

TALENT IN ACTION

(Continued from preceding page)

about modern life and romance—subtler than recent Springsteen and less self-conscious (though more poetic) than Mellencamp, but in the same general ballpark. Whether this will bring the group national recognition remains to be seen, especially since American radio seems to be getting more and more conservative.

STEVE HOCHMAN

ELVIS COSTELLO

Broadway Theatre, New York
Tickets: \$30

ELVIS COSTELLO'S five-night stand on Broadway roughly coincided with the World Series, which may have kept die-hard Mets fans at bay. Still, the Costello series hardly suffered at the box office; all tickets were snapped up in just half an hour—and with good reason. Not only was the intimate venue a treat, but Costello presented a different show each night.

Most of the attention focused on the second and fourth dates of the Oct. 21-25 stint. The former was billed as half Costello solo and half Elvis & the Confederates. The latter, featuring Costello with his usual band, the Attractions, offered something called the Spinning Songbook.

On both of these nights, fans were treated to a formidable sampling of Costello standards as well as lesser-known tracks buried among his 13 albums, such as "Green Shirt," "Lip Service," and "Jack Of All Parades." But that was the least of it.

Consider: magicians Penn & Teller practically threatening Costello into performing Prince's "Pop Life"; Mrs. Elvis Costello (Cait O'Riordan of the Pogues) wildly frugging in a go-go cage; audience members being chosen at random, game-show-style, by Buster Poindexter (David Johansen) to spin a giant wheel bearing 40 Costello songs, followed by the headliner's performance of each song chosen.

That's just a little of the nonstop zaniness that took place at the Broadway. Also featured were Costello covering Tom Petty's "American Girl," the Hollies' "King Midas In Reverse," the Psychedelic Furs' "Pretty In Pink," and Gerry & the Pacemakers' "Ferry Across The Mersey"; a slide show from Costello's world travels; a duet with T-Bone Burnett, presented as the Coward Brothers, on George Jones and Johnny Cash songs. And, of

course, there was "On Broadway."

This was not your typical Costello. The man was not only jovial but downright hilarious, passionate, outgoing, and musically sharper than ever. With the Attractions and the Confederates and on his own, he proved a total showman who's got a long way to go before he runs short of ideas.

JEFF TAMARKIN

FAIRPORT CONVENTION DAN AR BRAS

Bottom Line, New York
Tickets: \$10

ALTHOUGH SOME of the more notable band members, like Richard and Linda Thompson and the late Sandy Denny, vacated Fairport Convention years ago, the venerable British folk-rock act continues to attract a loyal cult audience. With three longtime members—guitarist/vocalist Simon Nicol, bassist/vocalist Dave Pegg, and drummer Dave Mattacks—accompanied by Ric Sanders on violin and Martin Allcock on guitar, the current Fairport aggregation turned in a generally impressive set here last month.

Considering that the group was formed nearly two decades ago and has undergone countless personnel changes, its sound remains curiously unchanged. If there was any noticeable difference between this show and one from the group's heyday, it was that a sizable dose of straight-ahead rock'n'roll and even a taste of funky fusion are now filtered through Fairport's traditional electric English folk, Celtic fiddle tunes, and ballads.

The band performed material from its new Varrick/Rounder album, "Expletive Delighted," as well as old favorites like the traditional "Matty Groves" and Richard Thompson's "Meet On The Ledge." Not once did the quality of the quintet's musicianship flag. However, the dominance of Sanders' fiddle made one wish Thompson would emerge from the wings to add his distinctive guitar to the mix.

Opening the show was Dan Ar Bras, a solo guitarist from the Brittany region of France. A former member of Fairport himself, he alternated between acoustic and electric pieces. His music holds appeal for fans of new age and the traditional fold. While often pretty and texturally interesting, it was also sometimes forgettable, lacking in direction.

JEFF TAMARKIN



BOXSCORE TOP CONCERT GROSSES

ARTIST(S)	Venue	Date(s)	Gross Ticket Price(s)	Attendance Capacity	Promoter
VAN HALEN BACHMAN-TURNER OVERDRIVE	Cow Palace San Francisco, Calif.	Oct. 31-Nov. 3	\$950,745 \$16.50	57,270 sellout	Bill Graham Presents
JOURNEY GLASS TIGER	Meadowlands Arena East Rutherford, N.J.	Oct. 25-26 & 28	\$946,113 \$17.50/\$16.50	57,483 61,398 sellout	Monarch Entertainment Bureau John Scher Presents
JOURNEY GLASS TIGER	The Coliseum Cleveland, Ohio	Oct. 11-12	\$505,632 \$16	31,692 35,000	Belkin Prods.
BOB SEGER & THE SILVER BULLET BAND FRANKIE MILLER	The Spectrum Philadelphia, Pa.	Oct. 28-29	\$484,478 \$17/\$15	29,458 sellout	Electric Factory Concerts
JOURNEY GLASS TIGER	The Centrum in Worcester Worcester, Mass.	Oct. 30-31	\$411,903 \$17.50/\$15	24,910 sellout	Don Law Co.
VAN HALEN BACHMAN-TURNER OVERDRIVE	Memorial Coliseum Complex Portland, Ore.	Oct. 25-26	\$326,592 \$16	20,412 sellout	Double Tee Promotions
BILLY JOEL	The Coliseum Cleveland, Ohio	Oct. 29	\$324,538 \$17.50	18,545 sellout	Belkin Prods.
BILLY JOEL	Pittsburgh Civic Arena & Exhibit Hall Pittsburgh, Pa.	Oct. 27	\$285,645 \$17.50	16,321 sellout	DiCenare-Engler Prods.
JULIO IGLESIAS	James L. Knight International Center Miami, Fla.	Oct. 24-25	\$268,428 \$27.50	10,009 sellout	Fantasma Prods.
OINGO BOINGO	Irvine Meadows Amphitheatre Laguna Hills, Calif.	Oct. 31	\$222,127 \$17.50/\$16.50/\$12.50	15,000 sellout	Avalon Attractions
JOURNEY GLASS TIGER	Providence Civic Center Providence, R.I.	Nov. 2	\$215,693 \$17.50	12,868 sellout	Frank J. Russo
NEIL YOUNG & CRAZY HORSE	The Coliseum Cleveland, Ohio	Oct. 10	\$199,904 \$16	12,494 13,000	Belkin Prods.
DAVID LEE ROTH CINDERELLA	Maple Leaf Gardens Toronto, Ontario Canada	Oct. 31	\$190,272 (\$237,840 Canadian) \$20	11,892 12,500	Concert Prods. International
STEVIE WONDER	ARCO Arena Sacramento, Calif.	Oct. 26	\$183,594 \$17.50	10,299 sellout	White Rose Ltd.
ANNE MURRAY	Fox Theatre St. Louis, Mo.	Oct. 25-26	\$175,508 \$27.50/\$8.40	8,477 9,330	Fox Concerts
VAN HALEN BACHMAN-TURNER OVERDRIVE	Lawlor Events Center Univ. of Nevada, Reno Reno, Nev.	Oct. 29	\$158,087 \$16.50	9,581 11,500	Bill Graham Presents
TRIUMPH YNGWIE MALMSTEEN	Meadowlands Arena East Rutherford, N.J.	Nov. 2	\$156,972 \$15.50/\$13.50	11,456 14,953	Monarch Entertainment Bureau John Scher Presents WNEW/Westwood I/St. Pauli Girl/Budweiser
ELVIS COSTELLO	The Tower Theatre Upper Darby, Pa.	Oct. 27-29	\$149,438 \$17.50/\$15.75/\$15	9,216 sellout	Electric Factory Concerts
DAVID LEE ROTH CINDERELLA	Cumberland County Civic Center Portland, Maine	Nov. 2	\$139,762 \$16/\$15	9,500 sellout	Don Law Co.
R.E.M. THE FEEELIES	Wang Center for the Performing Arts Boston, Mass.	Nov. 1-2	\$131,671 \$17/\$16	8,111 sellout	Don Law Co.
STEVE WINWOOD LEVEL 42	Concord Pavilion Concord, Calif.	Oct. 26	\$130,004 \$17.50/\$14.50	8,288 sellout	in-house
NEW ORDER THE FALL	Irvine Meadows Amphitheatre Laguna Hills, Calif.	Nov. 1	\$124,265 \$17.50/\$16.50	8,002 10,418	Avalon Attractions
JERRY GARCIA BAND KINGFISH	Henry J. Kaiser Convention Center Oakland, Calif.	Oct. 31	\$116,722 \$15	7,900 sellout	Bill Graham Presents
38 SPECIAL BAD COMPANY	Reunion Arena Dallas, Texas	Nov. 1	\$116,655 \$15	7,777 9,000	Beaver Prods.
TRIUMPH YNGWIE MALMSTEEN	The Centrum in Worcester Worcester, Mass.	Nov. 1	\$115,847 \$14.50/\$13.50	8,229 9,657	Frank J. Russo
38 SPECIAL BON JOVI	Dayton Hara Arena & Exposition Center Dayton, Ohio	Oct. 8	\$112,000 \$14	8,000 sellout	Belkin Prods.
THE MOODY BLUES THE FIXX	Capital Centre Landover, Md.	Oct. 16	\$109,065 \$16.50	6,610 14,000	Cellar Door Prods.
NEIL YOUNG & CRAZY HORSE	Ohio Center Columbus, Ohio	Oct. 20	\$103,140 \$15	6,876 7,500	Belkin Prods.
38 SPECIAL BAD COMPANY	Lakefront Arena Univ. of New Orleans New Orleans, La.	Oct. 28	\$98,980 \$15	6,592 7,000	Beaver Prods.
TRIUMPH YNGWIE MALMSTEEN	Baltimore Arena Baltimore, Md.	Oct. 30	\$97,832 \$14.50	7,284 13,641	Up Front Promotions
EMERSON, LAKE & POWELL ADRENALIN	Rosemont Horizon Rosemont, Ill.	Oct. 19	\$92,674 \$15.50	5,979 8,935	Jam Prods.
THE MONKEES THE GRASS ROOTS GARY PUCKETT & THE UNION GAP HERMAN'S HERMITS	Roberts Municipal Stadium Evansville, Ind.	Nov. 1	\$90,090 \$15	6,424 7,500	Sunshine Promotions
STEVIE WONDER	Beasley PAC Washington State Univ. Pullman, Wash.	Oct. 22	\$89,576 \$17/\$15	5,694 12,300	White Rose Ltd. Double Tee Promotions
CHICAGO	Providence Civic Center Providence, R.I.	Oct. 28	\$88,328 \$15.50/\$14.50	5,700 9,784	Frank J. Russo
CHICAGO	Baltimore Arena Baltimore, Md.	Nov. 1	\$86,128 \$15	5,888 13,641	in-house
YNT CASTLE BLAK	Concord Pavilion Concord, Calif.	Oct. 31	\$80,669 \$16.50/\$14.50	5,230 8,475	in-house
OZZY OSBOURNE QUEENSRYCHE	Memorial Coliseum Corpus Christi, Texas	Oct. 8	\$73,044 \$15	5,180 sellout	Stone City Attractions
CAMEO FORCE M.D.'S	Fox Theatre St. Louis, Mo.	Oct. 24	\$72,176 \$17.50/\$15.50	4,204 4,665	Fox Concerts First Class Prods. PACE Concerts
GALLAGHER	La Crosse Center La Crosse, Wis.	Oct. 29	\$70,635 \$15/\$12	5,001 5,365	Wizard of Odd
ANNE MURRAY	Veterans Memorial Auditorium Des Moines, Iowa	Oct. 23	\$66,177 \$15.50	4,345 7,250	in-house

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