

String Cheese Incident: March 13, 1998

The Fillmore Auditorium, SF, CA

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I'll admit it, I needed to be reconvinced by the String Cheese Incident last night. They play in most markets for about 13 bucks, so when I first heard they were charging \$17.50 per ducat at the Fillmore, I thought this band might just be getting a bit full of itself.

I'm reconvinced. By midway through the first of two long sets they had already earned the ticket price. The rest was icing on an impossibly good musical cake. And even that cliched simile is wrong, because there is something extremely nutritious and fulfilling about the music of String Cheese Incident. This was a tremendous multi-course meal of music, with offerings ranging from African soup and spicy Latin gumbos to good ol' American nuts.

String Cheese Incident is one of the very best working units in the music business today. The band knows that the notes one doesn't play are at least as important as the notes one does play. And the notes they do play are fantastic. Many jam-bands try to get jazzy when they play. String Cheese Incident, on the other hand, plays jazz; and plays it very well.

It is simple Newtonian physics to understand that for every action there are equal and opposite reactions. As American culture makes its impact on cultures the world over, these cultures become part of the American tapestry in return. It really isn't very long a way from bluegrass picking to Afro-pop, from Miles Davis to the Grateful Dead, or from Celtic reels to salsa as it turns out. In the hands of such talented and creative artists as String Cheese Incident all these styles and more are recombined in unique and powerfully moving ways. There is a simple yet sophisticated elegance to the sonic quantum physics that String Cheese Incident lays down. Dancing is the answer to whatever the question was.

And speaking of tapestry, the batiks adorning the stage depicting high mountain sunsets and waterfall spirits are spectacularly beautiful too. Combined with the excellent Fillmore light show they added a fine visual dimension to an evening dripping with all the best parts of the psychedelic experience already.

Darol Anger, the Oakland-based musical wizard, sat in for several numbers during both sets on fiddle. These excursions in particular went to all those inspired places DeadHeads call the music playing the band and what Phish phans refer to as the hose.

String Cheese Incident is a great live band. I'm reconvinced. Pay whatever it takes to see these guys while the rooms they play are still small.

_____flowerpunkprods_____



String Cheese Incident
3/13/98 Fillmore, SF

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Set 1:

Mauna Bowa
Another Night
Voodoo Chile >
MLT
Swing Minor*
California Rain* >
Jam* >
Eat My Dust*

Bigger Isn't Better* >

Jam* >
Ramblin' Man

Set 2:

Rhythm Of The Road
Lonesome Fiddle Blues*
Restless Wind* >
Blue Bossa* >
Drums >

She Don't Say* >

Jam* >
Land's End* >

Smile

Encore:

Temperence Reel*

*w/Darol Anger (fiddle)

DAT SOUNDBOARD



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