



Review: Live performance
Letcher

Date: 09/04/2007

Reviewed by: Vicky

I am so glad I checked the write-up about Letcher on the Armchair website. It sounded good and that's why I went and it was awesome!

On Easter Monday at the end of an eventful long weekend, there isn't a whole lot going on in Observatory, but there was a respectable crowd at the Armchair (maybe they read the write-up like me) and the place was at that perfect balance where it was full without being crowded.

The supporting act was a woman with a sweet, clear voice (thank you sound engineer!) who warmed us up like a sweet, yellow, fortified wine. Her music was quite melancholy which exactly suited the misty evening outside, and the cosy comfort inside.

So when the Main act began, the audience was nice and fuzzy already.

But what to say about Letcher! Ever heard of well-crafted pop? Ever wondered why it is that mainstream musicians never experiment with difficult time-signatures, or vary the dynamics of their music?

Well even if you haven't, you would still appreciate Letcher, because not only was the music interesting MUSICALLY, it was also delivered with honesty and a fair amount of passion. Fair in the positive sense, Chris and his band were giving it their all, but I had the impression they were tired after intense touring. I have no idea if this is the case, but a performance that tight, and that solid, and that relaxed, seems to show that they've been playing quite a lot. And Chris was wearing one of those armband things that you get when you're at a festival?

I am glad I got my possie out the house last night and went to the gig, I am gonna get as much of Chris Letcher's stuff as I can lay hands on now.

ISOLATION



A Night to Remember: Van der Want & Letcher



Published Wednesday, April 04, 2007 5:32 PM by Lloyd
Filed under: Reviews, Live, Chris Letcher

Jozi was treated to an incredible show last Friday, as Matthew Van der Want and Chris Letcher returned to the stage. Chris, who now lives in London, was out for a tour to promote his new album *Frieze* and took the late arrival of his band as an opportunity to reunite with Matthew for a couple of shows. Back 2 Basix was packed, so I was

grateful that my colleague Lisa had booked a table.

With no support act, the duo took the stage shortly after nine. The first set was a bit short, but it did contain classics like *Bad Mouthing* and *Special Agents*, which Chris has reworked on his new album. The crowd hung on every word, spellbound by the magic that is a Van der Want and Letcher show. My wife, who had never seen the duo before, commented afterward that it was amazing that two people on acoustic guitars could be so intense.



The second set was longer and contained great songs like *Frieze*, *Home*, *Milk* and *Saving the scene*. As the show drew to a close, Matthew asked the crowd to pretend like they had already asked for an encore, but with a show by the duo such a rarity nowadays, the crowd was having none of it, so they came back for one more.

As they finished and headed for the cool Jozi air, the crowd erupted. I have never witnessed such an overwhelming response from a South African audience, they cheered, clapped and screamed, almost willing the duo back for some more [the best was the guy in the corner who looked like he had popped a couple too many pills – you know who you are]. But it was not to be. When they sheepishly crawled back into the venue for a cold beer and a chat about ten minutes later, they were given a standing ovation. After all icons of South African music like these two, deserve it. A night to remember!

For those in Joburg, you can catch Chris with his full new band at the Blues Room tonight. He will also be at Oppikoppi this weekend. Details are on the flyer below. For those in Durban I believe there has been a Durban show scheduled for the April 11 at the Thunder Raod Rock Bar in Florida Rd.

04/04/07

PRETORIA NEWS

Subscribe today for premium content
Edition 2, Wednesday 18th April

'De la Rey' not likely to lead the pack at Samas

Looking at the long and arduous nominees list of the 13th annual MTN Samas, it seems we're in for a boring time of TV viewing on Saturday night.

SABC1 is the official broadcaster and will be televising the ceremony live from 8pm on the night. Now, while it is understandable that the Samas must be a fair and thorough representation of our music industry, going through over 40 categories, including five gospel, five Afrikaans, including Best Kiddies and three categories for jazz, your average SABC1 viewer, who is supposed to be hip, young and funky, will soon lose interest, or, at the very least, channel surf.

Where Cassette has a strong chance is in Best Rock Album. Here they are up against the phenomenal newcomer J, Wonderboom, Chris Letcher and Just Jinjer. Again, I am sticking my neck out for Cassette or Chris Letcher's Frieze.