

# Sensitive singer Seal fails to capture audience

Catisha Marsh  
Sentinel-Voice

Maybe I just don't know enough deep, sensitive men, but Seal, who played the House of Blues on May 14 and 15, dug deep into his soul for his concert that Friday.

And he bored me out of my mind. Pushing his newest album, "Human Being," Seal delivered a sleep-inducing performance where the mostly white audience members liberally walked in and out, as if he were just another lounge act, and not like they paid at least \$47 for a standing room only ticket.

Now, granted, the House of Blues was almost packed—more so than any of the shows I've seen to date, including Faith/Dru Hill.

Seal is a major crossover artist, though, evidenced by the throngs of caucasians milling about the place and the black and white couples strolling around together.

I wanted to ask him what's with the crossover appeal, but, of course, backstage access for a reporter of my little-known stature without making "proper arrangements" beforehand, was too much for them to bare.

In short I didn't get to talk with the megastar himself.

But, I tried desperately to wait it out and see if the songs picked up pace.

They didn't. He flowed from one slow,



Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy

Seal sings his heart out at the House of Blues in the Mandalay Bay Hotel at a recent concert.

crawling tune to the next.

When he whipped out his guitar to do a rendition of the ballad Princess, the audience had had enough! They had lost interest. You couldn't even hear Seal singing

from the din they created from conversation. He quickly ended the piece and went into some more familiar material.

"He sounds like a black Sting," said one concertgoer. How ironic—

usually they're stealing our style.

If the loud, disinterested audience wasn't enough, I couldn't make out what he was saying, let alone figure out which songs he was singing.

Maybe part of the problem were the sound levels, as you heard drummer Brian Blade spank the skins so hard that you struggled to hear the lyrics come through the sound system.

The band was top shelf, though, with David Sancious on keyboards and bass player Tony Levin holding down the bassline.

And Seal is a very sexy man. Although, you could barely see the lithe gyrating I believe he was doing because his black shirt stopped right under his groin, blending into his black pants.

Seal's latest album is cool when you pop it into the stereo. He sang the title track "Human Beings", "Just Like You Said", and "Colour" among others. I also dug "Crazy" and "Kiss from a Rose" from the Batman soundtrack, so it wasn't that I don't appreciate the music.

It's just not good concert material. Seal is not a high energy performing artist, which I prefer to watch on a Friday night in Las Vegas.

His new album, however, is perfect to listen to, to wind down while you kick back with someone you like on your couch and engage in deep conversation.

But, trust me, save yourself the trouble of seeing him live. Pocket the extra cash you'd have from buying a concert ticket, buy the album, and stay at home.

## Film director Spike Lee to make ads for U.S. Navy

NEW YORK (AP) — Spike Lee is setting sail with a series of recruiting ads for the Navy.

The filmmaker signed on to make six commercials for the oceangoing branch of the military.

Using hand-held cameras for a fresh look, Lee did documentary-style spots on Navy SEALs, sailors in a rock band, exotic travel opportunities and other service-related topics.

"Spike may attract a younger audience than our previous commercials did,"



SPIKE LEE

said Lt. Cmdr. Karen Jeffries, adding that the Navy fell

7,000 recruits short of its goal in 1998. "Spike can give us a different edge."

The first commercial will debut June 4 in movie theaters showing the new "Star Wars" film before the spot airs on television. Lee, who has done commercials for Nike and Levis, has film credits including "Malcolm X" and "Do The Right Thing."

"I was surprised they picked him, but I think the Navy did the right thing," said former Lt. Cmdr. Allan Camaissa, who appeared in one of the new spots.

## Review

(Continued from Page 8) touching that you wish that she could have somehow returned.

Close descended into a hilarious kind of Dixieland dementia for her character. For non-Southerners, it's an opportunity to see a great actress hilariously play up some of the alleged eccentricities of the Southern woman including the "Steel Magnolia" determination, prissy mannerisms, flowery

dresses and religious hypocrisy.

Being a Southerner

myself, I'll leave you with this, ya'll sure enough will enjoy this little gem of a film.

Ultimate Pest Control Work Guaranteed	Office Hours 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Mon. thru Fri.
<b>NEW YORK STYLE PEST CONTROL, Inc.</b> (Put your pests to rest)	
Melvin Cooper Sales Representative 366-1996	58 N. 30th St., Suite B Las Vegas, NV 89101 Lic. 2340 Fax: 366-1994

# A Blueprint For The Future

From left, Harvey Munford, Nevada Stupak, Charles "Doc" Broadus

- ✓ Planning Safer Neighborhoods
- ✓ Reducing Traffic Congestion
- ✓ Clean Water - Air
- ✓ Building For Our Children's Future

"I Pledge To Make A Difference"

Elect

# Nevada STUPAK

LAS VEGAS CITY COUNCIL  
WARD 3

## Your vote is very important June 8th

Paid Political Advertisement by the Friends of Nevada Stupak