



Whyte & White opens R.L.S.'s 98'-99' Concert Series

Review by John Milner

Central Washington Blues Lovers got an extra special pre-Halloween treat on the night of October 24th to kick off the second concert season, 98'-99' R.L.S. Entertainment Enterprises shows held at the Wenatchee Convention Center with the help of co-sponsors The Rock's 106.7 Dave Keefer, Ben Wolk of Killer Kolor Big Prints and additional help from Blair and Jackie from Gold's Gym and the Wenatchee World's "Go" Sandiage brought to town two Northwest premiere blues acts.

The Multi-award winning Ellen Whyte and her band, Reflex Blue, opened the show with an impressive set that included numbers from both the band's first CD, "Different Point of Blue" and their just released second CD titled "Here & Gone". Their debut release, "Different Point of Blue" won the Cascade Blues association's award for "Best Album" and "Best Female Vocalist". Two of my favorite Ellen Whyte songs, "1-800-Blues-4-U" and "If you ever see my Baby" are on this CD and she did absolutely killer versions of both at this show.

Capping off the night was Seattle's incredible Charles White Band. I do not have enough words at my disposal to accurately describe the entire Charles White Band experience. If you ever have the opportunity to see these guys do it!!!! After being thoroughly amazed by the antics, exhilarating vocals and ribald stories told by the slight but noisy Mr. White, don't forget to pay close attention to the rest of this award winning band. These guys are past winners of the Washington Blues Society award for "Entertainer of the Year". The band has a CD available entitled "Not Easily Amused", pick this CD up when you have the chance, you won't be disappointed.



A Blues Foundation Affiliated Member

DECEMBER 1998

Blues Comes To Life Again In Wenatchee

By Carol Sawyer

On October 24th "The Whyte on White Show", featuring Ellen Whyte and Reflex Blue from Portland, Oregon and our own Charles White Band from the Seattle area got the 1998-99 Wenatchee Convention Center concert series off to a rousing and unforgettable beginning.

The short drive to Wenatchee, via Snoqualmie and Blewett Passes (slightly over two hours from Fremont) was awe-inspiring as we traveled through nature's glorious display of bright and beautiful autumn colors in weather that was mixed sun and showers. The excursion was relaxing and enjoyable, but the best was yet to come.

After checking into our spacious and comfortable room at the West Coast Wenatchee Center Hotel, we chilled for a bit before dressing and heading across the sky bridge to the Wenatchee Center and settling in for the concert. The hall itself seats 600 and features a large dance floor. Two full service bars within the room keep your thirst at bay.

Promptly at 8pm, Ellen Whyte and Reflex Blue opened the show and Ellen had the audience in her pocket right from the start as she began her set from among the crowd on her remote mike. Ellen is a dynamic vocalist with a warm stage presence that draws her audience in. She also plays guitar and writes her own material. Her set was comprised of her own great tunes mixed with some fine renditions of classic blues and R&B tunes. She had the house up and dancing and at the end of her set was brought back up for an encore. Sitting in with Ellen's band were Ed Vance on keyboards and Pete "The Beat" Langhans on drums.

After a brief intermission, the Charles White Band took the stage at 10pm and began their first set with keyboardist, Rolf Larsen leading the vocals for the first two tunes. When Charles White took the stage and began with **Goodtime Charlie**, the entire house migrated to the dance floor and seemed to stay there throughout the set, caught up in the magic this incredible band always creates. The band thrilled the audience with their mix of great original tunes, some classic R&B, Motown and Blues. A third set followed and kept the house rocking after the midnight hour. A suitable finale was a duet with Charles and Ellen.

Motorbark Sound and Lighting did a fantastic job with the stage production. Robert Sandidge and Rio of RLS Entertainment Enterprises deserve congratulations for putting on such fantastic shows. Once again, the Wenatchee gig was thoroughly enjoyable, we look forward to the remaining shows in the series.

RLS Entertainment Enterprises has arranged package show & room deals with five Wenatchee hotels. The rooms range from \$50-\$75, and of course, the best rooms are the first to go. For more info on this concert series and to book rooms in advance contact RLS Entertainment at: RLSTALENT@AOL.COM or call Robert Sandidge at 509-662-MUSC (6872). Don't miss out on a wonderful overnight getaway!