

Springsteen delivers unstoppable rock

By Mike Warren

Senior editor

The men who saved rock 'n' roll in the 1970s from the dirty grips of disco and pop entered Denver's Pepsi Arena on Friday night on a "search and rescue mission."

Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band pounded out guitar-driven rock for three hours in the midst of a Rocky Mountain snow storm outside, on the second of two sold-out nights in Denver.

He preached to his congregation.

Springsteen and the band took the stage one by one: Roy Bittan on piano, Garry Tallent on bass guitar, Max Weinberg on drums, Danny Federici on keyboards, Nils Lofgren on guitar, Patti Scialfa (Springsteen's wife) on acoustic guitar, Steve Van Zandt on guitar, "The Big Man" Clarence Clemons on saxophone and percussion, and, finally The Boss, in front of a sold-out crowd that numbered close to 19,000.

The show kicked off with "The Ties That Bind" from the 1980 "The River" double album and continued into one of Springsteen's favorites, "The Promised Land," where at the end of the

song he threw his harmonica into the crowd.

None of the radio hits, such as "Dancing In The Dark" or "Glory Days," were included in the setlist; it was more of a nitty gritty show, putting the hits aside for more meaningful substance.

The band tore through five songs for close to 45 minutes with everyone in the audience still standing. After "Darlington County," Springsteen appeared alone onstage with a spotlight and, in Springsteen fashion, thanked the audience for coming.

The band then slowed the tempo with two slower ballads, "Factory," about Springsteen's blue-collar father, and "My Hometown," about New Jersey's economic troubles in the mid-'80s. Springsteen seemed to say it was about everyone's town, asking the audience to sing along with the chorus.

Some newer material was included, picking up the pace again with an excellent guitar solo from Lofgren in "Youngstown" and "Murder Incorporated," where Springsteen, Nils Lofgren and Steve Van Zandt - "Silvio" from the HBO series "The Sopranos" - dueted on guitars.

Springsteen's shows during this tour have included a core

in the setlist of about 15 songs, and the other eight or nine change from night to night, giving fans who follow the band on consecutive nights variety. It creates a different feel for each show. Most of the shows this tour have been about three hours long with 23 to 25 songs.

Following "Murder Incorporated" was "Badlands," and the house lights were thrown on to show audience members pumping their fists in the air in unison with Springsteen. The chorus was so loud at points it was hard to hear the vocals.

Following "Badlands," Springsteen came to the front of the stage and screamed to the audience, "Is there anybody alive out there?" Max Weinberg of "The Conan O'Brien Show" pounded on his drums, and the audience screamed an enthusiastic "Yes!"

The band then broke into "Tenth Avenue Freeze-Out," and Springsteen jumped on top of Roy Bittan's piano and egged on the crowd to make more noise. In the middle of the song, Springsteen told how the band came together - a band he hasn't played with in more than a decade.

The set finished with "Ghost of Tom Joad," "Meeting Across The River," "Jungleland," and, finally, a loud and rocking "Light of Day," where

Springsteen shouted that he came to Denver to "regenerate you, resuscitate you, liberate you, resexualate you ... With the power and the glory, the majesty, the mystery and the ministry of rock 'n' roll."

The band left the stage with the congregation standing and cheering. But the band and the crowd hadn't had enough after more than two hours.

The band came back on the stage, led by Springsteen running up the ramp to the mic, and broke into "Bobby Jean" and the classic "Born To Run." They bowed after "Born To Run" and left, but the crowd kept cheering and the band came back out for encore No. 2.

Another classic, "Thunder Road," started the second encore, then a slow but fantastic "If I Should Fall Behind," where the band members took turns at the mic with Springsteen playing alone on his Fender guitar. A new song, "Land Of Hope And Dreams," finished the second encore, but no one in Denver was ready to let the rock n' roll Hall of Famer leave.

The band stood at the front of the stage bowing to the audience, but the standing ovation did not die down. After a few minutes, Springsteen yelled to a man in the front row wearing a Davy Crockett-style raccoon hat, "Give me your hat!"

The man obliged, and Springsteen wore the hat for the third encore, "Ramrod," with the raccoon tail waving around as Springsteen ran across the stage with a big smile on his face.

The show ended with Springsteen running from the riser at the rear of the stage and doing a somersault back to his feet. The crowd did not stop screaming until the band left and the arena lights came on, signaling The Boss had left the building.

The E Street Band has not toured together in a decade but sounded tight and was very enthusiastic to join The Boss again. The tour began in the summer of 1999 with a record 15 sold-out nights in New Jersey.

The tour will continue into this summer, finishing with another record 10-night stand at Madison Square Garden in Manhattan.

The tour rolls through the Midwest to St. Louis on April 8, and Kansas City on April 9. Both are sold out, but tickets can still be found from fans at ticket trading pages on the Internet at face value.



Melanie Falk/DN

Traveling Joslyn exhibit offers something new

By Jason Hardy

Staff writer

For the past two years, schools, banks and museums all over Nebraska have played host to some of the Joslyn Art Museum's most prized possessions.

This weekend the Joslyn's "Travels in the Interior of North America, 1832-34: The Maximilian-Bodmer Expedition" finally came home, but not before touching the lives of more than 29,000 students and adults throughout Nebraska.

The exhibit showcases the work of Swiss artist Karl Bodmer, who journeyed across North America and up the Missouri River from 1832 to

"It was a wonderful opportunity for us to bring in something new."

Joan Birnie
coordinator of the exhibit

1834. The collection of 81 featured prints included examples of Bodmer's landscapes, portraits and other scenes of American Indian life, including the flora, fauna and native peoples of the Missouri River frontier.

All in all, the exhibition, which was divided into two 41-piece exhibits, with one print being duplicated for both, visited 18 different

towns in Nebraska and the surrounding regions, including Broken Bow, where the collection was displayed at the Broken Bow public library. For Joan Birnie, the librarian who lined up the exhibit, it was a great run.

"It was a wonderful opportunity for us to bring in something new," she

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