

# Pearl Jam Alive

It was not the night to be either a Dead Flower or a Dead Flowers fan. What should have been a support slot conducive to great things, turned into a support slot conducive to hardly anything at all, due to a lack of suitable support at the front of the stage. Dead Flowers had the plug pulled on them before they could even get two numbers out.

Things were looking mildly over excitable, so I wandered off for a spot of crowd sussing while some stage hogger talked the hyperactive audience into calming down. The word ripping around the girls' toilets was that Pearl Jam were about to take to the stage. 'This can't be,' I thought, 'for what about the Dead Flowers?' But indeed, it was over for the Dead Flowers, and the next band to grace the stage were Pearl Jam themselves.

They opened with an audience soothing cover of Hunters and Collectors' 'Throw Your Arms Around Me', which turned out to be the first of the show's trio of totally unexpected songs. It got things off to a mellow beginning as Eddie Vedder urged the crowd to dance where they were standing. 'Oceans' kept things in this vein, but was merely a calm (albeit a mighty enthusiastic one) before the storm.

Four of *Vitalogy's* most rocking tracks came next: 'Spin The Black Circle', 'Last Exit', 'Tremor Christ' and the superbly crafted 'Corduroy', whipping the faithfully chanting crowd into a pogoing frenzy. Then came the first of the monster ballads; 'Elderly Woman Behind the Counter in a Small Town' saw the crowd pipe up in harmonious form. The lights came on the audience when Eddie sang: 'I just want to scream hello,' prompting a frenzy of hand waving. This number was only beaten by 'Daughter' in the proverbial lighter lifting stakes.

The now legendary intro to 'Alive' was one of those rare moments that seem to beam out in slow motion — that split second between recognition and response was definitely one to sear into memory. There's really no other way to describe its reception,

except to say, well... the crowd went absolutely apeshit. Subsequent album anthems 'Jeremy' and the beautiful 'Betterman' (the first song of the encore) were also serious roof raising contenders.

Familiarity was definitely the overwhelming feeling beaming off the crowd. It sounded like they knew almost every word to almost every song, and loved the lot. From Pearl Jam's side of the stage barrier, it was the songs rooted in societal aggression which saw them at their most potent. Every single one of the more controlled bursts of fury off Vs were crashed out in exhilarating form. 'WMA' was not completed, but 'Glorified G', 'Leash', 'Rats', 'Animal' and a dripping red version of 'Blood' were more than intact — if they'd been any more there they would have been dangerous.

Of Eddie's few softly spoken interludes (and my, what a deep voice he has), the most surprising came two songs before the end. He raised a patriotic cheer by saying Split Enz had been a big part of the music that had kept him sane as a lad. What happened next was testament to the fact that Pearl Jam are one of the biggest bands in the universe, and hence can do whatever they jolly well please, which, on this occasion, included hauling Tim and Neil Finn on stage. 'History Never Repeats' and 'I Got You' were the songs, and hysteria was the reaction. It was pretty neat, but then it was over... the whole concert that is. Hence, instead of going home singing: "All that's sacred, comes from youth," or some other Vedderesque pearl of wisdom (excuse the pun), it was: "I don't know why sometimes I get frightened," or some other way latter day line.

Eddie didn't stage dive or crowd surf either but, in the end, it really didn't matter. (I probably wouldn't have been able to see if he had anyway — *Supertop* my ass). All I'd heard from abroad about Pearl Jam was true. They are quite possibly the greatest live band in the world.

BRONWYN TRUDGEON



## JAN HELLRIEGEL MANIC (IS A STATE OF MIND)

THE LONG-AWAITED JAN HELLRIEGEL ALBUM *TREMBLE* IS OUT SOON, BUT AS A TASTER CHECK OUT THE AWESOME NEW SINGLE 'MANIC'. RECORDED IN MELBOURNE AND SYDNEY, 'MANIC' IS A MAGNIFICENT SLICE OF TWISTED MELODIC POP, AND SHOWCASES JAN'S VOICE AT ITS BRILLIANT BEST. WITH THE FOLLOW UP TO THE BRILLIANT *IT'S MY SIN* ALBUM, COUNT ON JAN HELLRIEGEL TO EXPLODE BACK BIGGER AND BETTER IN 1995.



## JAMES REYNE THE WHIFF OF BEDLAM

THE FORMER AUSTRALIAN CRAWL VOCALIST RETURNS WITH A MATURE, BUT ROCKING NEW ALBUM RECORDED ENTIRELY IN LOS ANGELES. *THE WHIFF OF BEDLAM* BLENDS CRUISEY VOCAL HEAVY BALLADS WITH EPIC GUITAR DRIVEN BALLADS. INCLUDES THE TRACKS 'RED LIGHT AVENUE', 'DAY IN THE SUN' AND 'IT'S ONLY NATURAL'.



## WENDY MATTHEWS THE WITNESS TREE

THE THIRD SOLO ALBUM FROM AUSTRALIAN WENDY MATTHEWS IS A BONAFAIDE MASTERPIECE. BRIMMING WITH EXQUISITE BALLADS AND BIG DANCE GROOVES, *THE WITNESS TREE* IS A GLORIOUS NEW RELEASE. FEATURES THE HIT SINGLES 'STANDING STRONG' AND 'LOVE WILL KEEP ME ALIVE', AND THE TIM FINN-PRODUCED 'STAND BACK'.



## MUDHONEY MY BROTHER THE COW

THE KINGS OF SEATTLE GRUNGE ARE BACK WITH THEIR FOURTH ALBUM. *MY BROTHER THE COW* IS AN EXTRAORDINARILY FOCUSED, CHILLINGLY ANGRY RECORD. ENGINEERED BY THE LEGENDARY JACK ENDINO, THE ALBUM MIXES PUNK, POP, FUZZ, BLUES AND BOOZE & THIS HAS PRODUCED A PHENOMENAL PIECE OF WORK. INCLUDES 'WHAT MOVES THE HEART', 'TODAY IS A GOOD DAY' AND 'IN MY FINEST SUIT'.



## MAX SHARAM COMA

THE DEBUT RELEASE FROM THE CAPTIVATING AUSTRALIAN SINGER-SONGWRITER MAX SHARAM IS THE STUNNING 5-TRACK CD SINGLE, 'COMA.' A LIMITED EDITION RELEASE, 'COMA' PERFECTLY CAPTURES THE HAUNTING STRENGTH OF THIS GREAT NEW TALENT. INCLUDES THE TRACKS 'IS IT OK?', 'CRASH LANDING' AND 'YOU CRADLED ME.' CHECK HER OUT NOW!



## LOREENA MCKENNITT THE MASK AND THE MIRROR

LOREENA MCKENNITT PERFORMED A STUNNING SHOW AT THE AUCKLAND TOWN HALL LAST MONTH, AND THIS SPECIAL TOUR EDITION CD CONTAINS THE ALBUM *THE MASK AND THE MIRROR*, PLUS THE BRILLIANT *LIVE IN SAN FRANCISCO AT THE PALACE OF FINE ARTS* CD. NOT TO BE MISSED.

## ROBERT PLANT & JIMMY PAGE

### NO QUARTER - UNLEDDED VIDEO

THE LEGENDARY LED ZEPPELIN DUO WHO REUNITED FOR THE SUPERB *NO QUARTER* ALBUM, WERE RECENTLY FILMED FOR AN MTV SPECIAL WHICH IS NOW AVAILABLE ON VIDEO. THE 95 MINUTE VIDEO VERSION FEATURES 40 MINUTES OF EXCLUSIVE FOOTAGE NOT SEEN IN THE ORIGINAL BROADCAST, INCLUDING THE TRACKS 'THE RAIN SONG' AND 'WHAT IS & WHAT SHOULD NEVER BE'. DON'T MISS OUT ON THIS EXCELLENT NEW VIDEO.