

## Spirit of the West

**A** long time ago in a village far far away. There was a band of happy minstrels that would come to the village. Every summer they would come to our town hoping to make some money. Times have not changed much. Musicians still move from town to town hoping to make a few bucks. I'm sure Spirit of the West are not too different in that respect. The difference for them and us is that they actually enjoy what they are doing. They are the happy minstrels and they could play in any time period.

If I may be so bold, I think they are one of the best Can Con bands in our fair land. I felt the need to be among the people.

This is something I had not engaged in for some time. It is something to feel the energy of the crowd engulf you. To move up and down, sway left and right. To explode into frantic dancing with people who you know and people who you will probably never see again. To actually break into a sweat doing some you like. It felt good to be a part of a crowd that was not actually trying to kill one another to get to the band. There was one member of the audience who apparently felt this need. The poor guy was promptly removed. Oh well, some people just can't take a good joke. There's a stray sheep in every bunch. baaa...

I did have an overwhelming jolt of deja vu. It was the same time same place last year that I saw Spirit o' the West. I was with the same people give or take a few. I had a great time then.

This was one of the reasons I had decided to take my mind and body to see them for the second time. I had not expected it to be almost the same show. Obviously, the same events did not happen, but the music line up was just about the same. They played a couple of new songs, but as they pointed out they were there to play the old tunes. While this was great for the people who had never experienced them before. It was a little disappointing for the people who had. I was interested in listening to the old songs, but I also like the shows I see to be fresh. The new songs they played were fabulous and it made me want to hear more. It made me feel a little bit frustrated because I know they have the talent to produce original stuff.

Also, if someone knows why the show was only about an hour long. I wish they would fill me in. A lot of people I talked to said that they did not think that they received their money's worth. I think that's a pretty good call. It's fair anyway. If not to the band then to the people who felt cheated. I try to be at least a tiny bit egalitarian. There were folks there that had a memorable evening. I'm glad they did. It was not by any means a lame event. My hope is that if they do travel into this part of the country again. They have some new food for the ears. I'm sure my affections won't falter. That's amore!

Photo by Kevin G. Porter

"In my mind there's a huge difference between Marino Marini and Madonna."

by Fodi

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