

## TALENT IN ACTION

(Continued from preceding page)

ly become Shriekback's central visual figure—and a major part of its live appeal.

New songs like "Black Light Trap" and "The Reptiles And I" sounded markedly better in the live context, suggesting that the one area where the band excels—its use of dynamics—has never been adequately captured on vinyl. Shows like this can't help but win new converts.

DAVE DIMARTINO

### JUDY RODMAN

Buckboard, Atlanta  
Tickets: \$6

FROM A VISUAL STANDPOINT, country singer Judy Rodman does not fit the profile of a honky-tonk angel. Her warm, responsible on-stage demeanor lacks any grit. However, this is more than compensated for by the soulfulness in her voice.

At this recent show, Rodman's 75-minute headline set was delivered with both fun and precision. With only one album out, there wasn't a great catalog of original material to convey. Consequently, she and her excellent four-piece band—featuring husband John Rodman—had to stoop to copy-group status via rather rote renditions of alien material, like "Ain't No Sunshine" and "Me And Bobby McGee."

Where Rodman shone was on her original material. Both her signature No. 1 country hit, "Until I Met You," and her current chart-climber, "She Thinks She'll Marry," exhibited Rodman's strong, flexible vocal range.

The impression of a talented performer still somewhat stuck with interpretive repertoire holds back Rodman's act from reaching major-concert headline status. There's plenty of raw potential, but it will take several more original songs to bring Rodman up to that level.

RUSSELL SHAW

### SUZANNE VEGA

The Bottom Line, New York  
Tickets: \$11

RUMOR HAS IT that the top brass at A&M is intent on making Suzanne Vega a star. Her early show here Dec. 12 before a sold-out crowd—the first set of a three-night stand—showcased some of the changes designed to move her in that direction. Happily, the main differences—a more forceful guitar player and keyboardist—have added vitality to her ethereal folk music, transforming some of the less fragile tunes into bona fide folk-rock.

Vega performed most of the songs on her 1985 debut album as well as a host of new and unreleased material. From the driving "Marlene On The Wall" to the cappella "Tom's Restaurant" (tentatively scheduled to be the title track to her next album, due in April), each song was framed in a carefully crafted arrangement; seemingly every note had a purpose.

The only time the show faltered was when Vega put down her acoustic guitar for "Left Of Center," from the "Pretty In Pink" soundtrack. She seemed lost without something to hold on to and even looked a bit embarrassed when she found herself intuitively moving to her own music.

All in all, however, it was an endearing, engaging performance of some of the freshest music being made today. If Vega continues to please crowds as she did this one—which gave her two encores and more

than once broke into spontaneous applause during a song—A&M's goal for her might not be out of reach.

JEAN ROSENBLUTH

### THE FOUNTAINHEAD

China Club, New York, N.Y.  
Tickets: \$10

A LINE IN "Feel It Now," the first song offered at the Fountainhead's recent show here, makes reference to how the "beat goes on and on and on." And that is pretty much the nature of vocalist/guitarist Pat O'Donnell's and guitarist Steve Belton's live sound. The Irish duo—here with support musicians playing the additional instrumental parts from its debut China/Chrysalis album, "The Burning Touch"—established a relentless forward thrust on each song, most of which were extended to dance-mix length.

That the material never ran past the point of tedium was largely due to Belton's sometimes stinging, sometimes ringing U2 and Big Country-like guitarwork, which rode upon billowing and receding waves of synth chordings. Thus, simple progressions and fundamental rhythm patterns could be repeated without sounding plodding.

Further breaking up the weighty bulk of the material was the brighter, more melodic "Sometimes," which featured Belton's percolating guitar undercurrent, and, uncharacteristically, a cover of the Hendrix version of "Hey Joe," in which he approximated the guitar part quite well, not quite pulling it off but not disgracing himself, either.

O'Donnell, meanwhile, sang with unassuming conviction, his eyes squinting while declaiming lyrics or shouting out the martial chant in the middle of set closer and first Irish hit "Rhythm Method."

JIM BESSMAN

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# BOXSCORE TOP CONCERT GROSSES

ARTIST(S)	Venue	Date(s)	Gross Ticket Price(s)	Attendance Capacity	Promoter
KENNY ROGERS T. GRAHAM BROWN	Fox Theatre Atlanta, Ga.	Dec. 17-21	\$614,188 \$27.25/\$24.25/ \$21.25/\$17.25	29,040 32,746	in-house
PETER GABRIEL YOUSOU N'DOUR	The Forum Inglewood, Calif.	Dec. 15-16	\$520,134 \$18.50/\$17.50	28,224 sellout	Avalon Attractions
DAVID LEE ROTH CINDERELLA	The Forum Inglewood, Calif.	Dec. 19-20	\$439,650 \$17.50/\$16	28,145 sellout	Avalon Attractions
HUEY LEWIS & THE NEWS BRUCE HORNSBY & THE RANGE	Seattle Center Seattle, Wash.	Dec. 19-20	\$432,581 \$16.50	26,217 sellout	Media One
LIONEL RICHIE	Oakland-Alameda County Coliseum Oakland, Calif.	Dec. 19-20	\$412,685 \$17.50	23,582 sellout	Bill Graham Presents
JOURNEY GLASS TIGER	Arizona Veteran's Memorial Coliseum & Fairgrounds Phoenix, Ariz.	Dec. 14-15	\$412,154 \$16.50	24,979 sellout	Beaver Prods.
JOURNEY GLASS TIGER	Cow Palace San Francisco, Calif.	Dec. 20-21	\$409,150 \$17.50	23,380 sellout	Bill Graham Presents
BOB SEGER & THE SILVER BULLET BAND GEORGIA SATELLITES	Met Center Bloomington, Minn.	Dec. 15-16	\$403,937 \$17/\$15	24,285 26,000	Rose Prods.
ANITA BAKER PIECES OF A DREAM	Masonic Temple Detroit, Mich.	Nov. 28-30 & Dec. 4-5	\$396,278 \$20/\$18.50	21,910 sellout	Turning Point Prods.
BOB SEGER & THE SILVER BULLET BAND GEORGIA SATELLITES	The Arena St. Louis, Mo.	Dec. 10-11	\$382,055 \$16/\$15	24,393 sellout	Contemporary Prods.
HUEY LEWIS & THE NEWS BRUCE HORNSBY & THE RANGE	Syrja Coliseum Complex Portland, Ore.	Dec. 17-18	\$348,992 \$16.50/\$15	21,441 sellout	Double Tee Promotions
JOURNEY GLASS TIGER	Frank Erwin Center Univ. of Texas at Austin Austin, Texas	Dec. 12	\$258,627 \$16.50/\$15	15,924 sellout	Beaver Prods.
ANITA BAKER PIECES OF A DREAM	Arie Crown Theatre Chicago, Ill.	Nov. 21-23	\$255,580 \$20	12,957 sellout	Turning Point Prods. Dimensions Unlimited
BILLY JOEL	Maple Leaf Gardens Toronto, Ontario	Dec. 11	\$254,606 (\$353,902 Canadian) \$22.50	15,729 sellout	Concert Prods. International
BILLY JOEL	Winnipeg Arena Winnipeg, Manitoba	Dec. 8	\$186,024 (\$258,573 Canadian) \$22.50	12,638 13,500	Concert Prods. Int'l Donald K. Donald Prods. Night Owl Entertainment
HUEY LEWIS & THE NEWS BRUCE HORNSBY & THE RANGE	Pacific National Exhibition Park Vancouver, British Columbia	Dec. 21	\$183,785 (\$255,461 Canadian) \$22.50	11,349 sellout	Perry Scope Prods.
BON JOVI SKID ROW	Stabler Arena Lehigh Univ. Bethlehem, Pa.	Dec. 19-20	\$173,370 \$15	11,359 12,236 sellout	Makoul Prods.
THE BEACH BOYS	Geroge M. Sullivan Sports Arena Anchorage, Alaska	Dec. 17	\$154,544 \$21.50/\$19.50	7,445 8,751	Northern Stage Co.
TRIUMPH BAD COMPANY	The Omni Atlanta, Ga.	Dec. 11	\$148,475 \$15.50	9,579 sellout	Brass Ring Prods.
JOURNEY GLASS TIGER	Tucson Community Center Tucson, Ariz.	Dec. 17	\$139,772 \$16.50	8,471 sellout	Evening Star Prods.
DAVID LEE ROTH CINDERELLA	San Diego Sports Arena San Diego, Calif.	Dec. 18	\$134,742 \$15.50	9,315 10,101	Avalon Attractions
RATT CHEAP TRICK	Met Center Bloomington, Minn.	Dec. 28	\$133,409 \$15.50	8,862 10,000	Rose Prods.
HUEY LEWIS & THE NEWS	Spokane Convention Center Spokane, Wash.	Dec. 15	\$131,888 \$16	8,243 sellout	Beaver Prods.
FREDDIE JACKSON MELBA MOORE MELISA MORGAN LEVERT NEW EDITION	Spectrum Philadelphia, Pa.	Dec. 15	\$116,572 \$17.50/\$15.50	7,427 11,813	PACE Concerts National Youth Movement
ANITA BAKER PIECES OF A DREAM	Front Row Theatre Cleveland, Ohio	Nov. 19-20	\$113,000 \$18.75	6,200 sellout	Front Row Prods.
CYNDI LAUPER EDDIE MONEY	Ohio Center Columbus, Ohio	Dec. 13	\$103,680 \$16	6,480 sellout	Belkin Prods.
YNGWIE MALMSTEEN'S RISING FORCE SAXON BLACK-N-BLUE	Long Beach Convention & Entertainment Center Long Beach, Calif.	Dec. 14	\$96,014 \$16/\$15	6,460 sellout	Avalon Attractions
CYNDI LAUPER EDDIE MONEY	West Palm Beach Auditorium West Palm Beach, Fla.	Dec. 27	\$90,645 \$15	6,700 sellout	Cellar Door Prods.
ANITA BAKER PIECES OF A DREAM	Fox Theatre St. Louis, Mo.	Nov. 25	\$85,887 \$18.50	4,665 sellout	Turning Point Prods. Fox Concerts
FREDDIE JACKSON MELISA MORGAN LEVERT	James L. Knight International Center Miami, Fla.	Nov. 30	\$74,877 \$16.50	5,000 sellout	PACE Concerts First Class Prods.
ANITA BAKER PIECES OF A DREAM	Cincinnati Music Hall Cincinnati, Ohio	Dec. 3	\$61,233 \$17.50	3,630 sellout	Electric Factory Concerts
LOVE & ROCKETS THE LUCY SHOW	Hollywood Palladium Hollywood, Calif.	Dec. 20	\$57,498 \$14	4,400 sellout	Avalon Attractions
GENE LOVES JEZEBEL DRAMARAMA	Hollywood Palladium Hollywood, Calif.	Dec. 5	\$57,428 \$16	4,400 sellout	Avalon Attractions
STEVIE RAY VAUGHAN & DOUBLE TROUBLE THE OUTLAWS	Hill Auditorium Ann Arbor, Mich.	Dec. 11	\$53,693 \$15.50	3,499 3,900	Brass Ring Prods.
ALICE COOPER VINNIE VINCENT INVASION	Atlanta Civic Center Atlanta, Ga.	Dec. 26	\$51,274 \$15.50	3,308 4,591	Southern Promotions
BERLIN QUESTION 16	Hollywood Palladium Hollywood, Calif.	Dec. 13	\$49,695 \$15	3,696 4,400	Avalon Attractions
SANDI PATTI	James L. Knight International Center Miami, Fla.	Nov. 21	\$47,600 \$12/\$11/\$9	4,590 5,000	Spring House
ALICE COOPER VINNIE VINCENT INVASION	West Palm Beach Auditorium West Palm Beach, Fla.	Dec. 28	\$46,200 \$15	3,287 6,400	Fantasma Prods.
YNGWIE MALMSTEEN'S RISING FORCE BLACK-N-BLUE SAXON	Henry J. Kaiser Convention Center Oakland, Calif.	Dec. 19	\$45,794 \$16.50/\$15	2,977 3,500	Bill Graham Presents
JAMES GALWAY	West Palm Beach Auditorium West Palm Beach, Fla.	Dec. 13	\$30,078 \$35/\$25/\$15/\$10	2,119 sellout	Regional Arts

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