

# TALENT IN ACTION

**THE BEE GEES**  
Wembley Arena  
London, England

IT WAS A RETURN to basics for the Bee Gees, appearing for two consecutive sellout gigs at the vast Wembley Arena with a show rich in musical content. The brothers Gibb drew on their vast repertoire dating to 1967, the year of their first major international hit, "New York Mining Disaster."

The Wembley shows were part of a successful European swing that preceded the band's U.S. tour, which begins at Minneapolis' Riverfest Saturday (29). The tour coincides with the release of the new Warner Bros. album "One."

The last time the Bee Gees played in London was some 15 years ago, so expectations were running high in the 8,000-plus crowd. The fans were rewarded with a two-hour set that neatly blended various stages of the group's recording career: the late-'60s ballad era, the early '70s, the lucrative "Saturday Night Fever" period of the late '70s, and their current adult rock.

Barry and Robin Gibb shared vocals on the many hits that have made them among the most enduring pop outfits of the last 25 years. The set opened with "Ordinary Lives" from the new album and then neatly dovetailed into early hits like "Mining Disaster," "Massachusetts," and "To Love Somebody."

A segment of the show featured the brothers, without their backing band, performing a sensitive reading of "How Deep Is Your Love," dedicated to their late brother Andy, plus their versions of "Heartbreaker" and "Islands In The Stream," never recorded by the group but written and produced by them for Dionne Warwick and Kenny Rogers/Dolly Parton, respectively.

Material from the "One" album worked well, with Maurice Gibb given a chance to shine vocally on "House Of Shame." "It's My Neighborhood," the title track of "One," and "Wish You Were Here" also were served up.

But the "Saturday Night Fever" songs brought the fans to their feet, including "Stayin' Alive," "Love So Right," "Night Fever," "Too Much Heaven," and "You Should Be Dancing" each proving their timeless appeal.

This was the Bee Gees on their home ground—they were born in Manchester before emigrating with their family to Australia—and all signs indicated fans wished they hadn't stayed away so long.

U.K. fans have tended to remain loyal to the group, even giving them a No. 1 U.K. single, "You Win Again," as recently as last year. The Bee Gees amply repaid this faith with a solid set of hits that have sold millions of units internationally.

**DICK CLARK'S AMERICAN BANDSTAND**  
Blossom Music Center  
Richfield, Ohio

THE 35th ANNIVERSARY tour of American Bandstand uneasily yoked four bands together with Clark-narrated videos that aimed to illustrate the '50s, '60s, '70s, and '80s. The David Fishof production here June 19 drew a crowd of 2,200 to the 18,000-capacity shed. It was a spotty show at best and the ever-present reminders of tour sponsors Canada Dry and VH-1 didn't help.

Augmented by four dancing couples and Video Dick, the Drifters, the Association, the Guess Who, and the Spinners went through too many ungainly paces. The Drifters, with originals Charles Thomas and Barry Hobbs, sounded lame, particularly during a strained "Up On The Roof."

Association originals Larry Ramos and Russ Giguere sweetly revived the harmonies of "Never My Love," "Along Comes Mary," and "Cherish." And alone among the groups, this link between the Beach Boys and Yes offered one new tune, Michael Sembello's "Years of Trying."

The Guess Who evoked Spinal Tap as singer Kenny Carter telegraphed his moves and Dale Russell spun wonderful air guitar. But "American Woman" was raunchy and "No Sugar Tonight" as tough as ever.

While the Spinners have a tenuous relationship to the '80s (their version of "Cupid" was a top five hit in May 1980), the band was sexy, especially lead singer John Edwards. All five Spinner vocalists worked the stage with flair, ending a thoroughly mixed bag on an upbeat note.

CARLO WOLFF

**THELONIUS MONSTER**  
The Pyramid, New York, N.Y.

BOB FORREST SEEMS confused. One minute, the leader singer and songwriter for the Los Angeles band Thelonus Monster is crooning "Lena Horne Still Sings The Blues," a tribute to the possibility of racial harmony, from the group's latest Relativity album, "Stormy Weather," and the next he's playing the Confederate rock anthem "Sweet Home Alabama." First, he knocks dinosaur bands like the Who and the Rolling Stones for taking fans' money away from younger bands. Then he plays fossil-rock tracks like, well, "Sweet Home Alabama."

It followed then, at this June 2 show, that Thelonus Monster's performance was a wry, bittersweet riddle. The band took the stage, apparently bombed. "We didn't get a sound check because [lead guitar player Mike Martt] got married this afternoon and we went to a bar and got drunk," Forrest apologized. It was hard to tell who had the bigger buzz on—the PA system or the band. Not that it mattered. The Monster's blues-boozed songs feed on distortion.

The set started optimistically, with a fervent version of "Walk On Water" from the band's first album. The black-togged crowd of Lower East Siders obviously considered the surf punks onstage their West Coast compatriots. For the first half hour of the Monster's set, communal *joie* continued to hold sway.

Then some guy working the sound board told the band to cut the set short. Stopped in midstream, the Monster reluctantly played its last two songs. Then the band was told they could play more. But the momentum had been lost and an already degenerate performance slid into an uncertain show of good intentions and bad vibes. Forrest and the newly wed axeman had a drunken quarrel that seemed on the verge of blows. Martt eventually left the stage, the rest of the band followed and, after serenading the audience with Janis Joplin's "Mercedes Benz," so did Forrest.

The lights came on, the DJ began playing, and then Thelonus Monster came back—to sludge through more cover songs. By that point, this reviewer wasn't so sure she wouldn't rather be watching the Who.

EVELYN MCDONNELL

# AB BOXSCORE TOP CONCERT GROSSES

ARTIST(S)	Venue	Date(s)	Gross Ticket Price(s)	Attendance Capacity	Promoter
GRATEFUL DEAD LOS LOBOS	Giants Stadium East Rutherford, N.J.	July 9-10	\$2,401,539 \$21	115,743 sellout	Metropolitan Entertainment
GRATEFUL DEAD BRUCE HORNSBY & THE RANGE	RFK Stadium Washington, D.C.	July 12-13	\$1,477,518 \$21	72,212 82,000	Cellar Door Prods. Metropolitan Entertainment
CHICAGO/THE BEACH BOYS	Pine Knob Music Theatre Clarkston, Mich.	July 14-16	\$1,093,198 \$27.50/ \$20	49,938 sellout	Nederlander Organization
ROD STEWART	British Columbia Place Stadium Vancouver, B.C.	July 16	\$475,550 (\$560,255 Canadian) \$27.50	20,283 27,000	Perryscope Concert Prods.
GRATEFUL DEAD	Deer Creek Music Theatre Indianapolis, Ind.	July 15	\$295,947 \$19.50/\$16.50	18,515 sellout	Sunshine Promotions Metropolitan Entertainment
NEW ORDER PUBLIC IMAGE LTD. SUGARCUBES	Great Woods Center For The Performing Arts Boston, Mass.	July 10	\$267,353 \$20/\$16.50	14,765 sellout	Don Law Company
BUDWEISER SUPERFEST: NEW EDITION MC HAMMER GUY KARYN WHITE CHUBB ROCK	Greensboro Coliseum Complex Greensboro, N.C.	July 8	\$266,209 \$19	14,011 15,617	A.H. Enterprises
TESLA GREAT WHITE KIX	Irvine Meadows Amphitheater Laguna Hills, Calif.	July 8	\$254,525 \$20/\$18.50/\$16	15,000 sellout	Avalon Attractions
ROD STEWART	Saskatchewan Place Saskatoon, Sask.	July 11	\$240,813 (\$285,363 Canadian) \$27	10,569 sellout	Brimstone Prods.
FRANK SINATRA	Garden State Arts Center Holmdel, N.J.	July 5	\$229,316 \$65/\$16	5,362 9,802	in-house
BON JOVI BLUE MURDER	Greensboro Coliseum Complex Greensboro, N.C.	July 15	\$224,276 \$18.50	12,123 sellout	Cellar Door Prods.
10,000 MANIACS TIM FINN	Wang Center For The Performing Arts Boston, Mass.	June 20-22	\$223,050 \$19.25	11,587 sellout	Don Law Co.
TIFFANY NEW KIDS ON THE BLOCK TOMMY PAGE	Westbury Music Fair Westbury, N.Y.	July 8-9	\$210,875 \$21	11,480 sellout	Music Fair Prods.
BON JOVI BLUE MURDER	Carolina Coliseum Univ. of South Carolina, Columbia	July 16	\$210,345 \$18.50	11,983 sellout	C & C Entertainment
TIFFANY NEW KIDS ON THE BLOCK TOMMY PAGE	Valley Forge Music Fair Devon, Pa.	July 6-7	\$206,681 \$21	11,728 sellout	Music Fair Prods.
NEW ORDER PUBLIC IMAGE LTD. SUGARCUBES	Jones Beach Theatre Wantagh, N.Y.	July 12	\$204,140 \$20	10,207 sellout	Ron Delsener Enterprises
LITTLE FEAT MELISSA ETHERIDGE	Jones Beach Theatre Wantagh, N.Y.	July 15	\$204,080 \$20	10,204 sellout	Ron Delsener Enterprises
BON JOVI BLUE MURDER	UTC Arena Univ. of Tennessee, Chattanooga	July 14	\$202,440 \$17.50	11,852 sellout	Brusco-Barr Presents
JIMMY BUFFETT & THE CORAL REEFER BAND THE NEVILLE BROTHERS	Jones Beach Theatre Wantagh, N.Y.	July 14	\$201,340 \$20	10,067 sellout	Ron Delsener Enterprises
NEW ORDER PUBLIC IMAGE LTD. SUGARCUBES	Mann Music Center Philadelphia, Pa.	July 14	\$190,765 \$20/\$18.50/ \$15/\$13.50	12,639 13,243	Concert Company Presents
TOM PETTY & THE HEARTBREAKERS THE REPLACEMENTS	Orlando Centreplex Orlando, Fla.	July 8	\$173,882 \$18.50	9,781 sellout	Silver Star Prods.
BON JOVI SKID ROW	Richmond Coliseum, Richmond, Va.	July 12	\$170,808 \$16.50	10,352 12,500	Cellar Door Prods.
STEVE MILLER	Garden State Arts Center Holmdel, N.J.	June 22	\$168,707 \$22.50/\$15	9,949 10,802	in-house
TOM PETTY & THE HEARTBREAKERS THE REPLACEMENTS	Starplex Amphitheatre Dallas, Texas	July 15	\$161,841 \$20.50/\$17.50	8,970 20,000	MCA Concerts PACE Concerts
PERRY COMO JIMMY ALECK	Westbury Music Fair Westbury, N.Y.	July 5-6	\$156,430 \$30	5,740 sellout	Music Fair Prods.
LL COOL J EAZY-E/NWA SLICK RICK DE LA SOUL TOO SHORT	Coliseum, Mississippi State Fairgrounds Jackson, Miss.	July 7	\$148,866 \$16.50/\$15.50	9,705 10,000	G Street Express

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