

James Taylor Rocks the Carolinas

Although the weather called for showers on Sunday afternoon, these predictions did not get in the way for James Taylor as his songs were able to "Shower the People" at Hardee's Walnut Creek Amphitheatre. The concert may have not been "sold out", as it was on Saturday night, but James's performance certainly was a hit. The weather also held out allowing all of us "poor" college students to enjoy our lawn seats without worrying about getting wet. Actually, the haziness of the afternoon merely added the atmosphere needed in order to complement the voice of this awesome performer.

An A+ rating of this performance may not give James quite enough credit, as I enjoyed the mellow crowd and was comfortable with the fact that I would be returning to my room after the show "with" my voice rather than leaving it at the Creek as we often do

Concert Review Ashley Peay

after hard-core screaming throughout an entire performance.

Not only were many college-age kids at the show, but Sunday was also Family Day which meant that children under the age of 12 were admitted free with an adult lawn pass. I was somewhat surprised that I was not surrounded by more kids, when in actuality, they were quite scarce.

James's performance began a little after 5:00 as he simply walked on stage and began playing. His lack of punctuality only added to the casualness of the concert and seemed to make all ticket-holders feel quite at home as well as relaxed. He continued to perform until 8:30, only stopping once for

a quick break. This break allowed the audience to mingle and interestingly enough, I ran into quite a few people whom I have not seen in a while. Seeing these familiar faces merely reinforced the fact that although the crowd was fairly large, we all seemed to be one small family and seemed to share some type of personal bond that bond being a love for James Taylor's music.

For more than the first half of the show it was still light outside, but once the sun did go down not much lighting was used and the simplicity of the staging added to the calm character possessed by this sole man which we had all come to see. Again adding to the lucidity of the atmosphere, the tickets were not over-priced, which helped one to enjoy the simple performance.

As I think about James's performance and write about it, I realize that everything mentioned seemed to only

"add" to the afternoon. I was so content for those few hours and nothing subtracted from James's performance. As I looked around me at the crowd and the contentment on their faces and in their eyes, it was apparent that I was not the only one who had allowed James's tranquil voice and philosophical words to erase all of my worries for the day. It seemed as though everyone around me was with James in their hearts and they actually felt the words "Don't Let Me Be Lonely Tonight." I honestly can say that for those few hours, I do not think that anyone at the concert was feeling "lonely."

The next time that James Taylor is around in concert, and you have the chance to go, do not hesitate at the chance, because when you hear James's voice you will definitely be assured that "You've Got A Friend."

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Oliver: A new twist

Deciding to partake in some cultural events in Raleigh, my roommates and I ventured to the Raleigh Little Theater to see "Oliver" last Thursday night. "Oliver" is a musical based on the Charles Dickens novel, Oliver Twist. It is a story which takes place in late 19th century London about an orphan named Oliver.

When we got to the theater, the place was packed. There were kids of all ages present and it was nice to see a warm family atmosphere. The first thing I noticed was the great set that was being used for this play. It was not extravagant, but was very creative. Throughout the play, the audience got to see the many ways in which it could be used. I was quite impressed.

The play began with a scene of orphans eating their meal of gruel in which they spun off with the well known song "Food, Glorious Food". The boys' singing was marvelous, especially the main character, Oliver. He is 12 years old and a seventh grader here in Raleigh. For someone of his age, he was remarkably talented and had far reaching vocal capabilities.

Play Review Teresa Latham

The characters, costuming and talent were extremely high quality for a show of this level. The acting ability of the man who played the "ring leader of the pickpockets" was much better than duty called for. He was humorous, fun and an overall wonderful actor.

Although the play was energetic and greatly entertaining, it was lacking in dialogue. For those of us who were not as familiar with the tale, you had to understand every word of the songs (which was not always possible) to completely comprehend the storyline.

I definitely recommend everyone checking out what the Raleigh Little Theater has to offer. Not only does it have a great atmosphere (and the beautiful rose garden beside it), it also produces quality and entertaining plays.