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What's goin ON

Cape Breton's Arts & Entertainment Magazine

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Roch Voisine Wanda Earhart

Savoy Theatre – Friday, May 9, 2003

The Savoy Theatre has become known for efforts to bring the very best in entertainment to our local stage over the past few years, but every now and then, a show far surpasses the expectations of fans of a particular artist. Roch Voisine certainly fits that category in a very big way, as he brought a definite sense of class along with his hits to the Theatre on Friday night

The evening began with a little fun and a whole lot of excitement, as ten lucky seat numbers were drawn before the show, awarding enthusiastic winners, entrance to the wine and cheese reception following the show where they got to meet Roch and the band during an exclusive autograph session. Certainly a perfect end to one incredible performance!

From the moment Roch stepped onstage it was magic, with a lot of reminiscing about the songs of his long and illustrious career. "What a wonderful little Theatre you have here", he remarked to thunderous applause as he began what would be a spellbinding evening for all. The last time he was in the area was 25 years ago for what could have been a different path, before music became the focus of his life. Voisine was here for a hockey tournament at that time.

Though we may have assumed he was out of the limelight for long periods over the years, in fact he has likely enjoyed the most tremendous support in Europe for his numerous French albums, from which he shared several highlights in Glace Bay. So he has been fortunate to owe his longevity to both official languages.

His latest release, "Higher", marks his return to English recording and the title track has been receiving regular rotation on local radio. The song is certainly one of my favourites. His voice is perfection, despite its age, with an incredible ability to reach all of the notes with precision and perfect pitch. Another recent standout is "By Myself", simply beautiful.

Voisine shared stories of his travels and song-writing, especially one song composed especially to propose to his wife whom he married just last December. The audience was quite moved by the elaborate description of the proposal scene, so much so that his wife was asked for confirmation of the facts during the post show party.

The romance continued with songs like "Always Be There", and a tribute by the band to James Taylor with "The Frozen Man".

It was first class all the way, and mid-show the engaging performer was already hinting to a return trip in the not too distant future. If anyone had a complaint it was that the evening ended early. This was mostly due the lack of an intermission period, instead opting for a continuous show and encore. I say this simply cut out a possible opening act time slot, but I don't believe anyone lost in terms of entertainment for your buck. This show will stand at the top of the heap for a very long time to come. Once again we are so fortunate to see this calibre of talent right here at home! A first class act on a



first class stage!

Contact Us

wgoweekly@ns.sympatico.ca

276 Charlotte Street, 2nd Floor

Sydney, Cape Breton Island, NS

B1P 6H1

902.539.0698 phone/fax

site/hosting by locals.ca