



'It's good to be king'

Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers packed the Open Air Theatre, rocked SDSU on May 30th

There was an abundance of energy in the Open Air Theater. Picture a sea of faces, the blaring roar of anticipation and, suddenly, the lights go out.

The opening guitar riff of "Runnin' Down a Dream" barely made it over the mountain of sound created by the audience. Fast-paced, upbeat — whether you were a fan of Tom Petty or just had tickets, you loved it.

The lights, still dim, bounced off the Persian carpet onstage and colored the band a deep red as Petty moved toward the crowd and stirred the already-hyped audience.

He wore a gray beard and let his hair fall over his ears, showing the audience that even rock legends get old. But, the night was a lesson that great music has no age — Petty and his ability to pack stadiums and delight audiences is immortal.

Crystal chandeliers hung from the top of the stage and, coupled with the carpet, created an ambiance of Royalty.

Then, Petty sang "It's good to be king," and his loyal subjects agreed.

He connected with every corner of the audience, bringing some a little closer to the stage than their tickets allowed. Security guards kept a watchful eye, but determined fans were able to sneak from the back row to the front, where they hoped to snag souvenirs like guitar picks and drumsticks.

Petty and his Heartbreakers were flawless — Long jam sessions at the end of songs satisfied the ears of the audience while revealing that the band enjoys what it does. You felt like you were in the basement of your friend's house and he was playing the best music you've ever heard — of course, San Diego State's Open Air

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LIVING LEGEND: He may be turning a little gray, but Tom Petty shows that he's still got it, and young and old fans agree, giving him a perfect 10.

STORY BY REED ALBERGOTTI, OPINION EDITOR ❖ PHOTOS BY GREG LITHGOE, PHOTO EDITOR

THE TRUTH IS OUT THERE

Duchovny discusses aliens, X-Files and 'Evolution'

BY SAM MILLER
Staff Writer

When a reporter asked David Duchovny about the pop song named after him, in which singer Bree Sharp repeatedly asked, "David Duchovny, why won't you love me," the actor deadpanned, "It was better than 'David Duchovny, f**k off and die.' That doesn't really rhyme."

It may surprise computer geeks and conspiracy buffs to find out

that Duchovny, destined to be remembered for his solemn portrayal of Agent Fox Mulder until the day aliens actually do come to earth and erase our memories, actually possesses a biting sense of humor.

Peppered with redundant questions while promoting "Evolution," he was unapologetically irreverent, challenging uncreative queries and the public's obsession with Mulder with tongue-in-cheek wit and only a hint of irritation.

"No matter what movie I do people find ways to make it an X-File," he said, taking on a mocking tone. "In 'Return to Me,' I had people like, 'She gets your dead wife's heart, that's kind of spooky, that's

kind of like an X-File. You're doing a remake of 'Wuthering Heights,' there's a ghost in it. Kind of spooky."

Ivan Reitman, director of "Evolution," is banking on audiences being able to appreciate that sense of humor this summer. For the first time since "The X-Files," Duchovny is starring in an overtly comic role as a college professor caught in the slapstick world of aliens, anal probes and Governor Dan Akroyd.

This role, Duchovny's first since leaving the television series last month, is sure to draw comparisons to his stint as Mulder, due to



SCULLY HAS HAD ENOUGH: Ira (Dave Duchovny), Harry (Orlando Jones) and Wayne (Seann William Scott) combat aliens in 'Evolution.'

COURTESY PHOTO

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Theater has slightly better acoustics than a basement.

It was the personal element of the concert that made it unlike any other "big show." Petty explained, after introducing his band, that they were trying to play some smaller venues. And the Open Air Theater is just that — small. There isn't a bad seat in the house.

The set was intimate — stained glass covered the back wall, complimenting the chandeliers, Persian carpet and Petty's flower-covered blazer over a polka dot T-shirt. Whether the song was about dancing with Mary Jane, American girls or people living like refugees, Petty was singing to everyone personally.

There is nothing fancy about Petty. He was there to play music and the fans were there to listen. In his enormously blessed career, he's accumulated a bank of hit songs rivaled by few. It's easy to be mesmerized by the set list — most of the songs still get play on the radio.

Petty represents a generation that knew great music — it lasted. It would be nice to think generations to come will enjoy legends like Petty, but corporate conglomerates, mergers and commercialization have turned music into marketing.

Popular artists last about as long as advertising campaigns. Corporations, rather than give struggling bands a chance, prefer creating their own musicians in the image of the latest demographic information. The music of Petty's generation was created with hard work, desire and soul, but the music of today is created with statistics and case studies. Petty wasn't without commentary.

"The Rock & roll business has really turned to sh**," Petty told the audience. Perhaps this is why he was one of the first big musicians to use MP3 technology to sell albums. Because when people download music, they're not stealing from the artist, they're stealing from the company that "owns" the artist.

In an age where popular bands are created in corporate auditions, Petty introduced his famed guitarist, Mike Campbell, as the college kid who Petty convinced to drop out to join the Heartbreakers — not exactly a decision laced in corporate aspirations. Usually, when people drop out of college, they end up poor. But, these guys were runnin' down a dream, not worrying about their wallets. They're real, and that's what people love about them.

If you've ever wondered what today's music is missing — what corporate images like Britney Spears and The Backstreet Boys lack — you should have been at the Tom Petty show.

Don't miss him the next time he comes around.



ALIEN INVASION: Allison (Julianne Moore) and Ira (Duchovny) help Harry (Jones) deal with an alien invader.

COURTESY PHOTO

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the aliens, FBI cover-ups and, well, pretty much every plot beat. But Duchovny said his character is set a genre apart from Mulder.

"What sets projects apart for an actor is the tone," Duchovny said. "The tone of this movie is probably the furthest away from the 'X-Files' you can possibly get. It's just a big broad comedy, where 'The X-Files' takes itself very seriously. I could have done 'Weekend at Porky's 8' and it would have been more similar to 'The X-Files.'"

"I wasn't jumping up and down happy that it was about aliens, but because of Ivan I knew it was going to be different."

The role is, to a large extent, a spoof of Mulder, though Duchovny said the similarities are pure coincidence.

"Ivan doesn't know anything about 'The X-Files' at all, to the point of being insulting," he said. "And when I'm doing a scene like that it doesn't even enter my mind."

It will certainly enter the minds of moviegoers, though. Even more than many successful television characters, Fox Mulder took on a life of his own, leading to a string of unsuccessful movies as Duchovny embraced different types of roles while still

with the series. As a doctor in the lightweight crime drama "Playing God," and the romantic interest of Minnie Driver in "Return to Me," he was unable to bring box office clout to the big screen; his most successful foray into cinema has thus far been in the "X-Files" movie.

But Duchovny said that he isn't thinking about how people are going to accept him branching out, or of making people forget his past.

"The X-Files' obliterated everything I did before, and that was frustrating, and it will obliterate certain things that come after and that will be frustrating. After about three years of 'The X-Files' I gave up trying to tell people that I'd done other parts, and after about five years I gave up trying to talk about whether I was going to be able to have a career after it.

"But I don't walk around thinking, 'What projects should I do next that will make people forget about Mulder?'" Duchovny said. "If an amazing script came my way and I got to work with an amazing director and it was about aliens I probably would even do it again. But what are the odds of that?"

So what's his next project, someone asked?

Duchovny smiled. "It's going to be about aliens."

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