

ENTERTAINMENT

Los Lobos serve steaming Tex-Mex

Los Lobos
SUB Theatre

review by Don Teplyske

Los Lobos, five hip guys from East L.A., served up a steaming bowl of Tex-Mex Howlin' Boogie to a sold out crowd Thursday evening at SUB Theatre.

The Wolves had the crowd simmering from the opening chords of their calling card number "Will the Wolf Survive." By the time the band launched into their third song, a rave up of "Come On, Let's Go," the audience was in a full boil. This intensity remained for the duration of the show.

Los Lobos offered up scorching renditions of the majority of the songs from their two albums and also introduced the appreciative audience to several Mexican ditties.

The band also relied heavily on rock and roll's past. Renditions of several classic songs, including "La Bamba," "I'm Gonna Be A Wheel Someday" and an instrumental "Can't Help Falling In Love" proved especially popular with the packed dance floor.

The members of Los Lobos took advantage of a multitude of instruments during the course of their ninety minute set. Vocalist David Hidalgo proved himself proficient not only on guitar, but also on lap steel and accordian. Cesar Rosas, who shares vocal chores with Hidalgo, gave a spirited performance on lead guitar.

Most satisfying perhaps was the work of Steve Berlin. Berlin's saxophone was a dominant force throughout the band's performance but never at the expense of the rest of the band.

To prevent repetition, it is best said that Los Lobos gave what was probably the hottest show Edmonton has seen since Billy Idol's 1982 performance.

Opening for Los Lobos were Dusty Chaps and Jr. Gone Wild; these two bands were more than adequate in warming up the audience.

Dusty Chaps, the latest project, of local musician Mike Sinatra, played an all too brief twenty minute set which contained campfire versions of "Walbash Cannonball" and "I Fall To Pieces." Several songs, most notably "Yukon Buddy," contained glimmers of brilliance which promise bigger things from this trio of cowboy loving pilgrims.

Similar enthusiasm can be expressed for Jr.



Los Lobos: hottest show since Billy Idol

Photo Bill St. John

Gone Wild. Even with most of the band appearing exhausted, the Jr.'s special blend of hard edged power pop won over the crowd.

Playing probably the biggest gig of their career, Jr. Gone Wild was masterful with their hook-laden songs of love and misery. "I Love Mrs. Jones" and "Heaven On a Bad Day" both contain vocals reminiscent of sixties pop artists like Herman's Hermits.

If he is ever able to blend the best parts of each band into a solid whole, Sinatra will have very good chance of breaking into major label territory.

A howl lot of fun was had by everyone who attended the show.



Laughing Stock is a potpourri of giggles and laughs. Individually and as a group, they have performed in many major centres in Canada and the USA, including two-and-a-half weeks OFF-Broadway in New York in April 1984.

Laughing Stock combines the talents of some of Western Canada's leading young comedians. This six-member group have had their improvisational techniques well-honed by years of TheatreSports participation.

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