

The Blasters: no loss of fire or soul

Photo Bill St. John

The Blasters deliver

by Don Teplyske

The Blasters gig was hot shit dad. Sizzle, sizzle.

Claude Bessy, liner note
The Blasters, *Over There*

That was written over three years ago about an especially steamy Blaster's performance; it's nice to see that the band has not lost any of the fire or soul of their earlier days.

Friday evening at SUB, the Blasters delivered with their brand of American saving grace roots rock n roll. By combining the basic elements of blues and country (which are really the same product in different packages) with sun session rock, the Blaster's blew the balcony off the theatre.

It took the audience a surprisingly long while to get the feel for the show, but when they finally did the Blasters were made welcome. Dancing on the stage and in the aisles was the rule for the evening.

The show was composed of the Blasters standard material ("Marie Marie", "Help You Dream"), 'fifties classics ("High School Confidential", "Daddy Rolling Stone") and a seemingly neverending string of blues and rural classics. It was difficult to decipher the originals from obscure oldies because of the emotion and grit put into every song; all had the freshness of being played for the first time.

Interview - Carol Horowitz

Happy homecoming

by Suzette C. Chan

By the end of this year, dancer Carol Horowitz will have had at least two happy homecomings—in two different cities.

After being shaken up by the earthquake in Mexico last month, Horowitz and Les Ballets Jazz de Montreal, which she dances for, had to return to Montreal before they could perform even once.

Tomorrow night, Horowitz will be coming back to the city she was raised in—under much less extenuating circumstances.

"At the beginning, I thought it would be no big deal," she said. "But I don't know who'll be there... I'm getting pretty nervous."

Horowitz spent most of her life in Edmonton, studying dance for ten years before moving to Montreal in 1979.

"I was in grade twelve when I left." That was the year her father, Myer, became president of the University of Alberta. But the aspiring dancer had left before his appointment ceremony. "I missed the whole thing."

While down east, Horowitz found a job with a community dance troupe in Ontario but discovered the number of dance jobs in Montreal were scarce.

Montreal was facing a lull in the dance scene after a flurry in the 70s.

"There was not a lot of money in Montreal. There was some work with new choreographers but often they didn't pay. It's a hard business...you can get sick of it."

Consequently, Horowitz decided to quit dancing in the summer of 1984. To sustain herself, she taught dance, did some contract work and enrolled in university. However, she couldn't resist a job offer from LBJ and is reluctant to speculate on the future of her career.

The highpoint of the show came when saxophonist Lee Allen joined the band an hour into their ninety minute set; this hot daddy of the brass weapon of love added yet another dimension to an already satisfying performance.

Also deserving of special note was the piano of Gene Taylor; when the spotlight covered him you knew you were witnessing a player raised on The Killer, Jerry Lee Lewis.

If anything negative has to be said about the Blasters, it would be Phil Alvin's constant stream of dedications. After years on the road, Alvin should realize that every song does not have to be sent out to Hank Williams, T-Bone Walker, Wolfman Jack of "all night coffee shops".

Opening the show was Vancouver's Rockin Edsels. The band performed a comfortable, tight set highlighted by the vocal range of Darejoe James; James's voice lies somewhere between George Jones and The Big Bopper. The Edsels are deeply rooted in real country music and for one will be looking forward to hearing more from them.

A special thank-you and congratulations should go out to Stewart, Don and everyone else at CJSR for putting on this show. The Blasters capped a busy week for the station (Chris and Cosey last Saturday, Tupelo Chain Sex on Wednesday) and it came off without a hitch. Take a bow, 'JSR.

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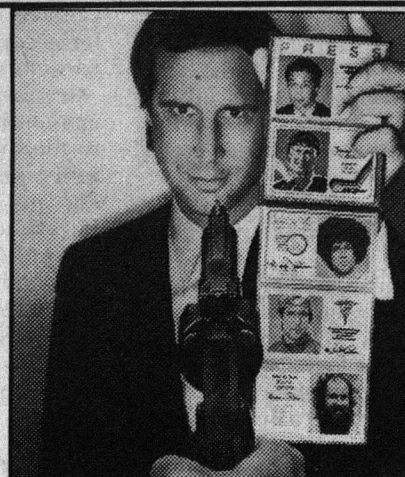
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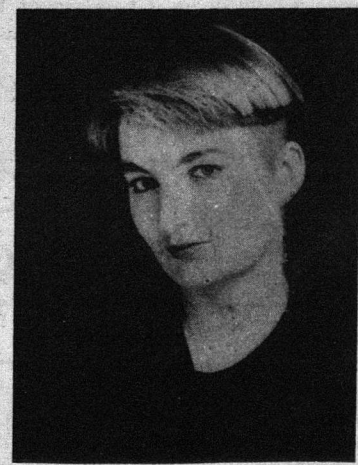
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