Entertainment Entertainment Entertainment Entertainment Entertainment Entertainment



photos by Kevin G. Porter

Life is a Bi-Way...and Tom went Shopping All Night Long

The evening was to bring a few surprises. It is regretful that none of them were delivered by Tom Cochrane.

Twilight was the signal to begin the lost art of the traditional pre-concert celebration. Upon completion of which, we gathered up our goodies and headed for the show.

The first surprise of the night occurred when we arrived at the ticket window to find that our reserved tickets were missing (thanks, Murphy!). Luckily the re-issue was not posthumous (thanks Kim!).

The second surprise was that they let me in with my recorder (thanks, Mr. Security Guy). Walking down through the tunnel, I was pleasantly aroused by what I heard, then by what I saw, as I finally arrived at the White Zone; which is for loading and unloading. It was hard to believe that all of this voice was coming from her (though I'm sure that the P.A. helped). There she was, Amanda Marshall and her newly formed five piece rock band consisting of...oops! Sorry K.C, I didn't mean to get your hopes up.

It was either the acoustics of the AUC, or the mix, but much was left to be desired. The P.A. set-up was a dream, with all the latest expensive little toys. I figured that the system was not achieving peak perfor mance because Amanda was the show-opener, and sometimes the headliners do not want the opening act to be too good. But all suspicions were set aside when Tom came out later and the sound still sucked. The bottom end possessed the clarity of chocolate milk.

None of this seemed to dampen the enthusiasm of this talented young rising Canadian star. OK, well maybe she is not a star yet, but she will be. She (Amanda Marshall) has an incredibly strong voice for a 19-year-old, or for any age. She sang and had the stage presence of a seasoned veteran, and I hope that she benefits from the exposure TC is providing.

Speaking of TC, I must commend him for supporting young Canadian talent by giving us a chance to see Amanda Marshall. Tom must also be commended for successfully shopping for that too-large portion of our population that demands and gratefully appreciates an evening containing little creative imagination, and a cacophony of climactic mediocrity. Th show was everything one would expect, including the blond beauties selling the T's, but delivering nullity of the unexpected. And that's just how the crowd liked it, which was my biggest surprise of the night.

I could not believe how the audience was going wild when they have seen it all before at least..oh..a couple of thousand times. There was no originality to the show. (standard rock show #3), there were no surprises, and that's exactly what the crowd on Monday night wanted.

It is a sad state of affairs when even the university venues are only generic rock bands. "Oh Tom, could you pretty please play the song that I've only heard at least 21 times a day for the last couple of months?" He does, but in no special way; pretty much the same as the rest of the show, and the crowd went wild.

Well, Tom, my hat goes off to you. You have been able to play what Canadians want to hear, which is nothing we haven't heard before.

Dave Bartlett



Amanda Marshall- Janis Joplin incarnate