

BECK
THE GREEK THEATRE
JUNE 20?, 2003



It's been ten years since we have been following Beck together, and longer since we have been following the career of this extraordinary musician individually. Me and the Significant Other brought the Teens out to see Beck at the Greek just to check on the boy. Well, he is no longer playing obscure little venues and the still-waifish guy still has the girls as well as the grrls eating out of the palm of his hand as the 10,000 strong crowd attested.

The big arena is a new experience for Beck and we could see him trying out new things in terms of performance and presentation, still with the whimsical

sense of humor he always has possessed and which distinguishes him from the legion of self-important rockers.

It can be difficult to be a fan of Beck, for his impatience with pursuing formulas and his yen for trying out new things makes it difficult to describe what he does. From dressing in a big wooly animal outfit and attacking the Flaming Lips lead singer -- in mid song -- as he did last year, to the absolutely straightforward lyrics of his most recent album, "Sea Change" Beck has remained an artist who is hard to pin down while remaining perfectly himself. And for that we give him a great deal of respect.

"Odelay" and "Mellow Gold" feel like post-punk emanations from a weird crossbreed of Zappa, Eric Satie and Johnny Rotten, while "Mutations" segued into hallucinatory acoustic stuff and then he moved into straightforward, no-nonsense lyrics with "Sea Change" coupled with calm but authoritative rhythm work.

Sunday, he opened up with straight ahead Rock with heavy synth and electronica backing, while performing a series of joyous breaking and popping moves, before strapping on the acoustic for some of his newer material. At one point he waltzed around the stage with the electronic organ.

Unfortunately, holding the concert in the lens of that bowl at 3pm meant the airless space reached well over 100 degrees and we, who had experienced the Greek for more traditional times had prepared for bitter cold. We had to leave, regretfully, in the middle of his crossover hit "Baby I'm a Lost Cause". Heck, I had found a place up by the fountain under some bushes that felt a

breeze and was willing to stick it out, but the gals wanted to boost out of there. So we passed by the legions of sunburned and water-bottled at least satisfied our boy has turned out well indeed.

"Hot in Here" was actually a cover of Nelly's "Hot in Herre".

The soundman supplied the following official setlist for the day. This "official" setlist is actually incomplete. Beck played Prince's "Erotic Village" before covering Nelly, and at one point he played a truncated, acoustic version of "Debra." (Thanks to Mahna Mahna for details.)

Novakane
Mixed Bizness
Thunder Peel
New Pollution
Get Real Paid
Nicotine & Gravy
Lazy Flies
Guess I'm Doin Fine
Lost Cause
Lonesome Tears
Cold Brains
Paper Tiger
Loser
Hot Wax
Milk & Honey
Beercan
Hollywood Freaks
Where It's At
Hot in Here

Golden Age
All in Your Mind
Sunday Sun

Devil's Haircut