

TALENT IN ACTION

TERENCE TRENT D'ARBY

The Beacon Theatre, New York

ALL BY ITSELF, this stop on D'Arby's first full-fledged tour of the U.S. justified the many imperfect, occasionally comical dates his label, Columbia, had him play in preparation. Gone were the problems that had plagued his earlier performances: His voice traveled octaves with ease; the two male backup singers finally sang as well as they moved; and D'Arby's fancy dancing was not overdone to the point of self-parody.

Most of all, the self-assurance that comes from having a top 10 single ("Wishing Well") and a hit album ("Introducing The Hardline According To Terence Trent D'Arby") marked both D'Arby's performance and his band's.

The show itself contained few surprises in terms of material. Nothing from his album went neglected, with the rest of the nearly two-hour show being filled out by James Brown covers and the Rolling Stones' "Jumpin' Jack Flash." Highlights were a mesmerizing version of his r&b ballad "Let's Go Forward," during which D'Arby, mouthing the words, slowly traversed the front of the stage with arms outstretched, and "If You Let Me Stay," featuring several extended breaks of storytelling and intercut songs.

The motley crew of upscale blacks, puppies, and slightly seedy-looking teenagers that made up the "CBS-media-convention audience," in D'Arby's words, was clearly aware that it was witnessing a rare event: a young artist delivering on his promise. By turns dancing, singing along, and screaming with glee, the capacity crowd was wild in its appreciation. If D'Arby can continue to turn out songs the equal of his now-excellent performing abilities, he should be wowing an arena the next time around.

JEAN ROSENBLUTH

SINEAD O'CONNOR

City Gardens
Trenton, N.J.

AS DIFFERENT in style as her first name—which, incidentally, is pronounced "Shin-aid"—the shaven-headed O'Connor delivered on the promise of her Chrysalis debut album, "The Lion And The Cobra," on this stop of her first tour, keeping the crowd off balance but enthusiastic during her 90-minute set.

O'Connor's sound is a throwback to the '70s, free of the beat-box backing that dominates much of contemporary music. The move away from whumping dance tracks

seemed to throw the college-age crowd at City Gardens, who revved up a notch for "Mandinka" and "I Want You (In My Arms)," two of the more commercial songs in O'Connor's bag.

Although the complex arrangements marking "Lion" were stripped down in the live show, O'Connor's shifting styles kept the intrigue high, as rock, funk, and folk often merged within the same song. That variety and her keening voice, which bent and twisted the melody lines with half-yodeled, half-hiccapped tones, made for a riveting performance.

Two unrecorded songs were previewed at City Gardens, an untitled number about a bad sexual experience and "Jump In The River," which showed hints of rock and funk. Both were well received, with just enough trademark O'Connor vocal nuances to keep the audience attentive.

BRUCE HARING

BLUE RODEO

The Bottom Line, New York

CANADA'S BLUE RODEO redefined "progressive rock" for the '80s—and '90s—before an enraptured New York audience on March 17. The group, which recently released its debut album here on Atlantic, has hit the top 10 in its homeland with the poignant ballad "Try." It was the more frantic, keyboard-based numbers, however, that cast a spell on an unsuspecting crowd, many of whom, presumably, were there to see headliner John Brannen.

Without a trace of the heavy-handed self-consciousness that has marred the work of other innovators, Blue Rodeo stretched basic three-minute rock workouts into eight- or nine-minute leitmotifs, experimenting with storytelling, loosely structured instrumentation, country undertones, and surf guitar progressions.

Keyboardist Bobby Wiseman, whose wizardry doesn't come across on the group's fine album, "Outskirts," stole the show. With technique as sharp as Attraction Steve Nieve's but with twice as much abandon, Wiseman used both hands and a considerable number of limbs to elicit from his Acetone and "\$90 Casio" every sound and emotion they are capable of. Following his lead, Blue Rodeo set the world on fire several times; with the right promotion, the world just might be there to see it the next time it happens.

JEAN ROSENBLUTH



BOXSCORE TOP CONCERT GROSSES

ARTIST(S)	Venue	Date(s)	Gross Ticket Price(s)	Attendance Capacity	Promoter
BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN & THE E STREET BAND	Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum Uniondale, N.Y.	April 1-2	\$782,100 \$22.50	37,760 sellout	Ron Delsener Enterprises
GRATEFUL DEAD	Hampton Coliseum Hampton, Va.	March 26-28	\$681,599 \$16.50	41,309 sellout	Cellar Door Prods. Monarch Entertainment Bureau John Scher Presents
JOHN COUGAR MELLENCAMP	Pacific National Exhibition Park Vancouver, B.C. Canada	March 19 & 23	\$590,421 (\$734,306 Canadian) \$23.50/\$22.50	33,463 sellout	Media One
BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN & THE E STREET BAND	Rupp Arena Lexington Center Lexington, Ky.	March 26	\$520,515 \$22.50	23,134 sellout	Sunshine Promotions
JOHN COUGAR MELLENCAMP	Coliseum, Seattle Center Seattle, Wash.	March 21-22	\$412,236 \$18.50	23,411 sellout	Media One
FRANK SINATRA, DEAN MARTIN, SAMMY DAVIS JR.	Pacific National Exhibition Park Vancouver, B.C. Canada	March 15	\$381,898 (\$476,800 Canadian) \$40/\$30	13,647 17,267	White Rose Limited
JOHN COUGAR MELLENCAMP	Olympic Saddledome Stampede Park, Calgary, Alta. Canada	March 16	\$293,466 (\$366,157 Canadian) \$22.50	16,741 sellout	Media One
JOHN COUGAR MELLENCAMP	Winnipeg Arena Winnipeg, Man. Canada	March 14	\$258,579 (\$324,000 Canadian) \$20	16,020 sellout	Concert Prods. International Donald K. Donald Prods. Nite Out Entertainment
WHITESNAKE GREAT WHITE	McNichols Arena Denver, Colo.	April 3	\$239,252 \$18.15/\$17.05	13,505 sellout	Fey Concert Co.
STING	Coliseum, Seattle Center Seattle, Wash.	March 28	\$238,428 \$18.50	13,147 sellout	Media One
WHITESNAKE GREAT WHITE	Sportatorium Hollywood, Fla.	March 25	\$234,861 \$16.50	14,234 sellout	Cellar Door Concerts of Florida
INXS PIL	Richfield Coliseum Richfield, Ohio	March 15	\$223,210 \$16/\$15	14,825 16,261	Belkin Prods.
INXS PIL	San Diego Sports Arena San Diego, Calif.	March 31	\$212,118 \$17.50	12,121 12,121 sellout	Bill Silva Presents
JOHN COUGAR MELLENCAMP	Coliseum, Seattle Center Seattle, Wash.	March 22	\$194,602 \$18.50	11,977 11,977 sellout	Media One
SMOKEY ROBINSON/NATALIE COLE	Valley Forge Music Fair Devon, Pa.	March 26-27	\$194,261 \$25	8,796 sellout	Guber Gross Prods.
RUSH CHALK CIRCLE	Montreal Forum Montreal, Que. Canada	March 10	\$177,271 (\$221,891 Canadian) \$19.50	11,379 12,500	Donald K. Donald Prods.
STING	Aladdin Theatre Las Vegas, Nev.	April 2	\$158,671 \$25/\$20	7,050 sellout	Niederlander Organization in-house
AEROSMITH WHITE LION	Barton Coliseum Arkansas State Fairgrounds Little Rock, Ark.	April 2	\$158,576 \$16	9,911 sellout	Mid-South Concerts
RANDY TRAVIS/CONWAY TWITTY	Rupp Arena Lexington Center Lexington, Ky.	April 1	\$158,318 \$16.50	9,595 11,000	Special Moments Promotions Jayson Promotions
WHITESNAKE GREAT WHITE	Lee Civic Center Fort Meyers, Fla.	March 26	\$149,792 \$16	9,362 sellout	Cellar Door Concerts of Florida
RUSH CHALK CIRCLE	Colisee de Quebec Quebec City, Que. Canada	March 11	\$149,209 (\$186,810 Canadian) \$19.50	9,580 11,800	Donald K. Donald Prods. Brazz Concert Prods. International
INXS PIL	Market Square Arena Indianapolis, Ind.	March 14	\$134,160 \$15	8,944 17,000	Sunshine Promotions
ALABAMA LEE GREENWOOD EDDY RAVEN RICKY VAN SHELTON	Augusta/Richmond Co. Civic Center Augusta, Ga.	March 26	\$127,733 \$17.50	7,299 8,158	Keith Fowler Promotions
GEORGE THOROGOOD & THE DESTROYERS BOB MARGOLIN	Richmond Coliseum Richmond, Va.	March 25	\$121,664 \$15.50/\$14.50	8,169 12,500	Cellar Door Prods.
RANDY TRAVIS/CONWAY TWITTY	Asheville Civic Center Asheville, N.C.	April 2	\$108,884 \$16.50	6,599 sellout	Special Moments Promotions Jayson Promotions
AEROSMITH WHITE LION	Carolina Coliseum Univ. of South Carolina Columbia, S.C.	March 26	\$104,560 \$16.50	6,897 12,456	Cellar Door Prods.
THE WHISPERS LEVERT	Valley Forge Music Fair Devon, Pa.	April 2	\$102,777 \$20	5,864 two sellouts	Music Fair Prods.
AEROSMITH WHITE LION	Greensboro Coliseum Complex Greensboro, N.C.	March 22	\$101,029 \$16.50	6,534 15,780	Cellar Door Prods.
AEROSMITH WHITE LION	Roanoke Civic Center Roanoke, Va.	March 21	\$99,397 \$15.50	6,899 11,000	Cellar Door Prods.
AEROSMITH WHITE LION	Arena, Savannah Civic Center Savannah, Ga.	March 28	\$97,235 \$16.50	6,225 8,532	Cellar Door Prods.
KISS ANTHRAX	Coliseum, Seattle Center Seattle, Wash.	March 17	\$94,661 \$16.50	5,945 14,327	Media One
ALABAMA LEE GREENWOOD EDDY RAVEN RICKY VAN SHELTON	Cumberland Co. Memorial Arena Fayetteville, N.C.	March 27	\$90,685 \$17.50	5,182 sellout	Keith Fowler Promotions
DAVID LEE ROTH FASTER PUSSYCAT	Rochester Community War Memorial Rochester, N.Y.	April 2	\$83,088 \$17.50/\$16.50	5,333 6,500	Monarch Entertainment Bureau John Scher Presents
DAVID LEE ROTH FASTER PUSSYCAT	Normandy Arena Wicomico Youth & Civic Center Salisbury, Md.	March 26	\$82,123 \$16.50/\$15.50	5,600 7,000	Cellar Door Prods.
ECHO & THE BUNNYMEN SCREAMING BLUE MESSIAHS	McGaw Memorial Hall Northwestern Univ. Evanston, Ill.	March 6	\$81,320 \$15/\$10	5,781 6,785	in-house
GEORGE STRAIT K.T. OSLIN	Fox Theatre Atlanta, Ga.	March 5	\$78,177 \$17.25	4,625 4,678	Varnell Enterprises
KISS ANTHRAX	Compton Terrace Phoenix, Ariz.	March 25	\$77,868 \$17.50/\$15.50/\$14.50	5,363 10,535	Evening Star Prods.
KISS ANTHRAX	Jackson Co. Exposition Park Central Point, Ore.	March 13	\$74,960 \$16/\$15	5,005 5,700	Media One

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