

Eddie Money keeps audience rocking in comeback show

Eddie Money proved Saturday night that in no uncertain terms, he still has what it takes to make great show.

This tour, Money's first since 1983, is one of the most successful rock 'n roll comebacks in 1987. Backed by the strength of his new album, "Can't Hold Back," and its subsequent

singles, "Take Me Home Tonight," "I Wanna Go Back" and "Endless Nights," Money has hit the road with the same energy that marked his earlier tours, stopping in both Portland and Eugene.

The concert Saturday night in the Hult Center's Silva Hall was a successful event. The opening

act, English group The Truth, managed to get the capacity crowd on their feet and moving with eager skill.

Review by Kerry Jeffery

Getting serious recognition presently in pop circles, The Truth showed they were worthy of the responsibility behind opening for a major headliner. Beginning their 35-minute set with their current single, an MTV "Hip Clip Of The Week," The Truth could soon be headlining their own tour if their success continues.

After the rousing opening, the audience scarcely had a chance to breathe before Money

came out and proved exactly who was the star of the show. With barely so much as a "Hello, Eugene," Money launched into some of his best-known hits, including "Two Tickets To Paradise," "Where's The Party" and "No Control." The energetic opening numbers were indicative of the entire concert, with Money keeping the crowd on its feet for the duration.

Any doubts as to whether Money could come back and perform a high-energy set after his four-year sabbatical from the stage were obliterated.

Though picking up his saxophone only once, during the second song, Money tossed around both tamborine and maracas, and settled on his har-

monica, which added an almost surprising bluesy feel to some his songs in the last half, particularly his show-ending song, "Friends," which he dedicated to acquaintances living in Eugene.

Money's backup band, a group of skilled, but seemingly uninspired musicians, did well to stay out of a spotlight filled with all of the skill of a veteran performer.

Turning back to some of the true roots of rock 'n roll Money did "the show." Instead of standing in front of a microphone for an hour, Eddie made a serious and successful effort to bring the audience into the concert. Another Money asset is his ability to keep the audience entertained.



Eddie Money

Meeting Money big deal for prizewinner

By Cliff Pfenning
Of the Emerald

When Kathy Burns won the "Meet Eddie Money" contest sponsored by local radio station KSND, it was like she had won the lottery. Her voice on the telephone, when she called in to accept, was filled with emotion.

"When they were taping me (after she had won) I was trying to be calm, but I was really excited," Burns said. Still, she sounded as if Money was going to be unclothed.

In the mega-hype world of entertainment, scenes like this happen daily. Seemingly everyone is out to drum up publicity. Prize giveaways and personal meetings with stars have always been popular. But oftentimes what you get is what you make of it.

What Burns had actually won was a couple "Can't Hold Back" tour T-shirts, some Eddie Money cassettes, an LP and a room at the Eugene Hilton. The big prize, of course, was the chance to meet Money, who was in town for a Saturday concert.

As the afternoon meeting approached, KSND disc jockey "Jammin'" Jamie Hyatt was busily inventing questions for Money's appearance on his show. With the moment nearing, Hyatt was feeling the pressure. "I'm pretty nervous," he said. "This is only the second time I've done something like this, with a major star."

Contest winner Burns, on the other hand, was happily waiting for the spectacle to begin. "I'm really looking forward to it," she said. "It's not everyday in your life that you get to meet a superstar; just walk off the street and say 'Hi.' This is history in the making."

By the time Money arrived at the station, a

sizable crowd, including the station manager, other DJ's and relations of station personnel had gathered. For the size of the Eugene market, this was the event of the year.

As expected Money was an operator. He ran through everything like he was on a schedule. He answered questions about his career, posed for photos with anyone around and did promotional spots for the station. He even put in a song request to an off-guard Hyatt.

During the on-air segments Money dropped a few good words about the Willamette Valley. "I love Oregon," he said. "I have a lot of friends up here who moved up from the Bay area. All my roadies say that Eugene is the greatest place to play."

Finally, after taking care of most of the business at hand, the time approached to meet the "Grand Prize Winner."

When Money met Burns there was something in the air. But it wasn't some indescribable electricity — it was cigarette smoke. Burns shyly approached Money, got a token hug, a photo and then retreated to the safety of a friend she had brought along for the ride.

After a few more minutes, Money wrapped up the show and left for another engagement. "I don't do too many of these (station visits), but they're a lot of fun," Money said. "I don't mind doing them when the station is right."

While the station personnel were busy congratulating each other for the success of the event, Burns was still thinking about her meeting. "It was a lot of fun," she said later. "I'm glad I got to meet him."

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