

TALENT IN ACTION

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YMA SUMAC

The Ballroom, New York
Admission: \$15



Bowie On Wheels. During a recent Los Angeles video shoot for his new single, "Day In, Day Out"—the leadoff track from his upcoming EMI America album, "Never Let Me Down"—David Bowie was spotted roller-skating on Hollywood Boulevard. (Photo: Vinnie Zuffante/Starfile)

SOME OF THE people who flocked to Yma Sumac's sold-out Feb. 17 show at the Ballroom—which kicked off a three-week engagement that marked her first New York appearance in 13 years—must have been there for the music. But the glittery crowd seemed dominated by thrill-seekers lured by Sumac's exotic reputation as a flamboyant diva and a self-styled Inca princess. Everyone, however, was probably disappointed.

Despite her fabled garishness as a performer, Sumac's most distinctive feature has always been her remarkable five-octave range. At the Ballroom, it appeared that age had shrunk that range slightly (Sumac also said a cold was affecting her voice), although it was still impressive to hear her dip down into its booming depths and swoop up into its eerie, birdlike heights.

There were three main problems with Sumac's show: the general tackiness of presentation; the distressing lack of musical communication between the singer and her six-piece band, led by keyboardist Stephen Gaboury, which suggested there had been insufficient rehearsal time; and—most surprising, and most damaging, of all—the material she chose to sing.

When Sumac rose to fame in the '50s with a series of concert appearances and Capitol albums, the haunting, other-worldly songs she sang were as much a part of her appeal as the way she sang them. But at the Ballroom, her set was dominated by new tunes she has written herself, apparently in a misguided attempt to reach a contemporary audience.

These did little to showcase her range, which may have been a practical consideration. They also had English lyrics, most of them rather awkward, and bland, middle-of-the-road pop melodies—at least one of which would have been more at home in Nashville than in Sumac's native Peru.

Yma Sumac's desire to remain up-to-date is understandable. But she was a far more formidable artist when she was timeless.

PETER KEEPNEWS

BOSTON

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because of something they saw. There are some videos that I would like to get together. But they're difficult, and, because of the time-consuming part of it, they won't be promotional tools for singles. That's unfortunate. I wish I could give that to MCA because I feel they deserve to get everything they can in terms of my help in promoting the thing after what they did. We will have something, though. I'd really like to do a video documentary. This six-year story is a real interesting one.

Q: What's the latest on your planned tour?

A: We are in the preliminary stages of putting the show together; there aren't any firm plans. As you might imagine, there are an awful lot of offers, and we are considering the possibility of going out in June.



BOXSCORE TOP CONCERT GROSSES

ARTIST(S)	Venue	Date(s)	Gross Ticket Price(s)	Attendance Capacity	Promoter
BOB SEGER & THE SILVER BULLET BAND GEORGIA SATELLITES	Joe Louis Arena Detroit, Mich.	Feb. 24-25, 27, March 1, 3-4, 8	\$2,088,441 \$17.50	121,148 sellout	The Building Group
GENESIS	Florida Citrus Bowl Orlando, Fla.	Feb. 28	\$854,130 \$17.75	48,120 sellout	Cellar Door Prods.
BOB SEGER & THE SILVER BULLET BAND GEORGIA SATELLITES	Richfield Coliseum Richfield, Ohio	Feb. 19-20	\$548,964 \$17	32,292 sellout	Belkin Prods.
NEIL DIAMOND	Sportatorium Hollywood, Fla.	Feb. 27-28	\$471,880 \$17.50/\$15	28,089 sellout	Cellar Door Prods.
BILLY JOEL	Sportatorium Hollywood, Fla.	Feb. 23-24	\$435,451 \$16.50	26,376 sellout	Cellar Door Prods.
BON JOVI CINDERELLA	Kemper Arena, American Royal Center Kansas City, Mo.	Feb. 26	\$255,533 \$15.50	16,748 sellout	Contemporary Prods. New West Presentations
ANITA BAKER DURRELL COLEMAN	Front Row Theatre Cleveland, Ohio	March 5-8	\$248,553 \$19.75	12,585 12,784	Front Row Prods.
BOB SEGER & THE SILVER BULLET BAND GEORGIA SATELLITES	Riverfront Coliseum Cincinnati, Ohio	Feb. 17	\$234,158 \$17	13,774 sellout	Belkin Prods.
BILLY JOEL	Coliseum, Birmingham-Jefferson Civic Center Birmingham, Ala.	March 7	\$232,221 \$16.50	14,074 sellout	New Era Prods.
BON JOVI CINDERELLA	Market Square Arena Indianapolis, Ind.	March 2	\$228,230 \$14.50	15,740 sellout	Sunshine Promotions
BILLY JOEL	Sportatorium Hollywood, Fla.	March 4	\$209,055 \$16.50	12,670 13,000	Cellar Door Prods.
HUEY LEWIS & THE NEWS THE ROBERT CRAY BAND	Charleston Civic Center Charleston, W.Va.	Feb. 14	\$191,747 \$16.50	11,621 13,202	Belkin Prods.
IRON MAIDEN VINNIE VINCENT INVASION	Arizona Veterans Memorial Coliseum & Fairgrounds Phoenix, Ariz.	Feb. 25	\$163,423 \$15.50/\$14.50	11,099 12,000	Evening Star Prods.
BON JOVI CINDERELLA	The Kiel St. Louis, Mo.	Feb. 27	\$152,700 \$15	10,522 sellout	Contemporary Prods.
ALICE COOPER MEGADETH	Providence Civic Center Providence, R.I.	Feb. 19	\$122,131 \$14.50/\$13.50	8,495 sellout	Michael Striar Presents
ANITA BAKER DURRELL COLEMAN GEORGE HOWARD	Dallas Convention Center Dallas, Texas	Feb. 22	\$119,000 \$19.50	7,600 9,816	Turning Point Prods. (John Ray)
HANK WILLIAMS JR. & THE BAMA BAND EARL THOMAS CONLEY	Littlejohn Coliseum Clemson Univ. Clemson, S.C.	March 6	\$108,450 \$15	7,230 10,000	Kaleidoscope Prods.
IRON MAIDEN VINNIE VINCENT INVASION	Tucson Community Center Tucson, Ariz.	Feb. 26	\$106,538 \$15.50/\$14.50	7,230 9,753	Evening Star Prods.
WILLIE NELSON	Celebrity Theatre Phoenix, Ariz.	Feb. 25-26	\$105,390 \$22.50	4,927 5,402	Avalon Attractions Fey Concert Co.
CHICAGO	Lloyd Noble Center Univ. of Oklahoma Norman, Okla.	Feb. 28	\$105,044 \$15.50	6,860 9,800	Contemporary Presentations
RATT JOAN JETT & THE BLACKHEARTS POISON	Municipal Auditorium Arena, Kansas City Convention Center Kansas City, Mo.	Feb. 14	\$104,038 \$14.50	7,175 8,820	Contemporary Prods. New West Presentations
WILLIE NELSON	Tucson Community Center Tucson, Ariz.	Feb. 28	\$95,436 \$16.50	6,059 9,264	Avalon Attractions Fey Concert Co.
ALICE COOPER SWORD	Victor K. Copps Trade Center Hamilton, Ontario	March 4	\$91,050 (\$126,560 Canadian) \$17.50	7,232 7,500	Concert Prods. International Donald K. Donald Prods.
IRON MAIDEN WAYSTED	Memorial Coliseum, Dane County Expo Center Madison, Wis.	March 9	\$79,282 \$14.50	5,353 10,100	Stardate Prods.
CARNIVAL AT THE CATHEDRAL: PAUL WINTER PE DE BOI ON THE LAMB	Cathedral of St. John the Divine New York, N.Y.	Feb. 27-28	\$78,905 \$17.50	6,120 6,900	in-house
SAM KINISON CARL LABOVE	The Music Hall, Omaha Civic Auditorium Omaha, Neb.	Feb. 28	\$69,885 \$15	4,753 sellout	Contemporary Presentations
CONWAY TWITTY RANDY TRAVIS	LSU Assembly Center Louisiana State Univ. Baton Rouge, La.	March 8	\$66,555 \$13.50	4,530 7,000	Jayson Promotions
HANK WILLIAMS JR. & THE BAMA BAND EARL THOMAS CONLEY	Reed Green Coliseum Univ. of Southern Mississippi Hattiesburg, Miss.	Feb. 28	\$65,517 \$15.50/\$14.50/\$13	4,642 7,000	Kaleidoscope Prods.
BEASTIE BOYS MURPHY'S LAW FISHBONE	Sunrise Musical Theatre Sunrise, Fla.	Feb. 26	\$63,326 \$16.25	4,086 sellout	Fantasma Prods.
DAVID COPPERFIELD	Clowes Memorial Hall Butler Univ. Indianapolis, Ind.	March 3	\$62,651 \$16.50/\$14.50	4,164 sellout	Sunshine Promotions
FREDDIE JACKSON RAY, GOODMAN, & BROWN NAJEE	Greenville Memorial Auditorium Greenville, S.C.	Feb. 22	\$61,912 \$14.25/\$12.25	5,285 sellout	PACE Concerts
BEASTIE BOYS MURPHY'S LAW FISHBONE	Arena, Bayfront Center St. Petersburg, Fla.	Feb. 25	\$61,730 \$14/\$13	4,797 sellout	Fantasma Prods.
ANITA BAKER	The O'Keefe Centre for the Performing Arts Toronto, Ontario	March 3	\$59,848 (\$83,189 Canadian) \$28/\$25	3,059 sellout	Concert Prods. International in-house
READY FOR THE WORLD BOBBY BROWN CLUB NOUVEAU	Augusta/Richmond County Civic Center Augusta, Ga.	Feb. 28	\$55,680 \$12	5,060 9,000	Lewis Grey Attractions Concert Entertainment
RATT POISON	Tallahassee-Leon County Civic Center Tallahassee, Fla.	March 8	\$54,955 \$14.50	4,038 5,542	Fantasma Prods.
BEASTIE BOYS MURPHY'S LAW FISHBONE	Jacksonville Veterans Memorial Coliseum Jacksonville, Fla.	Feb. 27	\$54,098 \$14/\$13	4,360 5,000	Fantasma Prods.
RATT POISON	Dothan Civic Center Dothan, Ala.	Feb. 27	\$53,603 \$14.50/\$13.50	3,932 4,640	Southern Promotions Concert Promotions

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