

# JOHN PRINE 2003 TOUR REVIEW S

## and other Prine appearances



· USA: [AL](#) | [CA](#) | [FL](#) | [GA](#) | [IA](#) | [IL](#) | [IN](#) | [KS](#) | [LA](#) | [MO](#) | [NC](#) | [NH](#) | [NJ](#) | [NY](#) | [OH](#) | [OK](#) | [PA](#) | [RI](#) | [TN](#) | [VA](#) | [WV](#)  
· CAN: [NL](#) | [NB](#) | [NS](#) | [ON](#) | [QC](#)

### TOUR DATES

Feb 10 - London, UK - [BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards](#) - "Lifetime Achievement Award for Contribution to Songwriting"  
~Article, audio & webcast [here](#)

Feb 21 - Chattanooga, TN - [Tivoli Theater](#) - w/Todd Snider

Feb 22 - Huntsville, AL - [Von Braun Center](#) - w/Todd Snider

Feb 28 - Harrisburg, PA - [The Forum](#) - w/Greg Trooper

Mar 1 - Wilkes-Barre, PA - [F.M. Kirby Center](#) - w/Greg Trooper

Mar 7 - Wheeling, WV - [Capitol Music Hall](#) - w/ R B Morris

Mar 8 - Akron, OH - [EJ Thomas Performing Arts Hall](#) - w/ R B Morris

Mar 28 - Lawrence, KS - [Lied Center - U of KS](#) - w/ R B Morris

Mar 29 - Tulsa, OK - [Brady Theater](#) - w/ R B Morris

Apr 18 - Peoria, IL - [Peoria Civic Theater](#) - w/Pat McLaughlin

Apr 19 - Cedar Rapids, IA - [Paramount Theater](#) - w/Pat McLaughlin

Apr 25 - Providence, RI - [VMA Arts & Cultural Center](#) w/Todd Snider

Apr 26 - Concord, NH - [Capitol Center](#) - w/Todd Snider

May 2 - Roanoke, VA - [Civic Auditorium](#) - w/Todd Snider

May 3 - Greensboro, NC - [War Memorial Auditorium](#) w/Todd Snider

May 9 - Cincinnati, OH - [Jammin' On Main](#)

May 10 - Indianapolis, IN - [Jammin' On Jersey](#)

May 16 - Syracuse, NY - [Count Basie Theater](#) - w/Jonatha Brooke

May 17 - Red Bank, NJ - [Count Basie Theater](#) - w/Jonatha Brooke

Jul 10 - CABLE: SHoWtime E - Daddy and Them premieres - sho.com

Aug 15 - TV: on [RTE ONE](#) television Ireland- 9:30 pm "Coulter & Co." - Music & chat show hosted by Phil Coulter.  
Guests are The 4 of Us, Joanne Fahy, John Prine and Phillip Donnelly

Aug 16 - Newport, RI - [Newport Folk Festival](#) - Ft Adams State Park

Aug 17 - Pittsburgh, PA - [Hartwood Amphitheatre](#) w/Greg Trooper

Aug 22 - Cary, NC - [Amphitheatre at Regency Park](#) w/Nanci Griffith

Aug 23 - Portsmouth, VA - [Harbor Center](#) w/Nanci Griffith

Sep 5 - Champaign, IL - [Virginia Theatre](#) w/Pat McLaughlin

Sep 6 - South Bend, IN - [Morris Performing Arts Center](#) w/Pat McLaughlin

Sep 12 - Pensacola, FL - [Saenger Theatre](#) w/RB Morris

Sep 13 - Montgomery AL - [Davis Theatre](#) w/RB Morris Jason Wilber

Sep 26 - Columbus, GA - Bradley Theater CANCELLED due to logistical difficulties - w/RB Morris

Sep 27 - Lafayette, GA - [Blue Ridge Harvest Fest](#)

Oct 17 - Cerritos, CA - [Center for the Performing Arts](#) w/Chris Smither

Oct 18 - San Diego, CA - [Spreckels Theatre](#) - w/Chris Smither

Oct 24 - Evansville, IN - [Victory Theatre](#) w/Todd Snider

Oct 25 - St. Louis, MO - [Anheuser-Busch Hall at Touhill Performing Arts Center](#) w/Todd Snider

Nov 10/11 - Halifax, NS - [Rebecca Cohn Hall](#) - w/Jimmy Rankin

Nov 13 - Sydney, NS - [Centre 200](#) w/Jimmy Rankin

Nov 15 -St. John's, NL - [St. John's Convention Centre](#) w/Jimmy Rankin

Nov 17 - Saint John, NB - [Harbour Station](#) - w/Jimmy Rankin

Nov 18 - Moncton, NB - [Moncton Coliseum](#) w/Jimmy Rankin

Nov 20 - Ottawa, ON - [National Arts Centre Southam Hall](#) w/Jimmy Rankin

Nov 21 - Montreal, QC - [Metropolis](#) w/Jimmy Rankin

Nov 23 - London, ON - [Centennial Hall](#) w/Jimmy Rankin  
Dec 6 - Miami, FL - Olympia Theater at Gusman Center w/Gove Scrivenor  
Dec 7 - Sarasota, FL - Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall w/Gove Scrivenor  
Dec 12 - Baton Rouge, LA - [Riverside Centroplex Theatre](#) - w/Keith Sykes  
Dec 13 - Shreveport, LA - Shreveport Civic Center - w/Keith Sykes

Opening Artists 2004: [Paul Brady](#) -- [Jonatha Brooke](#) -- [Nanci Griffith](#) -- [Pat McLaughlin](#) -- [R B Morris](#) --  
[Phil Parlapiano](#) -- [Jimmy Rankin](#) -- [Gove Scrivenor](#) -- [Chris Smither](#) -- [Todd Snider](#) -- [Keith Sykes](#) --  
[Greg Trooper](#)



[Archives](#) | [Credits](#) | [E-Mail](#) | [Prine Links](#) | [Search](#) | [Site Map](#)  
[Sign Book](#) | [Supporters](#) | [View Book](#) | [Traders](#) | [Chats](#)  
[Fan Sites](#) | [Newsletter](#) | [Fan Letters](#) | [Participate](#) | [Souvenirs](#)  
[Bio](#) | [Films](#) | [Music](#) | [Photos](#) | [Postcards](#) | [Reviews](#) | [Shop](#) | [Tour](#)



[The](#)  
[John Prine](#)  
[Shrine](#)  
© 1996-2004



Oh Boy Records  
Home of John Prine

[TELL A FRIEND](#)

[copyright notice](#)

# ALABAMA



· USA : [AL](#) | [CA](#) | [FL](#) | [GA](#) | [IA](#) | [IL](#) | [IN](#) | [KS](#) | [LA](#) | [MO](#) | [NC](#) | [NH](#) | [NJ](#) | [NY](#) | [OH](#) | [OK](#) | [PA](#) | [RI](#) | [TN](#) | [VA](#) | [WV](#)  
· CAN : [NL](#) | [NB](#) | [NS](#) | [ON](#) | [QC](#)

[Montgomery](#) | [Huntsville](#)

Davis Theatre - Montgomery, AL  
Sept 13, 2003

By: Paul

This was the third time I have seen John in 25 years. Hair thinning and turning grey....gained weight over the years....voice not what it used to be....ooppss, that's me. John's voice was very rough and I was a bit disappointed. When he first began to sing, it almost made me wish he had cancelled the concert and rescheduled when his voice healed. I wish he would have sang Far From Me, but the 2 hour show was good, but not great. Looking forward to his new CD.

By: kas

A true LOVE FEST....the beautiful familiar lyrics brought tears to my eyes and down my cheeks. This was my first JP concert...have loved him since I was 19...in 1972. This was 2 days after Johnny Cash died and John was in tune with The Man in Black. I loved singing along with not only John but with the many other folks there. Wonderful!!!!

By: Lem esa

Great show in Montgomery. John seemed to be in a fantastic mood! He played alot that will be on the new album, which is half done. R.B. opened, he has a wonderful voice, cute guy too. Other than the one or two new songs it was the same songs from Pensacola. Great crowd, we all did alot of singing along. The whole venue was a very relaxed atmosphere ( except Mitchell who worked his ass off ). Unfortunately I killed my camera battery in Pensacola so I have no pics to share. Got to meet Rick and Jennifer from the Chat Room, that was fun! Oh' and Reeda JP said to tell you hi, we talked about your good seats last weekend. All in all, I wish I was still at the concert.

---

[Montgomery](#) | [Huntsville](#)

---

Von Braun Civic Center, Huntsville, AL  
February 22, 2003

By: crusher

(#67) Huntsville, AL / (#66) Chattanooga, TN ~ Feb. 21/22, 2003

John is back on the road with some new songs and he is wearing his "happy feet"...!!! in Chattanooga and Huntsville Todd Snider opened for John and he did a great job belting out some really good tunes...It's just never enough music from Todd, when he opens for John he seems to do too short of a set...The crowd both nights really enjoyed Todd and I think he made a bunch of new fans...between his set and John's you could find Todd in the lobby signing autographs for lots of people... When John took the stage the crowd just roared...everyone was standing and cheering, John could tell he had been away too long...His live shows just seem to get better and better every time I see one (or 2 ). John played some new songs both nights first one was a song he wrote with Roger Cook and it's called "Glory of True Love" very pretty song that has thoughts of his wife Fiona in it...next new one he wrote with Pat McLaughlin, it's title is either "wish upon a falling star" or "That's all right by me" real catchy tune more upbeat than the first new one...John played his usual set both night of opening with Dave and Jason, then a long set alone, then back to all 3 and yes he was wearing his "happy feet" both nights...other newer songs were "Takin' A Walk" and "The Other Side Of Town" some new words in "Lake Marie" about her eyes being the color of root beer...after almost 3 hours of music John came back for a couple on-cor songs and was joined by Todd

and Dave Fergusson who always plays at the "Whole Fam Damily" show each Christmas season....very deep solid voice, those 3 sounded Great together on Paradise...!!! After the show Todd, Melita, Chris, Dave Jacques, Jason Wilber, Paul and the sound crew, Uncle Skip, and I spent a long time in an after show meeting of the minds at the hotel bar...was a very constructive meeting!!!! The next night in Huntsville the energy level was still runnin' on high...Todd did a great opening set and John just got up there and sang, told stories and really had the whole room fired up....John played flag decal just for the trying times in the world today, they had a pro-war rally outside the venue just before sound check, as I went by on my way in I saw them burning a French flag...but the night was all some great Prine fans all here to see John so everyone had smiles on their faces...couple times in Huntsville a lady got on to the stage and ran up to John to hug him...after security removed the first one John said "Gee I thought maybe she was here to sing the Iris part on "In Spite of Ourselves" then a couple songs later lady #2 rushed the stage but security got to her rather quick....and for a special treat John was joined by Little brother Billy (Bill from Evansville) for his final songs of the night...I got to meet lots of new friends on the Todd side and on the John side....overall both shows were just Great so if you get a chance to see John and/or Todd this tour...go do it. you will not be disappointed !!! thanks....crusher

By: larrlunchbox1

John Prine is my hero. For about six years or so I listened to his music almost exclusively, and learned to play and sing a lot of it. I've seen him four times now, and each one has been wonderful, but this one stood out as possibly the best. Todd Snyder did a great job of warming up the crowd. Then John took the stage. He was great. His voice has mellowed a bit into a very strong baritone that just seems to sooth and comfort your soul. He had as much fun as we, the audience did, and that was just a tremendous time for everyone. Thanks John, for another great memory, and come on back to Huntsville real soon!

By: B I L L D O D S O N , B I R M I N G H A M

IT IS WITH GREAT PLEASURE THAT I SEND THIS FAVORABLE REVIEW OF JOHN'S HUNTSVILLE PERFORMANCE ON THE 2003 WINTER/SPRING TOUR. IT WAS MY NINTH SHOW OVER A 25 YEAR PERIOD AND IF IT WAS NOT THE BEST IT WAS CLOSE. SET LIST INCLUDED "SPANISH PIPEDREAM" (OPEN), AIMLESS LOVE, SIX O'CLOCK NEWS, FAR FROM ME, FISH & WHISTLE, ANGEL FROM MONTGOMERY, DONALD AND LYDIA, PICTURE SHOW, SINS OF MEMPHISTO, THAT'S THE WAY THE WORLD GOES ROUND, SAM STONE, ALL THE BEST, LATE JOHN GARFIELD BLUES, GRANDPA WAS A CARPENTER, I AIN'T HURTIN' NOBODY, STANDING BY PEACEFUL WATERS, DEAR ABBY, IN SPITE OF OURSELVES, HELLO IN THERE, OLDEST BABY IN THE WORLD (CO-WRITER DONNIE FRITTS WAS IN ATTENDANCE), PLUS AT LEAST FOUR NEW SONGS, AND PLEASE DON'T BURY ME (CLOSE). THIS WAS MY WIFE'S SECOND SHOW WHICH MADE UP FOR THE FIRST WHICH WAS NOT SO GOOD. MY BUDDY TOOK HIS 13 YEAR OLD SON AND I'M SURE HE'LL NEVER FORGET IT. WE DROVE UP FROM BIRMINGHAM AND IT WAS SPECIAL FOR ME BECAUSE V.B.C.C. WAS WHERE I FIRST SAW "THE MAN" IN 1978. THAT'S RIGHT, THE BRUISED ORANGE TOUR. I'D ALSO LIKE TO MENTION THE FINE JOB OF BACKUP BY JASON AND DAVE, AND TODD SNIDER WAS EXCELLENT AS USUAL.

By: corbin

My third time seeing John and probably the best. Todd was very impressive. John interacted with the audience and told stories more than usual. Crowd was the most discourteous I have seen in a while. Morons shouted "Free Bird!" all night. One guy hollered "She's just a whore, John!" in the middle of Great Compromise. Nevertheless, John actually took several requests from the crowd. He mentioned Daddy and Them and somebody asked him "where is that movie, John?" and he said "I wish I knew; hidden somewhere in the Miramax vault." During In spite of Ourselves, he had considerable trouble remembering some of Iris's parts, and eventually had to ask the audience for the first line of the last verse!! During Lake Marie he changed the words around a good bit and the rhythm seemed different in some places. Instead of "the wind was blowing, especially through her hair," it was "Her eyes were the color of root beer." Go figure! The crowd loved Angel From Montgomery, but the best performance of the night was by far Paradise, which came as the second encore. Todd came back out as well another friend of John's, whose name I didn't catch. This guy had a wonderful voice that complemented John's, and Todd held his own. We hated to see it end after nearly 2 and a half hours. What a way to kick of the tour!

By: rob

There was so much that was good about this show. John was in excellent voice and the song selection was great. The encore included an insight into what Prine Family Reunions must be like, Billy Prine joining John on "Paradise". Thanks for including me....

By: Kimberly

I've never left a John Prine concert disappointed, and last night was certainly no exception. He played almost all

my favorites. He'd have had to stay a couple nights to play them all! Hey, now there's an idea. Anyway, if you love John Prine, you must hear him in concert. He's just awesome. You will laugh, clap and sing along, and quite possibly even shed a tear or two. A big thanks to John for introducing me to Todd Snider, the opening act. For anyone attending a show where Todd is the opener, make sure you get there for the start! Also, thanks to whoever it was that got John booked into Huntsville. It was great not having a long drive home from Tennessee, where Alabamians usually have to go to see John. Please come back soon!!

## A PRINE OPPORTUNITY

By: MIKE KAYLOR - Times Nightlife Columnist

<http://www.al.com/search/index.ssf?/base/entertainment/1045391070201451.xml?huntsvilletimes02/16/03>

Musical tales of John Prine braid fantasy, reality and humor into a genre of sound that's difficult to define. Huntsvillians will be able to choose their own description, though, when he plays the Von Braun Center Concert Hall on Saturday.

To the '70s generation, his was protest music with songs like "Paradise" bemoaning the loss of Kentucky's lush hillsides and streams. The story recalls that "Mr. Peabody's coal train has hauled it away."

Rebels reveled in the lyrics of "Illegal Smile" as they pleaded to tell the judge "I didn't kill anyone, I was just trying to have me some fun." The fun ended, though, in songs like "Sam Stone," the war veteran who survived Vietnam to be killed by his own demons of drug addiction.

"Dear Abby" embraces countless readers who take advice from the enduring newspaper advice columnist. One of the imaginary readers needed guidance after being caught with his girlfriend in the back of his car "with her hair up in curlers and her pants to her knees." It was signed "Just Married."

Nostalgic ballads include "Hello in There," a haunting tune about an aging man and woman, the happiness and pain they've lived. "Old people just grow lonesome, waiting for someone to say hello in there," the chorus suggests.

Prine was born in 1946 in Maywood, Ill., a suburb of Chicago. His older brother helped him learn the guitar in his early teens, but he never performed publicly until after a stint in the U.S. Army. His first exposure was at an amateur night, where he was challenged to prove himself. The club owner offered him a job.

His songs sprang from personal experiences, such as his childhood visits with relatives in Paradise, Ky. "Granpa Was a Carpenter" and "Donald and Lydia" are tributes to common people.

Prine was befriended and inspired by the late singer-songwriter Steve Goodman, author of the Arlo Guthrie hit, "City of New Orleans." Goodman introduced Prine to Kris Kristofferson, who opened many doors for Prine.

After recording seven albums on different labels, he founded his own record label, Oh Boy Records. Songs and albums he has produced since then have won many awards, including a Grammy. Last week, the artist was in London, where he was honored with a lifetime songwriter achievement award from the British Broadcasting Company for folk music.

In 1997, he was diagnosed with cancer, which threatened to spread into his throat. It forced him to put his career on hold for about 18 months, but today he is cancer-free, according to his publicist.

He completed his first album of cover material in 1999, a collection of classic country duets with some of the industry's most talented females. Performers on "In Spite of Ourselves" include Melba Montgomery, Emmylou Harris, Trisha Yearwood, Patty Loveless, Iris DeMent, Lucinda Williams and Connie Smith.

His "Souvenirs" album in the year 2000 is a retrospective of his work, and includes such revered songs as "Angel from Montgomery." It's a fine compendium of Prine classics, but it's not really the CD that those familiar with his work or newcomers to his artistry will necessarily want to have.

Longtime fans will already have most of the songs here. But newcomers will get a warped view of Prine's range.

Sad to say, because of its concentration of heartbreaking songs - "Christmas in Prison" and "Sam Stone," for example - this may be the most depressing album since Bruce Springsteen's "Nebraska." Only a few of the tunes, like "Grandpa Was a Carpenter," show Prine's playfulness and comedic range.

Altogether, it paints an overly bleak portrait of a songwriter whose poetic ability may lag only behind Bob Dylan - and whose humanity is second to none.

In the mid-1970s, Tuscaloosa was abuzz over a cult figure named John Prine scheduled to play in the auditorium of the music department's Morgan Hall. A simple figure meandered onstage, picked up a guitar and rested on a solitary chair in the center of the stage.

He appeared alone again 15 years later to the amazement of throngs at the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival.

On Saturday, he will bring along a guitarist and bassist for accompaniment. He will likely perform 90 minutes to two hours of music without intermission.

Prine's opening act in Huntsville will be Todd Snider, a similar singer-songwriter, recently featured on the "Late, Late Show with Craig Kilborn." Snider's publicists call him a troubadour in the same vein as Prine or Jerry Jeff

Walker.

The show begins at 8 p.m., and tickets cost \$30 and \$35. They are available at the Von Braun Center Box Office and from Ticketmaster at (800) 277-1700. Times Associate Editorial Page Editor David Prather contributed to this report.

[Montgomery](#) | [Huntsville](#)

---



# CALIFORNIA



· USA : [AL](#) | [CA](#) | [FL](#) | [GA](#) | [IA](#) | [IL](#) | [IN](#) | [KS](#) | [LA](#) | [MO](#) | [NC](#) | [NH](#) | [NJ](#) | [NY](#) | [OH](#) | [OK](#) | [PA](#) | [RI](#) | [TN](#) | [VA](#) | [WV](#)  
· CAN : [NL](#) | [NB](#) | [NS](#) | [ON](#) | [QC](#)

[Cerritos](#) | [San Diego](#)

[Spreckels Theatre](#), - [San Diego](#), CA

[Oct 18, 2003](#)

By: Big Al

I just got home from the concert and I am so excited I can't sleep. It was the best concert I have ever seen. The venue was amazing, sound was extraordinary, and the crowd was really into it. Chris Smithers opened and was well received by the audience (even did an encore). John played for well over 2 hours including a large solo section and a 3 song encore including one with Chris Smithers. He played all my favorites including several I have never heard him play in concert. He also played 3 new songs and one Carter family song (Bear Creek). John's brother Doug was in the audience and I think that may have made a difference. He told several new stories including one about Flag Decal and Fish and Whistle. He told a new rendition of the Happy Enchilada story. He talked about his brother teaching him guitar, his five year high school plan, his experience with the draft and the army. I hope someone else got the set list, because I was too excited to write anything down. Here is my attempt in no special order and I am sure I am leaving something out: Spanish Pipedream, Six O'clock News, Fish and Whistle, Souvenirs, The Great Compromise, Flag Decal, All the Best, That's the Way that the World goes round, Hello in There, Dear Abby, Angel from Montgomery, Chain of Sorrow, Grandpa was a Carpenter, Illegal smile, Sam Stone, Late John Garfield Blues, Lake Marie, Other side of town, You Got Gold, Sins of Memphisto, Aint Hurting Nobody, Lets Talk Dirty in Hawaiiin, Paradise. The peak of the night for me was after the concert when my wife and I and another couple we just met waited for the band as described by others on this site. I had the once in a lifetime opportunity to meet John Prine. He was so genuine and gracious. Jason seemed surprised that I wanted his autograph. All of the band members signed my guitar and we got pictures with all of them. It was a night I will never forget.

By: MaoTzu

John Prine rocked the house tonight. He mixed older and newer stuff talked with the audience was very personable. The second tune was Flag Decal which he said he'd written in 68 and worried about it's relevancy in 71 when he recorded it which alluded to the fact that it's relevant today. Sam Stone is relevant too as is illegal smile, "and the judges name was Ashcroft". Those and many more of my favorite songs. Angel from Montgomery was excellent I've never heard it done like that.

By: John Hernandez, San Diego, CA ([johnboytwo\(at\)cox.net](mailto:johnboytwo(at)cox.net))

Here's a little more on Saturday night's San Diego show... (I sent this to the e-mail group as well)... As many of you know, I saw back-to-back shows (Cerritos on Friday, SD on Saturday). I've seen John play 10 times now, I've been in the front row at the Coach House in SJC and at the Hawaii Theatre in Honolulu. I thought the Cerritos show was very good. But, I gotta say the San Diego show was a "tour de force." This was John Prine at his best, this was the consummate showman, the professional musician, and the master craftsman giving a show for the ages. John's voice was strong throughout, he added some new touches in his story telling, he played passionately and he played well, Jason had some new and slightly different guitar arrangements in his work, and Dave was solid as always. After John popped the A string on his traditional Spanish Pipedream opener, he didn't miss a beat, and --save for a funny "forgetting the last verse" of Let's Talk Dirty in Hawaiian-- he was superb the entire evening. To borrow a baseball analogy, if Cerritos was a complete-game two-hit victory, then San Diego was a no-hitter! Not quite a perfect game, but an impressive no-hitter with just a couple of batters reaching base. One other note, from my second row balcony seat in Cerritos, I was disappointed with the acoustics of the near-new theatre there. However, in the smaller, much more intimate and very venerable Spreckels Theatre on Broadway in downtown San Diego, the acoustics from my third row seat were great!!!

By: Johnny G

The concert was a treat, as others have eloquently written. I've seen John dozens of times. This time, I brought my

8 and 10 year-old daughters, who've fallen asleep to my picking and singing his funnier songs. They were thrilled, as was I, especially when he opened with "our song," that they know as "Blow-up your TV." They did fall asleep before the fourth verse in Dear Abbey, so I was relieved about that! ...Here's the set list! 1. Spanish Pipedream 2. Flag Decal 3. Six O'clock News 4. Souveneirs (Dedicated to his brother, and apparently inspired by him) 5. Fish and A Whistle 6. The Late John Garfield Blues 7. Grandpa was a Carpenter 8. I'm Just Gettin By (A new one) 9. All the Best (Written after he was asked to perform at his ex-wife's wedding!) 10. Angel from Montgomery 11. The Great Compromise 12. You've Got Gold 13. Crazy as a Loon (A new one) 14. Dear Abbey 15. That's the Way the World Goes Round 16. Let's Talk Dirty in Hawaiiin 17. The Other Side of Town ( A new one, sort of like Linda Goes to MArS) 18. Sam Stone (The Band came out one at a time and joined him on this song) 19. Bear Creek (The June Carter and Johnny Cash tribute song) 20. That's Alright by Me (A new one) 21. Ain't hurtin Nobody (The Band kicked into gear here!) 22. Sins of Memphisto 23. Hello in There 24. Lake Marie (...and then, the encore...) 25. Bruised Orange (Chain of Sorrow) 26. Illegal Smile 27. Paradise What a show! Ah, baby, I gitta go now! Johnny G.

By: Donna Cross

The concert was in an intimate venue, a former movie palace downtown San Diego (my daughter and I sat right in the middle of the theater). John opened with Spanish Pipedream and sang, among others, Late John Garfield Blues, Angel From Montgomery, You Got Gold, Grandpa Was A Carpenter, Hello In There, Sam Stone, Let's Talk Dirty In Hawaiian, Dear Abbey, Souvenirs, and a very strong rendition of Lake Marie. All the songs he sang were his own except one in about the middle of the show which was a Carter Family song which he dedicated to June and Johnny (Bear Creek). The next to the last song was Illegal Smile and the audience all sang along (with the lights up for part of it). The last song was Paradise. What made it doubly good was it was a love fest. The rest of the audience loved Prine as much as I do and were very vocal in their appreciation and would sometimes applaud even after a single good line. He played for two and a half hours and we caught the next to the last trolley of the night home.

---

Cerritos | San Diego

---

## Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts, Cerritos, CA Oct 17, 2003

By: Scott Wannberg

sam stone and space monkey hanging with sabu in the ongoing time and space dance card of cerritos. chris smithers sets it off with acute storytelling and then prine jacques wilber begin to let loose... great compromises in daddy's little pumpkin read by dear abby to john garfield, well, abby and john were always simpatico. a night of heart and empathy. the new tunes, I just get by, crazy as a loon, on the other side of town sang us well. space monkey's paducah kentucky vodka freezes, becomes a new planet, and there is music in you wherever you turn.

By: ladylawrence(at)aol.com

i was totally unprepared for the john prine concert experience. i've collected many (though not all), of his albums/CD's over the years, so i expected many magnificent songs. i expected good musicianship and an expressive singing voice. what i did NOT expect was a full three hours of passion. the man is still completely in love, or so it seems, with what he does so well; writing little short stories set to music, intertwined with droll anecdotes, and playing and singing the deepest, fullest extent to keep his audience engaged. it was a little hard for me (i am, after all, the same age as prine), to sit still for all that time, but dragging myself out of the hall, leaving this unbelievable outlay of talent, commitment and heart, was out of the question. i've been trying to think, in my private moments since the concert (2 nights ago), of concerts when i have been equally blown away by the performer, and only a few choices came to mind--dylan at the hollywood bowl in 1964 (fronting for joan baez, as a relatively unknown!); laura nyro at the troubador in the early 70's, and a recent john mc euen concert at mc cabe's, featuring his two delicious sons nathan and ?? (forgot the other one's name). all those are nights i value and i would like, somehow, to thank mr. prine for adding to my list of musical and emotional orgasms. the man is a contemporary walt whitman, and i, who am a high school english teacher, do not make those comparisons lightly.

By: mark

john proves once again that he is truly a national treasure thank you john

By: scarecrow tr(at)yahoo.com

It has been a few years since John Prine has visited California. The last time he was here he played one night at



the small Grove Theater in nearby Anaheim in the shadow of Angels Stadium and a stones throw from Disneyland. This time he was in the beautiful 1,400 seat theater in Cerritos that looks like a modern day version of Carnegie Hall with layers of balconies and ascending side private opera house like rooms. The venue was perfect for a Prine show. It was intimate enough for the solo folk material like Sam Stone, Angel From Montgomery and The Great Compromise and large enough to give breathing room for songs like Lake Marie and I Ain't Hurting Nobody. John appeared in good spirits throughout the night doing his gentle funny stories and focusing on the songs that span his 30 plus year career. It's as though Hank Williams was allowed to live that long or Townes was able to recover from the alcohol and give us more songs. Some people, like John Prine, make it and celebrate their lives through the songs they write and perform for others. That's John Prine. He gave his heart at the Cerritos show. And there was certainly plenty of gold there. He offered new life to old songs and they sounded like they had been written yesterday. Songs like Your Flag Decal Won't Get You Into Heaven Anymore and The Late John Garfield Blues were played with sensitivity and care. And the new songs he sang which I believe amounted to three or four were indications that the singer has lost none of his touch with humor, irony and the sadness that runs beneath his words and voice. Especially notable was Crazy As A Loon which sounds like it could've been an outtake from the Diamonds In The Rough sessions. For me the impression of the show was one of intimacy with the audience and the celebration of his career. He played for two and a half hours and didn't seem like he really wanted to go. For nearly half the show, he played without his band, just standing there with his unique picking style playing old and new songs with a fresh originality that transcends time. It was as though the hall turned into his living room or maybe even his kitchen. Space Monkey seemed to turn the stage into his kitchen as he explained that he and L.A. Based songwriter, Peter Case, wrote the tune together. The night showed how good it can be to be reunited with a singer-songwriter who has endured through all of the trends of the time to take a permanent seat as what I would describe a bonified national treasure. But it was clear throughout the night that hasn't rested on his laurels. Prine continues to work, refine and redefine his songs and his music in fresh, entertaining and artful ways.

By: Ron "Pigpen" Schafer

John Prine was spectacular! He played, non-stop, for 2 1/2 hours was very entertaining and humorous. I took my 14 year old daughter the show because I used to play her and her brothers John Prine songs (among other artists) at bedtime. I wanted her to hear (and see) how it is really done. She was beaming as Mr. Prine began playing "Happy Enchilada". I particularly enjoyed the embellished narrative in this song, especially John's paying tribute to Jimmy Buffett's food songs. Mr. Prine inferred that he would like to visit southern california more often. I hope he does, my daughter and I had a great time!!! Ron "Pigpen" Schafer

By: M ZLINDAB (at) PACKERSFAN .COM

THE PEOPLE OF SAN DIEGO HAVE A TREAT IN STORE FOR THEM TONIGHT! THE CERRITOS SHOW WAS FANTASTIC. VENUE WAS GREAT AND THE MUSIC...WHAT CAN I SAY. IT WAS A PLEASURE TO WATCH A MAN WITH SUCH GREAT PASSION FOR HIS WORK. I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO THE NEW ALBUM RELEASE.

By: Capt. Bob and Corrine

My wife (Corrine) and I made the trek to Cerritos and thoroughly enjoyed ourselves at THE concert event of the decade for. And that says a lot for two who live in sin-city and are bombarded with concerts daily. We are still hoping to have JP do a show here in the future. All the venues here aren't dominated by the "casino scene" and he could sell out anywhere he would choose to play. We certainly hope for the best for all of So. Cal. as we have numerous friends there and now we find out it is the home to JPShrine. It would be unfair because of our extreme bias to give a review of the show in Cerritos because any choice of material or length of the concert would have been fine with us, but Corrine was totally blown away by the length of John's performance (close to 3 full hours) and also that he chose to remain standing during the entire show. It is so obvious that he really enjoys sharing his music and his philosophy with all his fans.

## The prime of Mr. John Prine

By: AlRudis

Performance at the Cerritos Center shows him at the height of his powers  
TALENT IS A QUIRKY THING, sort of like the quirky things John Prine sometimes writes songs about.

Who determines where a musician goes on the talent longevity scale? Why are there so many one-hit wonders on the left side? And in the bunch around the middle, what happens to pop writers and performers who create memorable works for two or three years, and then all of a sudden, everything they do is junk?

And at the other end of the scale, why are there a few people like Prine who never seem to run out of inspiration?

I was thinking this on Friday at the Cerritos Performing Arts Center, as Prine finished singing "I'm Just Getting By," a new song that he's recorded for his next album.

It was typical of many of the songs Prine has been writing for over 30 years. The subject matter was depressing, the melody was direct and sort of country, the words were polished jewels and the total effect was powerful and moving.

The young John Prine was simply dazzling. One of the first people he impressed was film critic Roger Ebert, who stumbled on him in a small club and proclaimed him a genius in the pages of the Chicago Sun-Times.

When I saw him a few months later, he blew me away with his raw, unaffected performance and those songs, such as "Sam Stone," ' the one about a returning Vietnam veteran that had that unforgettable line, "There" s a hole in Daddy's arm where all the money goes."

Prine sang "Sam Stone" ' Friday night, and in the context of newer songs, it was apparent that he is still digging in the same dark gold mine of human suffering as he was in the '70s.

At first, some of the politically tinged songs and his voice got him categorized as the latest "new Dylan," ' but that didn't last long, because his path quickly departed from the road to folk-rock icon. (Now that we know that Dylan's whiny voice was an affectation, and Prine sings like he talks, the comparisons are even more far-fetched.)

Prine's path forked into two roads, and being quirky, he took both of them. One was the sad, sad, depressing songs about lonely, unhappy, everyday people. The other was strange and funny songs that sprang from odd newspaper or magazine articles or the news or an anecdote of a friend. From these, he created a big old goofy world of bottomless lakes, Russian space monkeys and elephant boys promoting their movies in the jungles of East St. Paul.

Where does this side of him come from? I don't know, but it's the side that's open to the public. Onstage, he is always having a good time and telling funny stories about the odd songs, hardly ever about the sad songs. I get the feeling that this is how he handles life: Stay busy laughing to keep those dark clouds at a distance.

Through the years, Prine has also encountered throat cancer, hip surgery, his own broken family and the usual ups and downs that come as the world goes around. Though his voice has gotten frayed with age, he still looks pretty young on stage. Maybe it's the haircut that features tufts growing wildly in all directions and gives him a sort of punk cachet.

Actually, he always had that punk sensibility. No matter what you thought of him, he'd just get up there and sing his songs straight up, without apology. Some were lightweight and disposable, some were politically incorrect, some were country classics that he just wanted to hear, whether his audience was interested or not. And many are so moving that the stunned audience sits silently for seconds after the song's end, before finally starting to applaud.

Those songs, old and new, were the ones he sang again Friday in Cerritos for 2-1/2 hours, accompanied by two talented sidemen, guitarist and mandolinist Jason Wilber and bassist David Jacques.

What makes Prine an artist in his prime, when so many of his contemporaries are long forgotten? I guess the best answer is, I don't care as long as I still have the chance to go to shows like the one last Friday.

Chris Smither, who opened for Prine, was actually the one who started my musing. I'd heard his name for years and had never listened to his music. Seeing him for the first time, I kicked myself.

Sitting all alone on the stage, he performed a short set that was a warmup in the best sense of the word. He's a masterful songwriter and a talented guitarist, and he can play amazing licks while putting across his songs. By the time he finished, I, along with the rest of the audience -- who gave him a great response and demanded an encore -- were thoroughly revved up for the Prine set.

The question with Smither is why is someone so literate, witty and musical is not a bigger name? I don't have the answer for that one either. <http://u.sbsun.com/Stories/0,1413,216~24307~1711444,00.html>

By: John Hernandez (johnboytwo@cox.net)

"Passion?" Nobody's mentioned it yet, so I'll say something about it... John made a direct reference on Friday in Cerritos to a quote that appeared in the not-so-flattering Buddy Seigal pre-concert write-up in the OC Weekly. Quote as follows... "I asked a singer/songwriter friend of much renown for her take on why Prine fails to generate much in the way of electricity, and she relayed her belief that Prine, for all his admirable and prodigious skill, lacks passion and charisma. " First of all, IMHO, using this unattributed quote is unacceptable. If the quoted lady is of "much renown," then her name should be used if her opinion is published. In the show, during the acoustic solo portion of the show, when John struggled just a tad with his voice, he said that these days, "I have a lot of passion in my solos, but not much else." You're right, but you're wrong, John. Not only do you have passion in your solos, but you have heart, soul, and incredible insight in so many of your songs! It showed Friday in Cerritos, it showed Saturday in San Diego, and it will show in every performance you do!

Big Old Goofy World

The art of the John Prine non-interview

by Buddy Seigal

<http://www.ocweekly.com/ink/04/07/music-seigal.php>

It displeases me greatly when a musician whom I admire refuses to grant an interview request. You can almost feel them grinning with smug satisfaction and self-importance from thousands of miles away, gloating over their status and control, as neutered manservants fan them with banana-tree leaves and hand-feed them delicately sliced morsels of raw, exotic mollusks. I've been frustrated professionally and disappointed personally over the years by the failure of apparently salt-of-the-earth-type artists ranging from Lyle Lovett to Van Morrison to Etta James to take 15 minutes of their precious celebrity time to pick up a phone and allow me the privilege of granting them free publicity to be accompanied by a few (hopefully) insightful observations.

Fave anecdote: several years ago, a couple of weeks removed from Christmas, Waylon Jennings' personal secretary called me the day before a scheduled discussion to cancel our appointment, curtly informing me in a shrill hayseed twang that the bossman had decided not to speak with any lowly media-whore types over the holiday season [I paraphrase here]. Along with a fat payday, I lost my composure on this unfortunate Lurleen, I admit, and the next day she called to declare, "Mr. Seigal, Waylon wants me to tell you that he thinks you're an asshole" [here, I do not paraphrase]. Gently as possible, I explained to the tender woman that I found it ironic and quite possibly even tragic that a man whose image was based on being a badass outlaw cowboy felt compelled to put his secretary up to the dirty deed of abusing me by proxy with an unoriginal rectal epithet. This resulted in a flailing but mercifully failed attempt by the now-outraged Jennings junta to get me canned from my gig. Following much back-and-forth jousting, the Jennings camp finally capitulated. As a gesture of truce and goodwill, I was mailed a Waylon boxed set and a "sorry for the misunderstanding" note from Lurleen, apparently a good-hearted woman in love with a good-timin' man. However, Waylon and his meticulously groomed beard never did speak to me directly (mamas, don't let your babies grow up to be douche bags). Sorry, Waylon, I loved your music, I'm sorry that you're dead and all, but your comportment during that incident still has to be classified as less than manly.

I recount this information in my own singular, pouting fashion as a preface to the sad news that veteran singer/songwriter John Prine, who appears Friday night at the Cerritos Center, will not speak to me or, apparently, any other lowly reporter, despite a regular-fella persona that's akin to Michael Moore perusing the used-necktie rack at a thrift store. I was told by a publicist that I'd be mailed a press kit including a video of Prine being interviewed in-depth by John Hiatt, which seemed a disappointing but at least potentially interesting consolation prize. The packet turned out to contain a commercially available DVD manufactured for uncritical fans who would never ask questions such as, "John, did you make a conscious, cynical attempt from the outset of your career to sound as much as humanly possible like Bob Dylan?" Or, "John, are you aware that your right eyebrow appears to be roughly one-third furrier than your left?" Lacking answers to such queries, I have determined to spare you, gentle readers, the details proffered on this common product, and I must pause to wonder if John Prine hasn't been indulging in Micronesian abalone gently bathed in a star fruit remoulade.

So here, then, is my take on John Prine, uncolored by any light he might have shed on the subject of himself:

- He sounds an awful lot like Bob Dylan and has funny-looking eyebrows.
- He has released two five-star, all-time-classic albums over the course of his career; the self-titled 1971 debut and 1991's *The Missing Years*. Being 20 years removed from one another doesn't detract from their excellence; few artists release even one album as fine in their lifetime.
- For a guy coming from the often-rigid folkie tradition, Prine has at times been a noble progressive, freaking out clenched-sphincter traditionalists with Sun studio-recorded rockabilly; Steve Cropper-produced R&B; and loud, raucous country-rock efforts. These were not his best albums by any means, but give Prine credit for audacity.
- At his best, Prine is among America's finest living storytellers, with a cinematic sense of timing; a dry, Twain-esque wit; and a bard's gift for metaphor. My fave Prine image comes from the song "Paradise," a sad, yearning portrait of fading rustic glory on which he sings of a place "where the air smells like snakes" in a tone that sounds like dry leaves blowing down a dusty country road. I already knew what snakes smelled like, but I didn't even realize this until Prine made me consider it.
- Prine is about as punk rock as Ben or Jerry, so it's revealing to consider that he was a prime architect of the DIY ethic as well as perhaps its most successful champion. Prine formed Oh Boy Records way back in 1984, a time when even the most renegade rockers were still lining up to suck off the corporate teat, and he even managed to snag a Grammy for an early self-release (*The Missing Years*). Today, Oh Boy is home base for such heavy company as Kris Kristofferson, Riders In the Sky and Todd Snider, as well as in the business of releasing thoughtfully compiled anthologies of artists as diverse as Roy Acuff, Joe Tex and Roger Miller.

Despite these positives, I've never looked forward to the latest Prine release with the same trembling enthusiasm I reserve for such singer/songwriters as Lovett, Randy Newman, Judy Henske or Warren Zevon, whose recent death still pisses me off. Prine's low-key, gone-fishin' approach lacks the stunning originality and manic vision of the abovementioned, even as he has avoided the soporific tendencies of many talented but wimpy/banal brethren; he suffers not from James Taylor-itis. At least that's my take: I asked a singer/songwriter friend of much renown for her take on why Prine fails to generate much in the way of electricity, and she relayed her belief that Prine, for all his admirable and prodigious skill, lacks passion and charisma. She also felt that Prine is a dude-centric phenomenon: "He makes music for depressed guys to listen to while they're sitting around by themselves in their apartments."

Also, the formerly prolific Prine seems to be afflicted with a rather nasty dose of writer's block. His last few albums have been interesting exercises in water-treadage—a collection of duets with female singers (including

Lucinda Williams, Emmylou Harris and Iris DeMent); re-workings of early material that Oh Boy Records didn't own the master recordings of; a concert CD—but it has been eight long years since the release of an album of all-new material. A bout with throat cancer in the late '90s surely mustn't have been conducive to productivity, but Prine has since thankfully recovered, and his voice has suffered no lasting damage, judging by his two post-cancer efforts. He's due for another statement on the order of *The Missing Years*, which one hopes and suspects he still has in him.

In summation: Dylanations aside, I respect John Prine, I'm tickled by his eyebrows, I enjoy his songs despite the fact that I live neither alone nor in an apartment, yet I'm deeply wounded by the fact that he thinks he's too good to speak to me. But at least he didn't put one of his employees up to calling me an asshole on the telephone.

John Prine performs at the Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts, 12700 Center Court Dr., Cerritos, (562) 916-8501. Fri., 8 p.m. \$25-\$55. ALL AGES.

## EDITORIAL

### In response to Buddy Siegal's *It's A Big Ol' Goofy World*

#### "The art of the John Prine non-interview"

by Reeda Buresh, just a webmistress in her Iowa attic

Oct 17, 2003:

It bugs me greatly when a Buddy Siegal expects that it is easy to get an interview with John Prine just because he admires him and writes for the local newspaper. John Prine has much better things to do than grin with smug satisfaction and self importance thousands of miles away, gloating over his status and control, as his neutered manservants fan him with banana-tree leaves and hand feed him delicately sliced morsels of raw, exotic mollusks. (And I thought I was the Queen of the run-on sentence) Most likely Prine probably "had to take these boys fishing" and did without a thought as to who the hell Buddy Siegal was. To presume that this salt of the earth type is snubbing you - is a vision of your own making - and may I add it's doozey.

By your "John, did you make a conscious, cynical attempt from the outset of your career to sound as much as humanly possible like Bob Dylan?" question - been there done that. tding ding ding "I'll take folksinger starts for 500 Alex" He started out with his brother, a mail route and a dare. " Dylan has been known to do a Prine song or two in concert. Will you use these Dylanisms when Springsteen and Wainwright deny you? Interviewers can be rather boring. Fishing with his boys sounds like a whole lot more fun.

Buddy, pouting gets you nowhere. I used to tell my children that and now I'm telling you.

If he were in it for the money and the fame, I'm sure he would have done the interview. Being the fan that you are you should know that that was never his intentions. I'll bet he even knows about that lazy eyelid too! Sheez.

Prine does have passion, he lacks discipline and he admits to that wholeheartedly and he's is full of charisma. His lack of passion is for all the expectations that some hyper media writer deemed important. Prine writes for himself, no one else. You know he has passion, if you've heard his songs. If we like it, so be it. John Prine does what John Prine wants to do. That Mr Man is his magic and always will be. As far as a nasty dose of writer's block - where have you been? In the past 8 years, he has written many new songs not to mention that his movie role in "Daddy and Them" produced one that will keep him in new boots for a long time. He doesn't put out an album because he's written a song, he has to like it too. Truth be known he discovered fatherhood at age 50 and found out the magic of importance. Get a grip - the whole reason Prine started his own record company is so he didn't have to do those canned interviews and crap out an album every year.

I'm sorry that your feelings were wounded, and am also tickled by his eyebrows. What I really want to know is... How in the heck do you know that he thinks he's too good to speak to you? If you could know what he's thinking, you could give up this newspaper gig and go on the road.

Enjoy the Cerritos show tonight Buddy. I can hear your wounded review now - you know, it's never been about his voice (he's lucky to have one) - it's always been about the words and the story, so don't bore me.

"And you know that I'd survive if I never spoke again and all I'd have to lose is my vanity" - John Prine

Tonight, you will also find out that he has written quite a few new songs, I hope it makes you feel better (do I see that pout turning into a grin?)-- rmb2003

# F L O R I D A



· USA : [AL](#) | [CA](#) | [FL](#) | [GA](#) | [IA](#) | [IL](#) | [IN](#) | [KS](#) | [LA](#) | [MO](#) | [NC](#) | [NH](#) | [NJ](#) | [NY](#) | [OH](#) | [OK](#) | [PA](#) | [RI](#) | [TN](#) | [VA](#) | [WV](#)  
· CAN : [NL](#) | [NB](#) | [NS](#) | [ON](#) | [QC](#)

[M i a m i - P e n s a c o l a](#)

O l y m p i a Theater, Gusm an Center, M i a m i, FL  
D e c 6 , 2 0 0 3

By : M a r y  
This was the best concert of my life! I saw John Prine in concert in Illinois in about 1991, and this time around he was even better. He touched my heart, and put his all into it. He told great stories, was very down to earth, and played all of my favorite songs plus some great new ones. He even charmed my husband who does not normally like this type of music. My husband said that his songs are funny and sad at the same time. John has aged like fine wine. Everyone laughed at his little stories and jokes. He connected so well with the audience. He is a sweetheart. The Gusman Center was beautiful and the acoustics were perfect. I left that night with a bitter-sweet feeling and an illegal smile that just wouldn't quit. I love you, John!!!

By : B a r r y L i n c o l n  
I laughed, I cried, I bought the T-shirt. When I heard John was coming to the Gusman Center in Miami I was online the minute tickets went on sale. I lucked out and got third row center. It was one of the best shows I have ever seen and I have seen a lot of shows. The play list was every song I wanted to hear plus a few surprises. The sound mix was perfect. As an audio engineer of twenty-some years, I cannot help but pay attention to the mix. The volume was perfect too. I did not really want to hear John with a full band. I preferred a solo but was pleasantly surprised. He was accompanied by a doghouse bass player named David and a guitarist/mandolinist/harmonicaist (harmonicaist?) named Jason. Sorry I forgot their last names. They both sang harmony and they were both phenomenal musicians. The sound mix was perfect. I learned that John tells stories in spoken voice just as well as he does in song. He spoke of grumbly beans, happy enchiladas and how he paid attention when his brother taught him to play guitar. That broke into a bittersweet tribute song to Johnny Cash and June Carter Cash. He also did "Souvenirs" for Steve Goodman. The sound mix was perfect. If you have the chance to see John Prine, DO IT! The opening act was Gove Scrivenor. He was great. The audience was great. The sound mix was perfect.

By : T y  
What a show. although my former neighbor who was formerly Johns neighbor in Nashville was unable to attend, depriving me of the opportunity to ask him what Iris Dement undies smelt of, it was a splendid show at a great venue.

By : R o b i n L e e  
My first John Prine concert, went with who I believe has to be his #1 fan, my Aunt Sally...she listens to and has all his CD's and videos...24/7 !!!!!!!! My Mom flew down from MASS. just for the concert! still here because of the snow storm :), My Nana came too; In fact, all our tickets for the concert were a gift from her (thanks again Nana). My husband Raul came and met us there also (he plays / sings music himself). JP's songs are interesting to listen too, an alot of times funny. I enjoyed his performance, along w/ Jason and Dave. Gove Scrivenor opened up for JP, a great performance as well. Mom and Aunt Sally bought Gove's CD's there and had him autograph them....They've already become great new fans of his!!! Another collection to start :) oh boy!

By : B e n G  
Yes...that drunk woman (either drunk or just sober and annoying) rather put a little damper on an otherwise wonderful evening. John always puts his heart and soul into his show. Sounds like his voice is getting a little raw or he's getting over something--but it didn't bother me. Something about a John Prine show puts me in a 'happy

spiritual' mood. The Olympia Theater only added to that feeling--the beautiful architecture and the deep blue ceiling with lit stars and moving clouds. What can make you happier than sitting under the stars and having John tell a story about being a kid and learning how to play three notes on a guitar? And then to reflect on life through a refrain of 'Hello In There'. Enjoyed the few new tunes he played and looking forward to the release of a new CD (just yesterday I said album.) In the meantime, I'm gonna whistle and fish. (Seriously, I fished and whistled the day after the show.)

By: ttrone

I agree with Sally, it was a great show as always. All the old favorites and plenty of new ones. Except for the screaming drunk woman behind me who sang along loudly with every song, we had a great time and great seats first row center mezzanine. I would imagine that many in attendance new the lyrics to many of the songs, but to sing along at a concert... come on, am I wrong?

By: Sally Tibbetts

Review Just got home from the John Prine Concert. It was a wonderful evening. John played for his usual 2 and 1/2 hours. All our favorite songs and some new ones. He just gets better and better. Hope he comes back to our area real soon. Gove Scrivenor, his opening act was great also. A real talented man.

---

[Miami - Pensacola](#)

---

## Saenger Theater - Pensacola, FL

Sept 12, 2003

By: jhsaunders

The Saenger looks more or less like the one in New Orleans except smaller. And it's supposed to be a real good example of something...midda Saenger's work mainly...vaguely neo classic. It inspires no feelings of being in the presence of great architecture, at least not in this simple country boy.

The opening act did not show so John's Guitar player, a gent named Jason Wilber, came out and did 30 minutes or so of his own material. Jason is 30 something I think and was wearing a natty three piece blue suit and had a good stage presence, seemed glad to work solo.

About thirty minutes or so John and his string bass-cello-player came out. The bass player - Dave Jacques was another sharp dressed man that night. Not flashy but tasteful and expensive looking. John was in a suit sans tie and looked a little rough, tired but in a good mood. His vocals were on the hoarse side but hoarse is more than ok for a lot of his stuff. Apparently he's touring and making an album at the same time. Which is what you heard up in tidewater or wherever.

It cranked up around 8 or so.

1. Spanish Pipedream aka Blow up your TV -string bass, six string solid body electric and six string electric hollow body of some sort.

2. Spend the Night with me. This featured a harmonica and the use of a bow on the string bass. Kind of a melancholy sound, plaintive and the bow on the bass was what made it so. Not supposed to sound like Jagger/Richard song.

3. At this point John rambled on a bit about one of my hero's Steve Goodman and sang Souvenirs'- "memories that can't be boughten" - with the same instrument line up as above.

4. The next song was a Johnny Cash number, I think, called "Tell a Story". This worked into

5. "Fish and Whistle" and worked a mandolin into the number.

6. Grandpa was a carpenter followed using the same instrumentational line up

Break

New Stuff

7. I'm taking a walk

8. All The Best - about your ex's wedding....might as well laugh it reminded me I was the last married and first divorced out of the inner circle. Might as well laugh.

9. Angel From Montgomery which may have been the best vocals of the night. Hoarse and raspy sounds good.

10. John starts a solo set with "All The Best",

11. Daddy's Little Pumpkin - something about \$300 and Memphis,

12. Crazy As A Loon - about Hollywood and Vine

13. Dear Abby

14. That's The Way That The World Goes 'Round, ending up with the return of the cello for

15. Sam Stone

At this point there was unpleasantness. Some 23 year old pinhead \$\$\$ had been getting progressively louder and was basically screaming right behind me. After Sam Stone I stood up and told her date this was serious music not Bon Jovi and Sam Stone was not a YEHA piece of work and it was a goddamn shame it went right over most peoples head, even those who could hear it. I was stone cold sober and felt I'd been very tolerant and so much for that

16. The guitar players came back and they did a Carter family number called "Bear Creek"

Right on the heels of this John picked up the electric for

17. "That's All Right By Me" after which they left the stage. They came back for

18. "Illegal Smile" and basically played back up while the dope fiends in the audience did the vocals. A whole lot of fun, well done.

By: David Kimmerly

I have been a JP fan since the mid 70's and have a copy of every song he has ever recorded, though this was the first opportunity I have had to actually see him perform in person. I laughed, I cried, I enjoyed more than a person should be allowed. Though his voice was a little on the raspy side, the warm up act didn't show, and the drunk chick beside me wouldn't give me the time of day... I had the time of my life! John makes the common tale an epic!

By: JR Harrington--Ocean Springs, MS

I hadn't seen John in person in many years, but he was just as great as ever! When I arrived at the theatre, I felt at home among all the old hippies. Everyone was excited to be there and having a good time in the lobby even before the show started. Once he started singing, we were all in his grip. The lyrics were just as funny--touching--and thought provoking as ever. It was a privilege to be there with him and to get wrapped in his music again. In "Illegal Smile" he changed the judge's name to "Ashcroft" and the place went wild. His message will always be part of who I am-- and I'm so grateful!

By: Tommy Powell

For over 20 years I have told everyone with an ear that John Prine is one of the greatest song writers/ performers of our age and that he is worthy to be mentioned in the same breath with the likes of Steve Goodman. Every person I spoke to gave me a "John who?!" which made me feel like I was walking on the wrong planet. But...John performed to a sold out Saenger Theater in Pensacola, FL, where everyone sang along with every song. Where have these people been hiding? A good time was had by all.

By: jerry

Anyone who misses John Prine in concert misses the ultimate songwriter. Became reacquainted with his music recently while on a cruise and wonder how I forgot him when his philosophy has been one of the anchors in my life. Have seen all the best concerts and drove 400 miles or so from Orlando to see Prine, would drive 800 gladly the next time. Cannot figure out why Orlando is not on his tour but just happy to have attended. With basically his guitar and an occasional assist from his sidemen Prine spun songs and stories for over two generous hours. To compare Dylan to Prine is a considerable insult to Prine. We are looking forward to his new c.d., thank you again John Prine

By: Lemesa

Drove down from Chattanooga area and man was it worth it. What a treat to see Jason open for JP on such short (15 min.) notice. The guys were fantastic, since JP's voice was still slightly gritty the Dave and Jason helped out more than usual on the vocals. I was thrilled that he only dedicated three songs to people, Johnny Cash, his mother and .....me! He dedicated my favorite Mexican Home to me. I love that man! His tribute to Johnny had me crying like a baby. Emotions certainly ran high this weekend. My only flaw to be found was the venue security, one lady actually. She was down front after the show telling everyone with passes that there was no backstage and that John had already left the building. She was so forceful and mean about it that people were actually leaving with their hopes of meeting JP crushed. We almost had it out, there was definitely a backstage and JP was just eating dinner like he always does. Naturally after I proved her wrong she completely disappeared, I still hate it for the people who missed out. JP was in a good talking mood that night too. Hope I Santa made a few nights out there.

By: Bart

John played live in Pensacola, and ripped through song after song for over two hours and never took a break. For a man who has such an extensive catalog to pull material from, this was great because there are so many songs you want him to play and he hit on a bunch of them. As was noted last weekend, his voice still sounds rough, but it seemed to warm up as the set wore on (so "Lake Marie" sounded kinda rough, but "Hello in There" sounded awesome). Here are songs he played during the night in no particular order...Spanish Pipedream, Angel from Montgomery, Dear Abbey, Fish and Whistle, Grandpa Was a Carpenter, Hello in There, Lake Marie, Illegal Smile, Paradise, Please Don't Bury Me, Sins of Memphisto, Souvenirs, That's the Way the World Goes Round...and there were many more that I'm not able to bring to mind right now. Only songs we could think of afterwards that he didn't play that we were hoping he would were Goofy World and One Red Rose. Since Johnny Cash died earlier that day, John came out in all black, and then told a funny story about Johnny Cash when dealing with Steve Goodman's death. John also dedicated one song to Johnny and played another song later that was Johnny's. Finally, the crowd was great. Rarely do you see hippies, rednecks, yuppies and a punk rocker or two (one had a spiked mohawk) all at the same show singing along. Thanks John for a great show we'll never forget. Can't wait to do it again. :)

By: keith carson

well, the acoustics at the Saenger are more appropriate to a motocross than to a concert. the drunk sitting behind me that kept yelling "yahoo" thinking that he was in key with the singer had an even worse voice than John himself. my seats were on a row dividing sections of the lower level, and folks needing another beer or a trip to the bathroom to drain the last one kept walking in front of me. it's been a lot of years since I've been to a live concert, so I assume that all this is normal. I've been a Prine fan for over thirty years, and this is the first time I've had the opportunity to see the man himself. one fellow who looked to be about my age (about 50) brought what looked to be his mom to the concert, and she certainly had a great time. I was very pleasantly surprised to see the large number of young (20's) fans in attendance--I didn't think there were many young people who would get the message. anyone who didn't enjoy this show is dead in the head. awesome! great sidemen and it is obvious that a little matter of a few years hasn't slowed down one of the great songwriters of all time.

By: blue eyes

John Prine at Saenger Theatre. Legendary singer, songwriter and guitarist, John Prine, will play the Saenger Theatre on September 12. Tickets are on sale now at the Saenger Theatre box office, all Ticketmaster locations, charge by phone at 434-7444 or online at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com). Ticket prices are \$35 & \$30 plus processing fees. John Prine--songwriter, Grammy winner, former postman, American treasure--as always focused on the frailties and small incidents that define people. For him, the quiet moments of extreme, sudden moments of realization and quick moments of laughter have always been the most inspiring. With *In Spite of Ourselves*, Prine applies those principles to culling a collection of overlooked songs by others that evoke the same realities. *In Spite of Ourselves* addresses desires, many permutations, and its, at times, messy consequences--and pairs him with the best women singers from the many tiers of today's country music. Whether it's fringe roots singers Iris DeMent and Lucinda Williams, the always timeless Emmylou Harris, mainstream stars Patty Loveless and Trisha Yearwood, vintage treasures Melba Montgomery and Connie Smith, or Irish mainstay Dolores Keane, Prine sought vocal chemistry as his first studio album in five years illuminates the ebb and flow of interpersonal dynamics.

[Miami - Pensacola](#)

---



# GEORGIA



· USA: [AL](#) | [CA](#) | [FL](#) | [GA](#) | [IA](#) | [IL](#) | [IN](#) | [KS](#) | [LA](#) | [MO](#) | [NC](#) | [NH](#) | [NJ](#) | [NY](#) | [OH](#) | [OK](#) | [PA](#) | [RI](#) | [TN](#) | [VA](#) | [WV](#)  
· CAN: [NL](#) | [NB](#) | [NS](#) | [ON](#) | [QC](#)

[Lafayette](#) | [Columbus](#)

## Harvest Festival, Lafayette, GA Sep 27, 2003

By: Spence

I didn't get to go to the show because I was in Utah, but my brother called me on my cell phone and let me listen to THE WHOLE THING...so I wrote down the set list and I thought somebody might like it.

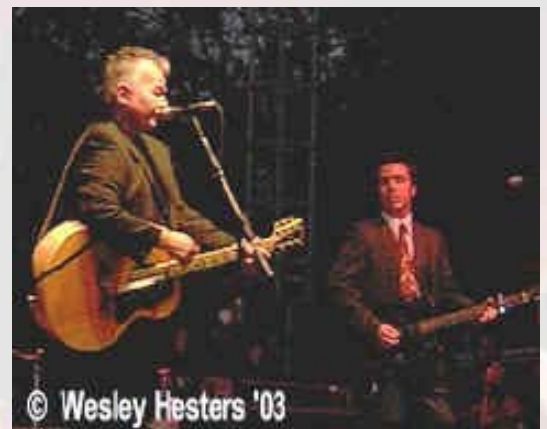


- 1 Spanish Pipedream
- 2 Far From Me
- 3 Fish and Whistle
- 4 Grandpa Was a Carpenter
- 5 Picture Show
- 6 I'm Just Gettin' By
- 7 All the Best
- 8 Angel From Montgomery
- 9 You Got Gold Dear Abbey
- 10 That's The Way That The World Goes 'Round
- 11 Illegal Smile
- 12 Sam Stone
- 13 Bear Creek
- 14 That's Alright By Me (not sure if this is the right title)
- 15 Ain't Hurtin' Nobody
- 16 Hello In There
- 17 Lake Marie

By: Wesley Hesters

I didn't pay much attention to my watch while I was at the Harvestfest, but I'd guess that John Prine's set was about an hour and a half with no break and perhaps not as many "stories" with the songs as he did in the indoor concerts I've seen. John seemed to be focusing on delivering as much music as possible during the set, as I think about it. This would be show number three for me that I could name for sure, I think, although there may have been another show that I just can't pull out of the fog. I had intended to write down the setlist for JP's Harvestfest performance, but ... I didn't. You know how it goes. The best I could do was take a few photos. Writing in the dark would have detracted entirely too much from my enjoyment of the show. I know for a fact that he played the following tunes:

- AIN'T HURTIN' NOBODY
- ALL THE BEST
- ANGEL FROM MONTGOMERY
- DEAR ABBY
- FISH AND WHISTLE
- GRANDPA WAS A CARPENTER
- HELLO IN THERE
- ILLEGAL SMILE
- LAKE MARIE
- PICTURE SHOW
- SAM STONE
- SIX O CLOCK NEWS
- SOUVENIRS
- SPANISH PIPEDREAM
- THAT'S THE WAY THE WORLD GOES 'ROUND
- YOU GOT GOLD
- BEAR CREEK BLUES



There was at least one "new" tune, possibly more, the names of which I can't recall, and there could have been a couple more "old" ones, but these are the ones I remember.

John did one set without a break and didn't do an encore. He received a rousing and prolonged round of applause. The MC said they had to catch a plane and just couldn't do an encore. It was a nice setting there in the outdoors -- cool early fall "mountain" weather -- a late afternoon rain had cooled things off and settled the dust. It was great to see John in an outdoor festival setting. Needless to say, "Illegal Smile" went over very well with the festival crowd. The "sing along" portion of this song seemed particularly meaningful and was enhanced by the festival aromas -- you know, incense, patchouli perfume and things like that. I had "front rail" standing. Nothing between us and the band but the buffer space between the audience and the stage, except for a few

special guests that security allowed into the buffer zone. I think it must have been family. John referred to the Prine boys and said something about their birthday -- There were three little boys with no shirts that were cavorting around in the buffer zone, and John occasionally verbally interacted with them from the stage. Could they have been his children or his grandchildren?

John's voice sounded great to me. John gave all of his guitars a workout -- broke a string on Lake Marie. He played an electric guitar that I haven't seen before -- it wasn't the Stratocaster that I'd seen previously. Here's a photo of him playing it- Anybody know what the guitar is?

Jason and David did their typically magnificent jobs. I was certainly captivated and moved by the power of John's artistry. So was my girlfriend, who was seeing John for the first time. We both agreed that John was the best (are you surprised?).

After "Hello in There", I overheard a guy standing behind us say, "If that doesn't bring tears to your eyes, you've got a cold heart."

That sort of sums up the experience for me.

By: JB

I have a refreshed sense of peace in my soul after seeing John play for the first time after so many years of listening to his songs. His line in Hello in There about Davey dieing in the Korean war has always been the hardest line in music for me to listen to but someday I just have to hear it, especially now with our boys suffering in Iraq. Thanks John "We lost Davey in the Korean war, And I still don't know what for, don't matter anymore"



By: Lem esa

What can I say...JP has done it again. This is the first time since Nashville River Stages that I have seen John play at a festival so it was a real treat to watch him sing with the evening sky behind him, he cast a spell on everyone. I was a little worried when I first got there and saw a few hundred 20 year olds dancing like lunatics to music that certainly did not require convulsions (I felt kind of out of place even at 24, I haven't been surrounded by that many



smelly rich kids since I was 14.) The Band was good although it was great to see everyone take off when they had finished the set. Parked myself right in front of JP's spot and soon I was surrounded by the familiar smiles of Prine fans. John's voice was back in peak form and he grinned the whole show as usual, it's contagious! The band looked great up there in their suits, professionals even when wadding through mud. I think the best part was seeing his boys again. I haven't seen them since 1997 right before JP's cancer, I wish the talented Fiona had joined them on stage. I had no idea they were his sons till after the concert, although I took their picture since they were adorable (running around shirtless with glowing glitter paint on their backs and flashing glow sticks galore!). JP's sentimental songs made their childish antics even more precious or maybe it was the other way around. It was a magical night in these North Ga. hills, I even got to wish upon a shooting star on the walk to the car at 3:00 am!

## Bradley Theatre, Columbus, GA September 26, 2003

Bradley Theatre, Columbus GA - concert is canceled

Date: Sept 26, 2003

By: BRAD BARNES - Staff Writer for the Ledger-Enquirer

Posted on Wed, Sep. 24, 2003 ... 'Logistical problems' cited by promoters... Musician John Prine has canceled the Columbus show that was set for Friday... Promoters cited "logistical problems beyond Prine's control," in axing the show, which was slated for the Bradley Theater. The promoters, I Spy Entertainment, would not elaborate... "I just can't believe he canceled this late," said Jenny Eckman, who is vice president of the group that runs the Bradley... "He sold over 500 tickets, but they said that was disappointing," Eckman said. "They said it wasn't ticket sales, though, it was logistics." Promoters early on stated that the 1,400-seat Bradley was a small venue for the Grammy-winning Prine... Prine -- whose songs mix folk, country and rock -- still will perform a Saturday show at the Blue Ridge Harvest Festival in Lafayette, GA... Ticket refunds for the Columbus concert are available at the place where concert-goers bought their tickets. For those who bought them at the Bradley Theater, the box office is open 5:30-8 p.m. Monday-Friday... For more information, call Ticketmaster at 494-8330 or the Bradley at 321-9098.

Comments/Complaints on the Bradley Theatre, Columbus GA concert have been moved to the Prine Shrine Message board - [here](#) - to the thread "[Columbus show](#)"

## Singer, songwriter Prine to appear at the Bradley Theatre

Preview

By: BRAD BARNES

Posted on Fri, Aug. 29, 2003 to <http://www.ledger-enquirer.com/mld/ledgerenquirer/news/6644018.htm>

Grammy-winning artist at Bradley Theatre Sept. 26

Legendary songwriter John Prine is coming to Columbus for a concert on Sept. 26.

The concert will be at the 1,400-seat Bradley Theatre. Tickets are \$40 and go on sale noon today.

Prine, 57, is best known for a body of good work rather than a roster of hit singles. Bette Midler and the Everly Brothers are among those who have recorded versions of his songs.

His warm, weary voice and poignant songs are a favorite among followers of singer-songwriters, with his style falling in a comfortable nook between folk music and country. Many musicians cite him as an influence, including Atlanta songwriter Shawn Mullins, who performed a Prine song at his concert at The Loft last week.

Prine has been nominated for four Grammys, and his 1991 album, "The Missing Years," won the Grammy for Best Contemporary Folk album.

His most recent disc was 2000's "Souvenirs."

"He doesn't have a new album right now, although he's working on one," said Jade Nielsen, with I Spy Entertainment, which is producing the Columbus show. "We're playing secondary and tertiary markets right now. "He's doing a festival in Lafayette, Ga., that Saturday, and we needed a date to go with it," Nielsen said. "I threw Columbus at them, and they liked the idea."

Prine pal R.B. Morris, a Knoxville, Tenn., poet-turned-songwriter, will open the show. - -



· USA: [AL](#) | [CA](#) | [FL](#) | [GA](#) | [IA](#) | [IL](#) | [IN](#) | [KS](#) | [LA](#) | [MO](#) | [NC](#) | [NH](#) | [NJ](#) | [NY](#) | [OH](#) | [OK](#) | [PA](#) | [RI](#) | [TN](#) | [VA](#) | [WV](#)  
 · CAN: [NL](#) | [NB](#) | [NS](#) | [ON](#) | [QC](#)

## PARAMOUNT THEATRE, CEDAR RAPIDS, IA April 19, 2003

### There's a Girl In Cedar Rapids

finally a little bit on the show from the webmistress - read it all [here](#)



### Paramount crowd enjoys Prine time

By: Jim O'Neal - The Gazette

John Prine pulled off a crazy feat in Cedar Rapids on Saturday that David Copperfield wouldn't have attempted in his show a few weeks earlier: He turned the baroque-rococo Paramount Theatre into a rowdy roadhouse. Having sung Prine's songs for so many years, the fans who packed the house couldn't keep quiet Saturday. They sang heartily, clapped loudly and shouted requests that sounded more like demands. The crowd's indecorous behavior would have shocked a symphony crowd, but passionate folkies can forgive each other's exuberant response to a legendary singer-songwriter who hadn't played Cedar Rapids in many years.

The boomers in the crowd have listened to Prine regularly since he hit the scene in 1971 with his eponymous debut album. "John Prine" grabbed the attention of folkies and country rockers with the rollicking "Spanish Pipedream" (popularly known by its refrain, "Blow up your TV"); "Sam Stone," the mournful tale of a Vietnam veteran undone by addiction; "Hello in There," a sympathetic portrait of the aged and lonesome; "Illegal Smile," a whimsical celebration of pot smoking that even manages to make light of the habit's attendant paranoia; and "Angel from Montgomery," a ballad that became a classic the moment it was first broadcast. Prine played all those -- and every other song without which the concert would have been incomplete -- and threw in a few rockers and rockabilly tunes to keep things hopping. With a vast body of work to draw from, Prine carefully balanced the tone of the evening, shifting from somber, often mournful songs such as "Storm Windows" and "Souvenirs" to such silly, bouncy tunes as "Fish and Whistle," "It's a Big Old Goofy World" and one of the funniest songs ever written, "Dear Abby."

Prine seems to get as big a kick out of singing his music as his audience gets from hearing it. Just as Tony Bennett delivers each rendition of "I Left My Heart in San Francisco" as if it were his first, Prine reaches down to deliver the sadness and glee and inspired his masterpieces. His voice, a bit raspy with age -- and perhaps from the after effects of radiation treatment he underwent for neck cancer a few years back -- is still full and strong, and it contrasts more beautifully than ever with the clarity of his finger-picking.

Prine's accompanists -- David Jacques on stand-up bass and electric bass and Jason Wilber on electric guitar, slide guitar, mandolin, harmonica and backing vocals -- masterfully augmented Prine's finger-picking and guitar-pounding style. Jacques wove low, sorrowful notes into such ballads as "Sam Stone" by bowing his stand-up instrument, and on the rocking numbers he laid down the sure, taut bass lines that makes him one of Nashville's most sought-after studio and concert performer. The multi-talented Wilber contributed everything from the tangy mandolin chords of mountain music to the twangy, sharp-edged tone that makes the "Nashville Sound" what it is.

Concert opener Pat McLaughlin, a Nashville singer-songwriter who grew up in Waterloo, had a task that was in equal parts enviable and frightening: He played to a house full of die-hard folk music fans who desperately wanted to hear the next act. The crowd jabbered through his first few soulful, bluesy numbers, but he finally won its attention with the gospesque "Somebody say 'Yeah.'" He returned to play with Prine and company on a couple of encore numbers

By: CoaValleyJohnny

Pretty much same set as Sept 2001, but fantastic as always! A well-lubricated crowd was boisterous, occasionally obnoxious, but always happy! Biggest ovation (unfortunately) was for "Flag Decal". Biggest singalong was for

"Illegal Smile" (go figure). New song "Other Side of Town" a big hit, can't wait until he releases it on a CD! Dusted off "Sour Grapes" (said it was the first song he ever wrote), hadn't heard that one in a while.

By: Mike Butvill

This was the first time I ever saw John Prine in concert in my 51 years & I hope not the last. I drove almost 4 hours to get there & would do it again. I am lucky to have seen this man alive & in concert and he was as good as I thought/hoped he would be I always knew about John Prine but rarely heard his songs over the years but generally thought was a "typical" folk singer with a simple sharp sense of humor/anger & pretty much left it as that. I got curious about him after hearing a radio interview with him this summer while visiting in Milwaukee. Well-----since then I have purchased most of his CD's and have discovered the exact type music/personality I have been seeking. Its amazing how his talent/mood can compose such a list of diverse songs with many support musicians and instruments. After reading about his life & listening to his songs; he seems a strangely unique paradox of a common man that made it bigger than many in the music/show business. I bet he would still feel comfortable deliverin mail in Chicago or doing another stint with his monkey wrench in the Army. Yet he has traveled/recorded/partied across the globe with some of this worlds elite Rock Stars and I'm sure he has more stories to tell of those wilder days of old. He still se s like he enjoys doing concerts. His voice and guitar playing is still in great form. ----Thanks for the unique and memorable night. Hope you come around these parts again real soon. I wish you well & happiness---- & good health.

By: ted

it was good - I loved it - hope to see him again

By: Holly

What a great show! I never thought the Easter Bunny could be outshone but it happened in our house last night! We took our 7 year old daughter to the show - she just loves his music and she actually got to go backstage and meet John with my sister and her kids! Alas, not enough back stage passes for our whole group, but the kids just loved him and my sister said he is just as genuine as can be! Today it's all about "John Prine!" - nobody cares about the bunny! His music was just great - a solid 2 hours packed full of old favorites and new! My daughter just couldn't believe he sang some of the songs she new! What a treat to be able to give that to her - she will remember it forever. Thanks, John, for a super show!

---

# ILLINOIS



· USA: [AL](#) | [CA](#) | [FL](#) | [GA](#) | [IA](#) | [IL](#) | [IN](#) | [KS](#) | [LA](#) | [MO](#) | [NC](#) | [NH](#) | [NJ](#) | [NY](#) | [OH](#) | [OK](#) | [PA](#) | [RI](#) | [TN](#) | [VA](#) | [WV](#)  
· CAN: [NL](#) | [NB](#) | [NS](#) | [ON](#) | [QC](#)

[Champaign](#) | [Peoria](#)

VIRGINIA THEATRE, CHAMPAIGN, IL  
September 5, 2003



By: Rob Krumm

John Prine performed a terrific set at the Virginia Theater in Champaign, IL. Without an introduction, John took the stage with Dave Jacques (dog house & electric bass) and Jason Wilber (guitar & mandolin). Starting with Spanish Pipedream, the crowd sang along to all or parts of every song that John performed during the evening. John's voice was hoarse, and he said that he blew it out at a family reunion over the Labor Day weekend in Muhlenberg County.

Other tunes included Grandpa Was a Carpenter, Sam Stone, Dear Abby, Sins of Memphisto and Ain't Hurtin' Nobody. Before playing Hello in There, John mentioned that an older family member (an Auntie) requested the song at the family reunion and that he scooted his chair right next to her to sing it.

While performing That's the Way That the World Goes Round, John told the story about one night when he was performing (in San Francisco?) and a woman that he knew asked him to play the song about the Happy Enchilada. Seems that she mis-interpreted the lyrics "half an inch of water". John's response - 'are you sure that's one of my songs...maybe you're thinking about Jimmy Buffet, he writes songs about food'. Though I've heard him tell this story before, his sense of timing is so good that I had tears in my eyes, I was laughing so hard.

Throughout the night, people were calling from the audience for their favorites and John said at one point "more voices in my head". He mentioned receiving several email messages for a request and made sure to play a song (I think it was Linda Goes to Mars) and then wished 'Linda' a happy birthday. Right after, someone shouted another request from the audience. With a wry smile, John responded 'no no, you've got to send email'. That comment generated more laughter from the crowd. The set ended with a rousing Lake Marie.

The band was primed, they were hitting on all cylinders with John singing at the end for all he was worth. After a brief break, John and the band returned to the stage and they ran through several more songs including Angel From Montgomery. My guess is that the band played 25 songs and people sang along to all or parts of 20 of them. People laughed, people cried, and the audience shouted for more.

A John Prine concert is like a visit with a good friend - a friend who happens to be a great songwriter, story-teller and a keen observer of life. Come back soon John.

By: Tim

Saw the show last night and was not disappointed. John was having alot of trouble with his voice, but still delivered the goods to a packed house that was with him all the way. John said he considered canceling the show because of his throat. An excellent night of music with an old friend

[Champaign](#) | [Peoria](#)

PEORIA CIVIC CENTER THEATER, PEORIA, IL  
April 18, 2003



By: Reeda Buresh ~ webmistress of the Prine shrine

[John Prine in Peoria, Illinois concert at the Civic Center Auditorium April 2003](#)

By: chaz

Awesome! Did not know what to expect as my buddy was a Prine fan and I was a tag along. Band was tight and excellent and the length of show was 2 hrs. What a diverse crowd, bikers, hippies, preps, ave Joe, you name it. Kicked butt. I will be there next time.

By: Deep sail

My wife and daughters, both students at Indiana University, bought tickets for the Prine show in Peoria for my birthday. We drove up from Bloomington and stayed in downtown Peoria for the concert. First of all, I can't say enough about what a nice little city Peoria is. We ate at a small tavern on the way to the venue and talked about our past Prine shows and anticipated what we might expect from this one. Pat McLaughlin opened and his stork like movements and guitar playing are always a hoot. John had just been fishing in Arkansas with his brothers and cousins so he was fresh for story telling. he also had family in the audience from Illinois so it was fun to watch him interact with them. He told the "happy enchilada" story on That's the Way the World Goes Round. I hadn't heard it told live before. He also said he's working on a new album and is about half way finished so it "should be finished in about five years". As always, we left saying that this was our best Prine show ever. I think we have seen him a dozen times or so. He is playing in Evansville in October which is the first time in years. I saw him and Arlo Guthrie in Evansville in the late seventies it seems. Anyhow it is being held at a great venue and should be a great show. A John Prine show at least once a year has become essential to our family. Fortunately, this year we get to see at least two.

By: MAC70

THIS IS THE SECOND TIME I HAVE SEEN JOHN IN PEORIA AND HE DID NOT LET HIS AUDIENCE DOWN. THE CONCERT WAS EXCELLENT. I HAD A GREAT TIME AND TOOK TWO FIRST TIMERS WHO ARE NOW IN LOVE WITH JOHN'S MUSIC. I COULD NOT OF ASKED FOR A BETTER NIGHT.

Form email gives soulful show April 20, 2003

<http://www.pjstar.com/news/entertainment/f910515a.html>

By DAVID MOLL Journal Star critic

PEORIA - Like lots of John Prine's characters, the space monkey in "Space Monkey" - a song he played Friday night just because somebody yelled out to hear it - has had a substantial helping of bad luck. Plucked out of the jungle by the Russians in the 1950s, sealed into a space capsule and blasted into orbit, the monkey lands decades later to find that there's no Soviet Union waiting for him. "The space monkey was reportedly last sighted about a half a block off of Red Square in a karaoke bar, having a few drinks with some of his friends," Prine narrated the tale over his guitar. "There was the dog that flew Sputnik, and a blind, redheaded, one-legged parrot who had done some minor research for Dow Chemical. "They were drinking American vodka imported all the way from Paducah, Kentucky, and reportedly had their arms around each other's shoulders, singing: 'Those were the days, my friend, we thought they'd never end.'" That imagined scene of lab-animal karaoke was sort of what Prine's show for a 1,400-plus crowd at the Peoria Civic Center Theater was like: a bunch of battered old friends, a fair number of whom were about half in the bottle, singing along to heartache songs that they knew extremely well. But it's a safe bet that the music at the Red Square karaoke bar wasn't as good. Backed up by a guitarist and a bass player (who mostly played a standup bass), the 56-year-old singer/songwriter from Chicago put on a simply extraordinary 2½-

hour show. A mailman before he was a singer (he even looks a little like Cliff Clavin these days), Prine's never lost his blue-collar sensibility - between songs, he talked more about fishing than anybody I've seen at the Civic Center lately - and his songs, about broken loves ("Lake Marie"), wistful resignation ("All the Best") and attempted escapes from reality ("Illegal Smile"), are grounded in ordinary lives. "These are songs for all occasions. This one's for if you ever get invited to your ex's wedding and you're asked to sing," he said by way of introducing "All the Best." "You never know." Prine has an unassuming presence - he's kind of a short guy, with a voice that sounds like it was left out in the rain - but he controlled the room, taking the show from waves of electric rock down to moments so still that he silenced the entire theater, which was a more remarkable feat than it might sound, because where I was sitting, at least, you couldn't have swung a cat without hitting a vocal, inebriated baby boomer. Prine's sidemen added exactly what was needed - understated vocal harmonies, a subtle bit of harmonica, or a single, mournful bass note in the second chorus of the Vietnam-vet elegy "Sam Stone." I took notes to remind myself of moments in the show that were particularly outstanding until they started coming along so often that I gave up keeping track. It'll be a shame if Prine waits another six years to come back to Peoria, and it'll be a shame if you miss it when he does. Pat McLaughlin, a songwriter and occasional Prine collaborator, opened the show with a half-hour solo acoustic set. An Iowa native, McLaughlin said he'd never been to Peoria before, but that a neighbor girl he'd had a crush on had moved here when he was 5 years old. "If she's here tonight, I'd like her to know I'm not too proud of some of the things I did," he said.

By: Jim Henkel

This is the second time in less than a year I went to see John Prine. The "boys" from Dixon including my brother Tom, Wow what a great experience!! Great time in the town of Peoria. Met up with the "Internet Prine Shrine Fans" over at the Mark Twain Motel/Motel. Great People!! I played a few of John's songs before the concert...try to get everyone ready for the great Prine. Hoped they liked it. It gave me a chance to be a part of the whole Prine Shrine experience. I could easily get hooked and start following this guy and his excellent band to every concert. I've played his music sense I was 18 years old. But no one can play his music like he himself, all we can do is pretend we're him when playing.

---





# INDIANA



· USA: [AL](#) | [CA](#) | [FL](#) | [GA](#) | [IA](#) | [IL](#) | [IN](#) | [KS](#) | [LA](#) | [MO](#) | [NC](#) | [NH](#) | [NJ](#) | [NY](#) | [OH](#) | [OK](#) | [PA](#) | [RI](#) | [TN](#) | [VA](#) | [WV](#)  
· CAN: [NL](#) | [NB](#) | [NS](#) | [ON](#) | [QC](#)

[Evansville](#) | [South Bend](#)

Victory Theatre, Evansville, IN  
Oct 24, 2003

By: jp1fan aka the shrinestress aka Nancy Weiss  
PHOTOS - Click [here](#) to see the slideshow

By: Kathryn Carroll aka Kathy47  
PRIME PRINE

The Victory Theater seated 1700, it was sold out and they were turning people away at the door.

After going to so many concerts as us Prine Shriners do, you somewhat know what to expect or what JOHN may play. Which really doesn't make a difference to any of us Prinners. We are strictly for JOHN & The Boys amazing and entertaining talent!

Always thinking I've seen the best concert, JOHN & the boys, threw me for a loop...a big roller coaster loop! Just when you think you know what to expect (abracadabra, like pulling a rabbit out of a hat) a PRIME PRINE emerges!

JOHN started out with SPANISH PIPEDREAM, and then one of my favorites ... which is only the second time I have heard him play it! YOUR FLAG DECAL WON'T GET YOU INTO HEAVEN ANYMORE. Not listing all the songs, but JOHN played many not always heard by us regulars and 4 great new songs.

JOHN has some great new and very amusing stories.. also changed a few words in the songs, which made the crowd roar! In LAKE MARIE...JOHN stuck in the words "root beer eyes"! And in SAM STONE.. "Judge Ashcroft".

It appears that JOHN, has acquired some energy from the younger guys-JASON-DAVID AND TODD SNIDER. His energy was vibrant, exuberating, if Elvis were still with us, he would had some competition. JOHN had leg moves and energy I haven't seen before! His voice was in rare form, he was as crisp as a cool refreshing breeze on an autumn day!

He played 30 songs, but the audience was so enamored by the performance of JOHN& THE BOYS, that they would have sat for 30 more. Both David and Jason were able to lean on more of their instruments and amazing talent, longer versions of what I have seen before. With each performing solo, they received standing ovations, it was truly amazing.

On LAKE MARIE it was the longest extended version of solo's I have yet to see! The audience stood with cheers and applause, that could shatter ear drums!

Little brother Billy was there to join in on PARADISE.

The standing ovation at the end of the show, was the most phenomenal I have seen! You could feel the vibration on the floor, JOHN and the Boys were a 10 on the Richter scale!

Just when I thought I had seen the best show before - I get a PRIME PRINE PERFORMANCE. The best yet I have seen, and one that I will remember forever!

At the side of the stage during the final ovation, I saw the wonderful smile of Al Bunetta, another surprise. And a smile as big as mine, knowing that he enjoyed the show as much as we did!

Thank you JOHN-DAVID-JASON and Todd, another well earned standing ovation from me!

P.S. JOHN where do you get all that energy? As I have said before, you are like a fine wine, and only improve with age.

Love you guys!  
kathy47

By: Bob Davidson

Just when I thought it couldn't get any better, it did! I have been going to John Prine concerts for nearly 25 years now and the shows keep getting better. This was one of the best I have seen! John really rocked the place. It has been a long time since John has been to Evansville. I kept reading the other reviews that his latest shows have been some of the best. It was hard for me to believe. But man, they were all right! I went early because I heard he has been letting people in the sound check. So here I was waiting for him in the car when the nearby people from

the bank came out and questioned me for being suspicious. He told me they were ready to have me shot by the SWAT team! "I am just waiting waiting for John Prine. Thanks for not shooting me." Earlier John drove his vehicle right by me. I thought I was seeing things, but it was him. Anyway, I had to leave or get shot! I just missed John's arrival as I later found out and also missed the back stage passes. So we waited after the show and after all the back stage pass people left. John found us standing there. He said, "If I knew you were out here, I would have had you come in!" It was late, but he was nice enough to sign my 70's "Bruised Orange" and "Prime Prine" Album covers. Thanks John for all the years and and for a great show in Evansville! Words can't describe the concert you put on. All I can to anyone is that they need to see John in concert. He is truly and American treasure and icon. Thank you John!

Snider-skewed slices of life are filled with humor  
By: REBECCA COUDRET Courier & Press staff writer  
October 23, 2003

Todd Snider is a raconteur. Never mind that he isn't totally sure what it means. He definitely is a raconteur. A folk-singer/songwriter/storyteller. A guy without pretense. A stand-up guy who is more at home on a stage than in a recording studio.

"I love being onstage," Snider said. "It's where I'm the most comfortable. I'd like to get as confident about making records as doing live shows. I need to try to find a studio I'm not trying to get out of. ...

"It'd be nice to record in a little bar in Texas. I like that idea. Recording in a bar would be so perfect. If people were talking, fine. It'd sound great to have conversations in the background.

"It's so much better when you're comfortable. I'm cornering in on it, even though I still feel like I'm leaving my 'bubble' to make records."

And so, when he appears here Friday at The Victory with John Prine, concertgoers will see a guy in his element. He'll be where he loves to be.

And they'll find out a Todd Snider show isn't one of those never-acknowledge-the-audience experiences. He's so interactive the crowds sing along, make requests and listen in as he has conversations with himself.

Those conversations run the gamut of his life, from high school to today. Or at least yesterday.

"When I was 18, I was busing tables, but I always knew I wanted to be involved in music - well, from the time I knew I had to do something.

"One night, I was in Santa Rosa (Calif.), sitting on a roof, and thought, 'I'm going to play guitar and be a singer.' So that's what I'm doing," he said, laughing. "I didn't want to be busing tables when I was 30, so I think I made the right choice."

Fans of "The Bob & Tom Show" know Snider from his popular song "Beer Run." And while he's a man who writes insightful lyrics filled with tales of life and love and loss and foolin' around, it's "Beer Run" that's put him on the musical map.

"At first, when they started playing it a lot, I was afraid people would think I just did comedy," Snider said. "I prepared myself to see the words 'frat humor' in reviews. But then I quickly decided that if you get popular for a reason - like for 'Beer Run' - then people might come to see you. And if they come to see you and don't boo through your other songs, that's great."

"Beer Run" isn't Snider's only humor-enhanced song. "Statistician's Blues" and "Talking Seattle Grunge Rock Blues," for instance, are just as clever and offer a Snider-skewed commentary on a microscopic slice of life.

Snider's onstage life includes tales that "usually are true, sometimes, maybe - it's just that the truth changes from time to time."

He records on John Prine's Oh Boy! Records label, which certainly helped Snider's credibility in the early years. He had a chance to meet Prine in a "gofer" situation, but it came with a caveat: "You can't talk to John about your music."

Snider resisted the temptation, but their paths crossed soon thereafter.

"I had a show and - here comes John Prine," Snider said. He watched, and afterward said, "... man, you're good at this."

Snider laughed. "I told you my onstage life is better than any CD."

Prine, he said, is "so humble, you'd never know he was John Prine. He loves to play, loves people (fans) who've committed to him, to his music. I'm trying to be one of those guys. I'd like to get where I make a record like 'The Missing Years,' not because it'd be successful, but because it would say so much about my (work)."

Snider is already working on another album. He just needs four or five more songs to go with the eight he's written. "It's real story-ish this time," he said. "Not preachy, but with smidgey little political overtones."

Democrat? Republican? "No. Like the 'Ballad of The Kingsmen,' about the band that did 'Louie, Louie.' And one about Mike Tyson's entourage, 'Iron Mike's Main Man's Last Request.' That kind of politics. Life politics."

He laughed. "I'm 37 now. Getting older lends itself to folk singing. It's all about experiences, and I've been around long enough to have a lot of them." He paused, laughed again and added, "Course, I'd had most of those by the time I was 19."

John Prine's energy makes performance impressive

By Roger McBain October 26, 2003

More than three decades after he broke onto America's radar screen as one of our most promising, imaginative singer/songwriters, John Prine remains a marvel.

His marathon performance Friday at The Victory was nothing short of amazing.

Playing to an audience of 1,766, many of them as weathered, sagging and graying as Prine is at 57, he performed for more than 2 hours, going through dozens of songs most of the audience knew well enough to sing along with. They ranged from the classics on his seminal 1971 Atlantic recording, "John Prine," through his releases from the last decade on his own Oh Boy Records label.

Bassist Dave Jacques and mandolin/guitar player Jason Wilber took a break after 11 songs, but Prine sang on, playing straight through 30 songs, pausing only to change guitars, wipe his brow and take sips of bottled water.

His strumming hand kept moving even as he spoke to the audience, reflecting on his music, his marriages, his hip replacement and his boyhood memories of driving through Evansville on family trips from Chicago back to Muhlenberg County, Ky., for family reunions. "Evansville always smelled like pancakes to me," he mused before launching into another tune.

His earliest songs, "Illegal Smile," "Spanish Pipedream," "Donald and Lydia," "Angel from Montgomery," "Six O'clock News" and "Hello in There," a poignant ode to society's aged and overlooked, sounded as vibrant, rebellious, sorrowful and embracing as they did in 1971. So did "Your Flag Decal Won't Get You Into Heaven Anymore," a Vietnam-era song Prine originally worried would be dated by time he recorded it. "I thought all the paranoid patriotism might be over by then," he said. "I guess I was wrong."

Members of the audience, many of them whetting their voices with beer, sang along right through his '90s stuff, including "Ain't Hurtin' Nobody," "Picture Show," "The Sins of Mephisto," and a thunderously mesmerizing rendition of "Lake Marie," a song that juxtaposes haunting images of American Indian lore, love, murder and lament in a lakeside setting.

Prine gave the audience a preview of new songs, as well, including "Crazy as a Loon," and "I'm Just Gettin' By."

His unstudied, sandpapered voice never failed him as he picked, strummed and slammed out the rhythms and melodies on an assortment of acoustic and solid-bodied electric guitars.

Working with Jacques on the acoustic and electric bass, and Wilber on mandolin and electric guitar, Prine's trio could sound like a coffeehouse folk ensemble or a honky-tonk country rock band, filling the hall with wailing chords and soaring solo riffs.

At times, the lyrics got lost in mix of amplified sounds, but it didn't seem phase the audience, many of whom just seemed happy to drink beer, high-five one another, and party with Prine.

Todd Snider, a singer/songwriter who's recorded on the Oh Boy label and is frequently heard on radio's syndicated "Bob and Tom Show," was a fitting opening act. From "I Can't Complain," a shoulder-shrugging, tongue-in-cheek, Everyman's lament, to "Statistician's Blues," a song that has fun with contemporary statistical gibberish, to "Beer Run," a whimsical talking-blues ditty many in the audience sang along to, Snider displayed the same irreverent attention to everyday language and mundane details that are the foundation of Prine's best songs. His on-stage style contrasted the suit coats of Prine's act, however. Performing barefoot, in jeans with his sleeves rolled up and his shirt-tail hanging out, Snider came across like a grunge version of Arlo Guthrie, ambling through stories, song introductions and several talking-bluesy tunes.

Snider put on his shoes for the show's finale. He and Prine's brother, Dave Prine, joined the headline act for the final encore, a pounding, rousing rendition of "Paradise," Prine's ode to his family's strip-mined Muhlenberg County roots.

As the audience stood once again to clap, whistle and hoot its appreciation, Prine looked ready to play another encore. The man is a marvel.

By: -Kris-

As usual John's performance was wonderful. I really think he gets better each time I see him. If the new songs he played are any inclination of his new album, look out! I smell Grammy! But I think all of his albums have a Grammy aroma. I can't wait for its release. Todd Snider opened things up and as usual was also wonderful. I was really surprised that no one seemed to know him. He's been around for 10 years with six very good albums to his credit. The autograph/picture taking session was a nice added touch. You had a headliner open for a headliner. You can't ask for much more than that! My only complaint was the audience seemed to be more interested in the beer and restrooms (at least in my row (L) and down). They would rather be concerned about getting in and out than listening to a music legend and genius and a future music legend and genius in Todd. All in all I came away as I usually do, happy and more than satisfied. I can't wait till the next one. Thanks to John, Todd, Oh Boy! records and whoever else is responsible for getting them back to Indiana. -Kris-

By: Scott O

First, I just want to say, "Thank you, again" to John Prine. I wish I could sit down with friends and listen to him play every week. But my friends and I can't afford it and neither could Prine for that matter. This was an awesome

performance. Todd Snider, the opening act, provided a great beginning. Prine and his fellow musicians pleased the crowd every second of the time they were on stage. Prine played for somewhere around two and a half hours. I have seen at least six of his shows over the last ten years. His professionalism is worthy note. Throughout his career he has been criticized for his marginal singing or guitar skills but never his songwriting talent. At this stage, I hope that his fans, colleagues, and the public will start to recognize his ongoing dedication and exceptional showmanship. Year after year he continues to provide wonderful entertainment to millions. In fact, through the years, his musicianship has also improved and doesn't leave any room to criticize anymore except on individual tastes. I'll be looking forward to hearing some more reviews about the songs that he played last night in Evansville. I enjoyed every song. He was soft and gentle on many songs. He downright rocked the joint on Lake Marie. Looking forward to next time, Scott

By: Jeremy Atwood

Just got back from the Prine show in Evansville - WOW! It had been about 4 or 5 years since I had seen Prine live and he didn't disappoint! Todd Snider opened for him, first time I had ever heard him play and he put on one heck of a show, he even hung around after his set to sign autographs and take pictures. Prine was in true form! It was good to hear the old stuff as well as several new songs from an album he says is about halfway finished. Of course, being so close to home, John's brother was there and came out and closed with Paradise. GREAT SHOW! The concert started at 8 with Todd and we left just after 11:30.

Preview

By: WENDY KNIPER BREDHOLD, Community news editor.

LISTEN up!... Prine's opener will make great show even better... October 1, 2003 - Henderson Gleaner, KY... I saw Todd Snider, who will open for John Prine at The Victory Theatre in Evansville on Oct. 24 ... read more at this link- [http://www.myinky.com/ecp/gleaner\\_entertainment/article/0,1626,ECP\\_4478\\_2309116,00.html](http://www.myinky.com/ecp/gleaner_entertainment/article/0,1626,ECP_4478_2309116,00.html) ...Tickets are \$34 for the orchestra level and the front of the balcony and \$29 for the back of the balcony and can be purchased at the Roberts Stadium box office, all Ticketmaster outlets including fye and Famous Barr in Eastland Mall and Evansville Schnuck's locations. ...Tickets can also be charged by phone by calling (812) 423-7222 in Indiana and (270) 926-6661 in Kentucky or on the Internet at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com).

---

[Evansville](#) | [South Bend](#)

---

## Morris Performing Arts Center - South Bend, IN September 6, 2003

By: Reese

My wife and I attended the show in the recently renovated Morris Performing Arts Center on Saturday, September 6. After Pat McLaughlin's rousing opening act, John ambled out with Jason Wilbr (guitar, mandolin) and Dave Jacques (standup and electric bass). John's face had big boyish smile that resurfaced continually over the next two hours. "Don't worry, I know em' all" he told some fans who kept calling out for their favorites. Some fans in the front would stand and clap after every song. John told them that they "were gonna get tired" as he had a lot of songs. He and the band played eight to ten songs and then John sang some by himself. His voice was admittedly rough and we hope he recovers soon. He did say that this was, in big part, due to recording "about half of the songs for a new album". This was great to hear as were several new songs. In one song, the main character, when confronted by his significant other, checked out and went somewhere else in his mind. I was laughing so hard that I couldn't see during this song. For me, the highlight of the night was their rendition of the Carter Family's "Bear Creek Blues". Before this song, John talked about seeing his older brother playing guitar for his father and being totally awed. His brother turned him on to some blues records to learn finger-picking and Carter Family records to learn how to be a good songwriter. They really rocked this one. Besides our enjoyment of John's music and lyrics over the years, my wife and I always enjoy seeing him live, listening to his stories, and seeing that contagious smile. Venue: Prine concert enchants crowd, performer alike Date: South Bend, IN 9.5.2003 By: Andrew S. Hughes

Review

John Prine finished performing "Lake Marie," the 21st song of the night during his concert on Saturday at the Morris Performing Arts Center, and I wrote, "He looks so happy," in my notebook.

Prine played three more songs to conclude his 2 1/4-hour-long concert, and the grin on his face just kept getting

bigger.

It had been there since the beginning of the concert, and, I suspect, the same could be said for most of the people in the audience on Saturday.

It'd be easy to gush about Prine's performance, and it'd be deserved: He entertained, with his music, with his humor and with his enthusiasm.

Prine and his band Jason Wilber on electric guitar and mandolin and Dave Jacques on upright and electric bass played together with empathy for each other and for the songs.

The trio works without a drummer, and, together, the three of them don't need one. Their individual and collective levels of intensity gave each of the concert's 24 songs powerful and, sometimes, rocking interpretations. Songs such as "Picture Show" and "Lake Marie" possessed just as much drive and force as any rock band could produce with a drummer and bigger stacks of speakers behind it.

On "Lake Marie," for example, the song's arrangement moved between calm and pandemonium as it switched from verse to chorus, with all three musicians singing on the latter. Wilber's guitar solo was distorted but lyrical and structured along definite themes, while Jacques' electric bass roiled underneath Wilbur's solo and Prine's rhythm accompaniment on acoustic guitar.

Prine played the Carter Family's "Bear Creek Blues" in memory of June Carter Cash, giving it a fast, honky-tonkin' ride. Jacques' fingers flew up and down the neck of his electric bass, a flurry of motion on the song, while Wilbur engulfed the neck of his guitar with a fiery country-based solo.

On "Six O'Clock News," a song about an illegitimate child who kills himself when he learns the truth about his birth, the reverb on Wilbur's guitar gave his solo a hollow tone that complemented the feeling of emptiness and waste evoked by the lyrics and Prine's voice.

With its sustained notes, Wilbur's bottleneck slide guitar on "Angel from Montgomery" tapped into the sadness and loneliness conveyed in the lyrics.

"Fish and Whistle" was a spry country dance song featuring Wilbur on mandolin, while Jacques' bowed upright bass underscored the sadness and weight of "Hello in There."

His voice was more ragged than usual -- "Some people can't tell the difference," Prine said because he had been recording for the last week.

"I'm not used to singing every day, except in the shower," he said.

Prine then played a new song, "I'm Just Getting Back," a pretty, softly strummed acoustic song that gradually adds an unobtrusive bass part and low-key chord arpeggios on the electric guitar to its arrangement.

Between songs, Prine told stories and, with a deadpan delivery much of the time, drew laughs for his humorous lines and anecdotes.

"This is a song for a special occasion," he said in introducing "All the Best." "This is for in case you're ever invited to your ex's wedding, and they ask you to sing.

"During "That's the Way the World Goes 'Round," Prine told a hilarious story about how a woman once requested it of him but who had misheard the words "half an inch of water" as "happy enchilada.

"Prine's dry sense of humor permeates his songs, too, but even on one that's as obviously funny as "Dear Abby," he doesn't let on that he knows he's singing something that's funny. His serious, matter-of-fact delivery makes absurd lines sound even more so and gives his sarcastic lines an added level of force by providing less and allowing the audience to fill in from experience.

Early on, Prine said that his voice "sounded like a frog all night" on Friday in Champaign, Ill., and that he thought it might quit altogether on Saturday. It didn't; in fact, it got stronger as he warmed up with the first few songs, and although Prine's voice was gravelly, it didn't detract from the quality of the performance. From start to finish of the concert, Prine's voice -- gravelly or not -- was the instrument of a master storyteller at the top of his game.

No wonder he looked so happy.

Full article at: <http://www.southbendtribune.com/stories/2003/09/08/entertainment.20030908-sbt-MICH-A2-Venue: South Bend IN Preview Date: September 6, 2002 By: ANDREW S. HUGHES>

Preview

Still ready for Prine time

Singer pleased songs 'renewed' for so many seasons

John Prine brings his large cast of characters -- Sam Stone, Donald and Lydia, Grandpa, the late John Garfield and Barbara Lewis Hare Krishna Beauregard, among others to the Morris Performing Arts Center in South Bend on Saturday for a concert with his band and opening act, Pat McLaughlin. full article at:

[http://www.southbendtribune.com/stories/2003/09/05/entertainment.20030905-sbt-MICH-C1-\\_\\_Still\\_\\_.sto](http://www.southbendtribune.com/stories/2003/09/05/entertainment.20030905-sbt-MICH-C1-__Still__.sto)

---

Jam m in 'on Jersey, M urat Centre, Indianapolis, IN  
M ay 10, 2003

By: Bollo

This is the first time I had ever heard of, let alone actually HEARD John Prine. I was there for Gomez. Prine amazed me. Such an amazing musician and storyteller and able to make the crowd in front of him feel at home and like a good friend. Since the show, I've been searching for everything played from that concert, but I would kill for a setlist, or at least a large portion of what was played that night, since my knowledge of Prine song titles is severely lacking. Fish and Whistle, Lake Marie, Sam Stone, Wish You The Best(?). I know these were played, but if anyone can remember what else was played that night, I would be your friend and give you a nickel. A Prine fan for life, contact me at <thebollo@(deletethis)yahoo.com> -Bollo

By: David Lindquist

Following the midday downpour, Saturday's Jammin' on Jersey performances unfolded under dry skies -- although a new battery of rain arrived just as headliners Ben Folds and John Prine finished playing on stages adjacent Murat Centre stages.

A festival audience of 4,000 enjoyed an evening of sustained musical artistry, ranging from local acts to international hopefuls to Folds and Prine.

As songwriters, Folds and Prine focus on common-man frailties.

Prine, who emerged as a prime mover of 1970s folk, applies blunt honesty to his character studies.

Folds, a piano-playing oddity dating to the 1990s modern-rock explosion, tends to romanticize the day-to-day.

There's a world of insight to be gleaned from each. If a ticketholder stood in just the right spot on Saturday, he or she could have heard Folds rhapsodize about cool girl "Kate" on the North Lot stage and then turn to hear Prine lambaste writers to "Dear Abby" on the New Jersey Street stage.

Fortunately, the musicians were good-natured about the inevitable bleed of sound that crept into their performances.

Folds told his crowd that battling the long-distance notes of acoustic-based Prine was preferable to having AC/DC a few hundred yards away.

At one point between songs, Folds even improvised a quick piano solo to match whatever Prine was playing.

Over on New Jersey, Prine simply said, "I didn't hire a piano.

"He didn't bring a drummer, either, and he sang standout ballad "Donald and Lydia" and the ever-poignant post-war anthem "Sam Stone" alone with just an acoustic guitar.

Folds, in solo mode throughout, sacrificed a pristine piano mix for over-amplified bass notes to move people.

---

# KANSAS



· USA: [AL](#) | [CA](#) | [FL](#) | [GA](#) | [IA](#) | [IL](#) | [IN](#) | [KS](#) | [LA](#) | [MO](#) | [NC](#) | [NH](#) | [NJ](#) | [NY](#) | [OH](#) | [OK](#) | [PA](#) | [RI](#) | [TN](#) | [VA](#) | [WV](#)  
· CAN: [NL](#) | [NB](#) | [NS](#) | [ON](#) | [QC](#)

## Lied Center University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS

March 28, 2003

By: Monique Schooler (reprinted by permission)

"There are very few performers left from the 70's who wrote great lyrics and still have something to say. There are still fewer performers who have not sold out to the music industry. One who will not compromise is John Prine..."

Prine took the stage after intermission with only a stand-up bass player and electric guitar player besides himself. The three played for the first hour, performing Prine's best, as well as a few new songs that he says may be out on his next album in a few years. The great stories of people and places we have visited with him flooded the hall and put me in an easy-chair frame of mind. My only criticism of the entire show was that the electric guitar was a little too loud/overpowering at times, but Jason Wilber played beautifully, especially when he played mandolin and slide accompaniments. The stand-up bass is one of those instruments that I miss seeing and hearing in acoustic shows, but David Jacques played it masterfully, as well as his electric bass.

In the second hour of the show, Wilber and Jacques left the stage and Prine did a very long solo set. He told all the great tales of Jesus, veterans, old people, fishing, lost love, Grandpa, loneliness and Dear Abby. His songs can bring a tear to your eye remembering all the people you too have known in these verses, as well as the hard times his music has gotten you through. He is still a true master of words. It was also ironic that his songs written about another war in another land far, far away still rang as true last night as they did over 30 years ago when they were written.

In the last half hour, the band returned and performed some of Prine's more up-tempo tunes. A rocking good time and surprising sound for only a three-man band. Prine also invited the audience sing one, which most had been doing all night from where I was sitting. After the usual standing ovation, the band returned to play a few more numbers (the last was with the help of R.B. Morris) to a very appreciative crowd.

If you are a John Prine fan, get out there and see him before it's too late. It's well worth whatever it takes to get there. It's too bad that TV and radio won't play him more than they do, but it only endears him more to the true Prine supporters. It's fantastic to see a guy who made many albums, but had very few hits or acclamations from the music industry. It's fantastic to see that he can still make a living at it, and can still hold his head high. He can still fill large venues, still write poignant songs and sing them with a voice that sounds better than ever. He had not sold out to the establishment, never will and we love him for it!

By: Pam and Fred

We had first row seats to a most unbelievable concert. We've been fans for 30 years+---and we brought our teenage kids who enjoyed it (almost) as much as we did. I had more fun at this concert than I have in decades. My oldest son met John who was walking by himself downtown an hour before the concert, introduced himself. John was gracious as could be. I LOVED Lake Marie, and cannot get that song out of my head. I can hardly wait to see him again----

By: Cal Meyer

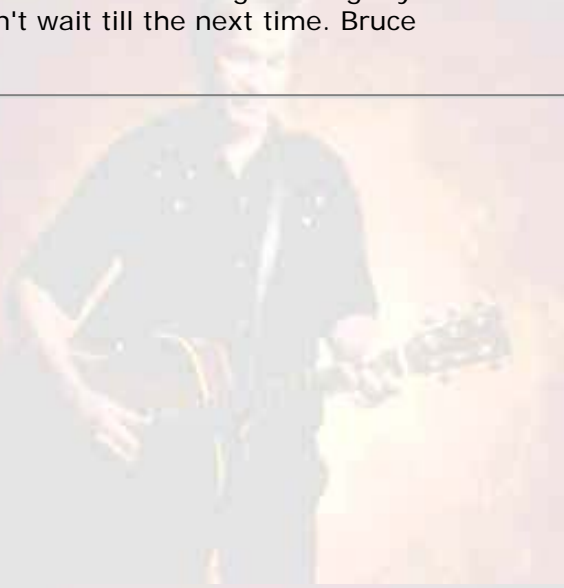
Wow!!! An exuberant concert that held only its own secrets by the master himself. The opening act was that I am sure will only become a great solstice of the music. May I add that for a birthday gift, this was one that will be remembered for years to come, only wishing every birthday will take place at a John Prine place of confining music to the ear!! WOW!!!!

By: Bruce McCune

I was at the Lawrence concert, it was fantastic, lot's of songs I didn't expect to hear. I don't have a play list but I enjoyed "The Missing Years" and I'm really looking forward to getting the song about being on the other side of town on some recording. The venue was small and the sound was great, my friends who had never seen John liked the "lake Marie" song the most. I thought it was interesting that John played "Flag Decal", he said it was a song

that was growing in popularity again. I didn't know that but my store sells these flag decals and I always tell everyone that these things won't get you into heaven anymore; I think they all think I'm nuts. We had a great time and can't wait till the next time. Bruce

---





# LOUISIANA



· USA : [AL](#) | [CA](#) | [FL](#) | [GA](#) | [IA](#) | [IL](#) | [IN](#) | [KS](#) | [LA](#) | [MO](#) | [NC](#) | [NH](#) | [NJ](#) | [NY](#) | [OH](#) | [OK](#) | [PA](#) | [RI](#) | [TN](#) | [VA](#) | [WV](#)  
· CAN : [NL](#) | [NB](#) | [NS](#) | [ON](#) | [QC](#)

[Shreveport - Baton Rouge](#)

Civic Theatre, Shreveport, LA

December 13, 2003

By: Neal Golden

Well another John Prine concert experience in the books and as always John did not disappoint. I was shocked at the small crowd - I have seen John around 10 times all over the country and have never seen a crowd so small. John did not notice or seem to care - he did come out to the front of the stage once to say he couldn't see anyone and he wanted to make sure that we were there. He played pretty much the same set list as the last year but added I saw Mommy kissing Santa Clause at the end of the show and my girlfriend said he had the perfect voice for that song - and he does. He played 5-6 songs on the encore and didn't seem to want it to end - even took off his Jacket - I have never seen him do that at a show before. The band was tight as always - I really could listen to Jason play the Mandolin and bottleneck all night and Dave is a awesome bassist - oh yeah Johns picking was as good as always. I also noticed his speaking voice sounded really bad - sounded like pre throat surgery - like it hurt him to speak - I hope he is ok - his singing was totally unaffected. Im excited he is coming back to Bass Hall in Ft Worth in April - I will be there - this maybe the best Theatre in N America - acoustically perfect - have seen John there once before - you can here the pick hit the strings - beautiful. Finally thanks to all the shushers around me who also did not appreciate the extremely loud and drunk lady who sat two rows in front of me - i tuned her out but she pissed off a lot of people - oh well makes for part of the story. Go See John Prine - you will enjoy the show!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Neal

By: KC

My wife and I enjoyed the hell out of John's talents... songs, voice and wit were all just great. We hope to see him "Live" again in '04.

By: EveningSky

After hobbling to her car and driving to Shreveport with two broken feet, my cousin, Barbara Lewis, was hoping to hear her song, but it didn't happen. He didn't sing it. Nonetheless, she and I both agreed it was the best concert we'd ever seen (I qualified my opinion with "since I saw Aretha Franklin at the Kennedy Center in 1989," but Barb wasn't at that concert). Prine's speaking voice sounded a trifle laryngitic but there was nothing wrong with his singing, song after song, hour after hour! I couldn't believe he sang so much for so long in one concert. Of course, we all sang along with the ones we knew and joined in the refrains of the songs we were hearing for the first time. It's just that kind of music. We feel at home with it instantly. I'm looking forward to catching the next concert within 100 miles of me.

By: Winston Bode

Hey, I went to see John Prine in Shreveport Saturday night. This was my birthday present from my wife. What a present. 2 1/2 hours of live John Prine. He looked older and wiser but he sang all the old songs I listened to when I got hooked. He also sang a few new ones and it's good to know he has a new album coming out. Thanks John, I hope to see you again live someday.

By: Jim C

I have listened to his music for many years and finally had a chance to see him live. Wow! What a great show and he turned out to be a great entertainer as he told some great stories and had some good one liners. Talk about getting your monies worth, I don't know if it was because it was his last show for the year or what, but he played for 2 1/2 hours!

By: Burke from Nacogdoches, Texas

It was a hoot...not a large crowd...a couple of loud drunks and talkers....But, the main thing... Prine delivered the same magic he has always provided in his songs. He played a little of everything and covered all the emotional bases. Best concert I've seen in awhile. It's nice when an artist can take you back, capture the present and throw in a few new songs to boot. Neat guy, great band, Thanks John...you are the real thing!!!

By: suzanne

First Prine concert ever, went with my hubby who is a HUGE fan, I was prepared to be polite and clap when needed top but after the first song I was amazed at this man, what a performer, unbelievable, truly and great artist of our modern times, I have seen just about all the greats but this ranks way up there with the best of them, a wonderful humorous/sad caring performance, made me want to cry a couple of times and them giggle like crazy, what a person, his back up band is great to, it was 2 1/2 hours of pure enjoyment, one that will stay with a long long time, will go back to see him whenever I get the chance, truly wonderful, by the way I think we had the same annoying drunk at this concert too that was seen at some of the other concerts, I wanted to smack her over the head but someone else did it for me!!!!!!well worth going to , i recommend him for all age groups, 16 and over,,,,,take your kids people, maybe they could learn something from such an insightful and warm funny man, we don't get too much of that these days!!!!!!

---

[Shreveport - Baton Rouge](#)

---

Centroplex Theater, Baton Rouge, Louisiana  
December 12, 2003

By: Glynn DeLaughter

The concert was one of my Christmas presents to myself. It was a great gift to see John Prine, it had been a while. I was very pleased with his performance. The steel guitar and the bass compliment JP's style of music. I have never met John Prine but I am very connected to him through his music. I saw my first JP concert in 1976 and have been a big fan ever since. I feel that knowing JP's lyrics and music has a positive effect on me every day. The concert was great.

By: M indy

What a smashing performance. My husband turned me on to John Prine about ten years ago and been a fan ever since. This is the second time I see Mr. Prine live and I wanted to follow him to Sheveport La. Mr. Prine make me want to live life to the fullest. Thanks John Prine!!!!!!

By: C indy

An enthusiastic audience got a powerhouse performance last evening! The crowd didn't want to let John go, but he provided us with a memorable performance. All the favorites were there, along with some new songs. Alternately funny and touching, it was an evening to remember. John's charisma is still going strong. Come back soon, John, Baton Rouge loves you!

By: N uth in ' Special

This past Sunday night in Sarasota, Florida, was only my second live John Prine concert. I promised myself that I was not going to act like a giddy teenager this time. I was going to sit still in my seat, I was not going to yell "woo-hooo!!!" when he sang "Angel from Montgomery", and above all else, I would will my feet to be still. I lied to myself. I lied to myself big time. I must have been out of my mind. I am in complete amazement at the music that comes out of those three wonderfully talented musicians. Of course, if you don't know John's music there's no way to explain it, and if you do know it, there's no need to. First, there's Dave and Jason. Dave practically makes love to a stand up bass and can bring tears to your eyes with his smooth outpouring, and Jason rips the hide off of everything he plays with such expertise its almost scary. The old man? What can I say? He is, in my humble opinion, the greatest! I only wish I had known about him years ago.

---

[Shreveport - Baton Rouge](#)

---

# MISSOURI



· USA: [AL](#) | [CA](#) | [FL](#) | [GA](#) | [IA](#) | [IL](#) | [IN](#) | [KS](#) | [LA](#) | [MO](#) | [NC](#) | [NH](#) | [NJ](#) | [NY](#) | [OH](#) | [OK](#) | [PA](#) | [RI](#) | [TN](#) | [VA](#) | [WV](#)  
· CAN: [NL](#) | [NB](#) | [NS](#) | [ON](#) | [QC](#)

## Touhill Performing Arts Center

Oct 25, 2003

by Clancy

If John Prine ever comes to your city, don't skip the concert! Remember, in New Orleans, when I went to the Eric Bogle concert and Steve went to the John Prine concert, Eric called out "Hey, Steve, I wish I could go to John Prine's concert instead"!

John Prine was magnificent, one of the very best concert I have ever been to, and you know I've been to a lot! He played straight through, no breaks, no stopping for two hours and 2 hours and 45 minutes, the encore was six or seven songs long, and I think he would have continued to play all night if the theater hadn't started flashing the lights. You have never, ever seen a performer so into what he was doing, it really was a night to remember. All John Prine concerts are amazing and always fabulous, but this one was just the best. He was just so happy, his youngest brother was touring with him, they were having the time of their lives, and it showed. He invited his brother onto the stage to sing "Paradise" with him, and he was really good, too, played the guitar and sang a few verses.

The new Touhill Performing Arts Center at the University of Missouri St. Louis, is beautiful, very modern, very open, walls of glass, and not a bad seat in the house, acoustics were great. It's hard to find, but Steve has built in radar for that so we were the only people who didn't get lost. John Prine asked if anyone had a hard time finding the place, mentioned how he got lost twice, once checking out the hall and again when he came for the concert, how hard it was to find, and how, even when you can see it, you still can't get to it. He then said "it's real pretty once you get here, though.....I had to add that in case the owner's here." I asked Steve if the floors were white marble, he said no, terrazzo, and I had to listen to a 10 minute description of the process of laying terrazzo, but somehow, after Steve's surgery and all we've been through, it didn't drive me as crazy as it once did, or maybe it was the second vodka martini I had, but we got along fine. Todd Snyder opened for John Prine, and he was really good, too, very young, all original songs, and he had a great stage patter. He said "I just love doing this, I don't care how many people show up, how far it is to the next town, I just love it"! His first public appearance was at a songwriters open mike night. You had to have 3 songs and they had to be original. Since that was exactly how many songs he'd written, it was perfect. He memorized the name of the performer just before him, so he'd know when he was next up. He heard the guy's name, Aaron Allen, and when the guy started singing, he said "Hey, wait just a minute here, I know that song! It's on one of my Willie Nelson CD's, that's not right! They're supposed to be original songs, he's cheating!" He went up to the bartender and said, "Willie Nelson sings that song!" And the bartender said "That's right."....."Gulp", says Todd, "can I be moved further down the program?" After the show, he went up to Aaron and said he wanted to be just like him, write songs, sing professionally, Aaron said, I heard you, you sounded OK, everything rhymed." Todd said, but he wanted to be really good. "Oh, that's different", said Allen, just live your life so you can pack up and be out of town in 15 minutes. And, live your life so, every once in a while, you have to do just that. You'll have plenty of song material in you." He dedicated the next song "to Aaron Allen, in whatever town he's 15 minutes away from tonight", played for 45 minutes and was great. Towards the end, he said he was originally from Texas, but lived with a girl in California for a while. It didn't work out, they had different values, like, she had goals and stuff. He came home one night, she was standing at the door tapping her foot, he said he'd been over at a buddy's, playing the guitar. She says "You and that damn guitar, you now what you need? A JOB! We're flat broke, and I know how we can get some money. We can take that guitar of yours down to the pawn shop, sell it, and get \$100." He looks at her and thinks, "I can be outta here in 15 minutes!" John Prine came out, to thunderous applause, as always. He sang just about every song he'd ever written, at one point, several people called out requests, "Paradise", "Illegal Smile", "Sam Stone", John stops and deadpans, "Fortunately, I know them all." He told us how his brother taught him 3 chords, gave him some records to learn to finger pick and a June Carter record, so he could see what a great song sounded like. He dedicated the next song to June Carter and Johnny Cash. He bent over, put his guitar right next to the amp and really rocked the room. When he sang "Your Flag Decal Won't Get You Into Heaven Anymore", he said he wrote it in 1967, but didn't make a record til early 1970's, he almost didn't include it, as he thought maybe wild eyed patriotism would die out and it'd be no longer timely....."Guess I was wrong"! He did all our favorites and treated us to a few new songs he'd written, and he has a new CD coming out soon! Great news. He really put his heart in it, Jason and Dave took

a break, but John never stopped for a second, just went right on playing and singing for almost three hours non-stop, it was truly incredible. I really think he had as great a time as the audience did, really, really fabulous concert. Go see John Prine if you ever get the chance, you won't be sorry! Clancy

By: Mike Paff

#### Set List

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. Spanish Pipedream                                 | 17. Sam Stone                              |
| 2. Your Flag Decal Won't Get You into Heaven Anymore | 18. Bear Creek Blues                       |
| 3. Six O'clock News                                  | 19. That's Alright by Me*                  |
| 4. Souvenirs   | 20. Ain't Hurtin' Nobody                   |
| 5. Fish & Whistle                                    | 21. Sins of Memphisto                      |
| 6. The Late John Garfield Blues                      | 22. Hello in There                         |
| 7. Grandpa was a Carpenter                           | 23. Lake Marie                             |
| 8. I'm Just Getting By*                              |  |
| 9. All the Best                                      |  |
| 10. Angel From Montgomery                            | Encore                                     |
| 11. You Got Gold                                     |  |
| 12. Crazy As a Loon*                                 | 24. Christmas in Prison                    |
| 13. Dear Abby  | 25. Illegal Smile                          |
| 14. That's the Way the World Goes 'Round             | 26. Please Don't Bury Me                   |
| 15. Bottomless Lake                                  | 27. Paradise (w/Billy Prine & Todd Snider) |
| 16. The Other Side of Town*                          |  |

(\* ) New song

By: Steve Bleckler

This was actually my first Prine show (finally!) although I have enjoyed Prine's music for many years. I must say that my friend and I were totally blown away. This was nearly three hours (including Todd Snider) of pure enjoyment and awe-filled entertainment. Prine played just about everything with the gift of a musician and storyteller, something his songs always portray. Although his throat was a little scratchy at times, all the songs were incredibly well done. I won't reiterate the set list but it was nearly all my favorites and then some. Only after I left could I think of others that he didn't play, such as Great Compromise, A Good Time, Mexican Home or Dear John... but the great new songs more than made up for that. And with the extensive catalog Prine has, it's hard to please everyone. Great to hear old forgotten classics like Bottomless Lake and Please Don't Bury Me. This was by far the best concert I have seen in years. Thank you John for continuing to tour so that I could have the chance to get that wonderful memory lodged in my head for years to come. "You've got gold, gold inside of you..." and "I guess I wish you all the best"

By: Kilgore Trout

In response to "Donna Donna's" claim that the fans were cold in St. Louis. I've seen John in other places where the fans were much more reserved. I thought the show had all the atmosphere of a typical Prine concert. The only thing "stuffy" was the venue's staff. They are used to hosting classical music and jazz and crap like that, so they aren't familiar with people trying to sneak beer bottles and weed into the auditorium. I'd say St. Louis fans always give John a warm reception.

By: DonnaDonna aka Donna Palmer

(added by the webmistress from a personal letter from DonnaDonna, because it was good and she always loves a Prine concert, even if she has to drive a 1000 miles and disrobe to see it)

I'm glad Chris and Mungo are okay and keepin' in touch with ya. Whew!

Everything about the St. Louis show was great...! A weird kind of venue though, gotten used to the older rehab'd theatres, so this new on campus modern style was kinda "cold" and so was the crowd in my opinion. They were warm enough toward John, the boys and Todd, but no hecklers? what's that? Imao My daughter Sara jumped up a couple of times when he'd start playin' something and turn around to those behind us and say, "Sorry, thought I was at a Prine concert". lol Todd did the coolest thing. During his set he asked, "are there any Prine Shriners here tonight?" Of course we whooped and hollered (and felt quite privileged I might add to know what he was talkin' about and those quiet, big ole goofy people didn't). Then he went on to say, "I'm a Prine fan myself, but I have a

friend here tonight, Crusher. This is his 70th Prine show, I love you Crusher, hell I love all of you"! How freakin' cool was that! Of course we whooped and hollered again. lol...Crusher said someone behind him said that they couldn't believe that crap about 70 shows and he turned around and said that he agreed with them that it was bullshit! lol...again

So, Todd was great...stories and all....then he was signin' stuff at a table next to OhBoy merchandise table. I had brought him a Memphis Flyer, our alternative newspaper. When I was offerin' it to him, he kept tryin' to sign it and I told him, it was for him, knowin' he hadn't seen one in awhile...that was funny, not used to gettin' stuff, used to signin' stuff....such a nice boy....giggle

John and the boys, what can I say? Heard the new song, another new song and another new song. He said they've been in the studio recording another album..whoohooo.. One thing I noticed different this time was that he talked more during his solo thingy than sang. Not complainin', not one little bit...but it just goes to show ya that seein' him more than once in a blue moon during a tour makes a difference.

By: Greg Potter

John Prine at Touhill, in St.Louis was AWESOME. He played for 2 1/2 hours, and gave a finale` with 'Paradise' and had little brother Billy on stage playing it with him. Everybody I talked to, and heard from after the show had a fantastic time, and really enjoyed his music and crowd pleasing stories. Thank-you for the good work for us Prine Shriners...=)

### PRINE DELIVERS WITTY, ENGAGING SET

By: Ellen Futterman

Dear Abby,

Perhaps your readers would be less angst-ridden if they took in a John Prine concert. Saturday night he delivered a winning show at the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center.

What's that you ask, am I exaggerating?

Well, it's true, Prine's raspy vocal style isn't going to be mistaken for, say, "American Idol's" Clay Aiken. But the humanity in Prine's songs (and yes, Abby, they are his songs) is so authentic and engaging, it's hard not to connect. His storytelling lyrics - sometimes poignant, sometimes playful - help create an intimacy with audiences that only a few of today's artists have managed. And his guitar playing isn't too shabby, either.

Dressed in all black and flanked by a crack two-man band, Prine opened his 2 1/2-hour show with "Spanish Pipedream," better known as the "blow up your TV" song. The anti-war "Your Flag Decal Won't Get You Into Heaven Anymore," which Prine explained he wrote in the summer of '68 but didn't put on a record until 1971, still resonates. "I thought all this paranoid patriotism would go out of style," Prine said. "But I guess I was wrong."

Drawing from a 30-plus-year career, he included wry crowd-pleasers such as "Six O'Clock News," "Souvenirs" (dedicated to his buddy, the late Steve Goodman) and "Fish and Whistle," as well as "I'm Just Getting By," one of several new songs performed.

At 57, Prine is graying at the temples and paunchy around the middle, but he's still energetic. A solo-acoustic set featured the stirring "Sam Stone," about a drug-addicted Vietnam vet with the words, "there's a hole in daddy's arm/where all the money goes." Oh, and he didn't forget you "Dear Abby," his lighthearted reflection on your advice and, dare we say, its irony.

Being a Prine show, there were lots of laughs. Some came when he asked if anyone had trouble finding the new Touhill center. "We got lost not once but twice," he said. "What was really frustrating was that we could see it, but still couldn't find our way."

As local venues go, the Touhill should become a popular performance space with singer-songwriters (though food and drinks are not allowed inside the auditorium). From the back of the orchestra section, evocative songs such as "Angel From Montgomery," "Hello In There" and "Lake Marie" didn't suffer in clarity or in their ability to elicit an emotional response.

Adding to the evening's success was Prine's band, small but significant. Jason Wilber provided stellar lead guitar, slide guitar and mandolin. Dave Jacques worked effortlessly among the standup bass, electric bass and cello.

For the last song of the encore, Prine summoned from the wings guitar-playing Billy Prine - "the best baby brother ever" - and charismatic opening act Todd Snider, who won over the near-capacity crowd with an acoustic-rock set of clever songs. Together, they performed "Paradise," a gritty ballad Prine wrote for his father about a place in Kentucky.

So there you have it Abby. He left us with "Paradise." It was a fitting ending. <http://www.stltoday.com>

By: Skinny McClure

They couldn't have picked a better performer than John Prine to break in the fabulous new Touhill Theatre. If you ever get a chance to see a show there, don't miss it. It was filled up for John's show. Needless to say, the show was awesome. I've seen John four times (first time in the late 70s) and this was by far his most energetic, most

heartfelt performance. My first show since his cancer battle. His voice is as good as ever and playing was fantastic. The acoustics on the first few electric numbers was a bit off, but soundman got the problem fixed. Jason Wilber was stellar as always and Jacques was great too. Here's the setlist: 1."Spanish Pipedream" 2."Your Flag Decal..." (with some interesting commentary on "paranoid patriotism") 3. "Six O'clock News" (guy in a Harley jacket beside me was weeping like a baby) 4. "Souvenirs" 5. "Fish & Whistle" 6. "Late John Garfield Blues" 7. "Grandpa was a Carpenter" 8. "I'm Just Getting' By" (GREAT new song) 9. "All the Best" 10. "Angel from Montgomery" (as done on Souvenirs album) SOLO SET: 11. "You Got gold" 12. "Crazy as a Loon" 13. "Dear Abby" 14. "That's the way that the World Goes Round" 15. "Bottomless Lake" 16. "Other side of Town" 17. "Sam Stone" W/BAND 18. "Bear Creek Blues" (dedicated to Johnny and June) 19. "Alright By Me" 20. "Ain't Hurtin' Nobody" (to the late, great Howie E.) 21. "Sins of Memphisto" 22. "Hello in There" 23. "Lake Marie" (John and Jason both busted strings) E: "Christmas in Prison" "Illegal Smile" "Please Don't Bury Me" "Paradise" (the highlight of the show. John's brother Billy came out and played guitar and sang a verse. Todd Snider on mandolin) Another great show. St. Louis loves John and hopes this is a stop on any future tour!! Good coverage too...a positive review in the Post-Dispatch, Riverfront Times and some guy from Dirty Linen magazine was there too.

By: Bob

A very big "Thank You" to Mssrs. Snider and Prine for a night of musical magic. In his opening act played and sang splendidly and reminded me why I like this young man's music so much. I had seen him several years and a few albums ago in Memphis (at the Folk Fest) and he has only gotten better with time. It was also very generous of him to meet the fans between acts to sign autographs and chat. The real treat was yet to come. Mr. Prine and his accompanists took the stage and regaled us with about two hours of memories that shook me to the core. The playing was superb, the singing was beyond that and the fact that I was with a very dear friend made the evening unforgettable. He played the standards that everyone expected and added several new songs that I hope will be available very soon as they will rank with his classics. I hope that he chooses to come back to St. Louis soon - the facility was awesome (even if it was a bit hard to find - sorry John) and would be a great place to see him again.

---



# NORTH CAROLINA



· USA: [AL](#) | [CA](#) | [FL](#) | [GA](#) | [IA](#) | [IL](#) | [IN](#) | [KS](#) | [LA](#) | [MO](#) | [NC](#) | [NH](#) | [NJ](#) | [NY](#) | [OH](#) | [OK](#) | [PA](#) | [RI](#) | [TN](#) | [VA](#) | [WV](#)  
· CAN: [NL](#) | [NB](#) | [NS](#) | [ON](#) | [QC](#)

[Raleigh](#) | [Greensboro](#)

## Regency Park Amphitheatre - Raleigh, NC

August 22, 2003

By: Mag

Tremendous show, great venue. Crowd seemed somewhat split in who they were there to see (Nancy or John). By the end of the night, it seemed they'd all be coming back to see John Prine. Great, great show. Hopefully this will become a yearly stop.

By: K Powell

Drove up from Florence, SC to see John and Nanci. Although we really like Nanci's music, we didn't pay thirty nine dollars to hear her political views. But she does have the right. Also disappointed with the performance of the partial Blue Moon Orch. Leanne is definitely no bass player. But enjoyed it anyway. John Prine was fantastic!!! We would drive a thousand miles to him again. It was the first time seeing him live after listening and playing his songs for twenty years. It was a very memorable night in North Carolina,,,,,John, please come back soon!!!!

---

## The War Memorial Auditorium - Greensboro, NC

May 3, 2003

By: DB

I have seen John twice now. I was lucky enough to see him in NYC at Town Hall. A great venue and a wonderful crowd. He was on tour with Iris at the time and it was truly a magical night. Too bad I can't say the same for Greensboro. John was great. His band was great, and Todd Snider was great. Too bad the crowd was so bad. When will people stop yelling out song requests? The man has been doing this for decades. I would think people would understand that the man has a lineup prepared for the show. He is a pro, not a bar act. Let him do his show. At one point, some idiot was thrown out of the balcony, for God knows what, and the balcony began to cheer and clap. Okay, they are glad the guy got thrown out, but Mr. Prine was right in the middle of a song. On top of that, there was some guy going "WOOOO!" anytime there was empty space in a song. I am not, by any means, a "please sit down you are ruining the show" kind of guy. However, it did take the better part of the first hour of the show for these numskulls to settle down and just listen to the man we were all there to see. Once they did settle in the show was fantastic. John's voice was strong and resonate. His performance of 'Angel From Montgomery' was magical. He was funny and engaging the entire night. It was good to see the crowd didn't bother him as much as it bothered me. All in all, it is always a pleasure to sit and listen to John Prine sing his songs. Even with the annoyance of the crowd I would go see John at that same venue again. More prepared, perhaps, to tune out those around me.

By: GKRoberts

My husband and I attended this concert... WOW!!! John Prine is a VERY talented musician.... I have always loved his songs but after seeing him in concert... I have a new respect for his music.... make that MUSIC!!!!

By: Lem esa



understands that life tends to be a rollercoaster.

By: M A Tucker

AWESOME! Enjoyed Todd Snyder (opening act), John really put on a GREAT show. What else can I say but AWESOME. Well worth the trip from Charlotte to Greensboro. Waiting for another Prine concert in Carolina.

John Prine -- emotional sharpshooter John Prine

By: Grant Britt

John Prine

John Prine is one of folk's most beloved cynics. The Chicago-based singer's idea of that genre was not the warm and fuzzy pabulum most artists of that ilk in the mainstream arena exhibited. Prine's version of folk took a hard-nosed, unblinking look at society. On his self-titled 1971 debut album, his song "Sam Stone" introduced a Vietnam vet whose story was all too common but seldom made the mainstream press. "There's a hole in Daddy's arm where all the money goes," Prine snarled, describing a vet feeding a nasty habit while his children ran around in other people's clothes. There was no happy ending for Prine's hero -- he "traded his house that he bought on the GI bill for a flag-draped casket on a local hero's hill."

Todd Snider

"Paradise" was just as bleak, a condemnation of the coal company that made a ruin of a child's hometown and took a toll on his memories as well. "Illegal Smile" was the high point of the album, a whimsical ode to marijuana in which Prine reveals that when life beats him down, he had the "key to escape reality." Ironically, Prine says today that the song was not about pot smoking, but about his world-view, wherein he smiles at things that nobody else does. Nevertheless, it became an anthem for a generation of pot heads.

Though Prine's work didn't set well with the establishment, it did win him a cult following as well as critical acclaim and support from his peers. The Everly Brothers recorded "Paradise." "Hello in There," a gentle lecture on respecting, or at least acknowledging your elders, was recorded by Bette Midler and Joan Baez. Another song from the album, "Angel From Montgomery," was performed so much in concert by Bonnie Raitt that many thought the song was hers.

Kris Kristofferson was an early mentor, instrumental in getting Prine his first record deal on Atlantic. But by '75, after the release of *Diamonds in the Rough* and *Sweet Revenge*, Prine did an abrupt about face from the folk/country direction he'd been pursuing. *Common Sense* was produced by Muscle Shoals session man and Booker T and the MG's guitarist Steve Cropper, and was straight-ahead rock. Prine even covered Chuck Berry's "You Never Can Tell." But Prine's sardonic sense of humor remained intact, as he demonstrated on "Come Back to Us Barbara Lewis, Hare Krishna Beauregard," the tale of a hometown girl who took the free-thinking mantas of the '60s a wee bit too seriously, ending up "selling bibles at the airports/ Buying Quaaludes on the phone/ She's a shut-in without a home/ God save her, please/ She's nailed her knees/ To some drugstore parking lot." Despite his good intentions, Prine begins to doubt his own motives in saving the addled flower child. "I gotta shake myself and wonder/ Why she even bothers me/ For if heartaches were commercials/ We'd all be on T.V."

Prine kept releasing records, but he has said it was like working a potato factory. Sony was set to offer him a deal after he had left Atlantic and Asylum records, he decided to start his own label, Oh Boy, in the early '80s.

Prine says that the move was satisfying to him both personally and professionally because he now knows where each record he makes is going. "If you want to know what's going on with what you do for a living," he told *Performing Songwriter*, "then it's worth it ... every day. You're a success from the get-go."

In the liner notes to *Souvenirs*, a collection of re-recordings of classic Prine songs released in 2000, he reveals that age has not mellowed him. He states that the songs within were originally intended for European release only, but after listening to the songs, he decided to release them in the U.S. because he would like to be popular there as well. With 17 albums to his credit and his own successful record company marketing up and comers like Todd Snider, it seems that John Prine has found a way to make music the way he wants to- bitter, biting and highly entertaining.

Todd Snider's guide to celebrity stalking



In order to succeed in the music business, it helps to have stalking skills. It worked for indie folk singer Todd Snider, a self-admitted John Prine stalker who had a formula for hunting down his idol. "If you read the liner notes of some records of people that you like, you could figure out who their friends are and get a little closer to them and often spend time with the people who are their friends," Snider explained last week in a phone interview from the road.

Snider noticed that Keith Sykes kept popping up on the thank you sections on records by Prine and Jerry Jeff Walker, who he lists as his favorite guys. But Snider was having trouble running down an address for Sykes until he got a little help from home.

"My dad was in construction and he was working in Memphis, and he remembered that Keith Sykes was one of those people I was obsessed with. He overheard this waitress say that her sister was married to him so he called me up and said 'I know where Keith Sykes lives,' and I went to his house and stayed there for three years."

Sykes proved to be a valuable friend, helping Snider make contacts in the music business. And one of those contacts was John Prine. "Anytime John was there, I was just always in the corner waiting for someone to need something," Snider recalls. "And then he recorded *The Missing Years* in Memphis, and he said 'let's get that kid, that blonde kid, he can maybe be our runner.' And I still hadn't played him any songs. And then about a week into him doing the record where I was the runner he came to one of my shows. And then he saw me sing, and I guess a year later or so he asked me to open for him."

What Prine saw in the young performer was a sardonic sense of humor not unlike his own and a laconic delivery along the lines of Arlo Guthrie. Snider readily admits the Arlo link. "Yeah, in the songs, and in the singing and in the playing -- all through my show, I'm real influenced by Arlo. I told my booking agent I wanted to be the Arlo Guthrie of the Phish scene. I always loved him. Him and John and Jerry Jeff and Ramblin' Jack (Elliot) all are my main people, and they've all been influenced by each other."

Snider first attracted critical attention with "Talkin' Seattle Grunge Rock Blues," a satire on alt-rock done in a folk/rock style. The song appeared on his first release in '94, *Songs for the Daily Planet* on Jimmy Buffett's Margaritaville Records. The cut was not planned to be included on the album, but one Canadian critic became obsessed with the tune and lobbied so hard for it's inclusion that Buffett representatives added it to the album.

But the fact that Buffett liked Snider enough to sign him to his label didn't mean that the two were buddies. Buffett once chunked most of the contents of a bowl of fruit at the singer backstage just before Snider was about to open for the Parrothead leader because he refused to perform his hit on the show. Snider gleefully recalls the incident. "He sure did, and I had a white shirt on too. I was about to go on, and he was hitting me with these strawberries." Snider says the fruit attack was brought on by a fit of stubbornness. "I was more in this place where I didn't want someone telling me what to play. It was probably on the set list until he told me it had to be on the set list. And then I decided I didn't want it on." But things worked out for both. In the middle of his attack, Buffett started to laugh and then apologized. "Which is why I think that's how we stayed friends that day he threw fruit at me. I just sat there and ducked," Snider laughs. "Sometimes its funny how you have this working relationship that develops into a friendship when you let go on each other for the first time." Although Snider is now signed to Prine's Oh Boy label, he and Buffett have remained friends -- "just three days ago I sang 'Volcano' with him at the Nashville concert," Snider relates.

But Prine was Snider's main man, and he was always working to be closer to him. After being Prine's runner for the Nashville sessions, Snider could get backstage at any Prine concert. Although he says that Prine doesn't talk much, the two exchanged pleasantries. When Snider told Prine that he had landed a record contract, "he said when it comes out, open for me," the singer remembers. "So I opened for him and at the time I was being managed by some guy in California, and over time I just gravitated toward him and his team, and as soon as I got locked in to doing those shows I started talking to his manger like maybe you should be my manager."

Signed to the label, Snider found that Prine was willing to listen to his songs and offer advice. "The main thing is that he said is be real simple. And that's one of the hardest things to do. You write 20 songs and you trying to pick which ones you're really still gonna like in 10 years -- that's something that's always been really hard for me." Snider says that's one of the things he gravitated to Prine for. "I need somebody who I think is just really great to help me decide which of these 20 things I should leave at my house. 'Cause I'm one of those mood swing people, so I either think I should put out all of it, because it's all great, or I should go home because it's all s\*&t."

So far, Snider's choices have been successful. He put out four records before singing with Prine. His first two for Prine's Oh Boy label, *Happy To Be Here* and *New Connection* reveal him worthy of the Arlo/Prine legacy. However, Snider is still not satisfied. "I feel like I've done two and a half sounds," he says of his last two records. "None of them were as original as I wanted them to be." The artist had said in the past that his aim was to mix Guy Clark Texas with Sam and Dave Memphis to sound like Rod Stewart. His latest, *Todd Snider Live Near Truths and Hotel Rooms*, out May 13, is "my favorite thing I've done," says the artist.

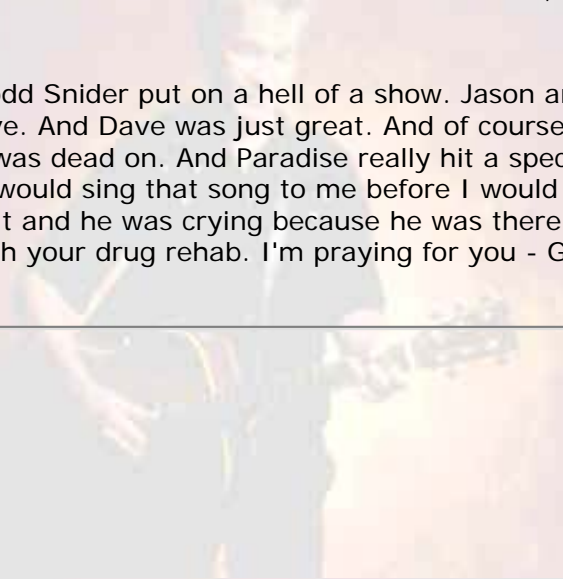
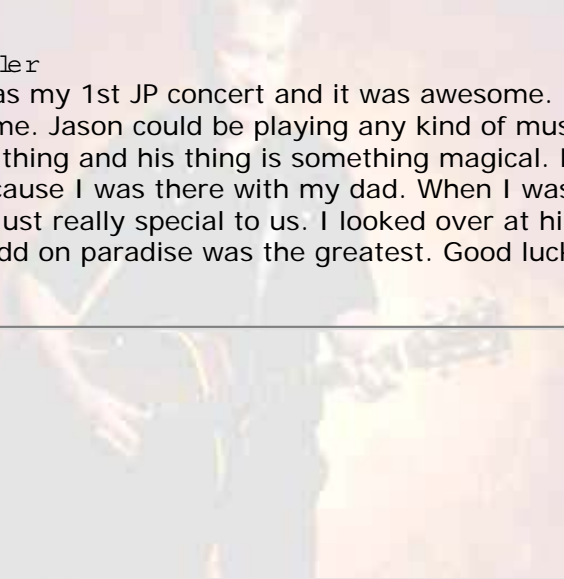
But for all his success, Snider still feels that the top rung of the songwriting ladder is already occupied- and will likely stay that way. "I'm a realist -- or try to be," laughs Snider. "My goal in life was to be as good as John Prine, but he wrote 'Sam Stone' first. So that's just not gonna happen -- it's already too late." John Prine and Todd Snider

I TRAVELED FROM CHARLESTON, WV TO SEE MY HERO AND I HAVE SEEN A LOT OF SHOWS MORE THAN 50 OVER A 30 YEAR SPAN.HE CAN ENTERTAIN AS GOOD AS ANYBODY I HAVE EVER SEEN. THANK YOU JOHN, JIM STEVENS

By: Tyler

This was my 1st JP concert and it was awesome. He and Todd Snider put on a hell of a show. Jason and Dave are awesome. Jason could be playing any kind of music I believe. And Dave was just great. And of course Johnny just did his thing and his thing is something magical. His voice was dead on. And Paradise really hit a special chord with me because I was there with my dad. When I was little he would sing that song to me before I would go to bed and it was just really special to us. I looked over at him during it and he was crying because he was there with me. JP and Todd on paradise was the greatest. Good luck Todd with your drug rehab. I'm praying for you - Go JP

---



# NEW HAMPSHIRE



· USA : [AL](#) | [CA](#) | [FL](#) | [GA](#) | [IA](#) | [IL](#) | [IN](#) | [KS](#) | [LA](#) | [MO](#) | [NC](#) | [NH](#) | [NJ](#) | [NY](#) | [OH](#) | [OK](#) | [PA](#) | [RI](#) | [TN](#) | [VA](#) | [WV](#)  
· CAN : [NL](#) | [NB](#) | [NS](#) | [ON](#) | [QC](#)

Capitol Center for the Arts - Concord N.H.  
April 26, 2003



(click to view larger)  
John Prine & Todd Snider  
April 26, 2003  
photo courtesy © rlawson

By: Mark

I've seen John perform once every decade since the early seventies, and I'd rate this my second favorite. A show at the Seattle Opera House in January 81 with Steve Goodman trumps this one but I must say the guy can still make magic, and there was plenty of it here last Saturday night in this Live Freeze or Die State. With Jason Wilbur hitting elegant homeruns on electric guitar and mandolin stage right, and David Jacques groovin' away in bass heaven to the left, John enthralled the packed house with his quixotic, life and love affirming and rib ticklin' crooning. He opened with "Spanish Pipe Dream" and then socked us with the 35 year old "Six O'clock News" which still jerks the tears out without being a tearjerker if you know what I mean. "That first one was a happy song, that second was a sad one," says John. "All the rest are gonna be somewhere in between". Nifty renditions of "Souvenirs", "Fish and Whistle", and "Grandpa Was a Carpenter" followed. He dedicated "Souvenirs" to Steve Goodman and told the story about trying out his outrageous new "jazz chords"

on the toilet at the Chicago folk club where he first played it. A new song "The Glory of True Love" kept things on track. Co-written by Roger Cook, it's already in the can for the new album (which is about half done). "It was inspired by my wife", says John. "I hope Roger wasn't inspired by her." Mr. Prine next installed "Storm Windows" but some of us actually felt a draft on the "Soooo Cold" chorus. He then wished us "All the Best" with scintillating double-edged style. Then an "Angel from Montgomery" soared above us, sustained by the powerful bottleneck slide sounds streaming out of Jason's knock 'em dead axe. Then John did his solo set, kicking it off with "Gold Inside of You". "Donald and Lydia" made love again, this time a bit closer than ten miles away. My favorite oldie, "Bottomless Lake" still makes a splash (I noticed) with vintage Prinesters, some of whom still smoke 'em if they got 'em. The guys behind me belted out that old gem with gumption to spare. John's tale about getting scared shitless by his dad's backroad driving set the stage for that one. I love that one too cause it's great for singin' in the shower and other wet places. "Dear Abby" "Happy Enchilada-new title" "The Other Side of Town-new song" and "In Spite of Ourselves" rounded off the solo set. John told us that his new titanium hip would last longer than he would and that someone's taken almost all the fun out of Percodan, but it's still okay. He sang both Iris's and his own part on "In Spite Of" and it was hilarious, and kinky too. I liked the way Dave Jacques materialized in the nick of time to bow the bass line on "Sam Stone". That one still's so haunting. And relevant. The Johnny Cash rocker, "Bear Creek" had gusto, as did another up-tempo rocker( title?) surely bound for digital splendor on the new CD. The band got down on those babies. They was sizzlin' like sausages on an outdoor grill. And grinnin' too. They did "Ain't Hurtin' Nobody" for Howie Epstein and "Takin' A Walk", another new one with Prine ne sais quoi. "Sins of Memphisto" was Exactlyodo nice, and so was "Hello in There". "I love you Mom" pipes John. I bet his Mom got the message. "Lake Marie" slammed into us big-time and John hollered a last Louie Louie we gotta go now, beamed and exited. The crowd dragged 'em back after a good five minutes of hooting and clap-damaged palms. "Daddy's Little Pumpkin" and "People Putting People Down" and "Please Don't Bury Me" and lastly "Paradise" with Todd Snider joining in put the frosting on the proverbial cake. John and Co. can still bake up a beautiful one. A memorable evening indeed. Thanks again JP.

By: Samantha Gianoulis

I'm 13 years old. It was my second John Prine concert I went to. He sounded amazing as usual. He is more just a man to me...He's more like my idol. His songs/lyrics are so amazing and I can relate to and understand most of them. I can't wait until I go to another concert of his. I had the time of my life. Todd was a great opener for the concert as well.

By: Sam

I think the John Prine concert was great. He sounded amazing. I enjoyed it more than anything. I'm looking

forward to the next concert I see.

By: BulletBob

Got turn on to Prine as a sophomore in college (1974) by Brian O'Keefe (I think he's a dentist now) and, well, that's why I was in Concord N.H. on Sat night. John was John, THE performer among performers, happy, sad, rocker, folky etc. What a great evening. Sat in the front row, got great pictures ( I will send in a collage to the shrine tonight for posting), brought my daughter to her first concert, dragged my wife to about her 12th Prine concert (she's loves him though), David and Jason were perfect compliments, and Todd was a great opener (and closer) for JP. Can't wait 'til he comes back!!!!

By: Sally Tibbetts

The show in New Hampshire was just as great as the night before in Rhode Island. We sat in row 13 which were still really good seats except for the man behind us was a little too excited, I guess, as he kept hollering and whistling when we were trying to hear what John was saying when he introduces his songs, why he wrote them etc. I think I will get a shirt that says "I PAID TO HEAR JOHN PRINE." Well at least he was quiet most of the time while John was singing. He sang for 2 1/2 hours again without a break. Don't know how he does that. He sang a few different songs than he sang the night before, but they were still all our favorites. What song wouldn't be??

By: Chico

John's voice and performance was exceptional! They played for 2 and a half hours and one can only hope he comes back to Concord again. If anyone has the set list for his show in Concord NH and Providence could they please post it.

---

# NEW JERSEY



· USA : [AL](#) | [CA](#) | [FL](#) | [GA](#) | [IA](#) | [IL](#) | [IN](#) | [KS](#) | [LA](#) | [MO](#) | [NC](#) | [NH](#) | [NJ](#) | [NY](#) | [OH](#) | [OK](#) | [PA](#) | [RI](#) | [TN](#) | [VA](#) | [W V](#)  
· CAN : [NL](#) | [NB](#) | [NS](#) | [ON](#) | [QC](#)

## Count Basie Theater, Red Bank, NJ May 17, 2003

By: Valentine Byrne

A hundred and ninety miles round trip up to Red Bank from Pitman, NJ and I would have driven twice that to catch the show last night at the Count. Perhaps it was the fact that it was the final show of this tour but it seemed like Johnny was full of piss and vinegar last night. His energy level was remarkable, barely letting up between songs to get a sip of water. David Jacques and Jason Wilber turned in their usual high level of musical performance like the true pro music men that they come off as. There were quite a few rambunctious revelers in the audience. There were many shouted requests, mostly seeming to come at the same time and John would just shake his head and reply, "Yeah, I know all of 'em." Quite a few times you would hear a distinctly male voice screaming out "John, I love you!!!!", which would elicit a rather cynical smile from Mr. Prine. The songs just kept on coming. Especially endearing was when David and Jason left the stage, to take as John put it, "The longest break in show biz", Mr. Prine took center stage alone and simply captivated the audience with the presence of a master. It certainly did seem like a long break and when the boys just sneak in during "Sam Stone", it seems for a moment that it is the first time that they had appeared until you remember that they had opened the show with him. I don't keep a set list but it seemed like a long one and when, at the end of an extremely inspired Lake Marie, John sang, "We gotta go now", the place went crazy and after a long steady tumultuous applause, the band came out and I'm sure that this is nothing new, played not an encore or two but it seemed like six or seven or maybe even eight more numbers. It felt as if they didn't want the tour to end. John explained that he was on his way to spend the summer in Ireland, where he was going to work on his "rain tan." A great time was had by all and I hope that it isn't very long before I can catch the master at work again.

## PRINE STILL IN HIS PRIME

By: Ben Horowitz <http://www.nj.com/entertainment/ledger/index.ssf?/base/entertainment-1/1053358215180550.xml>

John Prine's storytelling songs stand the test of time. Warm, literate, sad and pointedly funny, they form an impressive 30-year body of work that provides plenty of fodder for a long, captivating concert.

That was the case Saturday night at Count Basie Theatre in Red Bank, where Prine fronted a trio of expert musicians, who pulled out one touching, thought-provoking song after another for nearly 2 1/2 hours. Hard-core Prine fans packed the place and constantly showed their appreciation, frequently singing along, and bringing their hero back for a long series of encores.

A 56-year-old Illinois native who began his career performing on the Chicago folk scene with Steve Goodman and other notables in the late '60s, Prine no longer projects the rebellious prankster persona of his youth. Prine today is a gray-haired, reassuring older man, and his voice is much raspier than it was. But he has lost none of his vitality as a performer, and none of the twinkle in his eye.

Like Bob Dylan -- someone he was compared to in his younger days -- Prine not only writes great songs, he has an eye for picking the just-right backing musicians. Country hotshot Jason Wilber was Prine's main man on Saturday, delivering crystal-clear, twangy guitar leads and singing professional harmony in the style of a Grand Ole Opry regular. Wilber also showed his mettle on the mandolin, while Dave Jacques tripled gracefully on standup bass, electric bass and cello. With Prine playing a lyrical, direct-hitting acoustic guitar, the trio was capable of rocking out fully without a drummer.

There were many highlights and no wasted moments as Prine drew on strong material from throughout his career. Opening the show with a spirited "Blow Up Your TV," Prine showed he has retained his feistiness. An ultra-twangy, kicking rendition of "Picture Show" showcased Wilber's guitar skills, and the band also demonstrated it's no stranger to rocking intensity on a mighty "Lake Marie." Prine introduced a mischievous version of the folksy benediction "All The Best" as a song to perform "if you're invited to you ex's wedding and they ask you to sing."

Prine demonstrated his ability to carry a show by himself with a long solo-acoustic segment highlighted by an especially lively exposition of various human frailties on "Dear Abby." Prine ended the solo segment with a dramatic "Sam Stone." Jacques came on stage to play cello to accentuate the tragedy of this '70s, which that tells the story of a heroin-addicted Vietnam veteran ("There's a hole in Daddy's arm where all the money goes").

Prine showed he still has plenty up his sleeve as a songwriter when he introduced a haunting, eerie, quiet new song, "I'm Just Getting By."

On Prine's most recent album of newly recorded material, 1999's "In Spite of Ourselves," he sang a series of duets with many of his favorite female folk and country singers. In the spirit of that occasion, Prine brought out the opening act, Jonatha Brooke, for a duet on "Angel From Montgomery," a powerful Prine tune that was a signature song for Bonnie Raitt during the early part of her career. Brooke and Prine harmonized sweetly on the choruses, and Brooke did a bravura performance on a solo verse, setting aside her usual pop stylings to belt out the words in a resoundingly rich, bluesy voice that paid tribute to Raitt.

It was by far Brooke's best moment of the night. Although Brooke has a clear, expressive, resonant soprano voice, it appeared to be her only asset during a dull solo-acoustic set, as her songs lacked distinctive tunes and she played every number in the same listless, mid-tempo folk-pop style. Brooke was formerly a member of a duo called The Story, which was notable for its pretty, intricate female harmonies, and from all appearances on Saturday, Brooke would be better off if The Story had not ended.

By: paul

This is the 3rd time that I've seen Mr. Prine with the current 3 man arrangement, and I think it compliments his music perfectly...I thought his voice was stronger and more clear than ever, and, as always, Jason Wilber and David Jacques were great...I was absolutely blown away by the Jonathan/john duet on angel from Montgomery...she was obviously thrilled to be up there with a legend...I regretfully had to leave early (that was me carrying my sleeping daughter from the front row) and want to hear all about the many encores I missed...

---



· USA: [AL](#) | [CA](#) | [FL](#) | [GA](#) | [IA](#) | [IL](#) | [IN](#) | [KS](#) | [LA](#) | [MO](#) | [NC](#) | [NH](#) | [NJ](#) | [NY](#) | [OH](#) | [OK](#) | [PA](#) | [RI](#) | [TN](#) | [VA](#) | [WV](#)  
· CAN: [NL](#) | [NB](#) | [NS](#) | [ON](#) | [QC](#)

## Landmark Theatre, Syracuse, NY May 17, 2003

Date: May 17, 2003  
By: Mark Bialczak

### It was Prine time in concert

<http://www.syracuse.com/search/index.ssf?/base/entertainment-5/105316058091183.xml?syrenent>

John Prine showed why he's been adored through four decades Friday night at the Landmark Theatre.

The crowd of 1,400 loved Prine because he was a smart guy.

His folk-rock songs carried the knowledge of experience and clarity of a keen observational eye. When he sang "Sam Stone," you wanted to cry for the war vet who left with a "purple heart and monkey on his back."

The noisy fans also loved Prine because he was a wise guy.

His body of work also carries the wink-wink, nudge-nudge savvy of a man who knows when to laugh at himself and his world.

How could you not chuckle along to "Space Monkey," the song he and Peter Case wrote about a poor primate the Russians sent in orbit in the 1950s and forgot about until the '90s?

With Jason Wilber on electric guitar and mandolin and Dave Jacques on upright and electric basses, Prine flanked himself with hip and talented friends. Indeed, Wilber's wailing and Jacques' bowing and strumming helped make it a top-class show.

But it obviously was the grit in Prine's voice, the shine in Prine's eyes and the love of music in Prine's heart that made the crowd stand and cheer throughout the night.

He won the crowd with his crooked smile and straight-shooting attitude.

"You're probably wondering how we got our hair like that," he said with a beam about his jagged'do.

Maybe by standing in front of a fan - or a jet engine. More likely, it's been a life that's taken him from Chicago to Nashville, from folk icon to record label owner, from cancer patient to cancer survivor, that's put the sticking-up salt-and-pepper up top.

Prine provided a winding retrospective of his career. There was sad stuff such as "Donald and Lydia," the tale of two country kids who loved in their hearts and their minds.

There was funny stuff, such as "Dear Abby," which preached that no matter what ails you, you can be cured by being yourself.

There was the rolling epic "Lake Marie," the tale of white sisters, Native American folklore and growing love, all to the furious fire of Prine and Wilber's guitars.

There were even a couple of new songs from an upcoming album.

"We do one every 10 years whether we need to or not," Prine joked.

He needs to keep writing material like this, for sure.

"I'm Just Getting By" featured lines you grow into. "I'm taking a walk. I'm going outside. I'm taking a walk. I don't need a ride," he sang.

John Prine has turned out to be Bob Dylan without the mumbles and the angst. Lucky us.

Opener Jonatha Brooke provided a pleasant folk-pop entry into Prine's world.

She started with "Blood From a Stone." "Stone's my mother's maiden name, so I guess this is more about me," the Boston singer-songwriter said.

"So Much Mine" was a neat near-and-dear song Brooke wrote for Rosa and Emma, two girls for whom she was a nanny for a year.

Brooke returned during Prine's set to duet on his much-covered "Angel From Montgomery."

By: Mark Bialczak  
Preview

## John Prine performs at Landmark

<http://www.syracuse.com/search/index.ssf?/base/entertainment-5/105307428387300.xml?syrenent>

May 16, 2003 John Prine prefers to let his music talk for him.

At least when it comes to journalists.

His publicists politely declined an interview request for him.

But get the singer-songwriter on stage for his fans, and it's another story.

Prine brings his songs for a show at the Landmark Theatre at 8 p.m. today.

That's where I caught his show Nov. 14, 2000.

"I don't know what took us so long to get here, but we're going to stay awhile," the guy from Chicago told the fans in Syracuse that night.

He made the most of his 140 minutes on stage. His four-star collection of songs told stories that spanned the range of human emotions.

For every "Sam Stone," with the lyrics "There's a hole in daddy's arm where all the money goes. Jesus Christ died for nothing, I suppose," there was a "Jesus the Missing Years," a sprawling panorama that placed the son of God in interesting modern predicaments.

For every "Donald & Lydia, with the words 'But when they were finished, there was nothing to say,' cause mostly they made love from 10 miles away," there was a "Please Don't Bury Me," which bestowed his body parts with the lines "Give my stomach to Milwaukee if they run out of beer. Put my socks in a cedar box, just get'em out of here."

Prine certainly knows how to keep folks interested. That's why he was the subject of a PBS special, "Live From Sessions at West 54th."

Prine's label, Oh Boy Records, has released that show as a DVD, which includes some outtakes and an interview session. In that segment he chats with John Hiatt - a fellow musician-turned-journalist for the occasion.

So it turns out that in addition to letting his music do the talking, he talks to the musician.

Good enough when you've got a feel for America as Prine obviously does.

---



# O H I O



· USA: [AL](#) | [CA](#) | [FL](#) | [GA](#) | [IA](#) | [IL](#) | [IN](#) | [KS](#) | [LA](#) | [MO](#) | [NC](#) | [NH](#) | [NJ](#) | [NY](#) | [OH](#) | [OK](#) | [PA](#) | [RI](#) | [TN](#) | [VA](#) | [WV](#)  
· CAN: [NL](#) | [NB](#) | [NS](#) | [ON](#) | [QC](#)

[Cincinnati](#) | [Akron](#)

## [Pepsi's Jam m in on the Main, Cincinnati, OH](#) [M ay 09, 2003](#)

By: clipped from the Cincinnati Post <http://www.cincypost.com/2003/05/10/ohjammin051003.html>  
There's nothing like a couple of rock and folk legends to convince people that it's not only OK to come downtown, but fun.

"I don't always play this corner. Glad you came," joked folk legend John Prine as he went into his set of earthy songs on a stage in front of the Hamilton County Courthouse steps, looking out at appreciative fans on Main Street.

It was a late-arriving crowd, perhaps scared off by the threat of rain, but by 11 p.m. thousands packed the area around the courthouse. Still, attendance was likely down slightly from last year's first night crowd of 20,000

The main attractions Friday at the festival were Prine and rocker Joan Jett -- two very different acts who both drew an older crowd. Meanwhile, younger festival goers were checking out the British art-rock buzz band Gomez.

"It's my Mother's Day present," said Dorise Barth of Fort Thomas, Ky. She and her husband, Don, came for Prine, who they had already seen perform several times....

---

## [E. J. Thomas Hall - Akron, Ohio](#) [M arch 08, 2003](#)

By: Kevin - Youngstown, OH

Well-behaved crowd. It was my first John Prine show. I've been a fan for a long time. He played 2 hours, 15 minutes. I was dead center, first level, 4th row. I could see his chord changes. He sounded and played great. He seemed to be enjoying himself along with the other 2 fellows in the band. He broke a string on the last song. He played all the standards except Illegal Smile, Christmas In Prison, Speed of The Sound & Let's Talk Dirty. I was very pleased with the concert. He played some new songs and said a new album is in the works. I would go see him again. I think he is one of the best writers living along with Dylan, Elvis Costello and Tom Waits. His opening act wasn't bad either. Sorry, I can't recall his name right now but I know he is from Tennessee and has an album on Oh Boy Records. John comes across as a regular fellow. One you'd want to have a beer with and shoot the breeze. At the end of Hello In There, he said, "I love you, Mom" which I thought was very touching and said alot about his character. God bless John Prine and the few others out there who are still making real music that can make you laugh or cry (sometimes in the same song).

By: elkinsev@msu.edu

I drove down from Michigan State University at East Lansing to catch the show. The crowd seemed well behaved, except for everyone that was sitting right around me. I was in the back right corner on the main floor. The guy that yelled when John mentioned that club in Chicago (and John said it was the owner) right before 'Souvenirs' was right behind me wearing an interesting jumpsuit of psychedelic patterns. Anyway, great show, the new songs were good. He played a few songs that I'm glad were there that he didn't play when I saw him last year in Ann Arbor (Flag Decal, That's the Way That the World Goes Round). His little comment about Bush in the middle of Flag Decal was great. No "Illegal Smile" which was surprising. I love that Carter Family song he does, man is that great. Can't wait to see him again and hear the new album.

By: Kate

First of all, in answer to Larry's question about what song has "Cathy" in it, the song title is "Far From Me". It's on

his first album. My favorite line in the song is "a question ain't really a question, if you know the answer too." Great song! The Akron concert was fabulous. As my brother put it, "there aren't enough adjectives to describe it." It was a fabulous concert. I drove in from DC to see it with family and friends and listened to his cd's most of the drive back.

By: m\_benear@ hotm ail.com

Just wanted to say that I agree with the other reviews of this concert. John was great. My wife and I have been fans for 15 years or so, and were blown away by how many songs John sang. The only standard that we could think of that he didn't sing was "Illegal Smile" but it didn't matter. The concert was awesome. Jason and David were extraordinary. We saw John and the guys three years ago in Cleveland (Lakewood Civic Auditorium) and, if anything, they have only improved. The standout song of the evening for me was "Lake Marie", this was a good song on the Lost Dogs CD, but in concert it is unbelievable!!!! I love it when John pulls out that jumbo Gibson (I think that's what it is anyways, somebody correct me if I'm wrong please). Well, don't miss John on this tour!!!

By: CP

Wow what a great concert! John can really play guitar and his back-up duo was outstanding especially the Lead guitar. John's memory must have failed him though, cause I saw him at the Akron Civic theater in the 80's (he was by himself). That night didn't compare to this one though, even my girlfriend who'd never heard of him until recently was into it. Best of all, I think John had a good time too!.

By: J.Koch

After having been a Prine fan for some 20 yrs., this was finally my first chance to attend one of his concerts. I waited far too long.... had the time of my life! The audience was well-behaved, unlike Wheeling apparently, and John looked like he was having a blast. He assured us as this was his first Akron visit he would sing for us a bit longer. No kidding!.....he sang non stop from 9 till 11:20....over 30 songs! I couldn't have asked for more....the poor guy was getting pretty hoarse by the end. Good news!.....he said a new CD is in the works!

By: Possum

Show was great! 6th timer. Good news-John's voice sounded much stronger! He also added many little anecdotes that were great.

---

# OKLAHOMA



· USA: [AL](#) | [CA](#) | [FL](#) | [GA](#) | [IA](#) | [IL](#) | [IN](#) | [KS](#) | [LA](#) | [MO](#) | [NC](#) | [NH](#) | [NJ](#) | [NY](#) | [OH](#) | [OK](#) | [PA](#) | [RI](#) | [TN](#) | [VA](#) | [WV](#)  
· CAN: [NL](#) | [NB](#) | [NS](#) | [ON](#) | [QC](#)

## Brady Theatre, Tulsa, Oklahoma March 29, 2003

By: Chuck Shipley - Tulsa, OK

At the urging of my fellow Prine Fan, Peter Burke of Birmingham (who has a home near Prine's in Ireland) I write to give a glimpse of Prince John's recent appearance in Tulsa at the Brady Theatre.

First, you need to know that the Brady is the old Tulsa Municipal Theatre where I first saw Opera performed in 1955(6th grade for me). I've hated opera ever since then until last fall when I saw "The Valkyries" performed at the Vienna Opera with the lead sung by Placido Domingo-- it was better.

Second, I'll tell you that I spent the late 60's through the mid 70's in Washington DC. It was a great time to be a kid in Law school & then be working for the Feds. That's when I first heard John Prine.

The Brady is a great venue for Prine-relatively small, great sound, not a bad seat in the house. Unlike the Queens of the Stone Age concert which I attended in March with my 17 year old son for the celebration of my 60th birthday here in Tulsa, I seemed to be within the average age range of fans that night. Plus, no surprise here, the majority knew all the words to most of the songs. Frequently, Prine would stop and ask the audience to finish the chorus of the song. We did.

Prine was loving the event & he could tell that we loved him. It was all you could hope for. I saw a friend in the audience who is a Justice of the Oklahoma Supreme Court and one of our Federal Magistrate Judges. They are old farts, too. So I took the opportunity to ask their opinion regarding "Illegal Smile". I knew them when they were just kids too-so they understood what the song is about. We are all refugees of the Vietnam-Era, too --so we all knew about "the Hole in Daddy's arm where all the money goes".

It was great

April 1, 2003 © 2003 Adrienne Harper

LUCKY ME . . .



Looking back over the past year I would have to describe myself as "Lucky". In just one year, I have been introduced to the music of John Prine, attended two concerts and had the good fortune to spend time with him on 2 separate occasions. The first was a chance encounter in an Ohio airport returning home from seeing him at the Columbus OH, Zoo Amphitheatre Aug 30, 2001. I was on the same flight as Mr. Prine and spent time with him in the gate area and on the plane. Visiting with John Prine is like viewing a masterpiece in a museum. It is a privilege and an experience that is worthwhile. During my visit with Mr. Prine we discussed a little bit of everything.

After having met the musician behind the music, I can say that I can be categorized in that group that is known as his loyal following. John Prine - a wonderful songwriter, one of America's greatest actually, an awesome entertainer and genuinely nice guy! I am glad

I live in this big ole goofy world and that two of my favorite "fellas" introduced me to the music of such a talented. I have met many performers and can attest that John Prine is one that is content with himself - with where he has been and where he is going. I believe he is truly an American treasure and one of the music industry's hidden talents. Regardless, he is a treat, both on and off stage. I hope to have the opportunity to go to another concert and plan to enjoy his music for years to come.

Brady Theater, Tulsa OK March 29, 2003

The Tulsa concert was great - John played for well over 2 hours nonstop - he played the standards, all the favorites and several new songs. The beat and sound sometimes were changed around to add a new dimension to a song but every song was a crowd pleaser and drew a large amount of applause. John's voice was strong and he sang with an incredible amount of feeling on every song and rocked out on the guitar throughout the night. It was fun watching his left leg "jam out" as he strummed his songs. The only disappointment for me was



the crowd as they were loud and not as respectful as I am accustomed to at concerts. There were several sing-alongs by the crowd, many laughs supplied by comical stories and comments relayed by John - he has extremely quick wit - there was a lot of toe-tapping, some dancing up and down the aisles, and lots of partying by the Tulsa crowd. The entire place rocked on *Illegal Smile* which was played during his encore. Another favorite was *Lake Marie*, especially the "shadows" and "sizzzzzzling" sections. The crowd shouted requests throughout the evening and it seemed that everyone stayed for the entire show and not one ticket holder left the show disappointed. John delivered a night of rocking song lyrics, friendly banter, great music and loads of fun.



The Brady Theatre, has character and provided good acoustics. It is an older facility but one that suited a concert for a couple thousand fans. There wasn't a bad seat in the house and my 14th row seat provided a great view of the show.

The second meeting was after the Tulsa show this past weekend. Mr. Prine was gracious, engaging and humble. He remembered our encounter and visited with me a few minutes recounting our travel trials and tribulations. He is one that makes you feel as if he is your equal and your friend. It seems he doesn't know a stranger and he makes you feel as if you fit into his world.

A highlight for me was watching one of my friends get to meet John Prine as he has been a fan for over 30 years. This friend introduced me to the music of John Prine last year by giving me a Prine CD and considers Prine to be a musical icon. Seeing a fan of three decades meet their favorite musician and musical icon is a memory that will be carried with me for a long time to come.

Another person that was fortunate enough to meet Mr. Prine was a lady that had just recently had a kidney transplant. Janie was genuinely excited to meet John Prine and made painstaking preparations to attend his show that night. It felt more like John Prine had just stopped over to one of our houses for a few minutes of friendly conversation. When asked what his favorite song was - he replied "usually the one I'm working on"...

While walking out, we happened to catch Jason Wilber and when asked how old he was he responded 33; to me he looks like a young Steve Goodman and what a player he is! When asked "how a 33 year old lands such a great gig" he said - "I'm lucky". I guess him and I have something in common as I am feeling lucky as well being in the company of such talented musicians. Jason is a great guitarist and deserves the spot - and complements Mr. Prine's character in song and music. Jason posed for pictures and was as gracious as John Prine with his time.



Unfortunately we were not able to meet the silky Dave Jacques.

For me, John Prine's music has been an experience. INCREDIBLE ~ AWESOME ~ and PHENOMENAL!

Thanks John for providing a night of entertainment and satisfaction! Just so you know - "In a town this size" some say your show was "Pretty Good" but for all attendees it was entertaining enough to be the lead story on the "6 O'Clock News" and provided many an "Illegal Smile" while even those that may not have been true fans before would have to admit that they were now die hard fans "In spite of ourselves". Those lucky enough to have been at the Brady Theatre for the John Prine concert definitely left having felt as if they spent a little time in "Paradise" this night. To use the words from a favorite song,

"It's a 'Big Ole Goofy World' and this Oklahoman is glad John Prine is a part of it. Thanks and know that "You Mean So Much to Me" and thousands of other Prine fans.

By: Neal Golden

Another great show - thank you John. I drove 4 hrs from Dallas to see my favorite artist once again - I have seen John many times at many different venues across the country. The band was tight as always - David Jakes, Jason Wilber and John Prine are all excellent musicians. John talked more than other times I have seen him - the crowd had too many hecklers that were too easily audible in this tiny/old theatre. John told stories that I have not heard before - the funniest about burying an extra forklift while he was in the army in Germany - he said it was just as bad to have too many as to be missing one so they buried it in a field. John had some problems with what he called a frog in his throat but he fought through it gallantly. The only other disappointment came during 'Ain't Hurtin' Nobody' (John introduced it as a tribute to Howie Epstein - who died a few weeks ago) David started out a blistering bluesy bass lick from the song - Jason joined in with a squalling version and then John also had a electric guitar and was kicking ass - only one problem - John's Guitar was only coming through the monitors and not the speakers - I was severely bummed that the heaviest tune of the night had technical difficulties - oh well it was a great show anyway and well worth the trip - I will not miss John anytime I can get there. Song list - not in order; Spanish Pipedream, (3 new tunes), Fish and Whistle, Please Don't Bury Me, Angel from Montgomery, Souvenirs, All The Best, (John told a story about singing this at his ex wife's wedding - funny), Dear Abby (signed - frog in the throat), In Spite Of Ourselves, Storm Windows, Sour Grapes, Ain't Hurtin' Nobody, That's The Way That The World Goes 'round, Illegal Smile, Hello In There, Lake Marie, Sins Of Memphisto, Sam Stone, Paradise, Grandpa Was A

Carpenter, Flag Decal (someone yelled "John Prine for Vice President" - John answered by saying he would not want to be in the same room as that guy), Six o'Clock News - my favorite tune of the evening - perfect!

By: AP in LR

John, my old friend. Once again you make us all stop to think....what was he feeling when he wrote that? Our gang especially enjoyed the old stuff too as always! Keep on keepin on in spite of yourself!

By: Cindy Smith

I've been to many John Prine concerts over the years and there's one thing you can count on, you get your money's worth! Saturday night at the Old Lady on Brady was no exception. And the crowd loved it, as was evidenced by several much deserved standing ovations! I saw his concert at the Verizon Theatre in Houston in December, and I can tell you, he outdid himself here in Tulsa. He made a remark that he had not been to Tulsa in a long time and that he'd have to make that up to us by staying awhile (not his exact words) and by gosh, he did! I'm not saying that the show in Houston was not fabulous, because it was, but I believe, from the way he played here, that Tulsa may have a special place in his heart. I think everyone left the concert satisfied that they had at least heard MOST of their favorite songs. He played everything from his early days to today, taking special time out to play and sing for us, without the band, a personal moment, it seemed. And, of course, no Prine concert is complete until the audience is allowed to sing along, this concert being no different. Illegal Smile was the song chosen for us and we did not let him down. Amazing how so many people know all the words, pauses and inflections. You have lots of dedicated fans, Mr. Prine. It's hard to believe how many songs John Prine has written. While driving home from the concert, I was thinking of the songs that he didn't do and wishing we could have just stayed all night. However, it probably would have taken all night and then some. Guess I'll just have to keep tabs on the concert schedules and hear the others later. Glad to have you back in town, John.

By: Curt

Outstanding in every respect. Mr. Prine is a gentleman, and went "above and beyond the call". The show was a delight in every respect. The sound was great, performance exceptional and his humor perfectly timed. God was good to us Saturday night, as he was good to give Mr. Prine his unique character. Thank you.

By: Okieken

This was my first time to see John Prine and what a memorable experience it was! I love to listen to his albums, but live . . . in person . . . The English language falters when one tries to find words to describe the music, art really, of John Prine. I went with a couple of friends and we all had a great time. Next time Prine's around here, I'll be there!

By: Coyote Roy

I feel an attack of the sentence fragments coming on: Wow! Top of his game. Voice and guitar playing great. Killer back up musicians. Better than I ever imagined. Plenty lively gig for an old guy. Ouch. Glad I got those fragments out of my system. John has so much depth. He played almost two and a half hours straight and I'm sitting there thinking of all the great songs he didn't get to. Hey! What about "Sabu Visits the Twin Cities Alone?" The sound in the Brady Theater is perfect, except the voices of the good natured hecklers carry too well. It was the most interesting and rudest crowd in the world -- like R. Crumb's sketch book on the top end of a manic roller coaster ride. I think it's weird there is so much whooping and yee-hawing at lines like: "There's a hole in daddy's arm where the money goes." This is a horrific image. It's great art, but people yell like Jerry Jeff Walker is singing "Pissing in the Wind." I find it a very surreal kind of reaction -- a Kurt Vonnegut moment. I guess we give John a lot of material for his songs. He's very patient with us -- just goes on with his song intro while some freak is yelling for a song appearing later in the set list. He has a good time and takes you with him. The old songs are often relevant to current events, though John sings them without the sermon. The songs are about people, not political movements. I highly recommend you get out to hear this national treasure, or hear him again, whenever you can. Keep the Faith.

By: steve

We got there a little late, so we only heard the last two songs of Mr. Morris's set. What a great voice! The Brady theater is renown for great acoustics, and last night was no exception. The mix was no less than perfect, and the volume was loud enough to rock the house, yet not overpower the quieter songs. The set started with Spanish Pipe Dream, which was performed brilliantly! After that it only got better. The newer song Glory of love shows that John's songwriting is as it has always been. Humorous, smart, and just plain intoxicating. The line that stuck with me was "O! Faithful just a fountain, compared to the glory of love". Jason Wilber played flawless, tasty guitar, which during the first few songs were not easy to hear, as fan enthusiasm was so audible every time John stopped singing. What amazed me was the ear to ear grin John had when playing between verses. He seemed to be

enjoying the concert more than the audience. He seemed well rested, and happy. His voice was better than it has sounded in a long while, and absolutely roasted the Sessions at West 54th video. It would seem that health is once again back on John's side. The length of the show was longer than I had expected. Songs from every stage of his career were played as fresh as ever, showing that John's songs are his, and written from his heart. John's humor was very witty, and he dialoged with some of the audience comments and requests. At one point the crowd was yelling so many song titles, John relied, " I know all those!". He related some funny stories with that twinkle in his eyes, that leaves you wondering if he's teasing or telling the truth. I have never seen a performer so kind to his musicians, or his opening act. He praised Dave, and called him one of the most sought after bassists in Nashville, and how he was the only "lost Dogs" original left." The others just got lost I guess". He told of how Jason Wilber Joined the band the last time he performed in Tulsa. All this is important, because most performers don't remember much about one town to the next. Now, that's loyalty to your fan base! He had lots of good things to say about Mr. Morris as well, and even invited him to play and sing one of the last songs. What a treat. To sum it up, John Prine is pure magic on stage. Bright, talented and eager to please. By far this was the best concert dollar I've ever spent! For the seasoned fan, down to the folks "dragged there" by a friend (which were evident by all the times I head "Wow! you're right, he's so wonderful!) This was magic!

By: Paul Famiانو

"I wrote this song about nothing, because at the time I had nothing to say (John Prine)." Tonight was a special night at the Brady Theater ("The Old Lady of Brady"), here in Tulsa, OK. Built in 1914, the 2,800 seat theater, one of the oldest still in existence in the US, was nearly packed to its limit. Although renovated over the years, it still retains it's turn of the century atmosphere and excellent acoustics. "She" has hosted acts such as Enrico Caruso to Buddy Holly to the Temptations, and tonight, once again, JOHN PRINE! I have enjoyed John's total artistry for many years and was thrilled at the opportunity to take my daughter, a junior at Tulsa University, to his concert. She was introduced to his music via "Angel From Montgomery" and has since become quite a fan. She is VP of her sorority and declared this "John Prine Night" at their house. She downloaded his music and played it on her computer for the benefit of all who passed her room. We arrived at the Brady about 7:30 PM and it was already pretty crowded. We had two complimentary tickets (one of the ladies in the office is on my bowling team) and sat in the balcony to the left of center stage which afforded a very clear, close up view of the stage. It all began at 8:00 PM, with a rather unforgettable opener (with the exception of his rendition of Robert Mitchum's "Thunder Road"). He was done by 8:35...time for beer and popcorn! Then promptly at 9:00, John and his bass player David Jacques and guitar, mandolin, and harmonica player Jason Wilber, walked out on stage to a thunderous, standing ovation, one of many to come throughout the evening. It was amazing to see how many people could sing along with them, word for word (including my 20 year old daughter!). His ability on the guitar and his witty humor were quite an enjoyment. He touts his band as being the band with the longest break in show business. Indeed, after awhile, Dave and Jason left and John became a very impressive one-man act for nearly half the show. After the show, my daughter said how much fun that was and how much she enjoyed it...my sentiments exactly! Though I am not much of a concert goer (the last I attended was Emmy Lou Harris in 1994), I would not have missed John Prine for the world and am already looking forward to his next date in the area.

---

# PENNSYLVANIA



· USA: [AL](#) | [CA](#) | [FL](#) | [GA](#) | [IA](#) | [IL](#) | [IN](#) | [KS](#) | [LA](#) | [MO](#) | [NC](#) | [NH](#) | [NJ](#) | [NY](#) | [OH](#) | [OK](#) | [PA](#) | [RI](#) | [TN](#) | [VA](#) | [WV](#)  
· CAN: [NL](#) | [NB](#) | [NS](#) | [ON](#) | [QC](#)

[Pittsburgh](#) | [Wilkes-Barre](#) | [Harrisburg](#)

## Hartwood Acres Amphitheatre - Pittsburgh, PA Aug 17, 2003

By: Diana Nelson Jones (columnist)

*It's never too late to open your ears to an original*

Thursday, August 21, 2003

The song "Dear Abby" flowed into the mainstream in the early '70s, and I heard it on the radio and thought the guy singing it was a country-and-western comedian and I hated country-and-western. After I heard it a few times and smiled at some of the lines, I didn't hear it anymore.

Fast-forward more than a decade, and I'm walking in Tulsa with my friend Ruth, and we're talking music and musicians. She says something about John Prine and I say, "John who?" and she stops as if there's a 50-foot hole right in front of her. She slaps her hand over her heart and says, "You don't know who John Prine is?" and I say, embarrassed, "Well, I think I've heard of him," remembering, just barely, that he was the guy who sang "Dear Abby."

"Girl," she said, "I'm turning you on to John Prine."

I thank Ruth, among other friends in the '80s, whose influences wooshed me from my safe little music stream into the mouth of a wide, fast-flowing river -- The New Orleans funk of the Meters and their kin, the Neville Brothers, old doo-wop and jump blues, reggae and ska, Hank Williams, Woody Guthrie and Leadbelly, Victoria Spivey and Tampa Red on scratchy tapes and that wonderful world of John Prine.

I was one of the thousands who massed to hear him at Hartwood Acres last Sunday.

He will be 57 in October. He has survived cancer that was two years along when it was discovered in 1999. Doctors cut part of his neck out, and his voice rattles and scrapes the baritone ground like a rusty can when he talks, but when he sings, it grabs hold of a quirky air stream, his personal musical air stream.

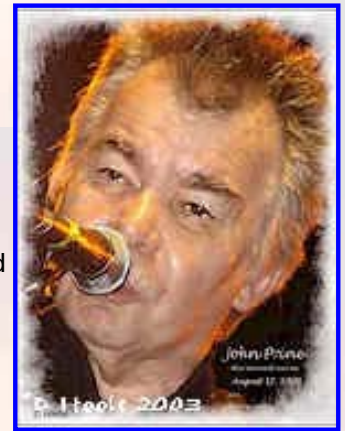
I found a couple of friends near the sound guys, close enough that I could see his face, the weathered face of a son of Kentucky who was born near Chicago and was a mailman before he stepped away from a job and devoted his life to music.

He started about a half-hour late and apologized before he started, alluding to road detours. He played for about two hours, without a break, backed exquisitely by a man on stand-up bass and a man who played guitar and mandolin. In the middle of the show, they took a break and he played solo.

In the last part of the show, he sang two of his most moving songs, "Sam Stone," a painful song about a war veteran's brief life after his return home, and "Hello in There," an anthem to the effects of loneliness.

I feel as if I heard some of his songs thoroughly well for the first time that night, got nuances I hadn't before, realized a little better his magic weavings of lyric and tune.

In the beauty of the moment when he sang, "There's a hole in Daddy's arm where all the money goes," his pace slowed, the sweep of thousands up and down the hillside gone silent, and I thought, here before us is one of America's great troubadours. I watched the people around me. Many of them were mouthing the words, as I was.



Maybe they were lucky enough to have discovered him early, or maybe they were like me, prompted by a loving friend years after he had begun building a following. Either way, we were seeing him live, still alive, a legend-to-be in a dark suit and tie, with hair receded on the sides, a lyrical wordsmith swelled with great humanity and humor.

After several encores, he finished with a bow and waved with a sweep of his arm, saying, "Thanks a lot. Sorry we were late."

I walked up the hill to my car, carrying my cooler and my folding chair, not having minded the wait, happy that in connecting with John Prine, I hadn't been too late.

story first published at the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette online <http://www.post-gazette.com/columnists/20030821diana0821fnp2.asp>

reprinted with permission



By: Maureen

No words can express the magic John has....a true gift...I was there, right up front....my voice will never be the same. The years have only perfected his gift...the characters and stories he writes comes from within his soul. Thank you John

By: jerry

John Prine was fabulous! It had been many years since he last played in Pittsburgh. The crowd was huge as we all sat under the stars on that cool, beautiful night. His play list was terrific. The only disappointment was that he did not play "Speed of the Sound of Loneliness. He is a beautiful songwriter and the small band was sweet. He had a bass player and lead guitar player. That was it. And it was free!

By: deadbugman@aol.com

Setlist in no particular order - Fish & Whistle - Six O'clock News - Bear Creek - new song (I'm Walkin?)- Angel From Montgomery- That's The Way That The World Goes 'round - Please Don't Bury Me- All The Best- You Got Gold - Lake Marie - Sam Stone-Let's Talk Dirty-Grandpa Was A Carpenter-Picture Show-Sins Of Memphisto - Paradise - Spanish Pipedream - Dear Abby - Souvenirs - Hello In There -new song (I'm Doin' OK) - Ain't Hurtin' Nobody. Great show! John's voice was rough at times but did he nail 'You got gold"! Long Live John Prine!

By: Mike from Pittsburgh

I last saw John in Wheeling, WV this past March. John was a little late getting there, but it was worth waiting for. His voice was a little more raspy but he still sounded great. The set list was very similar to Wheeling, except for he didn't do Illegal Smile or Your Flag Deacal Won't Get You Into Heaven Anymore. He added Lets Talk Dirty in Hawain, which was a scream. Highlights for me included Lake Marie, which I think is great live with great harmony with his two band members. All in all, it was another fine show by John and he left us all wishing for more.



By: ken parme pittsburgh pa.

The last time I saw John Prine in concert was about 7 years ago in a small coffee house filled with around two hundred people. It was a great show as John seems to have a special gift of making it seem like he's singing in your living room. Last night's show was an outdoor concert with many more people, (I'm guessing around 4000 or so) and I have to say he brought about that same type of energy. The sound system was great so you could hear every word and the two fellows he had with him were excellent. His set list included the great older gems like Paradise, Hello in There, Spanish Pipedream, and Souvenirs, and also some of the newer stuff that plays just as good, like Lake Marie, Ain't Hurt'n Nobody, and Picture Show. He also did some songs he is going to record soon. He played for around two hours and my wife and I both had a blast. I enjoy his songs now as much as I did when I first him some 30 years ago. John Prine is like a fine wine-he gets better and better with age. As a matter of note he had a young guy open for him by the name of Trooper. He was very good also, good words, strong voice and good guitar player. All in all the night was a blast and worth the vacation day I used up to go. Ken Parme Pittsburgh Pa.

By: m arsguy

I've been to many concerts at Hartwood but this was by far the most crowded as all the Prine fans came out in force. Was a terrific show and John showed that he still has the voice, although slightly more gravelly than in his younger days, and is an awesome musician. With just a bass player and another guitar player, the guys really cranked it up at times. John settled into what I much prefer with a few acoustic only songs during the middle of the show - which reminded me of his small club appearances. The best news of the night was that he said he's heading



back to the studio next week to start on his new album. Keep your eyes open. And indeed, John still has it!

By: Shivas

I really hate to use any clichés here, however, tonight John was like that crafty veteran pitcher who doesn't have his best stuff that day. The first part was rough ,but as the evening progressed his voice came around as did the group. Some of the problem might have been the sound system which was a little cranky. Several times John had to motion to Bobby to adjust the sound. The acoustics for an outdoor venue was all right and the crowd seemed to enjoy the event. The only other time I have seen John was last February in wheeling and I much prefer and indoor venue. The set list was very similar. John played a song destined for the next CD called "I'm Doin' OK" and added "Sins of Memphisto" to the set I heard in Wheeling. Good Night Good Friends Prine Rules



---

[Pittsburgh](#) | [Wilkes-Barre](#) | [Harrisburg](#)

---

[Kirby Center, Wilkes-Barre, PA](#)

[March 1, 2003](#)

By: LJK

I have been a John Prine fan since way back to the 1st album. I have seen him in concert 4 times. This show was by far the best. After hearing about John's recent health problems, I figured his voice would be weak and not up to par. How wrong I was! This was John at his best. His voice was so strong and his stage presence was so commanding and professional. He seemed so focused and really seemed to be enjoying himself. The sound was crisp and clear and his fellow musicians were outstanding especially his lead guitar player. The almost sold out crowd (I heard 1400 out of 1800) was into it from the get go . John played all of his memorable songs and included 3 or 4 new ones from his half finished new CD. They all sounded like true JP classics. John's humor was very much on display as he mentioned the famous 'happy enchilada" request he got for That's the way that the world goes round. The judges name was Ashcroft in Illegal Smile and he thanked George Bush for making his "Flag Decal" song relevant again. After constant calling out of his song titles by audience members (an annoying practice), John saved his best line by saying, "I know then all". This time around John seemed much more confident as he sipped from water bottles between songs, a different beverage choice than he had in the past concerts I attended. The crowd was mostly an older one ( a lot of old hippies) but there was a lot of younger people including kids. There was a young boy about 12 years old sitting behind me and he sang along to Illegal Smile and he knew all the words. In closing, I just want to say that it angers me that JP and his music is not heard by more people. When I told people that I was going to see John Prine in concert, I bet 7 out of 10 people never heard of him. How sad! There are so many artists like him in the same boat who deserve a much better fate (Steve Forbert, John Stewart, Joe Ely, Jimmie Dale Gilmore, Tom Russell, Steve Earle, to name a few). But I doubt that few performers from today's music scene will still be around 30 years from now. I find myself still singing JP songs 4 days after the concert. I just cant seem to get them out of my head which I guess is the best review of a concert one could give. A local newspaper writer reviewing the show called John a "National Treasure". I couldn't agree more. Long Live John Prine!

By: LJK

I agree with MBenear, Lake Marie was simply awesome in concert. The crowd really got into it and sang at all the right parts. The sausages were "sizzzzzlin" and u know what blood looks like, "shadows". Fantastic!!

By: BC Tom and Dave

John Prine show, AWESOME, We live in Lower Bucks County, but have a little cabin in Hazleton. Me and my brother in-law set out for the show Saturday morning, 8:00 am. (Approx. 100 miles) went to the cabin where we got stuck in the snow for about 1 1/2 hours. left cabin for Wilkes-Barre at 5:30 pm, traveling threw a snow storm, went to a great bar-restaurant a block from the Kirby Center, excellent, Lowe's),Got to Kirby center at 8:00 Pm seats were amazing, 6th row dead center, great show, went back to Lowe's where a few other patrons had just come from the show, bartender put a Live John Prine CD on, incredible, leave for cabin around 12:30 am, drive threw a dense fog. Sunday, stuck in some more snow for a while, on the way home the transmission starts slipping. Replace transmission. \$1,200.00. Digging out of 2 feet of snow. Back breaking. Driving threw snow storm and fog. Nerve

racking. John Prine Concert. PRICELESS.

## JOHN PRINE DISPLAYS HIS TALENTS BEFORE KIRBY CENTER AUDIENCE

By: AlChoman - Citizens' Voice Music Critic - Citizens' Voice Sunday, March 2, 2003

Folk music has had many storytellers over the years. The revered, like Pete Seeger: The celebrated, like Bob Dylan. And even the under-appreciated, like Phil Ochs. John Prine extracts qualities from them all. Mr. Prine was fortunate on many fronts. He wrote magnificent songs, deeply told stories of love, politics, war and life around it all. He hooked up with one of the industry's best labels and had technical master Arif Mardin producing his recordings. Mr. Prine's concert at the F.M. Kirby Center for the Performing Arts before 1,400 people on Saturday evening revealed an artist that has matured quite admirably. Commercial radio being what it is, and commercial record sales being what they are, it was easy to lose track of John for a while. Not to worry. On Saturday evening, Mr. Prine's stage delivery was as solidly constructed as the recordings from his three decades of studio work. Pristine sounding guitar chords accompanied Prine's vocals which sounded either ruggedly suave or purposeful depending upon intent. John Prine has incredible feel for American colloquial. The 57-year-old Illinois native has a very natural and compassionate warmth to his folksy catalogue of soundscapes. Versions of "Souvenirs," "Fish and Whistle," "Paradise" and "Far From Me" sounded amazingly fresh alongside newer material like "Glory of True Love". "Glory of True Love" is a finely crafted yet unreleased song which Prine joked, "will probably be a hit 10 years from now like my other stuff." John Prine's playing at the Kirby Center Saturday evening was authentic and never seemed gimmicky or clichéd. Mr. Prine sings confidently, picks his guitar melodically and has a coherent story to tell while almost always carrying a humorous mood along the way. Mr. Prine is occasionally accused of meaningful nonsense infiltrating poignant lyrics. In concert however, purposeful prose distinguishes all of that quite succinctly. Like some of his colleagues (Phil Ochs and even Steve Goodman), Prine makes every song count for something. There are no throw aways - especially in concert. When he's on, and there are many moments like that in concert, Mr. Prine's mellifluous voice meshes with affective story telling to make your reflect on how good this genre used to be. And still can be, actually. John Prine is a natural resource of music. His songwriting is relevant, his on-stage performance is solidly devised and delivered and Mr. Prine fine tunes his craft and cares about its translation. For the sake of the musical genre and the purpose of its intent, John Prine should be designated as a national treasure. Since he probably won't, you should discover or rediscover his work. And if you were not there on Saturday do not ever miss that change again. ©The Citizens Voice 2003

By: cheryl

Wow, the concert was incredible. Everyone played and sounded great. Please come back to see us again! Greg Trooper was a new discovery for us, good stuff. Now I'll wait for the new material from John to come out on CD. :O)

By: Larry B

John Prine was absolutely on top of his game on concert night. I've seen JP once before in the same venue many years ago....he was with Arlo Guthrie, and a whole cast of characters. This time it was all Prine and I must brag I was in the first row to John's left....wow....a strong STRONG performance by all players including his opening act....the lead guitar player for JP was one of the most talented "texture" guitar players I've heard. His "touches" were beautifully enhancing and never in the way or overpowering. They simply made the songs even better than originally done if that's possible. John was magnificent. He never missed a beat and rocked and "sombered" as was fit for each tune. I was thrilled to see the "full house" that came out to see him. Unlike the other review I read about this concert I didn't see too many under 40 types....maybe it was where I was sitting....but regardless of audience age, it was an all ages show to say the least....I'm glad I made that show....I personally have little tolerance for crowds in this day and age but coming out to see this show was the best move I've made since my last Dylan show. Rock on John Prine. A master of the genre.

By: Bill and Bev, Sussex, NJ, spocon @ nac.net

Well, we made another trek to a Prine show that was, as usual, great. Being long time fans and having seen John at numerous venues since the early '70's, the Kirby show offered many of his time tested favorites as well as a couple of new tunes that John says he has been putting together in the past few months in the studio. The night was opened with a good set from a new artist--not totally sure of the name, but was Greg Tripper or something like that. He is a Nashville transplant from our home state of Jersey and I am sure we'll be hearing more of him. John came on to the normal appreciative reception of his loyal followers and was sounding as good as ever. John told the crowd that it's been too long since he came to the Wilkes-Barre area, and he would make up for it by putting a little extra into the show and he came thru. Well, as usual, will try to cover the set list and hope I don't leave anything out--but as he said, he was gonna do a little extra, so here goes. Spanish Pipe Dream, Donald & Lydia, 6 o'clock news, angel from Montgomery, Sam stone, aint hurtin nobody, That's the way that the world goes round,

fish and whistle, dear Abby, illegal smile, lake Marie, storm windows, in spite of ourselves, all the best, your flag decal won't get you into heaven, one red rose, sins of Memphisto, don't bury me, hello in there, and his usual closing of Paradise joined by his opener Greg. A great set and a great night of good ole' Prine at his best. We had 2 extra 4th row tickets originally planned for our kids, and as we walked into the theater, we offered them to a couple sitting toward the rear. They turned out to be some long time fans that actually live within 15 mins of us in jersey and who knows--maybe will turn into traveling companions for future shows. Well, great music, great crowd, great night!!

## Folk legend at F.M. Kirby

By: MATT CERUTI

<http://www.timesleader.com/mld/timesleader/entertainment/5261258.htm>

It's not easy to sing a sad song with a grin. It's even harder if you wrote that song from your own heartache, that is unless you're John Prine.

For more than 30 years Prine has built a cult following, along with critical acclaim, writing songs with just as much melancholy as there is tongue-in-cheek humor. You can experience all of this Saturday, March 1 at 8 p.m. in the friendly confines of the F.M. Kirby Center in Wilkes-Barre.

More storyteller than songwriter, Prine has a way of drawing you into his music and making you feel as if you know the characters. The lyrics stand on their own without music, something that can not be said about many other songwriters. Of his songwriting Prine says on his website: "It's a great feeling when you put something in a song and other people say that's exactly how they feel. That's the most gratifying thing about songwriting for me: it's always been a real outlet for me - being able to put those feelings down."

Discovered in Chicago by Kris Kristofferson on a tip from friend and collaborator Steve Goodman, Prine signed his first record deal with Atlantic Records within 24 hours. Soon enough Prine was in Memphis, TN cutting his self-titled debut with members of Elvis Presley's band. "What am I doing in Memphis with Elvis Presley's band?" he said in an interview on Oh Boy.com, "I can hear in my performances just how nervous I was. When I hear that album now it's like a warm friendly sound."

Prine has shown resiliency throughout his career whether battling throat cancer or the record industry. After a short time working at Asylum Records, Prine decided his interests weren't best served within the confines of a large record company and he started his own. Oh Boy Records opened for business in the early '80s and is still going strong today, bolstered by young artists such as Todd Snider. When describing the reasons behind starting his own label Prine says, "After I finished my recording obligations to Asylum Records in 1980, I just totally put on the brakes. I just wanted to separate everything 'cause I was really tired mainly of the business end of it. I was wondering where the fun was with the music, this thing that I took on as a hobby years earlier that I used to get so much out of long before I ever sang a song for anybody else except myself. If it meant the only way I could enjoy taking the guitar down off the wall and sitting around playing was to not be a recording artist, then I was wanting to do that."

He added, "When I finally wanted to do a record, I just didn't want to go shopping for a label at the time. Also, it was a time when it wouldn't have been real easy to. There were several major labels that were talking to us." Though he could have signed on anywhere, Prine made this decision "Why am I working here? I'll just move on to another factory and the factory would be my own factory because I was still looking at it that I made my living as a performing artist. And that's how Oh Boy Records was born."

Since forming Oh Boy, Prine has gone on to record several more critically acclaimed albums, teaming up with keyboardist Benmont Tench and bassist Howie Epstein of Tom Petty's band the Heartbreakers. Epstein produced Prine's 1991 release "The Missing Years" which won a Grammy. Prine's latest non greatest hits release "In Spite of Ourselves" is an album of covers on which he duets with female singers including Lucinda Williams, Trisha Yearwood, and Emmylou Harris. Oh Boy Records also recently released "John Prine Live from Sessions at West 54th" a one-hour DVD concert taken for the PBS show hosted by John Hiatt.

In 1998 the John Prine/Roger Cook composition "I Just Want to Dance With You" was recorded by George Strait and became a No. 1 country single. It was nominated by the Country Music Association for a 1998 CMA Award in the Song of the Year category as well as for Single of the Year.

Expect an intimate show in the 1,800 seat theater. Prine's affinity for smaller venues is well documented. "They're the perfect size theaters, I think, anything from 1,000 to 3,000 seats. I still don't want to have to go on -- to arenas. I don't think I'd like that. That, to me, isn't what I do."

Big venues may not be what John Prine does, but he does tell stories and they're some of the best stories in the business.

By: Rebecca Horn

John Prine is simply awesome! I've never enjoyed a concert as much as I did last night @ the Kirby Center. I was turned on to JP's tunes about 15 years ago when I first listened to Sweet Revenge and have been a fan ever since. I'm 38 years old and I say that because young and old can enjoy this kind of music with so much meaning. God

Bless John Prine! Luv Ya!

By: Annie, Orangeville PA

Twenty years ago, give or take, John played at The Station in Wilkes Barre PA. We were packed standing into a bar room. Only a few could see. You can imagine the acoustics, but we all could hear. In those days, the lyrics were most important anyway. The crowd was rowdy, John was all in black, and a great time was had by all. Last night in the Kirby center, it was déjà vu all over again, sorta. A weathered John appeared, and I for one was absolutely transfixed. His new stuff was good, his guitar player was awesome, but the old stuff was somehow better than ever. "Sam Stone" had a softer, sadder sound to it, and you could have heard a pin drop when he sang the refrain. I was curious to see the demographics of the audience. It was a lot younger than I was expecting, (early thirties average, I would guess), but that's a good thing, a tribute to John's staying power. And they were definitely there to hear John. You could feel the respect. Those who made the trip through a gathering snow storm to a small theater in the middle of Wilkes Barre, PA last night were given a gift by a great and humble artist, and I for one am grateful.

By: Mike K. Williamsport PA

I don't have the set list, It will show up sooner or later. Somebody will provide. The traveling was horrendous from Williamsport. The Kirby was hard to find. I look like a fiddler crab from adjusting my wipers from intermittent to off to low to ... and it was slippery roads all the way. Oh yeah, I went with my wife and she has listened to a little John Prine. I am a long time fan. First saw John at Stompin 76. We stopped for the Chinese food around the corner and met the fella who is John's Guitar Tech. ( His hair was perfect! ) John is a legend, he seemed to be having a good time tonight. The crowd was mostly appreciative. There were a couple loud mouths that interrupted John's intros. People yelling for certain songs. There was a 5 year old sitting behind me kicking the back of my seat and a drunk just a little ways from the kid. I will say this, God bless John Prine. This was the first time I saw him after his throat surgery. His singing seems like old times. His talking voice is a little rough. I hope he keeps strong and I am glad that he can still sing just wonderful. It was well worth the driving and I hope he comes around PA again real soon. I'm not much of a writer, but I wanted to say thank you to one of my favorites. Thanks John Prine!

By: John Peck & Suzanne Morgan

An upbeat high energy affair. I didn't see anyone that didn't enjoy all of it. We hope he will come to Wilkes Barre this year or possibly Binghamton NY.

---

[Pittsburgh](#) | [Wilkes-Barre](#) | [Harrisburg](#)

---

## The Forum , Harrisburg , Pennsylvania Feb 28 , 2003

By: Omar

Saw John at the Harrisburg Forum, 2/28, with my wife and 9 year old son, along with three other friends. The crowd was assorted and eclectic, and my son received many comments like "I was about your age when I started to listen to Prine". I left blown away - he really looked like he was digging the show. As I was rehashing the show in my head, I thought to myself that he did SO MANY tunes that I wanted to hear. Then when I thought further, I was thinking of all the tunes I wanted to hear that he didn't do. Roughly 2 1/2 hours of pure Prine, and I was still able to think of wonderful songs that he didn't do - which reinforces to me how talented and prolific a songwriter this guy is. As one other reviewer aptly said "Don't miss this tour."

By: Pete

Had absolutely one of the great experiences of my life tonight when we saw John at the Forum in Harrisburg. This concert was just overwhelming. I was grinning constantly from the time we got inside, and managed to enjoy a nice set by opening act Greg Trooper, but was pretty much totally preoccupied with what was going to happen soon. John came out and pure joy kicked in when he launched into "Spanish Pipedream" to open the show, and a short time later goosebumps hit with the first notes of "Six O' Clock News". It was non-stop strong performances from "Glory of True Love", "Takin' A Walk", "Hello In There", "Bottomless Lake", "Lake Marie", just to name a few that stick out right now. John told a very funny story about misheard lyrics involving an enchilada, and bringing Jimmy Buffet in somehow to the story too. His Ashcroft and Bush references were very well placed at the perfect times during the evening. And he let the audience sing a chorus of "Illegal Smile" all by ourselves!!! John said he didn't

recall playing Harrisburg before but said he may have played at a high school here "back in another century". My wife got a big kick out of John doing both parts of "In Spite of Ourselves", as did John. He also made very funny comments about "Daddy and Me" and Billy Bob. He said Iris was now "Iris Dement Brown". John noted that the Carter Family influenced him quite a bit and then did a great-searing-loud-rockin'-all-out-"Bear Creek". Very strong moving version of "Storm Windows" too. As we were leaving after "Paradise" closed the show, my wife kept commenting on how much John really enjoyed what he does, and how he makes you feel like you are so very welcome and part of the family. Here is a hero who has been through it all and is at a confident (and playful) peace with himself and the world. I am freakin' bowled over by this man and proud to have been a follower early on and now back in the fold through the Shrine and seeing this show. Not too many times in this life does something turn out to be exactly what you had expected. John was this and more to all of us tonight at the Forum. A powerful, unforgettable, etched in your brain forever, experience. Thank you John! Pete

By: Russ Shade

I'm sitting here listening to my minidisc recording of the concert I just left 15 minutes ago. My first John Prine Concert was at the Schubert Theatre in Philadelphia in late winter 1973. I had been listening to the Great Compromise on a cassette someone had given me - but had no idea who the performer was. Third song in that Phila concert was The Great Compromise - and that show finally put a name to the music I had already grown to love. John was a brash, juiced singer then, and after the show, on the way out to the parking lot for a joint, I ran across a small of folks doing what I thought was shape singing. Turned out to be John and some of the band, winding down after the show. So I got to meet John in the flesh. It's strange to sit in a concert hall some 30 years later listening to the same man. He looks a little rough around the edges, and after the opening number, Spanish Pipedream, he had no voice when he tried to speak. I cringed, afraid that I was going to have to rely on the memory of listening to thousands of hours of his recorded music to fill in what I thought were going to be painful gaps. Then he took a drink of water, and launched into Aimless Love and I knew I was headed into a very special evening. Then .."Wanda had a baby..." John hasn't lost his touch. If anything, he is sharper, more focused than he was in that decades-past performance. And, the body of work he has available to him now means that any concert of his will span an incredible swath of emotion and experience. But this concert was special. As he rolled through his set, "watched a man beating his hand against a storm window," lyrics that I had foolishly written off as lesser works now sparkled - diamonds in the rough - now, polished and poignant. I'm still too stunned by what I experienced to write this with any sort of coherence. Don't miss this tour. John gives himself to the audience with incredible joy and the audience responds in like manner and the evening just keeps getting better and better. I'm gonna be up for 3 more hours listening to my recording. "I have to work it out in a song." Dear Abbey, Bottomless Lake, Sam Stone, Illegal Smile, one masterpiece after another - old music with new life. I guess that's the way John's world goes 'round. I'm glad I managed to hang around long enough to live through this night. Some guy hollered "I love you John!" He grinned and mumbled back ... "It's always the guys." Deal with it, John. We love you.

By: slgilius

John came to Harrisburg, PA for the first time and cast his magic net on our imaginations and souls. He was wonderful. I had seen him at the Mann Center last year and this concert was much more personal. I hope we made him feel very welcome because his stop here was a treasure for us. Thank you, John for a wonderful night.

Preview :

## DARE AT CLUB LAUNCHED PRINE'S MUSIC CAREER

Compiled by Barry Fox, The Patriot-News

<http://www.pennlive.com/entertainment/patriotnews/>

Confidence, provided by a couple of beers, is what brought John Prine to the stage for the first time.

After serving in the Army and working for the post office, Prine found himself one evening at an open-mike night, watching others perform while enjoying a few libations.

"There were all these amateurs that were getting up, and they were terrible," Prine recalls in his official biography. "So I started making some comments about it and the next thing I knew somebody said, 'Well, if you think you can do it better ...' I said, 'I could' and got up on the stage and played 'Sam Stone,' 'Hello In There' and 'Paradise' and people seemed to like it."

Among those enjoying Prine's turn at the mike was the club owner, who promptly offered Prine a job. He went home and wrote enough songs to fill a set, and what would become the material for his self-titled debut album.

Meeting Steve Goodman was the next piece in the puzzle. The Chicagoan would become Prine's best friend. He also brought Kris Kristofferson to see Prine perform, and that landed him a national label deal.

In quick succession, the singer/songwriter was being hailed by critics around the country as an insightful social commentator and champion of the common man.

Throughout Prine's major label migrations, which would eventually cover eight albums and two companies, he continued refining his voice and attracting fans.

"It's a great feeling when you put something in a song and other people say that's exactly how they feel," Prine says. "That's the most gratifying thing about songwriting for me: it's always been a real outlet for me being able to put those feelings down."

Those early dabblings in songwriting would eventually be considered classics: "Please Don't Bury Me," "Fish And Whistle" and "Souvenirs" among them.

His reputation established, Prine's songs would be covered by artists ranging from Bette Midler ("Hello In There") to Bonnie Raitt ("Angel From Montgomery") to Tammy Wynette and Johnny Cash (both recorded "Unwed Fathers").

Fed up with his major label dealings, Prine moved to Nashville in the early 1980s and formed Oh Boy Records.

His first independent release, 1984's "Aimless Love" was followed up by "German Afternoons" and "John Prine Live." The latter two received Grammy nominations. Prine eventually won a Grammy for 1991's "The Missing Years," which featured appearances by Bruce Springsteen and Tom Petty and became one of his best-selling discs.

The Grammy board came calling again with a nomination for Prine's 1999 release, "In Spite Of Ourselves," a collection of country tunes Prine sang with Lucinda Williams, Trisha Yearwood, Melba Montgomery, Emmylou Harris, Dolores Keane, Patty Loveless and Connie Smith.

Prine and Oh Boy Records' most recent projects have been the 2000 disc, "Souvenirs" -- consisting of re-recordings from his extensive archives -- and his debut DVD, "John Prine Live From Sessions At West 54th," which includes the PBS special as well as outtakes from the show and an extensive interview.

Earlier this month, Prine received the "Lifetime Achievement Award for Songwriting" at the BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards in London. Compiled by Barry Fox, The Patriot-News

---



# RHODE ISLAND



· USA: [AL](#) | [CA](#) | [FL](#) | [GA](#) | [IA](#) | [IL](#) | [IN](#) | [KS](#) | [LA](#) | [MO](#) | [NC](#) | [NH](#) | [NJ](#) | [NY](#) | [OH](#) | [OK](#) | [PA](#) | [RI](#) | [TN](#) | [VA](#) | [WV](#)  
· CAN: [NL](#) | [NB](#) | [NS](#) | [ON](#) | [QC](#)

[Newport](#) | [Providence](#)

## Apple & Eve Newport Folk Festival, Newport RI August 16, 2003

By: Chris Midora

When John took the stage and began the upbeat "Blow up your T.V.", all the old time Prine fans stormed the front and sang along. John seemed very happy, his voice sounding very good. The venue is very beautiful and has lots of good vibes of appearances in the past, of many great artists, John being one of them. He appeared last time around '92. He dedicated "Souvenirs" to Steve Goodman, as always and sang his heart out. He introduced a new song, very nice. This is great for the fact that he is still writing great songs. We all had a great time!!!

By: Lauren

I went to the festival and waited seven hours in the hot, hot sun to see John! It was worth every minute....I nearly had Heat Stroke but I would wait seven more hours! He was definitely the best one there! My favorite song that he sang was Lake Marie. Come back Soon!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

By: Sally Tibbetts

Just want to say how much I enjoyed the folk festival. I believe they saved the best for last. We got there at 10 am and John didn't come on until almost 5 pm. He was the best part of the show. Every one stood up and clapped and cheered. We all wanted him to give an encore but I guess he couldn't because of the time allowed for each player. He sang one of his new songs that he said he is putting on his next album. I hope its soon.

## PAST AND PRESENT HARMONIZE AT FOLK FESTIVAL

ANDY SMITH Journal Staff Writer

Entire article at: [http://www.projo.com/news/content/projo\\_20030817\\_folk17.3eaa3.html](http://www.projo.com/news/content/projo_20030817_folk17.3eaa3.html)

....."Preceding the final foursome was another superb songwriter, John Prine. With backup musicians on electric guitar and bass, Prine demonstrated his uncanny ability to go from heartbreak to humor and back again. "Sam Stone," his tale of a Vietnam vet turned junkie, still has an ability to put a lump in the throat; the great "Angel from Montgomery" hasn't lost any of its power, either. On "I Wish You All the Best," he deftly navigated the tricky emotional terrain of an ex-lover's wedding. But when he wants, he can keep the laughs coming on a tune like "Dear Abby," an advice column set to music.".....

By: James J. Gillis/Daily News staff

entire article at: <http://www.newportdailynews.com/articles/2003/08/18/news/news1.txt>

NEWPORT - It would be great if people remembered the 2003 Apple & Eve Newport Folk Festival for the subdued stylings of Joan Armatrading, the roaring return of John Prine or the bluesy, rootsy funk of the subdudes. Instead, they'll remember the Sunday rain, sheets of it that soaked Fort Adams State Park for more than two hours, turning the grounds into a mud pit and costing the festival about 45 minutes (it caught up on the delay by shortening performers' sets)....."- John Prine - Prine had last played here in 1995, and it had been way too long. Earlier in his career, he had been slapped with the New Dylan label, and it probably hurt this talented singer-songwriter with the sandpaper-ish voice. Prine is now an elder statesman and sounded better than he has in years, merging ballads with rockers on tunes like "Blow Up Your TV" and the aching "Angel From Montgomery." Prine performed with a three-piece band and blew away the rest of the Saturday lineup. He won a frenzied standing ovation and the crowd chanted for more. The festival, however, fell behind time-wise so there unfortunately was no

encore."

---

[Newport](#) | [Providence](#)

---

## Veterans Memorial Auditorium , Providence , R I April 25 , 2003

By: The Daley's

GREAT show--Johnny played two solid hours of old classics, and threw in a few new tunes, too. Todd's opening act was awesome--especially his Dylan parody. I only ask one question...I've seen Johnny live nine or ten times now, and I've yet to hear him play "Common Sense." I've only heard "Clocks and Spoons once, in Boston. Why, Johnny, why??

By: Hanriver

Great show. Fourth time we've seen John in 9 years. Took two of the 3 kids. My oldest said John reminded him of "Cotton" on Kill of the Hill. In this family that's a compliment.

By: Micky from Ma.

Hi Prine People- Wish you all could have been in Providence last Friday night. My first Prine concert and definitely not my last. I have been a fan for probably 15 years or so. Starting with, unknown to me, Todd Snider who got a well deserved standing ovation at the end of his set it just got better and better. Two and a half hours pure Prine. I didn't want it to end. Neither did anyone else. Come back to the Calvin in Northampton, MA. John and let us MA. folks see you nearer to home. My oh my, what a show.

By: billhardman

John; thank you---excellent concert---the intensity was great--the musicians with you were terrific. Can't decide what I liked better---this one or concert in Northampton, MA 2001--another great venue. Providence loves you. Been listening to you since approximately. 1975. LOVED Sam Stone and Hello in there. Hello in there probably the essence of why I like your material so much. Hoping to hear quit hollerin at me sometime. looking forward to a new release from you john. you're the best man. please keep coming back to the east coast... Be Well. Bill Hardman

By: Sally Tibbetts

This was my first John Prine concert. It was even better than I could have ever imagined. We had front row center seats. So up close....His voice was so strong and wonderful. His music great too. He sang his heart out for 2 1/2 hours straight without even a break! All our favorite songs, plus the new ones which are so beautiful too. Todd Snider, Jason Wilber and Dave Jacques were excellent also. I didn't want the evening to end. But I knew I was going to see him again the next night in New Hampshire.

By: John J. Wood

Set List



- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. Spanish Pipedream                            | 16. Sam Stone (Jacques & Wilber join during song)    |
| 2. Six O'clock News                             | 17. Bear Creek Blues- new song -- Carter family tune |
| 3. Souvenirs                                    | 18. Ain't Hurtin' Nobody                             |
| 4. Fish & Whistle                               | 19. I'm Taking A Walk (new song)                     |
| 5. Grandpa Was A Carpenter                      | 20. The Sins Of Memphisto                            |
| 6. The Glory Of True Love (new song -- great!!) | 21. Hello In There Lake Marie                        |
| 7. Far From Me                                  | ENCORE:  |
| 8. All The Best                                 | 22. Daddy's Little Pumpkin                           |
| 9. Angel From Montgomery*                       | 23. People Puttin' People Down                       |
| 10. You Got Gold *                              | 24. Please Don't Bury Me                             |
| 11. Jesus The Missing Years*                    | 25. Illegal Smile #                                  |
| 12. Dear Abby*                                  | 26. Souvenirs  |
| 13. That's The Way The World Goes Round*        | * - John solo  |
| 14. Donald & Lydia*                             | # - with Todd Snider (who opened)                    |
| 15. The Other Side Of Town (recent new song)*   | (editors note...Huh? no Paradise in the encore?)     |

That's right...a KILLER five-song encore...28 songs, 140 sweet sweet minutes. My seat was in front of Jason Wilber, and almost between Jason and John. It was a wonderful place to be.:-) To Sally Tibbits: Were you with two other people (your sister & daughter)? If so, you were next to me on your right.:-) Some notes: - The three brand new songs were great, esp. Glory Of True Love. Since I already heard "The Other Side Of Town" at shows last year (Athens, Albany) and Northampton the year before, I didn't treat this as "a new song". - John noted that he is halfway through working on a new album with Jason & Dave. - Six O'clock was so tender I cried throughout! - John also told several new stories, including a war story related to the second verse of Fish & Whistle. - Grandpa was played a touch slower, which worked well as John really enunciated several lines. - Far From Me...so tender and sweet...another tear-jerker! - Jesus The Missing Years was so hysterical that after one verse, John started cracking up and grinning to the point WE cracked up. He collected himself and continued nicely. - That's The Way was great, including a mid-song story about the "happy enchilada." - John played electric on the untitled new song and Ain't Hurtin' Nobody; the latter with some nice grinding slide from Jason. - John dedicated Ain't Hurtin' Nobody to Howie Epstein, a very cool touch. Howie was the bassist for Tom Petty & The Heartbreakers, and produced The Missing Years album. - Bear Creek R-I-P-P-E-D!!!!!! John's energy was full steam; and Jason was pickin'-a-TASTY!! - At the end of a sweet "Hello In There", John said, "I love you, Mom!" - Lake Marie ruled, with the same energy as Bear Creek!! The coolest part was seeing the climaxes where John and Jason were 5 feet directly in front of me.:-) - Every second and note of encore RULED!!!!: -) -) - For Illegal Smile, "and the judge's name was....ASHCROFT!!" - After the gig, I bumped into Dave Jacques and a few of us rapped with him briefly, thanking him for the gig. He was nice and polite, and also had numerous family members in the audience (as Dave is from Worcester, an hour away). Couldn't get to meet John, though! I would say the auditorium was 85% full. It was way cool to see John end a handful of songs when he was literally in my face.:-) Very few flubs or oft-notes, and not a dropped lyric to be found. The more the show progressed, the more John turned ON!! Last night was a PRIME PRINE experience I'll never forget.:-) John, thank you, Jason and Dave for one wonderful night of masterful music.

By: M ichaun S .

I went and saw John Prine for the very first time in concert. I am 14yrs. old and the person who actually got me hooked on John was my Aunt Sally. She took me and her sister, Shirley, to see him. It was the best concert I had ever seen. My favorite song that he sang was "you got gold." I couldn't believe how long he could stay up there for. He stood on stage for 2 1/2 hours without a break. I sat in the very front row at the concert so I could see him very well. I would just like to say he has become my new favorite singer and I would love to see another one of his concerts again. We all love you John!!!! Thank you very much Aunt Sally for taking me along with you. And thank you nana for driving me.:-) )

# TENNESSEE



· USA: [AL](#) | [CA](#) | [FL](#) | [GA](#) | [IA](#) | [IL](#) | [IN](#) | [KS](#) | [LA](#) | [MO](#) | [NC](#) | [NH](#) | [NJ](#) | [NY](#) | [OH](#) | [OK](#) | [PA](#) | [RI](#) | [TN](#) | [VA](#) | [WV](#)  
· CAN: [NL](#) | [NB](#) | [NS](#) | [ON](#) | [QC](#)

## TIVOLI THEATER, CHATTANOOGA, TN February 21, 2003



By: CluelessSurfer at aol.com

I first saw John Prine in concert at a bluegrass festival in Capon Bridge, WV in the mid 70's. I've probably seen him at least a dozen times since then. On Friday, February 21st at the Tivoli Theater in TN was his best concert I've ever seen. His voice seems to get better with age. The Tivoli was the perfect setting for a Prine concert. I had great seats and felt like John was playing in my living room. John was at his best. He seemed energized – full of life. It was a joy to hear and watch him play. I drove two and a half-hours from Atlanta to catch this show. It was more than worth it! If he plays anywhere near you, don't miss this tour!

By: laytham @ hotmail .com

My wife and I are somewhat new to Prine, having only immersed ourselves in the last couple of years. But once we found him, there was no turning back; he is now my favorite artist. Friday night in Chattanooga was our first opportunity to see Prine, and as hard as it may be to believe, it was even better than expected. Having heard the Souvenirs CD, I expected John's voice to still show the effects of the cancer, however, there is no sign of that so far as I can tell. He was strong and played for 2 1/2 hours, hitting most of the high points (there are too many to hit in one night, in my opinion). Being in a somewhat "cozy" venue, I was worried about my fellow spectators, but they were not bad, overall. The seats even in the upper balcony were quality, and the lady who was loud during Todd Snider's excellent (but too short) opening was fairly quiet for Prine. The atmosphere was good, and most spectators seemed to be Prine veterans (that can be a blessing and a curse). There were three songs that I was not familiar with, two of which I believe he said were new. "The Glory of True Love" was fresh to me, as was "Think I'll Take a Walk" (something like that) and "That's All Right By Me" (again, something like that). I like the fact that John pulled out "Flag Decal" for this show, a timely song indeed. It may have been written for the Vietnam War, but it resonates loudly right now, over 30 years later. After the second chorus, John commented "I wish George Bush would..." Although I missed the rest among the cheers (I could fill in the blank, but it wouldn't be printable), it was clear how John (still) feels about the issue. The next time he comes near, I will definitely be in attendance, for the second of what I hope are many John Prine shows.

By: JM Augusta,GA

This was my first Prine concert and I can honestly say it was the best concert I have ever attended. Todd Snider opened. Then JP played for 3 straight hours. He was great. He played a good mix of his well know favorites as well as some great new stuff. It will definately be not be my last.

By: Don Abel

The 2003 tour kicked off in grand style. Todd Snider did a great opening set and got a standing ovation. Then John came out with bass and guitar player and proceeded to knock my socks off. I have been listening to and singing John's songs for most of my adult life, and I am no spring chicken. I have heard most of his recorded material, but, live, he is bigger than life. What a show, over 2 hours of non stop John. After an hour or so, the band left John on stage by himself and he just kept on ticking. He did so many songs that a set list is out of the question. After the show he walked in a room where I was standing and I was just speechless. So much talent and energy just amazed me. Get to a show on this tour. You will not regret it.



By: noodling98 @ AOL.COM LETS TRADE CDR 'S

Wow what an excellent show. Tried to get my wife to go but we have a one year old. So I waited in line for tickets and got the best single seat ticket available. When I got to my seat I was just off to the right of front/center. I couldn't believe the view up front. I hope my big head didn't block anyone's view. How about that song "Glory of True Love" and "Great Compromise" and "Flag Decal" and "One Red Rose" and "1/2 Lit(??)" and The Carter Family Jam (WOW) and "Ain't hurt'n nobody?" and "Tak'n a Walk" and "Lake Marie" and "Mexican Home" and the Encore "Mr. Peabody's Coal Train" Awesome Thanks John and please don't wait 4 years to come back. God Bless you John for mentioning Jesus so much . Love Brian Lowe

By: Mike Ensley

Last night was as good as it gets! I've been listening to John for 25 years and he is better than ever; a true LEGEND.

By: Delane Gamble -- gamble\_d@hcde.org

I'm one of the early John Prine fans. Have loved him for over 25 years. Have most albums/tapes/cds. Never miss the chance of seeing him live when he's near. Of all the times through the years - last night - John was at his best! In fact, it was the best concert I've ever had the pleasure of attending - period!! My husband and I raised our children on John Prine's music and my brother raised his children on John's music. I'm happy to say that our grown children were with us "old folks" last night to enjoy John's performance. Thanks, John, for an amazing evening.

By: Lemesa Davies

Last night I had the time of my life. The show at the Tivoli was incredible. I'd like to thank both Dave and John.



I'd like to thank both Dave and John. Dave, for asking John to play Mexican Home and John for performing it so beautifully. Did everyone like the purple rose? Mine. Also to the wonderful security guard that let me sit in the front row even though it wasn't my seat. John, I had a great time with you guys, find me job at Oh Boy and I'll pack for Nashville right now. Thanks handsome for the back stage passes. Everyone really made me feel like I belonged. Maybe I do. And if I didn't know better I would swear that handsome bass player blew me a kiss. Finally got to meet Todd Snider and the Mrs. "Sorry ladies but she's gorgeous, he's not going anywhere" Snider. Hope all the boys got plenty of sleep before driving to Huntsville. Sure wish I was going to be there. John, the more I think about it I think Tommy is great name. Much Love ! Lemesa Davies

By: ELMOREJTE @ AOL .COM

john was the best i have waited four years to see him this was my first but not last. by the way john i was the one that ask you to play paradise. my name was todd her name was diane we think you so much for that!!!! I THINK IT WAS A GOOD SONG FOR A SHOW STOPPER. JOHN I TELL PEOPLE WHEREVER I GO ABOUT YOUR MUSIC IF THEY HAVE NOT HEARD OF YOU. YOU ARE IN MY TOP 5 ALL TIME LIST YOU ARE THE BEST. BY THE WAY JOHN KEEP DIANE IN YOUR PRAYERS JUST WAS DIAGNOSED WITH BREAST CANCER. THANKS AGAIN FOR THAT SONG IT TOUCHED BOTH OF US. P. S. I HAD MY D-28 IN MY JEEP I WISHED I HAD IT WITH ME WHEN I MEET YOU AS YOU ARRIVED THAT EVENING. I WOULD HAVE LIKED TO HAVE YOU SIGN IT. THANK AGAIN TODD.

By: seaglehomes

Great show! Nearly 2 1/2 hours of pure Prine. This tour is a must see.

By: Chip

What can you say about John Prine that has not been said before. Friday nite he played about 2 1/2 hours without missing a "lick". His voice was strong and his work was impeccable as usual. He is truly one of my favorites and has been for as many years as he has been out there performing for us. He is an inspiration to many of us from the same time frame he is in. He has helped many a Veteran to overcome one problem or another. He sings open and honest songs. Some to make you think, laugh or even cry, remembering something from your past, present or future. Again thanks, John Prine for showing all of us the way. Practice random acts of kindness.

---

# VIRGINIA



USA: [AL](#) | [CA](#) | [FL](#) | [GA](#) | [IA](#) | [IL](#) | [IN](#) | [KS](#) | [LA](#) | [MO](#) | [NC](#) | [NH](#) | [NJ](#) | [NY](#) | [OH](#) | [OK](#) | [PA](#) | [RI](#) | [TN](#) | [VA](#) | [WV](#)  
CAN: [NL](#) | [NB](#) | [NS](#) | [ON](#) | [QC](#)

[Portsmouth](#) | [Roanoke](#)

N Tels Pavilion , Harbor Center, Old Town - Portsmouth VA  
August 23 , 2003

By: John Shepherd

Saw THE MAN and Nanci Griffith Saturday. They were both AWESOME. Had 4th row seats and could hear every word. It was the 3rd time I had seen JP and he was better than ever. He is a true National Treasure. He did everything I expected and then some...6 O'CLOCK NEWS, LAKE MARIE, GRANDPA, YOU'VE GOT GOLD, SAM STONE, DEAR ABBY, FISH & WHISTLE, PARADISE, SINS OF MEMPHISTO, SOUVENIRS and many more. He also did some I just didn't expect...MEXICAN HOME and SABU (with Nanci). They sang together on THAT'S THE WAY THE WORLD GOES ROUND, HELLO IN THERE, LAKE MARIE, SPEED OF THE SOUND OF LONELINESS and maybe a couple more....Nanci was great too. She did many of my favorites (LOVE AT THE FIVE & DIME, TROUBLE IN THE FIELDS, FROM A DISTANCE and lots more. Wasn't too crazy about her Liberal political comments, but (Thank God) it's a free country. My daughter and I agreed that the best song of the night was whatever they happened to be singing....JP has no peer in any genre of music and Nanci is great too. The only downer of the night for me (and I realize I'm probably in the minority) was, I wish they didn't sell BEER at concerts. Seems there's always a few loud-mouthed, stupid, drunken slobs who try to ruin the concert for everyone else.....But, all in all, GREAT GREAT CONCERT. Thanks John for a lifetime of wonderful music and May God Bless You.....John Shepherd ..VA Beach VA



By: Charles Wickersham, Sr.

It had been quite awhile since John had played our area. My better half, Candy, had just recently become a convert and was really excited about seeing John in person. I go back to 1970 so at least I know all the words. Nanci Griffin opened the show. Her vocals were hard to understand and her political statements were out of place especially in a military area like ours. But John was great. It was a large crowd for his concert. Sometimes I think I am the only one who listens to Prine music but I guess I am wrong. John did a 3-4 song solo set about half way through the concert. He had the crowd in the palm of his hand. He did a Carter family song that was great. Of course, John did a bunch of the "old" favorites that are like old friends to me. Hope that John will come back and visit us real soon...Wick & Candy

By: spacem astr

I last saw John Prine in the early 70's. It was at Chrysler Hall in Norfolk. He was a strapping young lad, belting out tunes, which are considered anthems by many, now. He was very funny and upbeat onstage. Thirty years later and a million miles, I once again got a chance, to see one of America's greatest musicians. Opening this show, was Nanci Griffith. She, and her band were most excellent, but, 45 min. into her set, out walked the man himself, to a standing O. They sang, WHAT'S COME OVER YOU. Then after a short intermission, the crowd was treated to blow up your T.V., FOR AN OPENER, then COME ON BABY, SPEND THE NIGHT WITH ME. SOUVENIRS, and GRANDPA WAS A CARPENTER, came somewhere in there along with DEAR ABBY, SAM STONE, and even a song by the CARTER FAMILY, called BEAR RIDGE. He even played a couple new ones, and let out word that a new album will soon be out. One of the songs was called, JUST GETTING BY. I can't really recall much more right now, but I do remember that ANGEL FROM MONTGOMERY, AND LAKE MARIE, were also on the set list. He ended the show with his two band members, and NANCY, and her two band members doing the encore. I have to tell ya, it was one terrific night of music. Thirty years later, JOHN PRIME, to me is still, as funny and as upbeat as ever. Even taking the time to step



up to the audience, and dance a little while he played his guitar. thank you JOHN, for a real good time!  
.....BROWNIE

By: sarah

I have been to many concerts and this was one of the most impressive shows I have ever seen. John and Nanci are amazingly moving- they really can't be beat

By: M artin

This was one of my faviote John Prine concerts I have seen. I traveled a ways to see him and he also had Nanci Griffith on the show with him. It is always great to see John play and harmonize with a singer like Nanci.

---

[Portsmouth](#) | [Roanoke](#)

Civic Center Arena Auditorium - Roanoke, VA

May 2, 2003

By: Greg Crist, W .V. Prine Fan

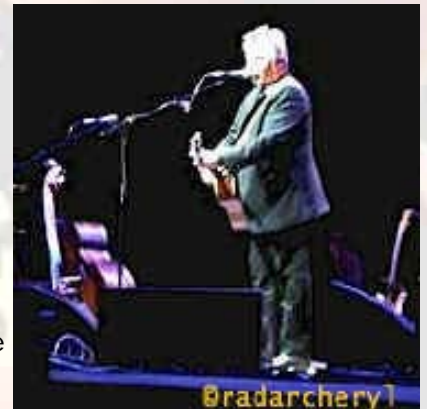
I have been to six of John's concert in the last year and a half and I have to say even though all of them were great, the last one was a little better than great. The show lasted approximately two and a half hours. His voice seemed especially strong and he appeared to be having a great time. He just kept singing and singing and singing. The crowd was well behaved for the most part (much better than some other venues I have been to) and I think everyone felt they definitely got their money's worth. AWESOME, as usual. Can't wait to see him again.

By: M R M A J E S T I K

SIMPLY BLOWN AWAY BY THE JAMMING ON PEACEFUL WATERS.....CHILL BUMPS STILL....TOOK MY TWO MID TEENAGERS AND THEY ARE FANS NOW....BOUGHT TODD'S CD JUST FOR STATISTICS SONG AND WAS REWARDED BY 19 OTHER GREAT SONGS.....THE TWO FELLOWS PROVIDING SUPPORT [WON'T ATTEMPT TO SPELL NAMES] WERE SO DAMNED CLEAN AND PROFESSIONAL IT WAS A PLEASURE.....EQUAL KUDOS TO BOTH.....LOOKING FORWARD TO NEXT TIME.....

By: Dennis S

I have been listening to John for 25 years, going to his concerts for 20 years and I can say without question, he has not lost a thing. Your concert last night in Roanoke was simply awesome. My wife leaned over to me between songs and said " Have you ever listened to John sing that you didn't feel better? If you are in a good mood, it improves. If you are down , you forget your troubles for a little while." Truer words were never spoken. Todd Snider was great too.



By: Naturesw ay

Mesmerizing, John Prine, Your music, goes deep into our hearts, dances around and comes out with a vengeance into the moment like true artist can do. You are forever, and your music, holds us all together, Mommas and Daddies, and babies and teenagers, and all friends, are held in the palms of your music. I had tears, listening, the crowd at times was so quiet, you could feel the room swaying,,, slowly to your rhythm,,, I have high respect for you, and your ability to pour it on... An admirer in Roanoke Lynnell Page

---

# W E S T V I R G I N I A



· USA: [AL](#) | [CA](#) | [FL](#) | [GA](#) | [IA](#) | [IL](#) | [IN](#) | [KS](#) | [LA](#) | [MO](#) | [NC](#) | [NH](#) | [NJ](#) | [NY](#) | [OH](#) | [OK](#) | [PA](#) | [RI](#) | [TN](#) | [VA](#) | [W V](#)  
· CAN: [NL](#) | [NB](#) | [NS](#) | [ON](#) | [QC](#)

## Capitol Music Hall - Wheeling, West Virginia March 7, 2003

By: FlipRollem @ aol.com



First off, if you've never seen a show in Wheeling's Capitol Music Hall, it's well worth it. This old riverfront venue is simply beautiful, with sound quality to match. The ghosts of country singers old and new alike reverberate through its ornate walls. And once again, the Capitol has been graced with the wondrous sounds of John Prine. This was my first Prine Time, and he didn't disappoint a soul. From the opening chords to the last "Thank yew," John held the crowd in his hand. Seems like a forever ago I was introduced to his music somewhere in Athens County, Ohio, and nigh on 30 years later, to finally be able to see John perform is quite a treat. Highlights for me included "Sam Stone" and "Hello In There" (yeah, I know, common ones, but they always bring a tear to my eye, and did so last night, also). During HIT, a fan in the center of the venue cried out "HELLO IN THERE, JOHN PRINE," and caused me to think, well, yeah, John's getting older, aren't we all, but I don't think he has hollow ancient eyes. Thumbs down to the idiots who want to talk about stock prices, the weather, and other artists' works while the performance is underway. I can put up with reactions to the music (applause, hoots 'n' hollers, etc.), but some of these so-called fans who want to prove to the audience that they know a few lyrics just p\*ss me off. So it goes, all just part of the live-music-is-better experience.

### Wheeling, 3-7-03 set list

- 01 Spanish Pipedream
- 02 Aimless Love
- 03 Six O'Clock News
- 04 Souvenirs
- 05 Fish and Whistle
- 06 Grandpa was a Carpenter
- 07 \*The Glory Of True Love
- 08 Far From Me
- 09 All the Best
- 10 Angel from Montgomery
- 11 You Got Gold
- 12 Your Flag Decal...
- 13 Dear Abby
- 14 That's the Way That The World Goes 'Round
- 15 Mexican Home

- 16 \* The Other Side of Town
- 17 In Spite of Ourselves
- 18 Sam Stone
- 19 Bear Creek
- 20 \* ("It's All Right By Me... Mixed Emotions...")
- 21 Ain't Hurtin' Nobody
- 22\* I'm Just Getting By (Taking a Walk)
- 23 <band intro>
- 24 The Sins of Memphisto
- 25 Hello in There
- 26 Lake Marie (encore)
- 27 Please Don't Bury Me
- 28 Illegal Smile
- 29 Paradise

\*new songs

What a great show. I'm still high from it all.



By: R P

I took my 60 yr old mother and my 15 yr old son to this show and both of them were overwhelmed by john and his music.he sounded even better live than on cd my mother thanks me daily for taking her. Ifound it hard to believe



that john would ever play in a small place like wheeling i would like to thank him for making my mother so happy

By: jack straw

I attended this show with a good friend and both of our parents. being 23 and loving john Prine most older folks think it's strange I even know who he is. "Why he's from my time how do you know about him?" is a response I usually get when overheard singing a Prine tune. but that's the beautiful thing about john Prine is people 30 years difference in age can enjoy him the same. That in my opinion marks a truly great

artist.

By: g ig

it was a excellent show from my point of view I ran the stage lights for his show

by John Hayes, Post-Gazette Staff W riter

Short Takes: Prine just fine

<http://www.post-gazette.com/ae/20030311shorttake0311fnp7.asp>

Tuesday, March 11, 2003

It's a "big old goofy world" and John Prine, one of the elder statesmen of country-folk, is perfectly happy to tweak it. Friday at Wheeling's opulent Capitol Music Hall, Prine dug through 32 years of archives and showcased several new songs from a studio album scheduled for release this year.

Prine's charm has always been his complete lack of pretense, self-deprecating wit and lyrical simplicity. He doesn't try to change the world, preferring to chronicle the big events that forever change small lives.

Longtime sidemen David Jacques and Jason Wilbur bookended the set, leaving Prine and his stories alone on stage for much of the show. Playing for two hours-plus without a set list, he stopped occasionally with a wisecrack, caveat or explanation of how a song found him.

The boisterous crowd picked up on the first few notes of "Souvenirs," prompting a story about Steve Goodman and their "great days" in Chicago. Prine confessed that a new country song, "The Glory of a True Love," is about his wife, and recycled his old bit about the "happy enchilada" on "That's the Way That the World Goes 'Round."

Looking upbeat and slick in a trim suit, Prine seemed to want to talk more. But noise from the crowd drowned out many of his comments.

R.B. Morris, a Tennessee folkie signed to Prine's Oh Boy label, opened with a half-hour solo set of interesting, introspective story songs and choice guitar picking.

By: M ELANIE PENARANDA

WHAT A GREAT EVENING SPENT WITH THE OLD FRIENDS WHO FIRST INTRODUCED ME TO JOHN PRINE ALMOST THIRTY YEARS AGO. GREAT SONGS, OLD AND NEW. I FIRST SAW JOHN WITH ARLO GUTHRIE AT SYRIA MOSQUE IN PITTSBURGH SOMETIME AGO, ANOTHER GREAT VENUE. AS THEN HE SEEMED TO ENJOY PLAYING TO US AS MUCH AS WE ENJOYED HEARING HIM PLAY. HIS OPENING ACT WAS EXCELLENT AS WERE HIS BACKUP MUSICIANS. THE ONLY BAD THING ABOUT THE EVENING WAS THAT IT HAD TO END.



By: Larry

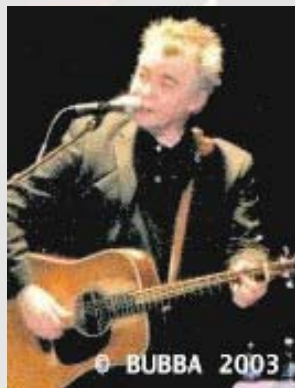
There is not much I can add to the positive comments already written here about the performance by John and his band. John was in strong voice, the guitar and bass player were excellent; very complimentary to the songs. The venue was excellent; a beautiful place that has hosted many of the greats of country music over the years. Heck, Dylan even played there in '97. As for the "drunken rednecks", I've never been to a show (and I've been to hundreds in many venues) where there wasn't a disruptive element. Shoot, I just ignore them or count it as part of the experience. The artists usually deal with them pretty well. Ever seen Steve Earle put a noisy goofball in his place? The highlights of the day for me were two-fold and very personal. By chance, my wife Cathy and I met John at the Ramada Hotel a couple of hours before the show. We were just arriving and he was coming in from a run to the store, with a grocery bag and newspapers. We had a nice chat. I introduced us as "Larry and Cathy" and said it was a pleasure to meet him. Later on that night, we were

thrilled when he said "This next song is for Larry and Cathy" and went right into a song with the name Cathy as a key element. Both the meeting and the dedication were absolutely thrilling for us! Question, however: does anyone know that "Cathy" song? I didn't recognize it. Great show, great venue, great experience, "drunken rednecks" and all!



By: Little Schmo

Hey folks, it was a great show. Yeah, there were many loud drunks, but, that's part of the ambiance. Of all the concert's I've been to, this on had the most well behaved crowd. Lunatics pay for seats, just like the rest of us. Anyway, the show was GREAT!!!! It was amazing that a mostly acoustic show could really bring down the house!!! If you were paying attention to anything other than what was on stage, than you missed it. It was a beautiful theater, tremendous acoustics, and pure talent live on stage. Long live John Prine! I'm also always happy to know that Grandpa wears both of his wing tip shoes!!!!



By: Jeanne

Great acoustics, great performance, (as usual), and the other musicians on stage with John were excellent, we have been waiting a long time to hear John Prine this close to home and no one was disappointed, As John said it best, He knows them all !!!! BRAVO, Jeanne Conkle, Johnstown Pa

By: andy in nunda, new york

My wife and I traveled more than five hours from New York state to see John in West Virginia and we had a great time. So what if people let loose once in a while (listen to 'Illegal Smile' live sometime and it's the audience that makes that recording special), and I'm sorry if I'm one of those folks who forgot themselves and sang along a little bit. It was an excellent show, and it looked like John Prine was having at least as good a time as everybody else. Beats lots of other concerts I've been to through the years.

By: redneck\_prine\_fan

Hey, it doesn't get any better than that! I thought John was superb and the crowd was great, but of course I'm one of the drunken rednecks that peoples are complaining about. I don't hoot much anymore cause of my hernia, but my drunk, redneck wife hooted enough for both of us.

By: bogusdan

I'd like to put my two cents in about the Wheeling concert. Like everyone else, I think John and the band were in great form, giving long-time fans everything what we wanted and spicing things up just a bit with some new material. John's energy and enthusiasm didn't wane for the 2¼ hours he was on stage. Like some of the other correspondents here, I was taken aback by the constant movement in the aisles, persistent calls for songs, and the generally rowdy atmosphere that prevailed throughout the show. But if it bothered John, he moved pass it like the pro he is, he's probably had many worse audiences over the course of his career. I think he may also realize that many of the fans in this particular venue were out for a good time after a devastating winter in an area that is facing a brutal economic future. If some sensitive souls, like myself, were put out after driving three hours in our Subaru's to hear our favorite John Prine songs performed with the pristine clarity of the CD version, only to have it ruined by the raucous behavior of some overenthusiastic fans blowing off steam, then maybe we should re-listen to the songs themselves and remember that these are the folks John has written about for thirty years. Perhaps a few moments were spoiled for some, but I think John was able to see through the rough spots to realize the respect and affection that poured from the entire audience for an artist who truly speaks to, and for, us all.



By: Spoonman31

Great show, but those frigging rednecks ruined it...I will never go back to that venue again...security should have taken care of those assholes early on...But John Prine still was able to make me forget about those numbskulls...Sang some newer songs one in particular caught my ear...Wheeling is a dump...

By: m t rocks

"Marsha" is correct in that JP and band were "awesome". However, it was THE saddest concert I've ever attended. I don't know what these "mad max" extras were into --booze and/or dope --but it was distracting to the point that we left our very good seats for distant seats in the moonbeams, and STILL, the ragtag screamers spread out, howling at each guitar stanza, clapping and "singing" (?) off key, chatting like little kids during John's wonderful story-telling, and of course SCREAMING out half-song titles relentlessly. We wanted to hear "Lake Marie" so bad, but finally threw in the towel. I can't fathom



why JP attracts these misanthropic Neanderthals. We saw the Morgantown show a couple of years ago. Security neatly removed several misfits early, and the show was forever etched into our memories as priceless! Do you really want to hear some fat woman bantering about how "great it was 4-wheelin' with y'all last year" when JP is up there in an acoustic set, carefully phrasing? I can't believe they prefer to listen to themselves when an outstanding rendition of "You've Got Gold" is being offered! All I know is, these rowdies spoiled the event and we'll never go to Wheeling again. Why didn't they go to the dog track where they would be more in their element?



By: m arsha

this was my second show in as many weeks (does that qualify me for "groupie" status?). john sounded awesome. his band sounded awesome. if you have a chance to go to a show - DO IT! my husband turned me on to John 20 something years ago and I have grown up- so to speak - with him. I always liked the "classics", dear Abby, Sam stone, grandpa was a carpenter but now that I'm getting older, I'm starting to delve deeper into the varying layers of his songs. they never get old. that man sure has a way with a phrase. anyhow, the show was excellent and john was very patient with the drunks who kept yelling out song titles. his understated response was " I know them all"

By: Tyler County Hoosier

John was excellent! Sat 5 rows back, and thought he was singing just to me most of the time! Probably about 1500 people attended, and let me tell you, he brought a tear to my eye more than once! First time I ever saw Johnnie live, but it was well worth the price of admission. Standing ovations and applause ruled the evening, and when he finished up with R.B. Morris, it was awesome! Don't miss a chance to see this man!

By: Shivas



This was my first John Prine concert and I truly was not disappointed. The venue was a real gem, great acoustics and friendly people to assist you. I haven't been to a concert in a few years so I had trouble with all the folks getting up and heading for the lobby for food/beer. One guy spent more time walking up and down the aisles than sitting and listening to John. (go figure). It truly was an entertaining evening. High point of the night as he was singing "Flag Decal" John stopped and said "I wish George W. would quit making my old songs popular again. Crowd responded with standing O. I truly enjoyed the evening, John is a very special talent. Good Night  
Barbara Allen

# NEW FOUNDLAND



· USA: [AL](#) | [CA](#) | [FL](#) | [GA](#) | [IA](#) | [IL](#) | [IN](#) | [KS](#) | [LA](#) | [MO](#) | [NC](#) | [NH](#) | [NJ](#) | [NY](#) | [OH](#) | [OK](#) | [PA](#) | [RI](#) | [TN](#) | [VA](#) | [WV](#)  
· CAN: [NL](#) | [NB](#) | [NS](#) | [ON](#) | [QC](#)

## St John 's Convention Centre , St John 's, NL November 15, 2003

By: Corey Pretty - Bishop 's Falls, New foundland

Well if I died on the way home from the concert, I would have died happy! John was awesome. I waited a long time for the opportunity to see "The Man" live. It was all worth the wait. I had cold shivers from the time I sat down til John done his final curtain call. The show wasn't advertised but I was lucky enough to get a couple tickets from a greedy fan that bought too many. Thank God he did. I hope the Promoters of the Exploits salmon festival, the fallsview festival, and any other festivals in Newfoundland see how popular this man is. His show will be successful wherever the venue, but who else can appease to fans from 7 to 70 years of age. John I also have a confession to make. I had to call my buddy by cell phone and let him listen to a couple of songs. He feels so bad he wants your address so that he can send you a cheque (check if you are American lol). I hope you make a return trip real soon as there were a lot of disappointed fans that didn't make it because of availability of tickets. Please remember we have one of the most successful festivals in all of Canada in the "Exploits Valley Salmon Festival" And I hope between your promoters and their committee members they can bring you here for the largest festival ever. You could make the Beach Boys look like a Sunday school picnic...Lets do it

By: Roland Peddle, Codroy Valley, New foundland, Canada

Hello everyone Well its two weeks later and my friends and I are still talking about how amazing the concert was. Mr. Prine just blew us out of the water with an absolutely brilliant performance. The concert goer's just fed of John's love of performing and the awesome story telling, I still have cold shiver's running through my body thinking about the concert. The reviews and excitement outside after the concert were incredible, people were amazed by what they had just witnessed. I have had the privileged of seeing some awesome performers live Don Williams, Willie Nelson, Lorrie Morgan just to name a few but without a doubt the highlight of my concert going was John Prine On November 15th, 2003. "Aw Heck" John you should have played for another two and half hours. And yes we will hold you to your promise to return before twenty years ever pass again.

By: Scott Slade

Man what a show!!! John put off an absolutely brilliant performance...in a way only John Prine can put off. He played to an appreciative crowd for nearly 3 hours and every song was listened to with enthusiasm. Jimmy Rankin also did a great job in getting the crowd ready. I hope it doesn't take another 20 years for John to return. Thanks John, keep on playing.

By: Joe

Been a fan for over 20 years and last time we saw him was the Atlantic Folk Festival. Jimmy Rankin was great at both shows. John Prine talked to the crowd more in Halifax, but what I enjoyed in Saint John was the crowd singing along to some of the songs and it appeared he enjoyed it also. Now to the guy singing Dear Abby while John was singing Far From Me, I'm not talking about you!! For all the fans who have never had the chance to meet him I have some things to say...my wife and I and our 16 year old son along with 8 other people were fortunate enough to meet him backstage after the Saint John show. We were told it would take about an hour and he would be out after a shower and meal. Jason Wilber came out and chatted for about 20 minutes with us and posed for pictures. When John finally came out I was like a kid waiting for Santa and didn't know what to say when I got there, my wife said it was the first time she had EVER seen me speechless. He spent about 1/2 hour with us and had pictures taken with everyone and chatted graciously with us all. You always wonder if someone you admire so much can live up to your expectations when you meet them....well to all the Prine fans out there he is the genuine person you hoped he would be and even surpassed what I expected. Hope you all get to experience what we did some day.....Thanks John

By: Karen

The concert in St John's was just amazing. One of the best concerts I have ever been to. Everyone seem to have so much fun including John and the band. Wondering if anyone got the setlist to the show???

By: Lorna Carey

For my 43rd birthday, my husband gave me tickets to see John Prine along with him and my daughter, age 22, and my son, age 19. My youngest daughter, age 9, was very disappointed that she didn't get to attend, as she is also a very big fan. I hadn't even heard that he would be playing in St. John's until I had the tickets in my hand. Wow, what a gift! My son, who attends school in Stephenville, secured a ride to Buchans, where we live, and from there, we made the 5 1/2 hour trip to St. John's. I was so excited! One of my nephews flew in from Goose Bay, Labrador for the concert, and another one drove from Bishop's Falls, and we met another one in St. John's, so you could say it was a family affair. The concert itself was absolutely awesome! We were all entranced in his performance, especially me. I had never expected to see him in person, although I listen to his music all the time. We couldn't believe his stamina, and dedication to his audience. He really aims to please, doesn't he? Since I came back home, I've been constantly singing bits and pieces of Prine. I fall asleep with it in my head, and wake up in the morning with it still there. Thanks John!, for a great birthday gift! Maybe next time, they'll give you a bigger venue, so there won't be as many disappointed people in Newfoundland.

By: Kevin

John was absolutely fantastic. This was my first time seeing John perform live, but I hope not the last. I have been a fan for a about 10 years and seeing John perform live was the ultimate thrill for me. He played for over 2.5 hours and could have easily played another 2 hours and the people would have stayed. Jimmy Rankin did a great job warming up the crowd.. John don't wait too long to come back again. You gave me a better appreciation for your music and talent in 1 night than in 10 years of listening to your tapes and cd's.

By: Nikki

PHENOMENAL!! I had mixed emotions about the venue but I was totally amazed that anyone could sit in the concourse during the show because they were uncomfortable. I think I could have been sitting on nails and would still be there if John, et al, kept performing. I loved the "Happy Enchilada" story and John's final goodbye when he accredited his band (who were also mesmerizing), Jimmy Rankin and patting himself on the chest, "And I'm John Prine." - As if we didn't know.

By: Frank Davis

Have been listening to JP for years and this was my first in concert. What a show John gave the 1700 fans!!....He played for approx 3 hours non-stop ...old and new songs. His energy was just amazing and he came out of the backstage area later to meet a few die hards for photos and autographs. What a guy!!..and the that voice.....how familiar it sounds ...like someone I have known all my life. John ..thank you for including us on this tour and please don't wait 20 years to return....we love you and your music.....And yes we do have Tim Horton's on every corner...there's probably a song there somewhere.!!...

By: David / Faye Andrews

He sounded even better than a CD, and what a performance! Truly one of the best entertainers of our time. Don't miss this show.

By: Porter

What a WICKED show!! Almost 3 hours of classic John Prine ! I saw him perform in 1981 and 1987, and this show was the strongest and most powerful performance. He just gets better with time! Well worth the 4 1/2 hour drive to the concert !

By: Jerry Scott

What a wicked show. I started listening to Prine about 8 years ago and there's not a week that goes by that I don't listen to at least one Prine song. The blend of old classics with a few new songs for balance provided me with the perfect evening. Thanks for playing "In Spite of Ourselves", a personal favorite of both my wife and I and "Grandpa was a Carpenter", a personal favorite of my six month old son. John, you don't know how many times that you have sung my boy to sleep. Thanks for the great show.

By: stephen short

john prine is what songs and singing is the utmost, humble, superstar of the average guy /gal, john prine is not, has not, or will ever sell out his soul. johnny cash {r.i.p.} will shake his head in awe, right there in heaven every time john prine strums a tune. thanks for a PERFECT SHOW FROM A PERFECT SHOWMAN>MR. JOHN PRINE.

By: Kim Warford

What can I say - brought back a lot of memories - as soon as I heard that raspy voice. He's unique in his own right - the songs are a way of getting back to the simple things in life in a funny sort of way. Only a John Prine fan can relate to what the music does to their soul. Anyway us Newfoundlanders waited a loooong time for Prine and he sure delivered! An excellent concert - sold out - and guess what I was the sole owner of the very last ticket sold!! I like living on the edge it is so much fun! Thank you John for a wonderful concert - hope the damp weather doesn't affect your hip too much! Take care and keep on singing.

By: Wendy

You did an awesome job Mr. Prine - I knew it was going to be good - but needless to say you out did yourself. I've been listening to your music just about as long as i can remember and will continue to do so. It's hard to explain just what your music does to me - you make me laugh, mellow me out when stressed out and the list goes on. I wasn't born the last time you were here so i didn't have a chance to see you then - so yes thank-you so much for one of the best nights of my life - please try your best to return!!!

By: Bill Ryan

WOW. What a show. I saw JP in St John's in the 80's and in Ottawa in 2002. I have been listening to his tunes for at least 25 years. I know all of his tunes by heart and listen to the cd-'s every day. This concert was very special to me, as my daughter Patrica and her husband were also at the show. I got her hooked on JP years ago and she didn't know I had tickets until the day of the show. She was flabbergasted by his performance as we all were. Thanks John for the very special night. Please don't wait 20 years till you come back again. I still get goose bumps remembering the way you did the 6 0' clock news. Good bless you, you really do got gold inside of you.

---

# NEW BRUNSWICK



· USA: [AL](#) | [CA](#) | [FL](#) | [GA](#) | [IA](#) | [IL](#) | [IN](#) | [KS](#) | [LA](#) | [MO](#) | [NC](#) | [NH](#) | [NJ](#) | [NY](#) | [OH](#) | [OK](#) | [PA](#) | [RI](#) | [TN](#) | [VA](#) | [WV](#)  
· CAN: [NL](#) | [NB](#) | [NS](#) | [ON](#) | [QC](#)

[Moncton](#) | [Saint John](#)

[Moncton Coliseum](#) , [Moncton](#) , [NB](#)  
[November 18, 2003](#)

By: Dana

Hello We just saw John In Moncton. My brother Kim said he's waited all his life to see John--What is left now? I say let's get him to come back sooner next time. My brother in law Steve was worried he would play all the newer tunes, turned out to be no concern at all. Brother Ian concerned about getting there and not missing anything had us arriving at six thirty (PM) just to make sure we could get the souvenir we wanted. Plenty left so we had a couple of refreshments. I Dana saw John at the Rebecca Cohn (15 yrs ago) It was like old home week. My dad (82) thinks John is from Parrsboro because of the fan base. I think he should carry on with his way. Keep nailing that train set to the table . Dana, Kim, Ian, Hatfield special guest Steve Morris.

By: Todd

Wow, I've waited a long time to see Mr Prine and was worth the wait, you kicked ass John, hope next time you come up to the great Miramichi!!!

By: Mary and Brian (PEI)

A totally awesome show! More than met my expectations. It was a dream come true to see Prine in a live performance. Thank you!!

By: Trevor Wade

Great concert. Great opening act. Well being a Maritimer makes it easy to say "great opening act". Jimmy Rankin is jut one fantastic artist and songwriter. I knew if John Prine came here again, he'd get the reaction he did. I'm eagerly awaiting the new album. On a selfish note...I keep the John Prine flame burning brightly by playing his songs at concerts. Whether people want to hear them or not. I wanted him here and got him. I can now die a happy man. To the person from ST Fx who wrote. Bruised Orange came in the late 70's so I doubt it was "The Hobo Song" you heard. I have been known to be wrong...once.

By: Donald

what a concert, jimmy rankin, john prine only thing missing was iris dement another happy miramichi'er

By:

Amazing show! Really receptive crowd comprised of roughly 3/4 Miramichiers, myself included. (great music taste I guess) Can't wait for the new album.

By: earland earla pei

JOHN Prine. You are the best. Danny and Joyce Creelman, along with friends Bob Irving and Chris Cole sat in row 13 on the floor at the coliseum and witnessed a class act of musical talent for well over 2 hours. We traveled over the bridge from P E I. It is amazing how John Prine tunes pick up a person's spirit The first time I heard a Prine tune was at ST.F.X. U IN 1975. The Hobo Song. Been listening to you ever since. We had a great time. THANKS AGAIN FOR THE GREAT MEMORIES. Danny Joyce Creelman Grand River P.E.I.

By: Walkin' Dude

Setlist

1. Spanish Pipedream
2. Six O'clock News
3. Souvenirs
4. Fish and Whistle
5. Grandpa Was a Carpenter
6. Picture Show
7. I'm Just Gettin' By
8. All the Best
9. Angel From Montgomery
10. Donald and Lydia
11. You Got Gold
12. Dear Abby
13. That's the Way That the World Goes 'Round
14. The Bottomless Lake
15. Sabu Visits the Twin Cities Alone
16. In Spite of Ourselves
17. Sam Stone
18. Bear Creek Blues
19. That's All Right By Me
20. Ain't Hurtin' Nobody
21. The Sins of Memphisto
22. Daddy's Little Pumpkin
23. Hello In There
24. Lake Marie
25. Your Flag Decal Won't Get You Into Heaven Anymore
26. Illegal Smile
27. Paradise w Jimmy Rankin

By: Another Happy Miramichier!!!!!!!

John Prine, you are the best. Jimmy Rankin rocked too!! What a great pair, definitely the 2 should do more singing together!! Miramichi certainly enjoyed the show in true Miramichi style. Perhaps next time John you could come to the Civic Center in Miramichi City, since approximately 80% of the Moncton concert fans were Miramichiers!!!! Only thing, once you come to Miramichi, you may never want to leave!! Take care of yourself Johnny, and see you next time!!!

By: Joe & Alex, Miramichi

We drove from the Miramichi to see you John and you TOTALLY ROCK. Been fans for many years past and will be for many to come. Thanks for sharing your beautiful music with us John. You played for over 2 hours non stop and we so appreciated your energy and spirit. Liked those 2 new songs you played and very much looking forward to the new album. Hope to see you again in New Brunswick John.

By: I'm from Miramichitoo!

John: Your songs are river songs. We loved your concert. You are the very best. Please come to Miramichi.

By: Dartboy - a nudder Miramichier

Section 35, row H, seat 17, awesome seats and a truly amazing performance by John Prine. I don't think the concert could have been any better, even if I had hand picked the songs for him to sing. Come to Miramichi next time Mr. Prine, most of the people at the concert were from there. Still singing Prine songs today (that's not uncommon thing anyway). Oh yeah, Jimmy Rankin was pretty good too.

By: Another Miramichier

An absolutely wonderful performance. John Prine's lyrics are awesome in their simplicity and power. His stage presence and charisma combined with awesome music and his so familiar voice made this the best concert I have ever attended. His smile made me smile, and giggle at times as I recalled nostalgic memories of singing those same songs around Miramichi campfires. He truly appeared to love performing for us and grinned throughout the evening. A performer who warms to an audience...who so obviously thrives on pleasing us...is a performer I want to see. I so much anticipated this concert and it far exceeded my fondest expectations. Today I am still on a high and humming his songs. Thank you John Prine. Please include us in another tour.

By: Deb Smith

My first time seeing John, excellent show, so much energy and great guy!! Jimmie Rankin great too.

---

[Moncton](#) | [Saint John](#)

---

Harbour Station, Saint John, NB  
November 17, 2003

By: :) Debbie - trainsongs2001 at yahoo.com

## Set Lists :

### Jimmy Rankin

1. Gypsy Road
2. Midnight Angel
3. Handmade
4. Sweet Wheels
5. Colorado
6. Followed Her Around
7. Lighthouse Heart

### John Prine

1. Spanish Pipedream
2. Six O'clock News
3. Souvenirs
4. Fish and Whistle
5. Grandpa was a Carpenter
6. Far From Me
7. Picture Show
8. The Accident
9. All the Best
10. Just Gettin' By
11. Angel From Montgomery

### Solo set

12. Big Old Goofy World
13. You've Got Gold
14. Donald and Lydia
15. Dear Abby
16. That's the Way That The World Goes 'Round
17. The Other Side of Town
18. In Spite of Ourselves

### Band Returns

19. Sam Stone (David & Jason return about mid song)
20. Bear Creek
21. That's Alright by Me
22. I Ain't Hurtin' Nobody
23. Sins of Memphisto
24. Hello In There
25. Lake Marie

### Encore

26. Bruised Orange (Chain of Sorrow)
27. Please Don't Bury Me
28. Illegal Smile
29. Paradise

This was a first for me and John Prine...first John Prine concert for me and first time that John had played in New Brunswick! I was ready! My husband John was with me and our daughter Krissy.

After opening the show with "Gypsy Road", Jimmy Rankin said "It's so nice to be here opening for John Prine! It's a great show. You're lucky you're here." Jimmy is so great to watch and listen to, you know he feels right at home there on stage. He then played "Midnight Angel", "Handmade", "Sweet Wheels", "Colorado", "Followed Her Around" and last but not least "Lighthouse Heart". It was a real pleasure to see Jimmy, he is sooo talented!

There was a little break so Krissy and I visited the OhBoy booth. Picked up some beer cozies, a flyswatter and a couple of cd's.

We got back to our seats and just had a minute or two before the lights all went down and then...(this was it...here they were...we were on our feet...clapping and hollering....John's smile was evident from the moment he came on til the very last bow and thank you) John Prine, David Jacques and Jason Wilber bounced onto the stage and cranked out "Spanish Pipedream". Wooohooooo it was magic! They went right into "The Six O'clock News" and I was totally spellbound.

John says "This is our first time in New Brunswick and we're proud to be here!" That of course had us hollering and clapping and grinning from ear to ear! He said "the next song I did with Steve Goodman and Steve had a way of playing it on guitar that made it sound like I was doing all the good parts!" That was the intro for "Souvenirs".

He is just amazing to watch. After almost every song he says thank you and then kinda hops and then switch guitars and grab a drink of water from the table on stage. It was so apparent he was having such a good time! After "Souvenirs" he had a quick shot from what looked like a bottle of cough medicine. At this point I think... "I hope he isn't catching a cold or going to lose his voice or anything!" He sounded great but you could hear the strain in his voice by the end of the night.

Next two songs were "Fish and Whistle" and then, I think the entire audience knew, "Grandpa was a Carpenter", cause everyone was singing along. Someone kept yelling out for "Everybody" ... finally John threw back, "I heard ya...and I think everybody heard ya." I'm not sure when this was, but I think it was while he tried to start "Far From Me." He did "Picture Show" followed by a quick drink of water and a little bow...every start and finish of a song had everyone cheering, clapping and ... well you get the picture! It was sometimes so loud between songs that it was hard to make out what he was saying between songs.

Introducing "The Accident", he said something like "this is the song I didn't learn ... til I went to Newfoundland." I'm not sure if or what else he said here...maybe someone else there caught it. More people started yelling for more songs and John replied..."You're gonna have to wait...I'm doing them alphabetically!" Everyone laughed at that and it seemed to keep down the number of requests being yelled out.

He played "All The Best" and of course, told how it's the song to play if you're asked to play at your x's wedding. It was real quiet while he played his new song "Just Getting' By" ... I can't wait til the new cd is out!

A standing ovation followed "Angel From Montgomery" and then David and Jason left the stage and John started his solo section with "Big Ol' Goofy World." At the end of the song he was teasing us to sing and then he came in

for the last line and then added "it's getting' goofier by the second!" Next, and one of my favorites, "You've Got Gold," it gave me shivers up my spine, as did most all of his songs. He had another shot of "cough medicine" and then right into "Donald and Lydia" then "Dear Abby." ... he paused before the last verse and said, "This is the only true verse", he was grinning from ear to ear all night!

He told the "happy enchilada" story before "That's the way the World Goes 'Round" and everyone loved that. It also was real quiet for "The Other Side of Town"... one of mine and John's (my hubby) favorite new songs...but we could sing along! ;) we did... but real quietly! John got to the second verse of "In Spite of Ourselves" and then said, "I forget to tell you it was a duet", then later instead of "swears like a sailor when she shaves her legs" he started "shaves her legs....(goes back) and does it right without hardly missing a beat! By the second verse a young lady, she was about 20 and enjoying the show very much, came right to the front of the stage and started dancing, giving John, thumbs up all through the song... a guy, not sure if he was security, tried to get her away from there, but she wouldn't go...she was gonna have this dance! At the end of the song she gave John two thumbs up and as he played the last strum of the song, brought his guitar down, bowed and gave her a thumbs up too!

"Sam Stone" was so wonderful to hear live and up close and David and Jason came back midway though it, man... David can run the chills up and down my whole body when he uses that bow on the strings. He is Amazing.

The next few songs brought the tempo back up with "Bear Creek", dedicated to Johnny Cash, "That's Alright By Me" and "I Ain't Hurtin' Nobody". Here John introduced the band and then more songs! "Sins of Memphisto" then "Hello In There", I'm sure everyone sang along to that! When they started "Lake Marie", I was like...this is it...it's almost over now...when the line with "up to Canada" was sung, the place exploded with cheering again. By the end of the song, we were all on our feet and of course the boys came back to give us more.

"Bruised Orange (Chain of Sorrow)" then "Please Don't Bury Me" and then "Illegal Smile" everyone sang. At the end of the song John was having a bit of trouble with the pick up on his guitar, it cut out so he kinda wiggled it, continued on... it happened again then his guitar guy came out and did something to it while John kept right on playing and then at the last line it cut again and John took off the guitar... it appeared that was all for tonight, we yelled and clapped and hollered and then John grabbed another guitar and Jimmy came out and grabbed a guitar, identical to John's and joined him playing "Paradise".

John got the "boys" to take bows, one after the other, then he bowed, then the "boys" again and then him and then them all and then they headed off stage, waving and still smiling and the house lights came on. I'm still smiling. He gives a part of himself to everyone at his show. He is a master and I have watched a master at his craft, at his best.

...My first JP show and I know it won't be my last. Thank you John Prine!

By: Tracy

Oh My, what a master!!! Four of us old friends (2 Miramichiers, 2 from Fredericton) all went together, we've loved John Prine since we were teenage girls, and play and sing his songs regularly at parties and whatnot. Two of us were in tears at some points, but mostly he made us laugh! He is so full of wit and energy, I just wanted to hug him! Made our night. What a gift. I just have to get his newest CD - I had never heard Lake Marie or "I'm taking a Walk" (probably not the real title) before. It was very, very moving. And oh yes, Jimmy Rankin had us spellbound as well. We were so happy he got up and played with John for the last number. Definitely going again if I ever get the chance.

By: Jim Landry

great show as always/ john has the ability to make you smile, even when he is telling you a sad story. maybe its his sincerity coming through. reminds me of Redd Skelton. I was in row 3 along with 16 friends who I coerced into coming along. no regrets. met john wandering around market square in the afternoon. had a chat and even got my photo taken with the gentleman. he's my hero

By: david and m om

what a show!!! first saw john in Toronto in the mid 70's and can assure you he just gets better with age. My eighty year old mother drove for 1-1/2 hours to be there and all she can say is "when's the next concert"? She says she will see you then!!

By: Tony Boyce (tboyce3221 at rogers .com )

What can I say. I have been singing John Prine songs on the guitar for twenty years and to see him in concert was fantastic. I heard that Mr. Prine maybe would perhaps give an autograph if someone was to wait in the cold until he left the stadium. So I met Allison Matthews outside the stadium after the show and she was also waiting for an autograph. My wife and daughter were waiting in the van. So here we were, four John Prine fans waiting for an autograph in the cold... Mr. Prine came out of the stadium one hour later...We said : "Mr. Prine could we please have your autograph?" Well, he smiled a smile that could have save the entire world. He said: "Sure!" That's all he said. I asked my wife to turn up the John Prine music playing in the car. He wrote: "Thank you, John Prine" on the back of our ticket stubs. Well we say: Thank you Mr. John Prine for being a down to earth human being! We will



never forget the inspiration you give to us.

By: Kelly

Words cannot adequately describe what it was like to see Prine in concert last night. The energy in Harbour Station was amazing. I had goose bumps before he even came on stage and tears in my eyes when he started to sing. I can only describe the feeling as being almost spiritual. I saw 25 years of my life flash before my eyes as he played Souvenirs, Hello in there, Sam Stone and all the other great classics. Each tune brought a different memory from my past and as I walked away from there last night I couldn't help but feel that I had just witnessed a once in a lifetime event...Thanks for the memories John.

By: carmike at nbnet.nb.ca

After watching John in concert last night, I was inspired today to write this ode to him ..in his own style..I can't write the music , but I think you can figure out the tune from the cadence of the words....Michael Haley , Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada, E3B 2R9 The Star of His Own Show (Ode to John Prine) He was smilin' & dancin' And even romancin' all the ladies that were in the first row while the music got louder I saw him get prouder He's the star of his own show. Chorus: Oh I watched him sing out his life on the stage; strumming on his old guitar. talking 'bout heartbreak and even a smart ache; and loving in the back of his car. Like a gunslinger slingin' and a songwriter singin'; he kept us in the palm of his hand. till the last note fell; like a choir from Hell; all across this cold, cold land First he'd sing real gentle; like an Oriental Then he's whoop and holler and yell And he'd close his eyes to the screams and cries; of a love-sick mademoiselle then he's look out yonder to a place beyond her and he'd get down on one knee. As the place grew quiet just before the riot; Said he'd sing his songs for free. chorus: Now I think back fondly way above 'n beyond me; to the night that I heard him sing And my heart beats faster like a dynamite blaster digging for a diamond ring I can see him smiling All the phone dials dialing; just to get him to come back again. But the stage stands empty and the ladies tempting; everybody wants to be his friend Repeat chorus & first verse

By: Alden

Two and a half hours of prime Prine. I saw him in '82 at the Atlantic Folk Festival but I enjoyed this show much more. His voice sounded a little raspy for the first few numbers but, as several people have written in here before, his voice seemed to get stronger as the evening went on. If you can't a chance to see him, don't pass it up. It may be the last time he comes this way again.

By: IJC

What a great show!! I laughed, could've cried, and sang all night. In fact, if JP would have played all night, I would have sang all night. The man is getting stronger and stronger as the years go by. As in past shows, I thought his voice was going to quit early on but he sings through and it gets better as the night goes on. Started off firing with Spanish Pipedream and kept going strong from there. Other favourites of mine where Fish and Whistle, The Accident, World goes Round, IN SPITE OF OURSELVES, Sam Stone, Hello in There (Love you Mom) and LAKE MARIE. Some other emotion jerkers where 6 O'clock New, Angel from Montgomery, All the Best. Many more to fill the gaps between these songs. Nice tribute to Mr. Cash. Finished off the Encore with Jimmy Rankin helping him out on Paradise. Very nice. I hope all enjoyed the concert as much as I and the people special to me did. The emotions ran all over. We are lucky to have had him come to our area. Even luckier if he ever makes it back again. Peace

By: Kram Nival

Well only having experienced John Prine's music in a peripheral way throughout my short life (35 yrs.), my wife, a Newfoundlander (real fans of honest singer/songwriters), has been a fan since her teens and insisted there was no way we could let an artist like this come through town and not partake. Well, needless to say I was blown away. this guy is freakin' amazing! The power of his voice and his delivery was second to none. I've seen Dylan, Neil Young and many others but I have to say he held the crowd in the palm of his hand like no one I've ever seen before. His bandmates were also amazing, top notch players without question, but even when they left the stage John and his acoustic cast their spell over the audience - it was clear who was drivin this bus. Obviously he still enjoys connecting with his fans an they with him. I am now a member of the converted. I am sorry to say that I haven't been listening to this cat a little closer over the years. Oh well, there is no way to change the past but I am running out today to pick up a couple of his albums. (I sure hope I can find the one with the tune about "The Happy Enchilada") If you have an opportunity to see this man - jump at it! There is no question that your money and time will be well spent. Cheers!

By: yukonlarry

Awesome show. My first of John.

# NOVA SCOTIA



· USA : [AL](#) | [CA](#) | [FL](#) | [GA](#) | [IA](#) | [IL](#) | [IN](#) | [KS](#) | [LA](#) | [MO](#) | [NC](#) | [NH](#) | [NJ](#) | [NY](#) | [OH](#) | [OK](#) | [PA](#) | [RI](#) | [TN](#) | [VA](#) | [W V](#)  
· CAN : [NL](#) | [NB](#) | [NS](#) | [ON](#) | [QC](#)

[Sydney](#) | [Halifax Nov 10](#) | [Halifax Nov 11](#)

Centre 200 , Sydney N .S .  
Nov 13 , 2003

By: E. Vardy - New Waterford NS .

I don't know where to start; the man was simply amazing. I kept looking down at my watch, he played for 2 1/2 hours non stop. Every time I tell someone about the show I get goose bumps, they all think I'm wacked!! But listening to John Prine singing "The Old Man" , "I'm Just Gettin By" ,etc.....Awesome!! I've seen Dylan, Stevie Ray Vaughan, Garth Brooks, Neil Young, Paul Simon, etc...; But that concert on Thursday night was by far the best concert I've seen. John Prine is a class act. I liked how he thanked Jimmy Rankin and invited him on stage at the end to do a song together. I was impressed with Jimmy Rankin too; the acoustic version of "Followed Her Around" was great. Mr. John Prine, if you read this review, I'd like to say I've been listening to your songs for a long time either on tape and cd or someone singing them at a house party or camp fire, your concert in Sydney was the real deal. Sure hope you come back again.

By: Sheetman

What a terrific show! Opening act, Jimmy Rankin, of Cape Breton, NS did a wonderful half hour set and then John blew the walls out for close to three hours. He must have done close to 40 songs, and, I'll admit I was worried when his voice started getting raspy around number 4 or 5. But it grew stronger as the show went on and the crowd sang along with most of the tunes. He did 3 or 4 new ones and all the old standards. My favorite of the nite was Steve Goodman's "My Old Man" which I requested and John so thoughtfully did.

By: Doug

Its been 72 hrs. and I'm starting to come out of my trance. What a show! An ageless performance by the man himself, churning out song after song like only John could. All the old favourites with a few new classics blended in; impossible to hear all the tunes, we all know Prine could do a show every night of the week and not do the same song twice. Great to hear "Crooked piece of time" for the first time, that's a personal favourite....what am I saying? I love them all! This was the 6th Prine concert I've been to, Like I said after all the others; BEST SHOW YET!

By: Gloria Carter

I recently went to see John Prine at Centre200 in Sydney, Cape Breton. Buying tickets for this concert was probably the best purchase I've made in a long time. The show, to say the least, was incredible. This was my first time seeing him live. I've been a fan of his now for probably 20+yrs & he still sings his older songs exactly the same (maybe better, if that's possible.)& continues to write the very best lyrics for a great new song. John Prine is a legend!! He came out on stage & played for 2 1/2 hrs non stop. Wicked tunes!! The whole crowd was either singing along, clapping their hands, stomping their feet, there was even people round dancing in front of the stage. Everyone there seemed to love the show. Cape Breton has all kinds of diehard Prine fans for sure! Hopefully he'll be returning soon! I can guarantee that I'll be there with bells on! Right on John, you're awesome!!!

By: J. Kavanaugh

Simply amazing. Nothing else. It is amazing how only 3 guys can make so much music. John had the crowd up dancing and singing with all their hearts. No other words but, amazing.

By: Robert Gillis

Down here in Inverness, Nova Scotia, I don't get many opportunities like this, John Prine just a 2 hour drive away. I've like John Prine for a few years ago (although I'm only 18), It was one of the greatest musical experiences I've ever witnessed. I like the mix of his old and a little of the new songs, more so the older, classic ones. When I got to the concert I met about 20 or more people from Inverness there. This was the best concert I've ever been to. I

hope he comes back soon.

By: Douglas Taylor

I have been a fan of John Prine for many years...Last night was one of the biggest sing-a-longs I have ever been to....John Prine was amazing he delivered the classics and a few new songs for a up-coming album. I laughed...I cried...and for more then 2 hours I think everyone there did the same...Thanks for the memories John....

By: JM N

I would just like to say that this was the second time I have seen John Prine play in Cape Breton and I thought that it wasn't possible to put on a better show then the first. I was wrong; it surpassed any expectations I had. He is an unbelievable performer and it was a concert I will never forget. Thank you John for a memory that will last a lifetime.

---

Two Shows

Venue: Halifax, Sydney

Date: Nov 11,13

By: Lanny Hanscombe Inverness, N S

This is my 7+8 time seeing JP. Me my girlfriend and friend went to the shows. It just never gets old. If I had the money and time I would go to see him every night. I waited back stage to see John on both nights. He is always the same, so down to earth, and very easy to talk to. His manager spoke to a group of us before John came out. He said that John was barley breaking even on his maritime tour. That just goes to show you what John will do for his fans. What can you say about Jimmie Rankin. From my own back yard, it was just amazing. Thank you John for coming back to the Maritimes and thank you for taking Jimmie along, it couldn't be any better.

---

## Rebecca Cohn Hall - Halifax, Nova Scotia Nov. 11, 2003

By: Art Macneil

Over the years, I have seen Mr. Cash, the Statler bros, Buck Owens, Hank Snow, The Hag, Conway, George Jones, Marty Robbins, Garth, Jackson, and a few more, but John Prine, you will never be forgotten by me. It WAS the best and most enjoyable show I have ever seen. about 15 yr ago a friend I was jamming with sang "Sour grapes", and the song blew me away. He of course could not believe I hadn't heard of John Prine or his Music. well. I have been singing your songs ever since, and I am SO happy to have gotten to see you and your top notch back up people. Including the guy who kept those instruments in tune during the show. I hope you come back, and if I am still alive, I WILL be there. Thank you 4 the songs that make me laugh and make me cry. you are a true legend. What an awesome show !!

By: Don Pelham

I have finally witnessed the once in a lifetime concert of this man that I have introduced many friends to through song. It won't be the last.

By: K Anderson

Well well well....it is a dire shame that at the age of 43 I am just introduced to such an incredible man, singer and talent. I am, however privileged to have indeed experienced that Prine smile, voice and story telling. Having this as my first John Prine concert and being fortunate enough to sit in the front row and experience him up close and personal, I am now a fan. That is honestly all it took, just to hear his music. He can evoke many emotions effortlessly from you and you don't even realize it. Then? It just feels so good! Thank you John...it was a distinct pleasure.

By: JoelDawe

This was truly a religious experience . I have been a fan of John Prine since 1972 when the "Hippy" next door neighbours turned our whole family onto Sam Stone and Illegal Smile (I was eight years old). Attending the concert with me were, 14 family members, ranging in age from my 67 year old mother to my 5 year old niece .

John made it clear that there was NO other place on earth that he would rather be, then at that place, with us . This night will be forever remembered in the folk lore of our family . Thank you John and God bless !

By: Super Sue

What can one say?? First time seeing him and I was blown away. I have been to countless concerts but this one just floored me. John Prine moved me with his music, his words and his very presence. It was incredible to see a man his age blush after we started clapping. What a unique man!!! What a joy to see first hand!!!! I just wanted to share my excitement. What a wordsmith he is. America still has one thing that it can be proud of. John Prine is the man.

By: SM ALLSTEPS

WELL THERE ARE NO WORDS TO EXPRESS THE JOY & AWE THAT I FELT WHEN I SAW MR. JOHN ON STAGE. I'M 38 & I TOOK MY 65 YEAR OLD MOM TO THE CONCERT FOR HER BIRTHDAY. SHE HAD TO DRIVE 31/2 HRS TO GET TO HALIFAX. BUT SHE WAS TICKLED PINK!!!!!!..I GREW UP SINGIN' JOHN PRINE SONGS. I KNEW EVERY WORD TO ALL HIS SONGS. I WAS SO IMPRESSED. IT WAS THE BEST CONCERT OF MY LIFE. I HOPE TO SEE YOU AGAIN!!!

By: Joe

Been a fan for over 20 years and last time we saw him was the Atlantic Folk Festival. Jimmy Rankin was great at both shows. John Prine talked to the crowd more in Halifax, but what I enjoyed in Saint John was the crowd singing along to some of the songs and it appeared he enjoyed it also. Now to the guy singing Dear Abby while John was singing Far From Me, I'm not talking about you!! For all the fans who have never had the chance to meet him I have some things to say...my wife and I and our 16 year old son along with 8 other people were fortunate enough to meet him backstage after the Saint John show. We were told it would take about an hour and he would be out after a shower and meal. Jason Wilber came out and chatted for about 20 minutes with us and posed for pictures. When John finally came out I was like a kid waiting for Santa and didn't know what to say when I got there, my wife said it was the first time she had EVER seen me speechless. He spent about 1/2 hour with us and had pictures taken with everyone and chatted graciously with us all. You always wonder if someone you admire so much can live up to your expectations when you meet them....well to all the Prine fans out there he is the genuine person you hoped he would be and even surpassed what I expected. Hope you all get to experience what we did some day.....Thanks John

---

BOTH SHOWS NOV 10 & 11

By: A M cQuaker

What can I say. Nothing would do it justice. I attended both Monday and Tuesday nights concerts. He made me cry and made me laugh at songs I've heard 100 times over (and never tire of). These were my 6th & 7th JP concerts and I would say two of the best. I so wish I could meet him even for a fleeting moment. I am sure all of his fans feel that connect with him but he has a way of making you feel likes its just you and him there when he's telling a yarn. 2 great guys backing him up. Really impressed with young(?) Jason Wilbur from the great state of Indiana. Today, I feel a little depressed, kinda like you do when Christmas is over. If my life circumstances were different, I would be on the way to Sydney Cape Breton to see him play on Thursday night. Keep it up John. You've got gold inside of you. I am undisputedly your loyal fan.

By: allen com eau

my wife and I got tickets online and we drove in from new Glasgow the show was awesome, where the hell does john Prine get his energy?? the next night was sold out but I brought my oldest son and we managed to get two tickets on the aisle in row h, great seats and another good show. he played for over two hours, funny thing when one sings in person you listen a little closer, " roosters laying chickens" I thought they came from eggs?? i get it, cute. I figured why waited another 12 to 15 years to see another show. I would rate both shows with a 14 outa 10. excellent. Allen

---

[Sydney](#) | [Halifax Nov 10](#) | [Halifax Nov 11](#)

---

Rebecca Cohn Hall - Halifax, Nova Scotia  
Nov. 10, 2003

By: Colin

For the Daily News review; smacdonald@hfxnews.ca set list:

1. Spanish Pipedream
2. Your Flag Decal
3. 6 o'clock news
4. Souvenirs
5. Fish & Whistle
6. The Late John Garfield Blues
7. Grandpa was a Carpenter
8. Picture Show
9. I'm Just Gettin By [great new tune]
10. All The Best
11. Angel From Montgomery
12. You Got Gold
13. Donald & Lydia
14. Crazy As A Loon [Another good new one]
15. Dear Abby
16. That's The Way The World Goes Round
17. The Other Side Of Town [The new album 's gonna be great with songs like this]
18. Sam Stone
19. Memphis
20. Bear Creek [his tribute to the Carter Family & Johnny Cash]
21. That's All Right [not sure of this title, another new one]
22. Ain't Hurtin Nobody
23. Hello in There
24. Lake Marie
- Encore :
25. Christmas in Prison
26. Illegal Smile
27. Please Don't Bury Me
28. Paradise

## Prime Prime at Cohn

<http://www.hfxnews.com/MainPage.aspx?PageType=FullStory&PartialStory=No&StoryID=5670>

By: Sandy MacDonald

Few songwriters working the circuit today can boast as dedicated a following as John Prine. Last night, with the Rebecca Cohn busting at the seams, Prine cemented that loyalty with a memorable two-hour set, his first stop on a 10-date Canadian tour.

Considering he gets no radio play and releases a new record every 10 years or so on his own Oh Boy label, Prine's following hasn't diminished a flicker. His live shows keep Prine connected with his audience, who will burn up tanks of gas to get to his nearest gig. So, Halifax was ready to welcome him back, and the crowd came ready to party.

There's not much showbiz in a John Prine concert. No flashing lights or eye-popping staging. Just a weathered singer with a glint in his eye and an uncommon gift for connecting with his audience through his music and his story-telling. Prine's song intros sometimes rival the song themselves.

"Yeah, sometimes they're better than the songs," he told The Daily News last week. "Longer, too. They come off the top of my head while I'm standing in front of people. If people find them humorous or I find them humorous, then I'll tell them again the next night."

After a well-received solo set from Jimmy Rankin, a grinning Prine shuffled onstage, joined by his bass player and guitar player and launched straight into Blow Up Your TV. With the slapping doghouse bass and twangy Telecaster, the band struck a match to the happy crowd. The Cohn was uncharacteristically boisterous, with a loud PA onstage and a long line at the bar outside.

His raspy drawl places Prine somewhere between his hometown Chicago and Nashville, where he's lived the past 23 years. That bullhorn voice is a little coarser, but still melodic enough to deliver the songs.

With his droll sense of humour and unmatched wordplay, Prine has produced some of the most enduring tunes written in the past 30 years. He rolled through all the crowd favourites last night — Souvenirs, Six O'clock News, and a stomping version of Fish and Whistle.

Then he hauled in the reins for a beautifully sad take on Late John Garfield Blues, sung with the intense passion and nuance of an ancient bluesman. Just as quickly, he fired the show back up with Grandpa Was a Carpenter, as his guitarist twanged out on a Buck Owens-inspired solo.

Much to the delight of his fans, Prine announced he's in the studio, working on a new disc. He previewed one of the new tracks, I'm Just Getting By, another gem for the setlist.

Most of Prine's songs are deceptively simple, a handful of guitar chords that rarely slide up past the fourth fret. And after a bout of throat cancer five years ago, his voice is now a raspy workman's tool.

But like the sculptor facing down a block of stone with just a chisel and hammer, Prine crafts beautiful songs full of humour, pathos, passion and insight. In this world of throw-away music, John Prine is a keeper.

## Prine spins tales of life and love

By: Stephen Cooke  
from the Halifax Herald Limited

One can't say for sure if John Prine was wearing an illegal smile when he took to the stage of the Rebecca Cohn Auditorium on Monday night, but he was certainly sporting a mile-wide grin beneath his famous moustache.

There were waves of enthusiasm rolling off the sold-out crowd throughout the evening to reinforce Prine's positive mood, punctuated by occasional song title requests and cries of "We love you John!" Bolstered by band members Dave Jacques on bass and guitarist Jason Wilber, Prine launched into a nearly two-hour set of recent and familiar favourites in the style of Johnny Cash and the Tennessee Two, right down to the sober black suits.

Your Flag Decal Won't Get You Into Heaven Anymore offered up some irreverent social commentary, as fresh now as three decades ago when it was written. "I wrote that in 1969, and I thought paranoid patriotism would be over with by the time my record came out," mused Prine. "Guess I was wrong again."

Time and again, Prine's trademark rasp and drawl underlined the timeless nature of his parade of broken hearts and dusty dreams in songs like Six O'clock News and Souvenirs, as life's experience piles up stories like rusted junkers on the front lawn.

His own life was laid bare in songs like Fish and Whistle, based on his military stint, and the indelible character study Grandpa Was a Carpenter.

Wilber added subtle slide guitar to Angel From Montgomery, enhancing an already transcendent experience, while Sam Stone's Vietnam vet saga was transformed into a Remembrance Day tribute.

And, at the same time that his peers were saluting the memory of Johnny Cash in Nashville, Prine and Co. launched into an electrifying Bear Creek Blues in memory of the country giant and his wife June Carter that tore the place up.

Opening act Jimmy Rankin, who has been known to fill the Cohn himself on occasion, seemed delighted to warm up the crowd for one of his idols. Sticking to songs from his two solo CDs Song Dog and Handmade, Rankin played solo acoustic for a spirited set of soul searching tunes like Midnight Angel and Wasted.

Handmade's title track seemed appropriate for the evening, in its search for the things in life that are truly worthwhile, tangible goods with which one can make a connection, while Colorado's tale of long distance love gone wrong seemed to bear a bit of the master's influence, filtered through Rankin's own seasoned, rootsy voice.

By: Jim Rockola

I have been a fan of John Prine and his work since I first heard John Allen Cameron's version of Spanish Pipedream on an album many years ago. More years than I care to remember actually. I wanted to know more about the songwriter who penned this jewel of a tune. Once I heard the original version, by the original songwriter, I was hooked. At the Cohn, I felt I was in the presence of Genius. Jimmy Rankin, who has the potential and talent to catalogue a song list as long and as popular as John Prine, opened the show as a solo. Jimmy, with his ever present Gibson resonating it's melodic tones, and vocal power second to none, blew the crowd away and was worth the price of admission on his own. This man is a true star and will surely create his own legacy in years to come. When John Prine took the stage, a legend was in our midst. He's a little older than the last time I saw him at the Atlantic Folk Fest. A little wiser too, I'd swear that really was water in those bottles, and he even admitted to having a replacement part or two put in. But his style, songs, playing, and singing were as fresh and energetic as the first time I heard them. He played every song like it was his first time, with the energy and enthusiasm you would expect. For a man to come on stage, play two and one half hours, and still not come close to playing his full catalogue of songs, well, that's genius. The best concert I have seen, and the Cohn was the perfect place to see it. The sound was magnificent, and the venue perfect for the intimacy created.

By: allan best

O.K. this is my second comment. John with all of the reviews, the feedback, the comments, the new fans, etc., why not come back round again when this tour is over. We'll all show up again. Do three nights in Halifax. Maybe if we all email your manager Al and beg. It'd great to see ya again John! I think this just may be Prine-a-mania!

By: Kim Malcolm

I am so in awe, I really don't know where to start. John was fabulous. I am so, so, so, so glad I saw him. I sang my little heart out. I left the concert with a huge smile on my face and still have it on. That will definitely be one concert that I will never forget. My friend went with me and she was amazed at the reaction he had on everyone. She is now a new fan. THANKS JOHN - US MARITIMERS LOVE YOU!!! Your fan for the last 25+ years.

By: Lew

Saw John Prine in Halifax last night, his performance was perfect. He played for an incredible 2.5 hours, after a opening act by Jimmie Rankin who was very good himself. The last time I saw John Prine was in 1982 at the

Atlantic Folk Festival, I hope he doesn't wait another 20 years before returning to Nova Scotia. A timeless performance, thank-you so much.

By: A Crew s W estville, N .S .

I have been waiting to see John Prine for a very long time! I said if he ever comes as close as Toronto, I'm going. Well lo and behold I finally got to see HIM in Halifax. For 2 1/2 hours I was in absolute awe with his live performance!!! We heard a lot of old, newer and yet to be released songs. The encore was one which I have never seen before-John and company came back out and played 5-6 more songs. You have been well worth the wait John- next time I'm taking my daughter with me so she can enjoy you as much as we did. John, you are the master at writing, singing and an awesome performer. Hope to see you again soon.

By: Pat Collins

It was a long wait, but John finally made it back to the Maritimes. And it was well worth the wait! Four of us traveled down to Halifax, staying of course at the Holiday Inn, just in case! He was great. He was better than great! The packed house sang along with him, yelled their praise and love of the man that can tell and sing a story like no other. I hope I don't have to wait as long to see him again! Thanks John...you are the best...I've never been to a concert where the fans showed such respect and appreciation...and I was at the top of the list. Pat Collins Amherst, Nova Scotia Check out the review in the Halifax Chronicle Herald, Nov. 11, 2003.

By: The Grisw olds

BRAVO!!! A super performance by a master performer. This is by far the best concert we have ever seen. John performed for 2.5 hours and kept the audience singing, clapping, tapping the whole time. I wish there were tickets available for tonight's show, we would go again in a heartbeat. Keep on writing and singing John, we're all awaiting the next release.

By: M ark S utherland, H alifax

John and company: I attended your concert almost by accident. A good friend of mine invited me along. I am embarrassed to say, I've never even heard of you. Well, what a night I had. I was so blown away by your live music. I loved every story, every improv, every minute, every second. You had the house rocking. I'm so glad I became familiar with your music and name. John, thanks for coming to Halifax to make such wonderful music. One could tell how much you really enjoyed yourself. I know you will be back, and next time you are-I will be there. Hat's off to you guys-you rock.

By: D DUGAS

AWESOME; describes last night's concert!!! 2 of my friends came all the way from Northern N.B. to be part of this incredible performance. Being privileged to hear him at the Cohn made the whole experience first class, looking forward to your new CD John. Your smile was contagious!!! DD,,HFAX

By: Robbie M ac

Sitting here kickin my ass for not getting tickets for second show. Last night JP blew me away. Obviously it was my first show and hopefully not the last. He really seemed to be into the show and having a good time. Love the new songs get that CD out ASAP. Can't think of anything else I would have liked to have heard. Still blown away. Thanks for coming John. Cheers

By: Allan Best

Thanks John! 2 1/2 hours of Prine was what I needed. My Mom passed on to Paradise just last week. John made me feel like everything is going to be alright.

By: M arjorie Cam eron

Just wanted to tell you what an absolutely unique wonderful show I was privileged to attend on Tuesday night!! I am sure you already knew that - but I just want to tell everyone. I so hope he will come back again before too long. Knew so many people who wanted to go who could not get tickets. Saw many local musicians and performers in the audience which to me is a sign of the esteem in which John is held! I was disappointed that he did not do "Speed of the Sound of Loneliness and Linda Goes to Mars" but that would be my only complaint and I realize that he can't to everyone's favorites . There was a good write up in the Halifax paper on his concert. Now I just have wait and hope that he will be back this way again some time!!!!

# ONTARIO



· USA: [AL](#) | [CA](#) | [FL](#) | [GA](#) | [IA](#) | [IL](#) | [IN](#) | [KS](#) | [LA](#) | [MO](#) | [NC](#) | [NH](#) | [NJ](#) | [NY](#) | [OH](#) | [OK](#) | [PA](#) | [RI](#) | [TN](#) | [VA](#) | [WV](#)  
· CAN: [NL](#) | [NB](#) | [NS](#) | [ON](#) | [QC](#)

[London](#) | [Ottawa](#)

## Centennial Hall, London, ON November 23, 2003

By: Dale Young

This show was awesome and John sounded great. So glad to see him in Canada. He even commented that he had stayed away too long but was happy to be here. Gotta go back to work in the steel factory in the morning but just wanted to post and let everyone know the setlist. Some of the new songs I didn't know so I just guessed. What a great show!!!

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 01 Spanish Pipedream                        | 16 I'm On The Other Side Of Town (??)                             |
| 02 Six O'clock News                         | 17 Sam Stone  |
| 03 Souvenirs                                | 18 Bear Creek (??) dedicated to the Carter family and Johnny Cash |
| 04 Far, Far From Me (??)                    | 19 Crooked Piece Of Time  |
| 05 Fish and Whistle                         | 20 Killin' The Blues (??)   |
| 06 Grandpa Was a Carpenter                  | 21 Ain't Hurtin' Nobody   |
| 07 Picture Show                             | 22 Sins Of Memphis  |
| 08 I'm Just Getting By                      | 23 Hello In There (at the end he said "Thanks, Ma!, beautiful!!)  |
| 09 All The Best                             | 24 Lake Marie   |
| 10 Angel From Montgomery                    | 25 E. Please Don't Bury Me  |
| 11 God Bless You All (??)                   | 26 E. Illegal Smile   |
| 12 You Got Gold                             | 27 E. Paradise  |
| 13 Crazy As A Loon                          |   |
| 14 Dear Abby                                |   |
| 15 That's The Way That The World Goes Round |   |

songs 11-16 were solo acoustic songs  
19-21 he played electric guitar

By: Dave Telford

A great day! I've been listening to John Prine music for several years, makes me feel better on a bad day. Seeing him was so much fun. He is the ultimate professional, certainly knows how to entertain his devoted fans. And devoted we are! I can honestly say there is not one John Prine song I don't like, chills went up and down my back several times during the concert. My hands were sore from clapping, a small price to pay for the best evening of my life. Imagine my surprise and delight, my favourite musician playing a superb two and a half hour marathon of excellent songs in my own town! How lucky am I?

By: Jeff and Katie

Simply put, this was far and away the best concert I have seen and likely ever will see. Non-stop for well over two hours and not a single song escaped everyone's full attention and enjoyment. That is saying something about the quality of the music. It is hard to imagine an artist giving more to audience than John and his band did on Sunday. For the record, Jim Rankin, his opening act did a fine job too. Thanks John! I had many years of pleasure listening to your music and we all look forward to the next release....the new one's you played for us sounded great the first time.

By: Maureen

I have to say WOW!!! I am a fairly new fan of Johns only discovering him about 5 years ago, What a fantastic show John!!! You are a wonderful entertainer and musician, my only regret is not finding out about your music years ago.... I cant even begin to tell you how much we enjoyed the show...The feeling of warmth and emotions



overwhelmed us, by far the best concert I have ever seen, Looking forward to your new album Thanks John xo

By: Mike Coleman

I had the pleasure of seeing John last night in London Ontario. He is like good wine, he gets better with age. He said that he had enjoyed his time in Canada and playing with Jimmy Rankin. Your lucky we didn't keep him permanently up here. The show was sold out and he had to do several encores before the crowd would let him leave. Tell John to visit Ontario anytime. Mike P.S. If you get a chance check out Jimmy Rankin yourselves.

By: Bubba B - Toronto Canada

If I never attend another concert anywhere that will be OK as John gave his all this night and we couldn't have enjoyed ourselves more. Tears were squeezing out as I remembered growing up all over again as John accommodated everyone this night with the past and present tunes and it felt like a very close friend singing directly and personally to everyone. John's down to earth lyrics and guitar pickin, along with his humble relationship with his fans is special and he made everyone feel special this night. Thanks for the memory John and if I don't make it another day, "send my mouth way down south and kiss my ass good-bye" we love ya John.

By: swilkinson@execulink.com

Have been a longtime John Prine fan, but this was the first show I've seen. Absolutely enjoyed it!!! Loved the nuggets and am looking forward to a new release. John (if you read these), thanks for being gracious enough to give some of your time to your fans after the show. Met and talked to a nice family from outside Detroit, and a young guy from Newfoundland - Lee don't forget to send me a copy of the photo you took of John and I. Thanks John for signing my LP's. Try not to stay away too long. Till next time "I Wish You All The Best".

By: Buzz

Saw John last night for the second time. The man gave it all. John played for two hours and 20 min. He seems to be struggling with his voice, hope its not something serious or career threatening. He played and sung for an hour and twenty minutes, thats unreal. I've been to alot of concerts and the headliner is otta there in one hour sharp. Everybody at the show was totally turned on , it was a concert I'll cherish being at forever.

By: The Stratford Crew

What a show!! John said he was sorry he'd been away so long but would make it up to us & 'oh boy' did he ever!! He must have played for two & a half or three hours straight. He let the boys take a break for a few tunes but he played on. His voice was amazing & finger picking even better (if that's possible). Some of the highlights were; the new songs (of course), the tribute to June Carter & Johnny Cash, the stories he told of his new hip & what people think they hear in a song's lyrics, the promise of a new CD & a return trip to Canada. We were all left with smiles on our faces, songs in our hearts & a strange craving for 'grumbly beans & happy enchalatas'.

By: pat

Just got back from the concert, took my wife and my brother. we are all big fans, and were very favourably impressed. john played all the great tunes he is famous for and the audience was very appreciative. quite a few of the people in our part of the balcony seemed intent on being the featured vocalist, but i guess that's part of the deal. the set list sounded pretty much as the others described, memphisto in particular benefited from excellent ensemble playing. the fingerpicked songs on the martin sounded better to me than the ones strummed on the gibson, which i believe was tuned down to d. well worth the wait, and a bargain at 40 bucks. can't wait to hear the new album.

By: Dave Telford

A great day! I've been listening to John Prine music for several years, makes me feel better on a bad day. Seeing him was so much fun. He is the ultimate professional, certainly knows how to entertain his devoted fans. And devoted we are! I can honestly say there is not one John Prine song I don't like, chills went up and down my back several times during the concert. My hands were sore from clapping, a small price to pay for the best evening of my life. Imagine my surprise and delight, my favourite musician playing a superb two and a half hour marathon of excellent songs in my own town! How lucky am I?

National Arts Centre Southam Hall, Ottawa  
November 23, 2003

By: Bill Rankin

I hadn't seen John Prine live in over 20 years, but when he walked out on the stage on Thursday night at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa I knew that essentially he hadn't changed. A little older, a little greyer, a little thicker through the waist but time has not slowed him down or diminished the power of his music. The excitement in the air was palpable and I knew I was in for a treat when he and his two band members launched into Spanish Pipedream. Before the song was over, the audience was on its feet and voices shouted, "We love you, Johnny!" There were tears in more than one eye and I must say I felt a lump in my own throat. I grew up with this guy, his music is part of the backdrop of my life, and the feeling in his songs is more affecting than it ever was. Two and a half hours of non-stop music and funny stories, he gave 110 percent and so did the other two guys in his band - sorry I can't remember their names. His humanity and musicianship shone last night like few other performers I've ever encountered. All I can say is God bless John Prine. I hope he keeps on playing for a long, long time.

By: Bob

A great show, a great venue and a great crowd. John Prine is a wonder, he just keeps on ticking. Was pleasantly surprised with opener, Jimmy Ranklin, knowing him only from the Rankins, he has a nice voice, some good guitar work and a fine stage presents. John gave us two and a half hours of pure entertainment. Highlights included You got gold, Otherside of town, a coupla new ones, one very jazzy number. What can I say, he is a true troubadour in the purest sense of the word. He has two very solid side men in Jason (what a guitar player) and David (when was the last time you saw a bass fiddle bowed). His tribute to Johnny and June-Bear Creek featured some Brother Luther licks. After the show I felt like going home and blowing up my TV. In these days of chaos and disillusionment, last nite was a breath of fresh air and revitalization. Thanks John, keep it up, you're a gem.

By: Brian in Ottawa

Great show, John was in fine form. He pretty much followed the previously posted set lists, I think he did 3 new tunes but I didn't catch the titles. He had lots of banter and a couple new stories around some tunes. He played 3 guitars, the J2000 (tuned to something non-standard?), a Martin D-28 and an electric for a couple tunes (the Axis guitar?). Opener Jimmy Rankin can sure sing well! A beautiful voice. For the encore, Prine hands Rankin his (Prine's) guitar! That's got to be a special moment for Rankin to remember? Jacques and Wilber were also in fine form. Just a real solid pair. Was that echoes of Luther Perkins guitar work I heard a few times? John Prine is following in the footsteps of the "Man in Black". Thanks for a great show!

By: Bull (Mark Walker)

Jimmy Rankin and John Prine put on a spectacular show last night. Quiet crowd until he finished every song. All the favorites and some great new songs. I took my new boss, who had just landed from U.K. 4hrs before and had never heard any Prine, and he was mesmerized by the talent, laughing at the songs and stories. Thanks John, Jason, David and Jimmy.

By: Golda Markel

I attended a John Prine concert last night, Thursday, Nov. 20th, in Ottawa. It was one of the best concerts I have ever attended. It left me on a high. The whole audience was enthralled with the concert, and with John Prine. Thanks ever so much. His compositions are very down to earth, and one can relate to them easily. Thanks for the great concert.

By: Casey

Well, Its John, I'm in the 9th row from the stage.....Its going to be amazing!!!!DUH!!!!Hope to see Greg and Barb there....Cheers, Casey Canning I will up date on Friday

# QUEBEC



· USA: [AL](#) | [CA](#) | [FL](#) | [GA](#) | [IA](#) | [IL](#) | [IN](#) | [KS](#) | [LA](#) | [MO](#) | [NC](#) | [NH](#) | [NJ](#) | [NY](#) | [OH](#) | [OK](#) | [PA](#) | [RI](#) | [TN](#) | [VA](#) | [WV](#)  
· CAN: [NL](#) | [NB](#) | [NS](#) | [ON](#) | [QC](#)

## Metropolis, Montreal November 21, 2003

By: [lostdogz@hotmail.com](#)

HEY John If your reading this thank you for a great entertaining night I been here in Montreal doing the French thing for six months I'm from England (you signed my guitar) in Newcastle and the only night I wanted to go somewhere my French friends let me down !! hey after six months doing their thing you d think one night aint to much to ask hey!!!!so I went solo and met some great people there!! Hey Man you rocked and were 110% in form and the acoustics were excellent in that hall (where did them feathers come from) ha ha and hows your guitarist face since you twanged the strings on paradise and slapped him in the face!!! im writing this four days later and im still smiling regards to all who made the evening go as it did and I was only joking to your manager there when I said tell John to extend the set!!! (2 hours 30 something)!!! fantastic enjoyed the new songs as well as the old see you next time around thanks!! Gary

By: Jack Charlton

I'd been looking forward to this show for a long time. But there aren't many John Prine fans around Montreal and I was having a tough time finding someone with a serious interest in attending this show. I was totally prepared to go it alone, but my wife reluctantly decided that she'd better go with me. So I dragged her downtown to the Metropolis, her muttering about corny country music all the way. You see, she had a limited vision of John Prine. Well, she listened and became entranced and now John Prine has another brand new fan. With John Prine you get human reality - with all the warmth, humour, darkness and depth of soul that naturally goes with it. I had tried to explain that to her, but she had to experience it for herself. He is a presence on stage. He is a master of his long and varied repertoire. His own musicianship, as well as that of his two accompaniers was flawless and played with apparent effortless ease. In the meantime, you get your money's worth.

By: Mike , Montreal

John really made the place go from the get go. he had a good mix of new with old. We added three new John Prine fans to his growing list. Thanks John. ttfn

By: Gary

My first John Prine concert at age 63. I deeply regret not having been at previous ones. John is a powerhouse of energy, playing non-stop for two and a half hours! I hope he can keep up this pace for several more years. Again, his voice became raspy at times but recovered quickly. A terrific bluesy rendition of "Ain't Hurting Nobody" was my favourite of the night. Excellent vocal and instrumental support from Dave Jacques and Jason Wilber. My only complaint - the instrumental ending in "Lake Marie" was overpoweringly loud and along with my inebriated neighbour's screaming, nearly burst my eardrums. (Could be the fact that I was six rows back from the enormous left side main speaker.) Everyone had a great time!

By: Content

Mr. Prine (as he deserves this respect). I have been listening to Mr. Prine for many years as a result of my, now 72 year old, father's constant love for all things Prine. After many years I can still get into his Toyota pickup, up here in rural Vermont, turn the engine on and the cassette in the tape desk, dirty and trashed from years of use, fires up. Each one is a favourite. There are not many singers and songwriters that can claim this fame. Everyone a favourite. I had not realized how much these songs have meant to me all these years. Such a beautiful voice singing songs so profound and so often black in their comedy, so much like life.

I went to the Metropolis here in Montreal, last night, (November 21st) with a Quebecois guitar player friend of mine. He had never heard of John Prine. This surprised me. However throughout the two and a half-hours of non-stop musical poetry, all he could say was "so he wrote that." By the end of the show her commented to me that he had been just witnessed a musical treat, an American National treasure. I could not agree with him more. I know

that he will be looking for a Prine songbook, or I will for him.

After enjoying the opening act, Jimmy Rankin, Mr. Prine came out to a standing ovation. Backed up by wonderful musicians, for whom it appeared Mr. Prine had great respect and fondness, he launched into what is an endless repertoire of songs. Again, each one a favourite.

The crowd was wild, yelling and screaming before, during and after each song. A poignant moment was with "Your Flag Decal..." when Mr. Prine said he has waited for 35 years for this song to go out of style...not quite yet. After a half dozen songs with his accompanying slide guitar mandolin player, string bass and electric base player, Mr. Prine got down to what he does best. Just him, his guitar and a microphone. Sweet.

After another half dozen or more songs, so many classics mixed with some of the newer songs that I had come to see, he was rejoined again by his companions. Such energy. He has 20 years on me and I know that I would not be able to keep up with him, no how. Jimmy Rankin joined the trio for the encore rendition our favourite coal train hauling song. This was a real treat as Mr. Rankin's looked like he found a place for his strong vocals in his duet with Mr. Prine. Fantastic.

All in all it was a wonderful experience. To witness such a treasure. It is too bad we don't have a National Treasure designation in the U.S. John Prine would be its first recipient. As I stood for the ovation at the end of the night, I think I was truly standing by peaceful waters. Content but for one thing, that I did not drag the old man north from Vermont to see this show. I know that he would have been the biggest fan there.

By: Cathy MacD

I'm up earlier than usual on a Saturday and still smiling from last night's John Prine show in Montreal. It was wonderful! Loved Sam Stone, the guitars, and that constant grin across John's face! The crowd - young and old - loved him. Once John's on stage, does he ever stop for a "breather"?? Incredible! So glad I was there! So glad he was in Montreal!! (Must say, also loved his leg work...) I see that he's on his way to London, Ontario next. They are in for a real treat!

By: Not the redneck going Yee haw for Hello in there.

Just got out of the show. Mr. Prine was great with very good back up. Super guitar and bass players. He played some new some old. Mostly made everyone happy. People sang along. I saw fathers with daughters singing along with illegal smile. He seemed to enjoy the gig 2.5 hours of prime Prine. I really did.

By: Uncle Jake

John can do anything he pleases, but I think his show would be even more stupendous if he had a drummer.

By: Mark

My first concert, and a real treat. Sounds like Mr. Prine has a habit of making huge fans of first time listeners, myself included. I'd heard his stuff before, but mostly my friends playing it around campfires. What lyrics! Some of the funniest lyrics I've ever heard, and at the same time deeply touching. Mr. Prine has incredible charisma on stage. Excellent energy, great musical back-up, and a great, appreciative crowd. Christ, it's been two weeks, and I can't get "Dear Abby" out of my head. (Try it!)

---