

Valdy packs 'em in at Raven's Cry

An area favourite proves he is still a popular draw for Coast audiences

by Ruth Forrester

Thanks to the Watersyde Folke group, the Raven's Cry Theatre was once again filled to capacity on Jan. 4 for the concert by Valdy which turned out to be a fine professional performance by a really nice guy.

This man is another Pete Seeger with a talent seldom found these days. With only his guitar for accompaniment, Valdy - like Seeger - was able to enthral an audience for two hours. No backup group needed here.

Instrumentally and vocally, Valdy did it well all by himself. His relaxed, friendly stage style made the audience feel that he was personal friend, despite the fact that he is one of Canada's top performers and winner of two Juno Awards. He writes most of his own material, all of which has something important to say. Valdy was even called upon to sing in Toronto for Prince Charles and Princess Diana at a concert in their honour. He is a good buddy of Peter Gzoski of CBC's Morningside show, and spoke of the time he went to Yellowknife to sing as a guest at the annual golf tournament hosted by Gzoski to promote literacy. For this occasion, Valdy wrote a song called 'Read Below the Lines', a song about the joys of reading.

No matter what the occasion might be, Valdy seems able to just sit him down and write a song. Like the one he wrote called 'Scruffy Dudes', referring to the time Willie Nelson and Wailin' Jennings were turned away from Point Grey Golf Club in Vancouver as "not suitably dressed".

Not many performers of such high calibre are willing to share the stage with other artists, but Valdy was delighted to introduce local musicians Tom Richardson and Helen Schafer, Tom playing bagpipes and hammer dulcimer and Helen on guitar, which was a most enjoyable interlude.

At one point in the concert Valdy had the dreaded experience of a broken guitar string. When this happens it usually means a break in the program while a new string is installed. Not so with Valdy. Like the trooper he is, he proceeded to change the string, while singing a lilting 'Mountain Dew' number unaccompanied. Then, when the re-stringing was completed, he carried on with the song which had been interrupted by the break. This was quite brilliant and greatly appreciated.

All too soon this show came to an end, but not before a great selection of favourite folk songs, which included 'Blowin' in the Wind', 'Early Morning Rain', 'If I Had a Hammer', etc.



Valdy shared the stage with local folk musician Tom Richardson on the hammer dulcimer during his recent concert at the Raven's Cry. Ruth Forrester photo.

Still not satisfied, the audience demanded an encore, and although Valdy must have been quite exhausted after such a full performance, he obligingly came back with another couple of numbers, much to the joy of the enthusiastic audience.

For those of you who missed this concert. Let's hope that Valdy will manage to get back to the Sunshine Coast for another concert in the near future. I know that he will have a full house again.

Blues for the bicycle man

by Peter Trower

Part two

One day I'm coming out of the plant after a tough shift in the machine room when I run

into Elmer. "Heard about the new dentist in town?" he queries unexpectedly.

"Not a thing. I try to avoid

those guys as much as I can."

"Well, you'll be interested in this character. His name's Doc Corey and he's got one of the biggest collections of old jazz records you ever saw. Some damn rare stuff."

"How did you find out about this?"

"I'm not kidding you. I was

thinning red hair. There is something odd about his eyes that I can't quite put my finger on. They are overbright; strangely penetrating. But he is cordial enough. Elmer makes the introductions and we follow Doc Corey to his sanctum-sanctorum.

The small apartment is

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