

Talent in Action

DIRE STRAITS

Radio City Music Hall, New York
Tickets: \$20

THE WORD 'BRILLIANT' would suffice as a review of the first of Dire Straits' three sold-out Radio City dates Oct. 1. Perhaps the most pleasing element of this show was consistency. While the British band arrived at its current American popularity through the radio success of "Money For Nothing," the Straits' two-hour-plus performance consisted of a seamless stream of beautifully constructed, beautifully executed tunes.

An unlikely looking but endearing rock hero, Dire Straits leader Mark Knopfler conveys a casual confidence on stage. Rambling around the uncluttered set as if it were his backyard, Knopfler was gracious in allowing his bandmates their share of the spotlight. Most notable in accepting that offer were flute and sax player Chris White and rhythm guitarist Jack Sonni. White's mostly saxophone contributions added a bright, often rollicking edge to material that leans toward the brooding on vinyl. Sonni—a former New York guitar shop salesman reportedly pulled on tour by Knopfler after an impressive demonstration—provided a broad, fleshy base for Knopfler's detailed story-telling on lead. Both Sonni

and White are hip dressers with a flair for center stage antics that works well with their fearless leader's laidback stance.

Led by White's eerie melody on the flute, the show kicked off with "Across The River" and followed at a pace that nicely blended hardcore fire-ups with the Straits' softer, more mellifluous numbers, even though much of the band's best work is an epic mix of both.

"Sultans Of Swing" cropped up about mid-set, at which point Knopfler's distinctive guitar work received a two-minute standing ovation. His highly textural style was flawlessly demonstrated on at least five guitars with a series of melody lines that often spoke more vividly than most rocker's vocals. As the front man, Knopfler's singing rightly allows the music to do the talking. His vocals often take on the tone of deliberate mumbblings, as if the words were an afterthought to the emotion.

Finally, the Straits' varying moods were bathed in an outstanding light show by designer Chas Herington. Keyed to the insistent beat of former Rockpile drummer Terry Williams' percussion, the light show ranged from stark splashes of white light to psychedelic trip simulations. **KIM FREEMAN**

JAMES TAYLOR

Radio City Music Hall, New York
Tickets: \$22.50

JAMES TAYLOR doesn't exactly transcend time; he just ignores it. While most of his contemporaries from the Troubador era of the early '70s have tried to modernize or have simply aged, Taylor remains the New England wayfarer with a six-string on his back, an oldie in his pocket and a quiet melancholy on his lips.

So when Taylor politely walked out onto the Radio City stage on Oct. 9 to solo one more time on "You Can Close Your Eyes," he was clearly the James Taylor the rather vocal crowd had come to expect; when he held the same gentle command—warm, intimate voice, sure-fingered guitar—he was also the James Taylor they had come to welcome.

But things slowly started to fall apart. After four relaxed songs performed alone, Taylor's band came out to join him, and his confidence seemed to waver. One of the keys to Taylor's durability—no matter how slow or fast his songs move—is the absolute ease and familiarity in his delivery. But Taylor labored through such regulars as "Carolina In My Mind" and "Handy Man" as if he and the songs were strangers thrown together for two hours and straining for conversation.

Taylor's six-piece band, which includes Russell Kunkel on drums, Leland Sklar on bass and Rosemary Butler on vocals, either tiptoed behind or overran him. Kunkel's drums were often too loud, and while each member of the band had an impressive solo moment or two, each seemed to be playing or singing alone. This lack of cohesion was surprising, because this core of musicians has performed together for more than 10 years and should know the songs, and each other, like the backs of their hands. Perhaps they knew each other too well.

(Continued on page 63)



BOXSCORE TOP CONCERT GROSSES

ARTIST(S)	Venue	Date(s)	Gross Ticket Price(s)	Attendance Capacity	Promoter
RATT BON JOVI	Meadowlands Arena East Rutherford, N.J.	Oct. 18	\$258,834 \$14.50/\$12.50	19,708 sellout	Monarch Entertainment Bureau
THE SHOW: RUN DMC, CHUCK BROWN & THE SOUL SEARCHERS, DOUB E. FRASH, THE JUNKYARD BAND, EXPERIENCE UNLIMITED, ROCK MASTER SCOTT & THE DYNAMIC THREE	Capital Centre Landover, Md.	Oct. 12	\$245,480 \$14/\$12	17,930 sellout	G-Street Express
AC/DC YNGWIE MALMSTEEN'S RISING FORCE	Coliseum Oakland Calif.	Oct. 19	\$229,890 \$15	15,326 sellout	Bill Graham Presents
AC/DC YNGWIE MALMSTEEN'S RISING FORCE	Giant Stadium Phoenix, Ariz.	Oct. 17	\$213,367 \$18.50/\$16.50	13,073 20,000	Feyline Presents
MOTLEY CRUE Y&T	Nassau Coliseum Uniondale, N.Y.	Oct. 14	\$208,056 \$16/\$14	17,363 sellout	Ron Delsner/Larry Vaughn Presents
AC/DC YNGWIE MALMSTEEN'S RISING FORCE	The Forum Los Angeles	Oct. 18	\$189,662 \$16.50/\$14.50	12,308 sellout	Avalon Attractions
RATT BON JOVI	Capital Centre Landover, Md.	Oct. 15	\$175,493 \$14.50	12,103 15,000	Cellar Door Prods.
KENNY LOGGINS MARK MCCOLLUM	Irvine Meadows Amphitheater Laguna Hills, Calif.	Oct. 19	\$169,009 \$17.50/\$12.50	11,361 15,000	Avalon Attractions
TINA TURNER MR. MISTER	Arizona State Univ. Amphitheater Tempe	Oct. 18	\$164,865 \$15	10,991 13,028	Evening Star Prods.
DIRE STRAITS	Civic Center Providence, R.I.	Oct. 4	\$157,035 \$14.50	10,988 sellout	Larry Vaughn Presents
STING	The Fox Theater Atlanta	Oct. 8-9	\$151,369 \$16.75	9,364 two sellouts	Chesapeake Concerts/Brass Ring Prods.
NIGHT RANGER STARSHIP	Civic Center Lakeland, Fla.	Oct. 18	\$148,290 \$15	10,000 sellout	Fantasma Prods.
SUPERTRAMP THE MOTELS	The Spectrum Philadelphia	Oct. 11	\$146,656 \$14.50/\$12.50	10,507 16,700	Electric Factory Concerts
MOTLEY CRUE Y&T	The Centrum Worcester, Mass.	Oct. 15	\$145,639 \$14.50/\$13.50	10,386 sellout	Don Law Co.
OINGO BOINGO	Greek Theater Los Angeles	Oct. 19-20	\$140,552 \$14.50/\$13.50	10,390 sellout	In-House
FOREIGNER JOHN CAFFERTY & THE BEAVER BROWN BAND	Olympic Saddledome Calgary, Alberta	Oct. 13	\$140,104 (\$175,131 Canadian) \$19.50	9,609 12,700	Brimstone Prods.
BARRY MANILOW	Civic Center Providence, R.I.	Oct. 17	\$130,310 \$17.50/\$15	8,103 9,784	Frank J. Russo
BARRY MANILOW	War Memorial Rochester, N.Y.	Oct. 15	\$129,151 \$16.50/\$14.50	8,134 9,111	Monarch Entertainment Bureau/John Scher Presents
AC/DC YNGWIE MALMSTEEN'S RISING FORCE	Frank Erwin Center Univ. of Texas at Austin	Oct. 13	\$125,291 \$14/\$12	9,229 12,302	In-House/Stone City Attractions
DAVID COPPERFIELD	Music Hall Cleveland Ohio	Oct. 19-20	\$123,660 \$12/\$11/\$8	5,800 9,000	Pace Theatricals
KENNY LOGGINS MARK MCCOLLUM	Pavilion Concord, Calif.	Oct. 18	\$120,358 \$16.50/\$13.50	8,211 sellout	In-House
STING	Sundome Tampa, Fla.	Oct. 16	\$114,645 \$15	8,099 sellout	Fantasma Prods.
HOWARD JONES MARSHALL CRENSHAW	Meadowlands Arena East Rutherford, N.J.	Oct. 16	\$113,059 \$14.50/\$12.50	8,881 14,953	Monarch Entertainment Bureau
STING	Sportatorium Hollywood, Fla.	Oct. 17	\$111,705 \$15	8,238 9,000	Fantasma Prods.
DIRE STRAITS	Cumberland County Civic Center Portland, Maine	Oct. 7	\$110,440 \$15/\$12.50	7,826 sellout	Larry Vaughn Presents
HEART SHOOTING STAR	McNichols Sports Arena Denver	Oct. 15	\$103,666 \$14.30/\$13.20	7,307 8,000	Feyline Presents
RATT BON JOVI	Cumberland County Civic Center Portland, Maine	Oct. 8	\$91,805 \$12.50/\$11.50	8,059 9,500	Frank J. Russo
THE BEACH BOYS THREE DOG NIGHT	The Fox Theater Atlanta	Oct. 11	\$91,479 \$15.75	6,202 9,364	Concerts West
NIGHT RANGER STARSHIP	Lee Civic Center Fort Myers, Fla.	Oct. 17	\$88,172 \$14	6,540 sellout	Fantasma Prods.
DIO ROUGH CUTT	The Met Center Minneapolis	Oct. 13	\$87,247 \$13/\$12	6,921 11,887	Jam Company
WHITNEY HOUSTON SOFTONES	Lyric Theater Baltimore, Md.	Oct. 11	\$77,762 \$18/\$16	4,734 5,000	Marc Corwin/That's Entertainment
HEART AUTOGRAPH	Civic Center St. Paul, Minn.	Oct. 20	\$75,211 \$14.50	5,386 sellout	Contemporary Prods.
GEORGE CARLIN TRAVIS SHOOK	Front Row Theater Cleveland, Ohio	Oct. 18-19	\$73,056 \$14.75	4,953 6,392	In-House
DIO ROUGH CUTT	Wendler Arena Saginaw, Mich.	Oct. 20	\$72,738 \$13.50	5,388 7,169	Brass Ring Prods.
DIO ROUGH CUTT	Wings Stadium Kalamazoo, Mich.	Oct. 18	\$70,713 \$13.50	5,238 8,169	Brass Ring Prods.
THE BEACH BOYS THREE DOG NIGHT	The Coliseum Hampton, Va.	Oct. 5	\$68,601 \$14.50/\$13.50	5,067 8,515	Alex Cooley/Southern Promotions
STAR SHOW '85: THE BAR-KAYS, ATLANTA STARR, CON-FUNK- SHUN	Memorial Auditorium Greenville, S.C.	Oct. 13	\$67,877 \$12/\$10	6,270 7,000	Dimensions Unlimited
THE BEACH BOYS THREE DOG NIGHT	Carolina Coliseum Columbia, S.C.	Oct. 10	\$67,048 \$14.50	4,624 12,532	Alex Cooley/Southern Promotions
DAVID COPPERFIELD	The Fox Theater Atlanta, Ga.	Oct. 14	\$64,025 Not available	Not available 9,364	Pace Theatricals
WHITNEY HOUSTON	Clowes Memorial Hall Indianapolis, Ind.	Oct. 19	\$62,877 \$15.50/\$13.50	4,339 sellout	K2 Concerts

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NEW ON THE CHARTS

DURELL COLEMAN

First brought to public attention through numerous performances on tv's "Star Search," Durell Coleman is now appearing on the black and pop album charts with his self-titled Island debut, at numbers 35 and 155, respectively.

As a child, Coleman, a native of Roanoke, Va., began singing in the High Street Baptist Church choir. By age 16, he was playing full-time with bands on the lounge circuit throughout the South and East Coast.

In 1983, Coleman decided to move to Los Angeles to further his musical career. While on the West Coast, he had the opportunity to audition for "Star Search." When Island Records chief Chris Blackwell saw Coleman on the show, he flew to Los Angeles to sign the singer to a worldwide contract with the label.

An array of producers applied their talents to Coleman's debut project: David Kershenbaum (Joe Jackson, Supertramp), Al McKay (Earth, Wind & Fire), Clarence Macdonald (the Temptations), Marti Sharron and Gary Skardina (Natalie Cole) and songwriter Tom Snow. A video supporting his first single, "Somebody Took My Love," was directed by Oley Sassone and produced by Island Pictures. Plans are in the works for a club tour.

Coleman is managed by Sherwin Bash, 804 Crescent Dr., Beverly Hills 90210; (213) 275-7020.