I believe Feliciano had finished his warm-up session and wanted to relax before his big show at 9:30 p.m. I guess no one told the star that seat prices were \$8/\$9 for his fans at both performances. Feliciano played for one and a half hours at the 9:30 concert, returning for two encores.

At least he lived up to his reputation while on stage. Wearing a royal blue suit with a white shirt and long silk scarf draped around his neck, the 45-year-old Puerto Rican was ushered across the stage to his stool. The audience's attention was focused on the guitarist's talented fingers, flying up and down the strings ever so smoothly and accurately throughout the concert.

"Ain't It Sad", one of his compositions, was followed

by a rock and roll set played on the electric guitar. The tempo quickened to the songs "Bring Back That Lovin' Feeling" and "If Lovin' You Is Wrong, I Don't Want To Be Right". Unfortunately, problems with the sound system during these numbers resulted in a distracting crackling noise through the speakers. Feliciano seemed to be having difficulty with his zipper during "You've Lost That Lovin' Feeling". A few chuckles slipped out when he apologized saying, "It's no big deal".

The pop tune "On Broadway" demonstrated his finger picking expertise, while the audience tapped their feet to the lively bongo beat. Although obscure in the dim background, the back-up band consisted of Markus Terry on drums, Ted Arnold on bass, Russ Robertson on keyboards and Satuse on percussion.

A spanish style instrumental adapted from the Concerto de Aranjuez by Rodrigo was most impressive. The intense expression of total concentration on his face was contrasted by the notes which flowed from his fingers with such ease. "Dance With Me" was a light instrumental which everyone seemed to be enjoying, even Feliciano, who flashed a quick grin once in a while.

"Light My Fire" was saved for the second to last number, but was cut a bit short. The final song "I'm Not In Love", moving yet electricifying in Feliciano's co-ordination of

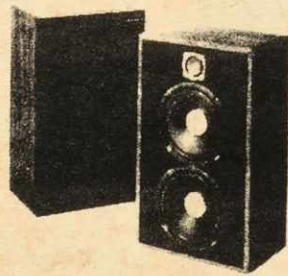
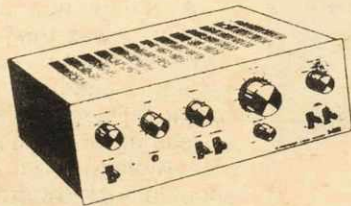
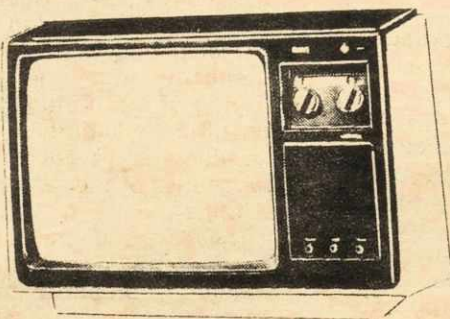
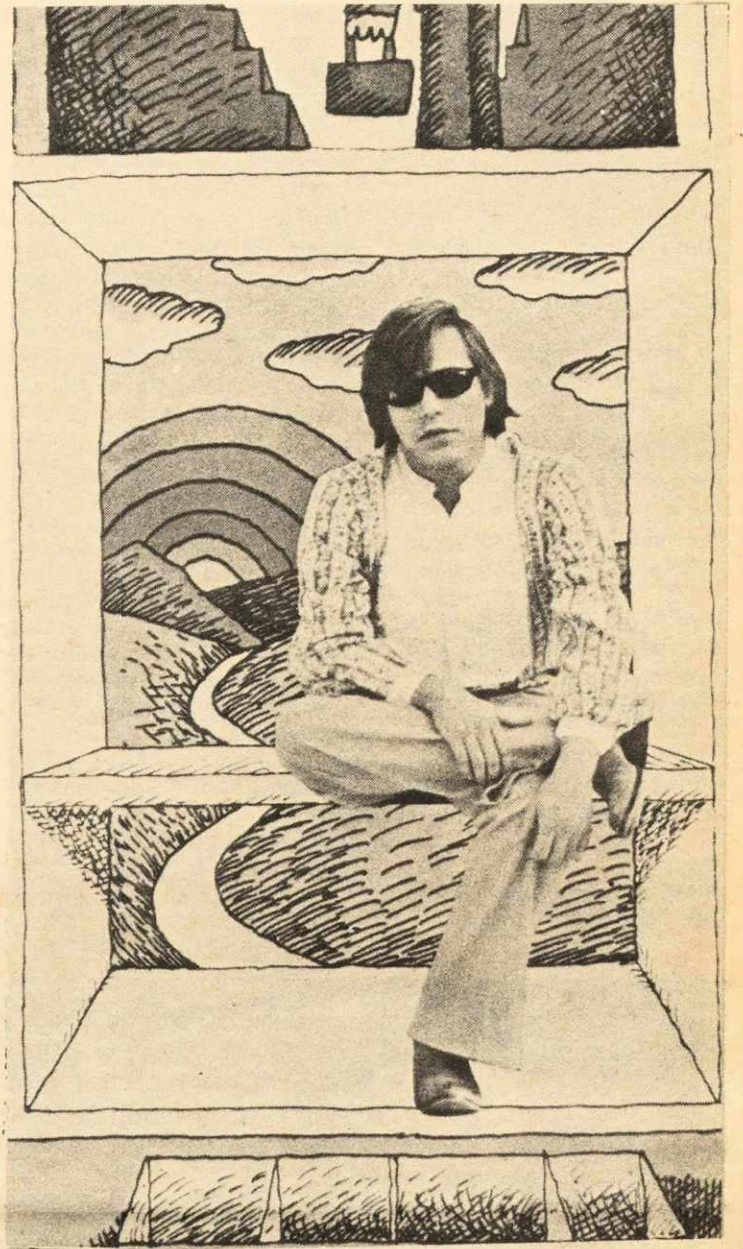
voice and guitar.

If the show had gone on, the audience might have heard the theme song from "Chico and the Man" and "Malaguena". But Feliciano chose to cut it short. He was obviously saving himself for the second performance.

The employees at the Rebecca Cohn said that Feliciano signed a contract to do two performances on September 29 at 7 and 9 p.m. There was no stipulation on the length of each concert. It was left to the discretion of the performer. The managers at the Rebecca Cohn are aware that people were disappointed by the short concert at 7:00 p.m. There is little that can be done to compensate for this.

Feliciano last performed in Nova Scotia in July at the Atlantic Pop Festival. It's a shame that once successful musicians have gained international recognition, they more often than not take their audiences for granted. The audience does not like the feeling that the star just could not be bothered to exert that little extra to please his fans. Musicians seem to get away with it more often in smaller cities too.

Feliciano's last words were "God bless you, cause without you I can't make it". It was not evident that he was grateful to the hundreds of fans who showed up to see him perform at 7:00. Too bad! My advice—make sure you get tickets to the second performance!!



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