

Suede

Suede at the Barrowlands,
Glasgow (Scotland)

By Neil Duxbury

2000 young Glaswegians packed into a sold out Barrowlands to observe the rebirth of Suede, their original guitarist having quit during the mixing of their second album, *Dog Man Star*. The replacement, 18 year old Richard Oakes, has found himself thrown into an Autumn of touring with the glare of the music press on him.

The openers *Goya Dress* are two girls and a guy who haven't released anything but are creating a buzz with their gigs around the country. Live they pull you

in with a demon drummer thumping out a deafening rhythm for the guitars and vocals to twist around. In the rare slow songs we get to hear the beauty of the singer's voice. After a well received

half hour they depart and leave us to wait

for the main attraction.

We get through most of *Monster* before the lights go out and a recording of *We Are The Pigs* creates a vacuum of at the back of the hall. The band take the stage and rocket into the opening number. Barely giving us time to catch our breath

they follow this with *We are the Pigs* which blows the recorded version away. *Animal Nitrate* causes 4000 feet to inflict unknown amounts of damage on the floor of this second floor venue and

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doesn't help matters.

Brett Anderson charges around the stage singing with the other band members, to the very responsive crowd and from the risers comes perilously close to singing in the crowd. The rest of the band seem to be having an equally good time. Simon Gilbert grins madly from behind his drum kit while Matt Osman swings his bass in time with the music. On the far side of the stage, the new recruit is keeping Suede's magic alive. It sounds like Bernard's here except there's no whining about how his guitar isn't high enough in the mix.

Pantomime Horse and *Metal Mickey* from the debut album put more strain on the building and Richard Oakes gets to show his proficiency on the piano in *The 2 of Us*. Meanwhile Jarmanesque visions flicker behind the band, adding another dimension to the

show. Finally there are just Brett, Richard, an acoustic guitar and a projection of an old man as *Still Life* brings the show to a close.

2000 voices scream for an encore and by some miracle (as Suede very rarely do any encores) Simon Gilbert reappears with a huge grin on his face. Seating himself behind his drums he thumps out the first bar to *the Drowners*, Suede's first single, stops, his grin widens, then he starts again as the other three join him for a momentous finale to one of the best shows of the year. The crowd goes wild and with a few shouts of goodwill Suede wander back to their dressing room. The crowd screams even louder but the credits roll on the projection screen to put an end to hope.

The buzz backstage is that it is the best gig they have ever played and there is much optimism about the future. However while Richard Oakes can take the on-stage place of Bernard Butler there still remains the question of whether he can fill Bernard's writing shoes and also whether this task will be required of him. For now, I don't care. I have been up for 34 hours and my jetlag is just starting to kick in. It has been a great night and I hope they have many more like it.

"O Wert Thou in a Cauld Blast": A Poetic Tribute to Robert Burns

The public is invited to attend an informal evening of Scottish poetry and song at the National Exhibition Centre on **Wednesday, January 25**. The evening program will commence at the Burns monument, located on **Queen Street at 6:30 pm**.

The NEC's current exhibition of recent works by the Heritage Rug Hooking Guild of Fredericton: **"Rugs Come Alive in '95"** continues until February 26. For info call 453-3747.

This space reserved for cynical, slightly silly, Scottish Distractions Editors.

Ecole superieure de danse du Quebec **AUDITIONS** 1995-96 School Year For Students 10 to 18 Years old Date and Location: **Friday March 24, 1995 at 5:00 pm** Dance Fredericton 20, York Street in Fredericton

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Send nominations to the University Secretary, Room 110, Old Arts Building, UNB Fredericton, or to the Vice-President (Saint John), Room 111, Oland Hall, UNB Saint John.

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