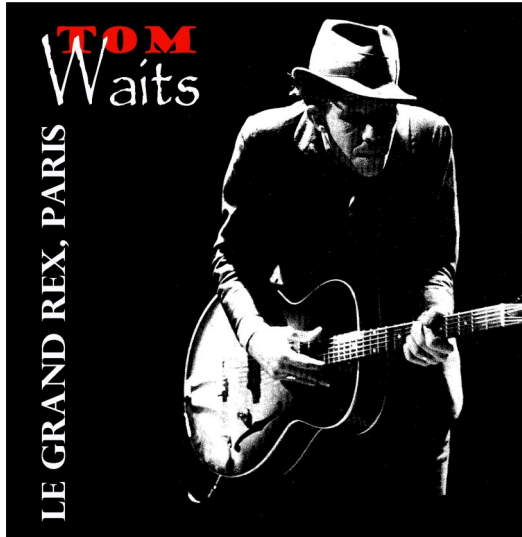




Swend's Bluesband

TOM WAITS

Le Grand Rex, Paris
Mandag 29. maj 2000



Well, I waited a long time to see Tom Waits and I finally got to see him last night, in Paris no less. The show was as great as I had hoped it would be and then some. I am not even sure how to review it. It was in a functioning movie theatre with about 2,500 seats. We had nice seats on the floor about three quarters of the way up, but pretty much dead center. I went with Jay Yager. Who is an Art teacher on the Cultural History Tours. We have done several trips together and enjoy a lot of the same music. The theatre which is called La Grand Rex is in sort of a sleazy area not far from the red light district. Seems about right for a Tom Waits concert. The inside was really nice with super plush leather seats and terraces along the sides with Greek statues in the alcoves. A very nice setting for the show.

The show started about a half hour late with Tom appearing in the back of the theatre with a megaphone doing his carney act from the *Black Rider* album. He was wearing an ill fitted suit and a fedora. As he barked out randomness through his megaphone he threw glitter in the air until he climbed on stage and began singing. Tom stood on a platform that was about 8 inches above the rest of the stage and danced like an epileptic during the instrumental breaks. The platform was covered with some kind of dust so that everytime he stamped his foot, dust would fly everywhere and soon he was covered with the stuff. The ripped through several tunes with this set up before Tom picked up an electric guitar and the set continued. One notable tune from this part of the show was "Strange Weather" where guitarist, Smokey Hormel switched to banjo.

The whole band was great, but took a minimalist approach, letting Tom be the center of the show. Larry Taylor was excellent on stand up bass. The drummer and keyboardist were also really good, but I did not catch their names.

They also played several tunes where Tom played a beat up looking acoustic guitar including a beautiful version of "Hold On" from Tom's latest album, *The Mule Variations*.

Soon Tom switched to stand up piano and the rest of the band except Larry Taylor left the stage. Tom and Larry ran through a nice selection of new and old tunes including a great version of "Invitation to the Blues" and ending with a crowd sing along of "Innocent When You Dream". As the night went on Tom's voice seemed to improve and gain more range. The more he abused it the better he was.

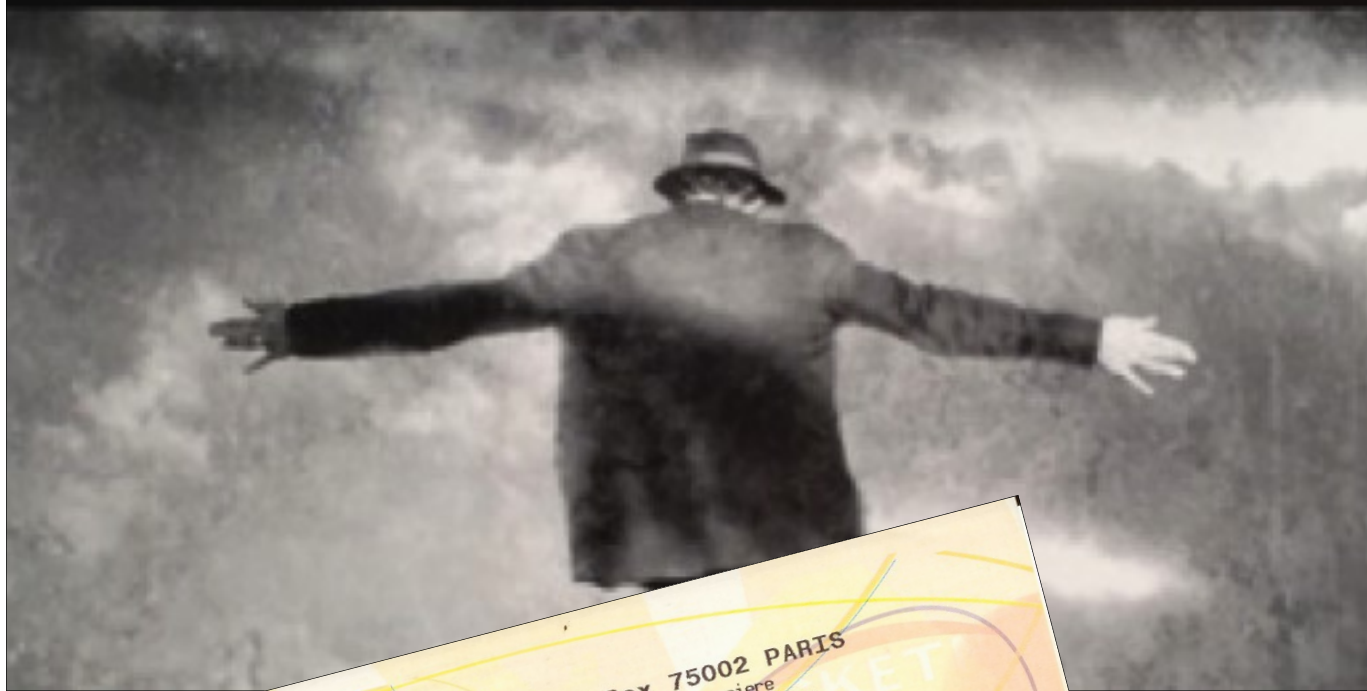
Tom climbed back up on his platform for another set of songs including "Shoreleave" which was especially poignant to me, it being my anniversary. The crowd was loving every minute of the show and Tom joked around a lot. The set was over far too soon. For the first encore the band played a great rendition of "I'll Shoot the Moon" from *Black Rider* again. For the second encore they dragged out the piano again for "Come on up to the House" and "House Where Nobody Lives". After that the house lights came up. The crowd wanted more, but Tom's final statement of the evening would be "without love in a house it ain't nothing but a house where nobody lives"

Jeremy Baldwin

TOM WAITS

TOM WAITS

LIVE IN CONCERT



Le Grand Rex 75002 PARIS
1 Boulevard Poissonniere
GERARD DROUOT PRODUCTIONS PRESENTE
TOM WAITS
LUNDI 29 MAI 2000 20h30
ORCHESTRE M 032

THOMSEN 125995
501130
Prix : 450.00 Frs + 45.00 Frs frais de location
WEB TN 2427072 10/04/00 15:14 CAT1 003