

Blues attack strikes Las Vegas

Johnny Winter and Shakin' Dominoes rattle Calamity Jayne's

by Roy Theiss
Staff Reporter

Blues is making some headway in Las Vegas. Long overlooked, it was fitting that underrated blues/rock guitar player, Johnny Winter, took to the stage to play some of the best American-made music at Calamity Jayne's concert house Sept. 12&13. Winter has been playing blues for nearly 30 years and his traditional sound has kept up with the times. His Laser guitar lets him easily cross over from sharp, electrify-

ing rock to blues that reaches into your bones.

Immediately, Winter's three man band had the house captivated. Each song, averaging twice as long as most trendy commercial artist's song (approximately 10 minutes or more), proved Winter relies on substance rather than image. When he picked up the slide for Mojoe Boggie, virtually every person's gut was twisted and torn to shreds with Winter's clean sharp axe hammering home the blues.

Winter didn't finish his hour

and a half set until 1 a.m. Although the concert was on a Wednesday, the loyal die-hard blues fans of Las Vegas cheered to the very end.

Opening for Johnny Winter were the Shakin' Dominoes. Winners of the Battle of the Bands contest last summer, the Shakin' Dominoes showed the blues crowd a different side that emanated from the blues-rockability.

Decked out in the traditional garb of the fifties, including haircuts, the Shakin' Dominoes were

literally hopping on stage. Jimmy Decker wailed on his white acoustic bass, at times lowering it to the stage floor and standing on top of it while playing. The crowd loved it.

Decker said he was thrilled to warm up for Johnny Winter. "Both Johnny Winter and Stevie Ray Vaughn are idols of mine." Concerning the development of the band, Decker said he feels pretty good where they stand right now. But he was quick to add that "you can always take it a

little further."

Upcoming Blues events start this weekend with a Chili Cook Off Saturday, Sept. 26, Calamity Jayne's will feature harmonica great James Harmon. Tickets are \$6. The Las Vegas Blues Society will have its fall picnic at Sunset Park Oct. 7. A half dozen local bands are scheduled to appear as well as Anson Funderbird & the Rockets from California.

The festivities kick off at noon and continue until 9 p.m. Anyone interested in Blues happenings call 452-BLUE.

The Movie Scene

Current showings

PROBLEM CHILD (PG)

Michael Oliver - Silly claptrap about misbehaving tyke; sledgehammer humor does not deliver. (Boring)

TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS (R)

James Belushi - So-so mistaken identity comedy of thief who assumes executive's lifestyle. (Fair)

THE TWO JAKES (R)

Jack Nicholson - "Chinatown" follow-up beset with exhausting, complicated plot. (Fair)

WILD AT HEART (R)

Nicholas Cage - Audacious comedy-road movie of young lovers on the lam; shocking and funny. (Good)

YOUNG GUNS II (PG)

Emilio Estevez - Bratpackers in saddle again for thin sequel about Billy the Kid. (Fair)

New releases

DARKMAN (R)

This clever horror thriller of revenge from Sam Raimi is finally undone with conventional super-hero feats, chases and heavy gunfire. Liam Neeson is good as a disfigured scientist who uses synthetic skin to transform his face into the likeness of his enemies. The

scenes where he confuses the bad guys are intriguing indeed. But Raimi at last runs out of courage and resorts to gimmicks. Larry Drake is effective as Larry who delights in cutting off his victims' fingers.

FAIR HORROR DIR - Sam Raimi LEAD - Liam Neeson RT - 120 mins. (Profanity)

THE ICICLE THIEF (No Rating)

Jumbled farce from Italy that parodies Vittorio De Sica's classic "Bicycle Thief" in its attempt to satirize television commercials. Director Maurizio Nichetti, who also stars, uses a film-within-a-film technique to tell the struggles of a poor post-war Italian family. The black-and-white Neo-Realism presentation constantly is interrupted with outlandish color commercials. And this device is further confused when a character from the commercial gets involved with the story. In Italian. English titles.

FAIR COMEDY DIR - Maurizio Nichetti LEAD - Maurizio Nichetti RT - 98 mins.

MEN AT WORK (PG-13)

Garbage men get their turn at being heroes in this trashy, juvenile comedy starring Charlie Sheen and Emilio Estevez. These good-natured sanitation men find a dead body among the garbage. Their curiosity leads to an investigation of political corruption and illegal toxic dumping. Adolescent humor, some car chases, and a fistfight are involved on the way to subduing the culprits. Leslie

Hope and Dean Cameron also are in the cast.

FAIR COMEDY DIR - Emilio Estevez LEAD - Charlie Sheen RT 98 mins. (Mild Profanity)

PUMP UP THE VOLUME (R)

A refreshing, uplifting teen film that offers a sympathetic, uncondescending look at adolescent emotions and problems. The uncompromising story is told through the experiences of a shy, rebellious high school student (Christian Slater). He bares his soul via a pirate radio show that soon attracts a cult following among his peers. Slater handles the role with aplomb and sensitively displays the character's defiant point of view. Samantha Mathis does well as a girl who offers encouragement.

GOOD TEEN DRAMA DIR -

Allan Moyle LEAD - Christian Slater RT - 100 mins. (Profanity, brief nudity)

THE WITCHES (PG)

Anjelica Huston's unbeatable portrayal here as the Grand High Witch sets a high mark in movie witchcraft. Effectively done up with a huge, beaked, warty nose and an exaggerated chin, she's in charge of a sinister plot to turn all British children into mice.

This scary bedtime story is too intense for small children. But there is ample charm, suspense, and sophistication to entrance pre-teens and upward. Jasen Fisher performs well as a youngster turned rodent who then turns the table on his tormenters.

GOOD CHILDREN'S FANTASY DIR - Nicolas Roeg LEAD - Anjelica Huston RT - 92 mins.

Coming Attractions

Neil Simon has written the original screenplay for "The Marrying Man," a Buena Vista Release. Alec Baldwin and Kim Basinger will star in the film about a Hollywood millionaire who tries to seduce a Las Vegas lounge singer.

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