

TALENT IN ACTION

(Continued from preceding page)

evening, it should have been.

TERRY WOOD

PAT McLAUGHLIN
Club Lingerie
Hollywood, Calif.

SOME SECRETS are best left unkept; one of them is Pat McLaughlin. The Nashville-based singer/songwriter, who is currently preparing to cut his second Capitol album with producer Mitchell Froom, lit up a crowd of fans and industry observers with a shake-down show here March 16.

McLaughlin's 1988 self-titled debut, overlooked in most quarters, was a worthy representation of his vast talents. Few performers this side of Van Morrison reflect the earthy soulfulness that is

McLaughlin's stock in trade. In concert, he ups the ante with a Hollywood-based band that has no shortage of chops.

The driving forces of the group are guitarist Billy Bremner, late of Rockpile, and keyboardist Ian MacLagan, formerly of the Faces. These two U.K. vets, who contributed the set's crackle, were bolstered admirably by the effortlessly pungent rhythm work of bassist Will MacGregor and drummer Carlo Nuccio.

But it's McLaughlin who tops everything off. Leaning into the mike with eyes closed, he's a tranced-out vision of white soul power. Few other singers in the genre have managed to work such gutsy wonders with such an absence of hambone stagginess.

"In The Mood," "Lynda" (a hit for country artist Steve Wariner), and the Neville Brothers' "Wrong Number"—all culled from McLaughlin's first album—boiled with fresh life on stage, while new tunes, like the slinky "Cut Down Trees," bode well for his next studio effort.

Not many new artists exhibit McLaughlin's bruising force. Hopefully, his next album will allow the uninitiated to get with the program.

CHRIS MORRIS

LYLE LOVETT
LEO KOTKKE
Beacon Theatre
New York, N.Y.

"THIS SEEMS LIKE an audience that could be easily taken advantage of," said Lyle Lovett, eyeing the sold-out crowd before him. And right he was, as he ruled over the faithful and the newly converted during the 90-minute set.

Though known primarily as a country artist, Lovett focused this March 18 show on his considerable jazz and blues leanings. He performed the entire swing-oriented side of his new MCA offering, "Lyle Lovett And His Large Band," and largely ignored the country side. But rather than slighting his country fans—he performed plenty of twangy tunes from his first two albums—Lovett's selections were more a testament to his musical versatility.

He set the tone for the evening by opening with the bluesy number "Here I Am," trading wails

with vocalist Francine Reed, and then slid into "Cryin' Shame," mirroring his latest album. He ambled effortlessly between blues/jazz and country numbers. And with his laconic tales of life's whimsy, he won over anyone who might have come merely to see his hightop hairdo.

Thankfully, the acoustics were fine. Though Lovett's voice doesn't cover a particularly wide range, it is filled with subtle nuances that suggest more than his oft-pointed lyrics say. And he's certainly capable of belting out a tune when necessary, as he proved with "L.A. County" and "You Can't Resist It."

Lovett has assembled one of the top bands on the road today, who did indeed loom large throughout the night as the nine members came and went as needed. In especially fine form were cellist John Hagen, saxophonist Steve Marsh, and vocalist Reed, who turned up the temperature with her blistering version of Ida Cox's "Wild Women Don't Get The Blues."

Closing the show, Lovett delved into his endearing version of "Stand By Your Man," while the adoring audience showed they'd stand by him anywhere.

Kotkce proved to be the perfect warm-up act. He wowed the audience with his acoustic guitar virtuosity and charmed them with his Garrison Keillor-like, homespun tales. He sang a few tunes, including songs from his upcoming release on Private Music, which will be his first in eight years to feature vocals. But for anyone who can make a guitar sing like Kotkce, vocals are extraneous. Kotkce also returned for two numbers with Lovett, and as the headliner appropriately summed up, "Playing acoustic guitar on stage with Leo Kotkce is like pitching to Darryl Strawberry." MELINDA NEWMAN



Leading his Large Band through a set of blues and jazz-flavored numbers from his latest MCA album, Lyle Lovett played to an admiring crowd March 18 at the Beacon Theatre in New York. (Photo: Chuck Pulin)

DAVID WYKOFF

AB BOXSCORE TOP CONCERT GROSSES

AMUSEMENT BUSINESS*

ARTIST(S)	Venue	Date(s)	Gross Ticket Price(s)	Attendance Capacity	Promoter
GRATEFUL DEAD	The Omni Atlanta	March 27-28	\$560,338 \$18.50	32,617 sellout	Concerts Promotions/Southern Promotions Monarch Entertainment Bureau John Scher Presents
GRATEFUL DEAD	Greensboro Coliseum Greensboro, N.C.	March 30-31	\$553,720 \$18.50/\$17.50	31,175 sellout	Cellar Door Prods. Monarch Entertainment Bureau
BON JOVI SKID ROW	Bradley Center Milwaukee	April 1	\$334,685 \$19	17,994 sellout	Stardate Prods.
BON JOVI SKID ROW	The Coliseum Richfield, Ohio	March 25	\$326,880 \$18	18,160 sellout	Belkin Prods.
ALABAMA CHARLIE DANIELS BAND JOEL SONNIER	Freedom Hall Coliseum, Kentucky Fair & Expo Center Louisville, Ky.	March 31	\$320,250 \$17.50	18,300 sellout	Keith Fowler Promotions
POISON TESLA	ARCO Arena Sacramento, Calif.	March 31	\$317,910 \$20/\$18.50	17,500 sellout	Bill Graham Presents
RANDY TRAVIS K.T. OSLIN	Fox Theatre St. Louis	April 1-2	\$307,757 \$21.90/\$9.90	16,167 17,198	Fox Concerts Steve Litman
BILL COSBY	Olympic Saddledome Calgary, Alberta	April 1	\$292,940 (\$347,720 Canadian) \$21.50/\$17.50	16,956 17,878	Artists Consultants Prods.
BON JOVI SKID ROW	Market Square Arena Indianapolis	March 26	\$291,060 \$17.50	16,632 sellout	Sunshine Promotions
JULIO IGLESIAS	Sunrise Musical Theatre Sunrise, Fla.	March 31-April 1	\$273,000 \$35	7,800 sellout	Cellar Door Prods.
LOU REED THE FEELIES	St. James Theatre New York	March 19-21, 23-25	\$259,065 \$28.50/\$25.50	9,672 sellout	Monarch Entertainment Bureau John Scher Presents
BOBBY BROWN LEVERT KARYN WHITE ROB BASE	The Summit Houston	March 17	\$247,453 \$17.65	14,890 15,000	Al Haymon Prods.
DAVID COPPERFIELD	The Riverside Theatre Milwaukee	March 23-25	\$215,630 \$25/\$19.75/ \$15.75/\$10.75	12,501 15,000 sellout	Joseph Entertainment Group
BON JOVI SKID ROW	Hilton Coliseum, Iowa Hilton Center Ames, Iowa	April 2	\$203,269 \$17	11,957 sellout	Belkin Prods.
BON JOVI SKID ROW	Carver Hawkeye Arena Univ. of Iowa Iowa City	March 28	\$200,596 \$18.50	11,570 sellout	Jam Prods.
B.B. KING BOBBY BLUE BLAND ALBERT KING DENISE LASALLE	Fox Theatre Detroit	March 31	\$187,436 \$23.50	7,976 9,640	Brass Ring Prods.
METALLICA QUEENSRYCHE	Providence Civic Center Providence, R.I.	March 29	\$187,127 \$16.50	11,341 12,200	Frank J. Russo
BON JOVI SKID ROW	Roberts Municipal Stadium Evansville, Ind.	March 22	\$182,423 \$18.50/\$17.50	10,353 sellout	Sunshine Promotions
HANK WILLIAMS JR. & THE BAMA BAND HIGHWAY 101 SWEETHEARTS OF THE ROODED	Richmond Coliseum Richmond, Va.	March 31	\$167,983 \$17.50	9,942 11,771	Kalidescope Presents
JULIO IGLESIAS	Orlando Centroplex Orlando, Fla.	March 17	\$163,060 \$20	8,330 sellout	Fantasma Prods.
METALLICA QUEENSRYCHE	Cumberland Co. Civic Center Portland, Maine	March 30	\$162,676 \$17.50/\$16.50	9,500 sellout	Frank J. Russo Larry Vaughn Presents
R.E.M. INDIGO GIRLS	Mid-South Coliseum, Fairgrounds Memphis	March 30	\$158,695 \$17	9,335 sellout	Mid-South Concerts
CINDERELLA WINGER BULLETBOYS	The Coliseum Richfield, Ohio	March 18	\$157,873 \$17/\$16	9,787 11,000	Belkin Prods.
R.E.M. ROBYN HITCHCOCK & THE EGYPTIANS	The Summit Houston	March 23	\$156,205 \$17.50	9,593 12,000	PACE Concerts
REBA McENTIRE RICKY VAN SHELTON	Circle Star Theatre San Carlos, Calif.	April 1	\$154,112 \$21.50	7,168 7,400	in-house

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WATERFRONT: Chris Duffy, left, and Phil Cilia.

NEW ON THE CHARTS

The British duo Waterfront makes its entrance on Billboard's Hot 100 with "Cry," the first single from the twosome's eponymous Polydor album. The pair consists of lead vocalist Chris Duffy and guitarist Phil Cilia, who named their band after the Marlon Brando film "On The Waterfront."

Duffy and Cilia met in Cardiff, Wales, at the early age of 11; both attended the same school and began their friendship selling a music magazine, which they had written together, to fellow students.

The duo, who began performing as teenagers at local Christmas concerts, later named themselves Official Secrets, and started singing in London nightclubs. After honing their skills, Duffy and Cilia made demo tapes; six months passed and they were signed to U.K. Polydor Records.

All songs on "Waterfront" were written by the pair, initially signed to Polydor as a songwriting team. That project is already out in England and is slated for a May 8 U.S. release.

JIM RICHLIANO

ARTIST DEVELOPMENTS

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FCC violations. However, it's still semicontroversial. But that's part of the attraction of Dice. People love being shocked by him."

According to Ross, the initial marketing effort will focus on live dates and the comic's "real strong rock'n'roll following, though he's not a rock act along the lines of a Sam Kinison." Ads are planned for metal mags Circus and R.I.P., as well as promotions around the comedian's heavy touring schedule. "To appreciate Dice, you've got to see him live. And, that's where we're focusing," says Ross.