

Windsor Castle, Friday 26, Saturday 27 November.

the music ...

Fetus Productions
Nocturnal Projections
Fishschool
This Sporting Life
Windsor Castle, Nov 26.

Four bands played to a capacity crowd. Fetus Productions stole the show for sheer impact. This is one NZ band who have made the transition from entertainment to (dare I say it) art. Their performance utilised several mediums as vehicles for a total concept. Serum in white, on synthesiser, feeding through voice in growls and cat noises, Jed in black with full face balaclava, executing pointsman signals and guitar. A bottle in a rubbish can and Synre 3 provide percussion. Split level films conjure images of birth, death, accident, design, mutation, mutilation, metamorphosis, decay.

Their own background tape, using drum machine, AKS synths with Travis Bern bass is the basis of a seamless programme. All of it is rivetting, not always musical, the power and intent of this performance is to provoke, disturb, compel. Nocturnal Projections played a tight set of well chosen songs ranging from reflective to furious. Their music deals in emotional tones with atmospheric density, vocalist Peter Jefferies incants the melody lines, the drummer never lets you relax. Graeme Jefferies recalls Alex Bathgate with some fast, fiery, very neat guitar playing. Fishschool - instrumental virtuosity on the progressive jazz style frontier. This three-piece play very distinctly in loosely defined structures. Jessica Walker's

inventive bass playing stabilises flyaway guitar and provides a secondary lead instrument linked to the feathery, almost fluid drums. The audience enjoyed the 'Disco Song' and George ex Spy Henderson's protest guitar rage 'Law's Gonna Change'. I like 'Charisma' - notes dropping gradually into beat formation to build a castle in the air. This Sporting Life play medium to fast paced songs which rely more on punctuated rhythms, both musically and lyrically, than melodic flow. New material benefits from Paul Fogarty's change from Music Man to Burns guitar in definition and resonance and from vocals in lower keys with sustained notes - e.g. 'Too Proud'. Jewel Sanyo

If you pay for musical entertainment at a pub what do you expect? If you are over 20, are not carrying drugs or gelignite, aren't falling over or armed with chains or flick-knives do you expect to be able to enjoy your evening without disruption?

Maybe you're expecting too much. On Saturday, November 26 at the Windsor Castle Hotel, these people were part of a fairly attentive and sedate crowd when a task force of about 25 police arrived.

the madness ...

arrests...

● Christopher Plummer musician
Pleaded not guilty to charge of using offensive language.
● Gary Charlton musician
Pleaded not guilty to charge of using offensive language.
● Christopher Knox musician
Pleaded not guilty to charge of using offensive language.
● Peter Meehan sound technician
Case dismissed.
● Unnamed
"I don't want to be hassled anymore (by the police) I don't need it."
"If they don't like somebody they can do what they like, can't they? That's the way it is. It's just a way of getting fingerprints and a photo."

in the back of one of the wagons, as had several others. There was general bewilderment. What had happened to that nice, low key evening we'd been enjoying quarter of an hour ago? Just then two police boys jumped out of the paddy wagon and grabbed Paul Rose. As the policemen were hustling him away he was busily trying to explain he didn't say wankers. Paul was lucky. He did convince them, several minutes later, Gary (Sporting Life) was not so lucky. The most appalling thing about this tacky little scene was the obvious provocation on the part of the police. The pub was closed, most people knew at least someone who was in the back of the vans, a great evening had been wrecked for no apparent reason.

Paul Williams nurse
A group of about ten people were outside the pub at 10.30-ish. Three police cars a wagon drove up the street. Police proceeded into the pub to do usual underage trip while maintaining heavy presence outside randomly questioning, searching, threatening people, "What are you doing?" "How old are you?" "Watch what you say." "Keep out of this." Joking amongst themselves, a woman cop was using worse language than the arrested were accused of.

impressions...

Ngila Dickson fashion designer
Saturday night at the Windsor Castle should have left the punters with a very optimistic view of the summer ahead. When I arrived I was told I'd just missed This Sporting Life at their finest and Fish School not bad, either. The atmosphere was really good and even though it took Fetus Productions a little while to get themselves co-ordinated, the audience was amiable and attentive. Anyway, the police made one pass through the pub midset, notable only 'cos they took outside probably the most inoffensive young person in the vicinity. No, I don't even think he was that young... Still, it's par for the course on a Saturday night, isn't it (?), so I didn't take much notice. Later I went off in search of the local takeaway bar. There were no police outside then, but on returning the road outside the pub was liberally decorated with police cars and a paddy wagon. Chris Knox already had a seat

I asked a policeman outside the paddy wagon "Why have you arrested my friend?" and was told to "off, off, go away." When I asked him why he could use obscene language and not me he replied "What did I say?" Clever attempt at entrapment but fortunately I had my wits about me, although quite perturbed, disillusioned, angry. I let out my feelings visibly, shouting "I don't believe this farce," waved my arms in the air and two of them grabbed me and told me to control my outbursts in public or I would be arrested for disorderly behaviour. "You can go home and beat up the wife but don't carry on like that in front of us."
Peter Meehan 22 year old sound technician
I was in the lounge bar of the Windsor Castle Hotel listening to Fishschool when the police came in at about 9 pm and hauled me out. I gave my name and address but they wouldn't believe I was of age. They told me "Bugger off and

don't come back." I went up the road to a friend's place for a while and returned about 20 minutes later. There were no police cars so I wandered back in. I was sitting there when almost at closing time suddenly all these cops came in. I thought, I hope it's not the same lot. Then tap on my shoulder and oh no, the same cop dragged me out, "You come outside." Protested and told police to ring up computer to establish age. Told "It's not up to us to prove your age - its up to you." More protest "Too bad. You came back on to licensed premises after you were told to leave" and I was arrested. I don't know what I was arrested for.

Russell Jephson
I was standing outside the Windsor Castle while the police were pulling people out and maintaining a very provocative stance. I was standing with both arms stretched over my head, holding on to scaffolding, when a constable said, "Why don't you get a rope and do it properly." I replied, "Don't you think that's very bad for public relations?" to which he snarled, "I couldn't give a damn you creep." I said nothing, though I was angry that they could do this and get away with it.

Richard Hanssens bookshop proprietor
I was at the Windsor Castle from eight o'clock. It was a small crowd for a Saturday night, the atmosphere of the place was relaxed, people were more interested in the music than getting drunk. I left at the end of Fetus Productions' set, about quarter past ten.

I walked up Parnell Road, it was a busy night, lots of pedestrians and traffic. A police car passed me, lights flashing, on its way up towards the Alexandra Hotel. There was a European male, early twenties, standing between two police cars surrounded by policemen. He was red faced, angry and abusive. He looked as if he had just been in a fight. He was well dressed except his shirt had been ripped, one sleeve hanging from his arm. He sounded drunk. I am certain I heard him scream out "f**king leave me alone."

I didn't see anyone being taken aside by the police, nor did I see anyone being held in any of the cars or the van.

good time. The police declined to comment on their visit to the Windsor, stating that direct references to the circumstances of arrest of the three people who have entered not guilty pleas would be in contempt of court as their cases have not yet been decided.

One patron asked a task force member what they were doing at the Windsor Castle Hotel. The policeman replied: "There's nothing else to do."



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