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

ATTENTION:

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 The buzz backstage is that it is the hour they best gig they have ever played and depart there is much optimism about the a n d leave us future.

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 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.

they follow this with We are the Pigs

which blows the recorded version away.

Animal Nitrate causes 4000 feet to in-

flict unknown amounts of damage on

the floor of this second floor venue and

their

next

single

New

Gen-

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tion

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.

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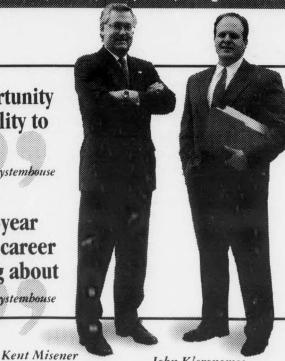
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