

Asheville Music Hall hosts Austin post-pop artist

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SHOW REVIEW

The room was mostly empty, save a few patrons leaning against the wall sipping beers.

Although it was a quiet Thursday night at Asheville Music Hall, the stage suggested something more was soon about to happen. Instruments were scattered across the stage, waiting for a band to pick them up. A small screen to the left of the stage gave the name of the act: Mobley.

As soon as 9 p.m. arrived, the lights on the stage went dark. Rather than the full-band the many instruments implied, a single man walked onstage.

To a near-empty room, Mobley picked up a guitar and a megaphone and began to play.

Almost immediately the audience stopped talking and devoted their attention to the spectacular electronic moment on stage.

"Incredibly good. Mind-blowingly good," Mobley said sarcastically when asked to describe his live shows. "Like if you don't make it out you will likely regret it for the rest of your life."

However, a few moments into his set, it became clear he was not quite joking.

His synthesized vocals spilled from the stage as the audience swayed back and forth.

After his first song, Mobley took a moment to address the crowd and thank them for coming. He seemed to have realized he had grabbed the attention of the once passive audience. With one song, Mobley brought everyone in the hall closer to the stage.

Still, it was not close enough for him as he urged the audience to come as close to the stage as possible.

"We're going to get to know each other a little bit tonight," Mobley said. "Come closer. I don't know what the fuck this is."

Launching into his next song, Mobley hardly lost any energy. He described himself as a one-man band and it was not difficult to see why as he seamlessly moved between guitar, drums, samplers and keys, all the while singing without missing a note.

Mobley paused his show for a moment to ask for people to come even closer as he lowered a drum onto the floor amidst the audience. He handed several people a drumstick and told them to play along when he gave them the cue. Becoming less unsure

PHOTO BY KARRIGAN MONK

Mobley performs his electronic set at the Asheville Music Hall on Thursday.

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