



EXPOSURE

in summer i am a child again and walk about in my bare self like a soft-bodied caterpillar vulnerable to every sensation my psyche exposed in segments of dreams I show to the sun

but this autumn winter came too early I wasn't ready hadn't yet accepted the end of summer was caught naked without the cocoon of a new winter role for protection against the chill blast of other voices and the icy grip of others' expectations

Polly Steele

NEWSPAPERS

We had a good time at the lake watching the skiers skate over the water and the children walk like penguins on the long grey dock warm on the soles of your feet and the wind was up for sailing you could hear the seagulls crying over yellow-coloured jackets and the dried-out sandwiches along the beach-white sunlight being eaten

but when we returned to our cabin we saw two half-ton trucks upside down in a ditch and a drug-crazy man getting ready to jump off a bridge

and a woman with tears in her eyes on the shore near the place where her son had gone down and an elderly gentleman beaten to death and a wounded policeman

LIFE EDITED: ONLY THE BLOOD SHOW

Sylvia Ridgley

-sparky sang the blues

Sparky Rucker is not an ordinary blues man. His music goes much further than just blues; it integrates roots of gospel, folk and Tennesee Hill music into his own particular brand of the blues. Although he chooses to play songs in the blues idiom, he does not limit himself to only traditional blues. Sparky seems to be aware of most forms of music and appreciates the music for itself.

He could be the only performer I know of, who can play a real screaming rocker like 'Can't Judge a Book by it's Cover' and 'Amazing Grace' withing the same set and have both come off sounding natural and unaffected. It was incredible.

Sparky opened Tuesday night in SUB Theatre with two pieced by the legendary Robert Johnson, bottlenect guitar being the main feature of these songs. Although his technical ability leaves much to be desired, you can over look mistakes because there is so much feeling that flows from within.

He then did a really good job on one of his own compositions, 'Ballad for S.G.' It had a soft, relaxing sound. There was a strong Joni Mitchell influence in the minor chords that he used, as well as in the structure of the lyric. He obviously knows Joni Mitchell because later on he played her 'Urge for Going'. This song was done with a mixture of finger picking and chording, and I would have preferred to hear him do more songs this way, for he is quite proficient in this regard.

The songs he writes have a blues tecture to them but the lyrics sound more like the words of a pop song as they seem to have a poetic quality about them. Sparky's most outstandin feature is his voice. It can be harsh and growling in some songs, yet soft and mellow if others. It is always strong and clear. Because he relies on his vocal talent more than his musicianship to get by, most of the songs did contain a certain melodic quality.

Perhaps the best thing he did all night was a gospel tune a the very end. He just threw bac his head and sang with his whol being. After that song, the audience was quiet, still caugh in the spell, and then began to clap. It was really a moving experience.

If you didn't get a chance to see him on Tuesday, try and catch one of his shows at Room at the Top on Dec. 1 or 2. It will be something to your tastes, think.

S.C.C. Holde