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The New Pornographers @ The Phoenix



Tue., July 8, 2003

By [Jenny Yuen](#)

"It came out magical, out from blown speakers" - this is the best way to describe the **New Pornographers** show Tuesday night.

Vancouver's sleeper hit darlings satisfied a full-capacity crowd with an amazing, enthusiastic set of power-pop tunes and prolonged the show with not just one, (but count 'em,) two encores.

There's something electric about seeing these guys live. Not only are you guaranteed a fulfilling show, it literally feels like you're an honorary band member during it all.

They played many songs off their current release, *The Electric Version* as well as their previous groundbreaker *Mass Romantic* disc. "The Laws Have Changed" and "Mystery Hours" sounded especially good live.

The lovely and talented **Neko Case** stood her ground onstage, and made every guy in the room's jaw drop in awe, while enticing straight girls alike to bat for the other team with her moves, hipshakes and sultry vocals.

But despite lead singer/guitarist **Carl Newman's** joking accusations of Case egging the audience on to woo her as their favorite New Pornographer, there's an obvious bond within the band that enables them to work musically as tightly as they do.

From superstar drummer **Kurt Dahle** (who could down as many beers as you can give him) to keyboardist **Blaine Thurier** who slipped the "OY" hand signal to the crowd many times that night. From guitarist **Todd Fancey's** elusive presence to bassist **John Collins'** accurate fingering.

During the intervals of continuous dancing offstage, the humble banter between the music makers and the crowd caused much laughter and cheers - everything from Newman talking about sitting shirtless on his vinyl sofa in his mom's basement to Case's warm story about witnessing a family of ducks crossing a highway in Detroit after playing a show.

But the prize moment of the evening came after their first encore of "Fake Headlines" and "Letter from an Occupant." During the second comeback, the band took requests from the crowd and because they felt like it, wailed out several awesome snippets of Heart songs including, "Crazy on You," "These Dreams" and yes, you'd better believe it, "Barracuda," erupting a roar from the everyone. (Do that many people really like Heart?)

The New Pornographers could've played all night and it still wouldn't have been the slightest bit boring. The only flaw was that they didn't play "Centre for Holy Wars" or "Daddy Don't Know (What



You're Mama's Gonna Do Tonight)." So at the close of the show, all that could be seen were people still shuffling about in their shoes and their heads still slightly bobbing from the beat they heard moments before.

Who could blame them? They just saw one of the best shows so far this year.

Review & Photos By **Jenny Yuen** - July 2003



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