

Henry Grimes / Aurochs Music Gallery, Toronto ON, April 11

REVIEWS > CONCERT > APR 13 2014



Photo: Cecil Taylor

By Nilan Perera

Two bands played tonight. The first was Toronto's Aurochs, who started out with the promise of Paul Bley and Jimmy Giuffre but then morphed into rhythmic displacement and back again. It was at once disconcerting and inspired, as they wound their way through an uninterrupted set that spanned song and minimalism.

Henry Grimes got lost many years ago after playing with everyone from Cecil Taylor to Benny Goodman, until someone found him in poverty and seclusion and he reappeared like he never left. Someone gave him a bass, he married someone else who believed in him, and he came out playing almost like the time hadn't passed.

This night felt like him coming back. He stepped up on stage almost uncertain, fragile, and walked to the bass, which was on loan, and proceeded to lean into Thelonious Monk's *Brilliant Corners*. The sound was thick, almost leaden, like his hand was not used to the bow or the bass, buzzing and winding as though finding his way through a slow muddy stream.

Then he picked up the violin. He wasn't a technical player; Grimes exploded the violin into shards, fractures and buzzes with runs appearing and disappearing out of clouds of sound.

When it came down to it, it was like he was getting used to being there. The sequence of bass and violin clouds peeled back until, by the middle of the evening, he hit his stride: the clouds cleared and the articulation sparkled.

Interspersed throughout were recitations of poetry. These poems were mystical and philosophical visions of life and purpose. One

CONCERT HIGHLIGHTS



Toyko Police Club / Said the Whale / The Pack A.D.
Commodore Ballroom, Vancouver BC, November 15



Antemasque / Le Butcherettes Virgin Mobile Mod Club, Toronto ON, November 14

THIS WEEK'S CONCERT

RECENT CONCERT

CONCERT ARCHIVE

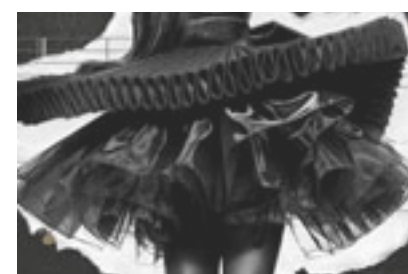
PICKS



'Dumb and Dumber To' Is Stupid Fun



Mother Mother on Exclaim! TV



Azealia Banks Goes for Broke on Debut LP

MOST POPULAR STORIES

HENRY GRIMES RELATED STORIES

- IMPROV & AVANT-GARDE REVIEWS: Henry Grimes Solo

NEWS

- Mac DeMarco Detained by Police During Show
- Nicki Minaj's Nazi Controversy, Will Butler's Solo Album Plans and Daft Punk's Live Box Set in Our News Roundup
- Beefs 2014: Ariel Pink Says Grimes Is "Stupid and Retarded"
- 'Dumb and Dumber To,' 'The Theory of Everything' and 'Wolves' Lead Our Friday Film Review Roundup
- Cult Leader Set Sights on New Releases for 2015

SEE MORE NEWS

got the feeling that this man was writing from a place of being alone and watching the world from way back when he was not playing. It evoked the mysticism that happens when life does not make sense, as it often doesn't when you stack beauty and art against crassness and cynicism. Sometimes when you go to a concert you hear music being presented as just that: music.

And other times you go and you witness a singular statement that is indivisible from a person's experience of life. The Henry Grimes solo concert was one of the latter. To call it good or bad or music or not would be missing the point.



NEWS: Beefs 2014: Ariel Pink Says Grimes Is "Stupid and Retarded"



NEWS: Jack White's Third Man Unveils New Signature Turntable



METAL REVIEWS: Bloodbath Grand Morbid Funeral

RECENTLY REVIEWED

- CONCERT: **Toyko Police Club / Said the Whale / The Pack A.D.** Commodore Ballroom, Vancouver BC, November 15
- CONCERT: **Antemasque / Le Butcherettes** Virgin Mobile Mod Club, Toronto ON, November 14
- HIP-HOP: **Admiral Crumple** Cryptkid
- METAL: **Bloodbath** Grand Morbid Funeral
- POP & ROCK: **Óbó** Innhverfi

SEE MORE RECENTLY REVIEWED

CONTESTS

- Slipknot
- Said the Whale
- Bruce Springsteen
- Wu-Tang Clan Album Artwork Remix Contest
- Bob Dylan and the Band: The Basement Tapes

SEE MORE CONTESTS

GET IT!

SHARE IT!

COMMENTS

0

Be the first to comment

LOGIN

Facebook

Twitter

Exclaim



POST

SEE THE TOP TWENTY MOST POPULAR

LATEST ISSUE: NOV 14 ISSUE

Nov 14

Oct 14 »

