

# ENTERTAINMENT

## If You Can Swallow This

by Luke Peterson

Given the assignment of reviewing Stevie Starr, the Regurgitating Man's March 11th performance, I decided to swallow my pen and paper and see what I could come up with:

The evening's opening act was none other than The Flying Scotsman Frank Taylor. Having been previously unfamiliar with Taylor's show, I was pleasantly surprised by the show he put on for the relatively small crowd on hand at the Sub Cafeteria. Armed with an acoustic guitar, a quick wit and his ever present beer mug, Taylor churned out an entertaining blend of stories, jokes, and folk songs. He set the evening's tone early on when he told the crowd: "If ya get bored, just fondle yer neighbour!". Despite some of his jokes being a little tasteless, Taylor managed to keep the crowd chuckling. The Scotsman maintained a good rapport with the audience by bantering with crowd members between songs, and also by humiliating the odd heckler.

For the most part, the crowd seemed unfamiliar with the folk tunes Taylor specialized in, and this dampened things a bit as they sounded like great sing-along jags. Those audience members who had the foresight to bring along their official Scottish folk song anthologies, appeared to enjoy howling along with Frank. Unfortunately many audience members, myself included, were relegated to singing the choruses of such timeless classics as "What ya gonna do with a drunken sailor?" and "There's no shore like the north shore (That's for sure, That's for sure)".

Don't let the folk music label fool you, this guy puts on a great show. Check him out next time he's playing in a local establishment.

At ten o'clock Taylor finished his set and a fifteen minute intermission followed. Just as the crowd was starting to get restless from the already long evening (the doors

opened at 8:00 pm), Stevie Starr's manager climbed on stage to introduce the Gastronomical Giant who has appeared around the world and on the Arsenio Hall and David Letterman shows. As the crowd applauded, Starr burst into the building clad in one of the geekiest outfits I've seen in awhile. The fact that laughter quickly replaced the applause, confirmed my own first impressions of his blue and grey tinfoil ensemble.

Fashion sense aside, Starr put on an amazing show. He got things rolling by inhaling a light bulb and then bringing it back up. Those of us who need a bucket of water just to swallow a Tylenol, were humbled in our seats. After seeing this guy's show, you will swear that he has had a cow's stomach transplanted into his belly. Over the course of the evening, the Tinfoiled Wonder regurgitated numerous items including: ten loonies, butane, smoke, a cigarette lighter and a snooker ball. I was particularly impressed when he swallowed a slightly scaled down rubic's cube and managed to twist it several times in his stomach before bringing it back up. After seeing it with my own eyes, I can attest to the fact that he's legit.

The trick that truly left me awestruck, involved a borrowed ring from an audience member, a locked padlock and a key. Starr swallowed all three items separately and when he brought them up again, the padlock was locked onto the ring. I can only speculate that Starr swallows a dwarf accomplice, prior to each show.

Starr's finale proved almost anticlimactic after the padlock trick: he swallowed about six glasses of water and two goldfish and brought them back up in the order the audience specified. After finishing the show, Starr dashed off the stage and out the door, presumably to a waiting ambulance!

Ed's Note: GULP!



## Lets Bring It Up Again

Ed's Note: Yack!

How would you like to spend an evening watching someone spew up various items? No? Pity, really, as you missed a really entertaining evening last Friday - an evening unlike anything you've ever seen before or probably ever will again. It began slowly... Stevie Starr, the Scottish regurgitator, appeared in a magnificent blue and silver shining suit and swallowed a light bulb. He brought it back up. Wow. Then he started to get clever. With the aid of a volunteer, he was fed ten loonies (they entered his stomach with a satisfying clank) and proceeded to produce any number of loonies, wet or dry, one at a time or in groups. Gasp, and then the fun really started.

Stevie Starr worked his way through dish washing liquid, lighter fluid, pieces of jewelry kindly volunteered from the audience, and even an 8 ball. The dish washing liquid is good for cleaning rings, he says. But how on earth do you swallow something as big as an 8 ball? By using lots of suck to get it down, he assures me. Anyway, this guy can do all kinds of incredible things-to get a Rubick's cube into your stomach is difficult enough but to shuffle the colors around is really impressive. Another of his best tricks was to swallow a padlock, a key and a ring separately-then to bring the padlock back up with the ring locked onto it. That's the thing that really got me about his act-some bits that are just so amazing you can't

believe that he can do it. He even somehow managed to swallow sugar, drink water, then bring up dry sugar. A truly amazing show.

But it's not just the jaw-drop value that made the show so enjoyable. Stevie Starr has a genuine stage presence. From the silly comments that accompanied each part of the act to the god-awful noises he makes as he brings up whatever he's been swallowing. He interacts well with the audience too, by getting them to feed him items or give him their own possessions. And somewhere there is a very scared ringless woman convinced she is going to spit up a fish (come back Heidi!)

Ah, the fish. The now infamous climax of the act is where Stevie Starr

swallowed two live goldfish, lets them swim around a bit, then brings them back up (in the order that the audience picks) into the fish tank, where they happily swim around as if nothing happened. Sick? Yes, but very funny. And since goldfish allegedly have a five second memory then what do they care.

Stevie Starr is apparently the only professional regurgitator in the world (any arguments)? Although there are plenty of amateurs scattered all over the place nobody else makes a living from it. He's been doing it on stage for 10 years, appearing in Britain, America, Australia and Japan amongst others. And how did Stevie Starr discover this talent? Well, as a child in Scotland he used to swallow his pocket

money and entertain his friends by bringing it back up. Now he regurgitates more imaginative things such as bumblebees and even a small shark when he was down under. He really came to light in Britain in 1987 when he appeared on a late night TV show and was such a success he was invited back 3 more times, but I swear that on one occasion he swallowed two fish and only one came back up but that's another story altogether... Oh, and the opening act was Frank Taylor. Never mind.

By Michael Edwards