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Special to the Register

Lindsey Buckingham's fingerpicking style on guitar would make any classical virtuoso jealous — when he's not sporadically beating on the instrument with both hands.

Buckingham brings intensity to solo set

The Fleetwood Mac guitarist rules the Val Air Ballroom in an impressive performance, with or without backup.

By DREW MANROE
SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

April 11, 2007

STORYCHAT: 4 Comments

Thirty years ago, Lindsey Buckingham dared Fleetwood Mac bandmate and then-girlfriend Stevie Nicks to "Go your own way." These days, Buckingham is going his.

And judging from Tuesday's solo performance before 758 at the Val Air Ballroom, he's doing all right by himself.

With a set built around tracks from last year's "Under the Skin" album - Buckingham's fourth solo effort - Mac's creative driving force made a case for himself as one of popular music's more dynamic and underappreciated live entertainers.

It all starts with his guitar playing. Buckingham's dextrous, Speedy-Gonzales-on-Red-Bull fingerpicking style would make any classical virtuoso jealous. Even more remarkable is that the 57-year-old manages to sing at the same time.

Buckingham's songs aren't too shabby, either.

He opened with the pensive gem "Not Too Late," one of several "Under the Skin" selections with a sparse, intimate quality that lends itself well to live performance. He followed with solid solo renditions of his 1981 hit "Trouble" and "Never Going Back Again."

From this point on, Buckingham was occasionally joined by a three-piece band. This allowed the singer to rock out with a frantic intensity on

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Fleetwood-era favorites like "Second Hand News," "I'm So Afraid" and, of course, "Go Your Own Way."

At times Buckingham's intensity level became so manic, you wondered if he was about to pull a Joe Cocker. Fortunately, the guitar strapped around his chest prevented any Cockeresque flailing about. Buckingham expressed his frustration at this fact by sporadically beating on his guitar with both hands like a monkey.

Still, the 19-song set did have its moments of levity. "Tusk" was as wild and goofy as ever. And the closing seconds of "Holiday Road" - of "National Lampoon's Vacation" fame - found both Buckingham and the audience barking like dogs.

If the concert had one shortcoming, it was that Buckingham's guitar was overwhelming his vocals in the opening numbers. This problem was quickly corrected, however.

In closer "Shut Us Down," Buckingham repeated the words "I will stay around, as long as I can."

Tuesday night's show left fans wishing he could stay a little longer.

Drew Manroe is a freelance writer from Des Moines.

STORYCHAT

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Great show

Posted by: **allengirls**
on Fri Apr 13, 2007 7:55 am

Lindsey rocked the house on Tuesday - I went to see him in Kansas City as well in February and the show on Tuesday was much more intense. Of course being in the 3rd row helped. The crowd participated much more in DM than in KC - he's the man!

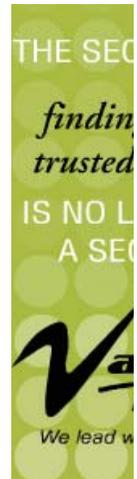
Reader Comment

Posted by: **bhulten**
on Wed Apr 11, 2007 6:17 pm

Absolutely a total iconic performance. Buckingham could have easily gotten down about the turnout - and that he was in Iowa on a Tuesday night. But he obviously gives his all during every performance. I have a lot of respect for the passion and honesty he displayed. I truly believe that he had fun and it rubbed off on the audience.

Great review - obviously not written by Kyle Munson. I say that for two reasons:

1) Munson wasn't in attendance. From reading several articles of his wondering which concert he had attended - the one I saw, or the DVD he rented that day so he could write something. And by the way, how does the Register's main reviewer not



attend this show? Couldn't he miss "Dancing with the Stars" for one evening?

2) Munson is terrible.

I think the review hit the nail on the head, down to the variance of volume levels between the guitar and vocal. Why isn't this guy our full-time contributor? I have to say that it was very refreshing to read a well developed, accurate representation of an important show. I'm still in shock.

Great show

Posted by: **joe m**
on Wed Apr 11, 2007 5:14
pm

I enjoyed the show very much. His creativity on the guitar was matched only by his joy of playing it. I wish there were more people in attendance though. Many of the people who weren't there are probably the same ones who whine that there is nothing to do in Des Moines.

Reader Comment

Posted by: **wil663**
on Wed Apr 11, 2007 8:48
am

I had a BLAST! He rocked!! Not quite sure about the barking but other than that and the camera nazi's it was amazing!!

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