The Daily Tar Heel

DIVERSIONS

With True Rock Star Force

By JENISE HUDSON Staff Writer

Alejandro Escovedo began his show with the saunter of a pretentious sere nading musician.

But as he strapped on his baby blue electric guitar, the musician and his [review] accompanying Alejandro Escovedo GO! Rehearsal Studios band proceeded to rock the crowd with their fierv Saturday, Dec. 1 ★★☆☆☆ tune

He began ★★☆☆ "Everybody Loves Me, But I Don't Know Why" in

a smoldering tenor, later growing to possess the passion associated with Latin singers, delivered with the hard-core edge of rock singers.

The same balance of passion and ruggedness could be seen in the way Escovedo played each song. He and his backup singer ripped down their electric guitars in a series of raging chords. When the guitarist forcefully ripped out "Castanets," it became clear that Escovedo's music focuses just as much on instrumentals as it does on vocals.

Escovedo's smoky voice and fevered playing were also backed by the soaring inds of cellos, harmonica and frantie drum beats. Their voices cut through the hectic interlude with smooth precision. Showcasing the individual talent of his band members, Escovedo's set leapt from song to song with one instrument soaring above the others. While his renegade anthem, "Everybody Loves Me, But I Don't Know Why" highlighted his skill as a guitarist, in "Five Hearts" the cello gracefully rose above Escovedo's voice in gentle harmony. But the drummer's incessant pounding in "Rosalie" did more to annoy than set

good rhythm. But the few shortcomings of his band weren't enough to overshadow the liveliness of Escovedo's performance. With unadulterated force he tore up the stage in true rocker's fashion - and the crowd never complained.

Latin Singer Delivers Show Strokes Almost Live Up To Hype, Prove Talent

BY BRIAN BEDSWORTH

It must be good to be the Strokes. They make rock music seem so easy, and make it look so good. Rarely does a band have to do so little

to fill the Cat's Cradle and then drive the crowd to hysterics. The throngs of screaming fans clawing at the stage seemed to be exerting review more energy than the Strokes, who The Strokes Cat's Cradle Tuesday, Nov. 27 ★★☆☆ lackadaisically

swaggered through their short set a the crowd begged for more. In case you haven't been caught up

by the shameless media hype, the Strokes are the current "it" band. A quintet of elegantly scruffy New York hipsters, the group sells out shows everywhere, elicits Beatlemaniacle everywhere, responses from female fans, and makes rock critics gush messianic comparisons.

They've been called "the saviors of rock," "the fairy-tale rock group who awoke a sleeping rock scene" and other rock.

September, is flying off record store shelves as I type. With all that in mind, I went to the

Cat's Cradle prepared to be thorough-ly disappointed. There's no way they can be that good, I thought. In a way I was right, but in a way I was wrong

was right, but in a way I was wrong. Try as I might, I can't deny that the Strokes are a good rock band. They've got solid songwriting, killer riffs and super-catchy hooks in their bag of tricks, and they were using them all Tuesday night. Musically, they were on. They precisely barreled through *Is This It's* 11 songs pretty much in the order they appear on the album, open-

order they appear on the album, open-ing the set with the record's sleepy-eyed title track. Their live show was a faith-ful reproduction of the album - damn good, straight-up rock songs in the vein of their New York predecessors Velvet Underground and Television. The crowd was visibly excited; dancing and jumping up and down in a show of enthusiasm that's not been seen in Chapel Hill for years. Female fans were iming and pushing people in front scre of them to claw at frontman Julian Casablancas (the son of Elite Modeling founder John Casablancas). But the Strokes looked like they'd

rather be anywhere else. The rest of the band melted to the back of the stage to give Casablancas room for his huge rock persona. The star of the Casablancas show stood hunched over the mike in show stood hunched over the make in the same spot for the first few songs, barely raising his head, doing a bad impersonation of a lame drunk. Occasionally he'd bend over the edge of the stage to let fans touch him.

"I hope everybody's having a good time," he told the crowd at one point. "We are even though we don't look like it." Toward the end of the set the band

decided to pick it up and actually put on a show. But even that seemed artificial. At one point Casablancas poured beer on himself, at another he fell down and sang from the floor. The moves made the girls scream a little louder, but he seemed to be doing them because he was aware it was necessary. That's rock.

CAROLINA Franklin St.

THE COOLEST THING AROUND

OCEAN'S ELEVEN

OWEN WILSON GENE HACKMAI

ind enemy lines

WHO WASN'T THER.

JW PG

VARSITY

RIDE WORTH TAKIN

The Strokes ended the set with the anthemic "Take it or Leave it." By that point Casablancas and bandmates had woken up a bit and were actually moving onstage. But again, the sense that it was an act detracted from the emotion.

And then it was over. At the end of the song the Strokes quickly left the stage, the lights came up, and non-Strokes music started playing

put on a lousy show, you will still like the Strokes. You can't help it. Their hooks are too catchy. Their denim and leather too hip. Their faces everywhere. Oh yes. It must be good to be the

The Arts & Entertainment Editor can be reached at artsdesk@unc.edu.

ver the PA. Very anti-climactic. But you know what? It doesn't matter ecause even though they might have

Strokes

EASTERN

FEDERAL THEATERS

PLAZA THEATRES

MOVIES AT TIMBERLYNE Weaver Dairy at Airport Rd. 933-8600

MES R Daily 3:25, 7:00, 9:25

OUT COLD RGB Daily 3:15, 5:15, 7:15, 9:15

HALLOW HAL RED Daily 3:20, 7:05, 9:20

MONSTERS INC. @ Daily 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00

MONSTERS INC. @ Daily 3:15, 5:15, 7:15, 9:15

HARRY POTTER (R) Daily 2:50, 5:40, 8:30

ARRY POTTER M Daily 4:00, 6:50, 9:40

IFE AS A HOUSE IR Daily 3:35, 7:00, 9:35

DIGITAL

K-PAX INGLI Daily 3:30, 7:05, 9:30

TEXAS RANGERS MED Daily 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00

THE BLACK KNIGHT 1840 Daily 3:05, 5:05, 7:05, 9:05

The Arts & Entertainment Editor can ridiculous hyperbolic proclamations. Their debut album, *Is This It*, released in be reached at artsdesk@unc.edu.

Mississippi Allstars Light Fire Underneath The Blues

BY ELLIOTT DUBE Staff Writer

The North Mississippi Allstars began their set with a musical explosion, and they had no trouble in keeping the fire raging for the rest of the night.

Cody Dickinson's rampaging drum work was the first sound to come from the band. Chris

North Mississippi

Allstars Cat's Cradle

Saturday, Nov. 1 ★★★★★

ened the rhythm with his fat, popping bass notes and the beast of blues was awakened.

Deep and dirty hill-country music marched along and

growled like a wild animal - the band was relentless, crackling with energy. And the crowd felt it. While they

danced, bounced and shook to Dickinson and Chew's beats and thumps, they were wowed by the scin-tillating guitar work of Luther Dickinson and Dwayne Burnside. The show's energy hit a number of peaks whenever the Allstars decided to let the spontaneity of jamming take over.

Unlike some other jam bands, the Allstars never descended into self-indulgence. With every change in tempo and key, the band dove into a powerful new blues-rock groove. Every note of its midsong explorations had a purpose, lead-ing seamlessly into another song.

Paint a perfect evening.

v the art of fondue will please everyone For reservations, call (919) 878-0477.

Melting Pot.

a fondue restaurant

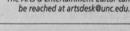
Dip into something different

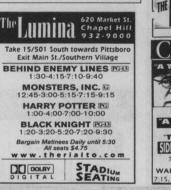
3100 Wake Forest Road Raleigh, NC 27609

At one point, after several jam-heavy ninutes, the band segued into "Skinny Woman" without skipping a beat; there were many moments where the band seemed to transcend individual song structure and hit upon something pure. The music moved quickly from sizzling to cool, from sinister to heavenly.

Which proved the blues have a pow erful ally in the North Mississippi Allstars. The old bluesmasters won't be around forever, and the music needs young talent to keep it thriving. The Allstars kept it pumping on Saturday night, and their fiery, spiritual

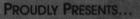
energy allowed the blues to truly thrive The Arts & Entertainment Editor can







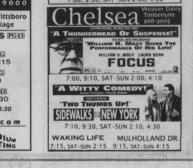
Enjoy the classic Grinch cartoon and the new film all in one night! Followed by yummy desserts in the Great Hall.



Oyster & Martini Bar

Happy Hour from 5-8pm every Thursday featurina:

ses* No dis VISIT OUR WEB SITE! DIGITAL WAKING LIFE MULHOLLAND DR 9:15, SAT-SUN 4:15



+ 25¢ Oysters and Clams on the half shell

♦ \$1.75 Domestic Bottles

+ Live Music

Come see our full menu. Your choice of 100 different Martinis and 30 wines by the glass.

Open daily from 11:30am-2:00am

4.3

201 E. Franklin Street & Chapel Hill, NC 27514 & 929.0024.

Friday, December 7 10pm **Great Hall** Free with OneCard

Presented by CUAB, IVCF, the BSM and Carolina After Dark.

For more information, contact the Carolina Union Activities Board at 962-1157 or www.unc.edu/cuab