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PBS will celebrate ethnicity

Three new public TV
specials will focus
on diverse
immigrant cultures

By Lynn Elber
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — PBS dishes up a big serving from the American melting pot this month, reminding us how close we are to our ethnic roots, and how far.

The experiences of Italian, Polish and Jewish Americans are the focus of one documentary series, while two other films scrutinize the world of contemporary Orthodox Jews.

Celebrating immigrant spirit and identity is the goal of these films, produced by PBS station WLIW of New York and second generation to a 1996-97 series that resonated with viewers.

"The Italian Americans II: A Beautiful Song," "The Polish Americans" and "Another Mitzvah (Blessing)" are as unabashedly positive as were "The Italian Americans" and "A Laugh, a Tear, a Mitzvah" and "May the Road Rise to Meet You," about Irish Americans.

Fogerty wows crowd with old and new hits

Former CCR frontman
John Fogerty stuck to the
basics in concert at the
Cuthbert Amphitheater

By Matt O'Neill
Freelance Reporter

At the Cuthbert Amphitheater in Alton Baker Park Wednesday night, John Fogerty treated two generations of fans to his litany of great hits.

Fogerty started his show with "Born on the Bayou" and "Green River," hit songs from his days with Creedence Clearwater Revival.

The first part of the concert followed the set list of his latest album, "Premonition," a live record that he put out while on this tour.

Fogerty then mixed in some of his newer songs off of his last album, "Blue Moon Swamp," which included such songs such as "Bring it Down to Jelly Roll," and "Joy of My Life."

The high point of the show was when "Centerfield" was played on a baseball bat shaped guitar. At the first recognizable drum beats of the song, the crowd erupted into excitement and sang along.

Fogerty then dove into his musical past by playing one of his mentor's songs, "Jumbalaya," by Hank Williams.

Two other songs that brought a great reaction from the crowd, which ranged from high schoolers just learning about the great rock and roller to older fans who have followed him since his days with Creedence, were "Have You Ever

Seen the Rain" and "Cottonfield." During "Cottonfield," he let the crowd sing the lyrics while he merely played the chords on the guitar.

Towards the end of the set, Fogerty appeared to let the crowd choose the song they wanted to hear. But, it looked like the situation was contrived because he immediately broke into "Grapevine," during which he played an amazing guitar solo that lasted about four minutes. It didn't matter if it was set up, though, because it was a great cover of a classic Motown hit.

For the last two songs of the set, Fogerty went back to his Creedence days once again, playing "Bad Moon Rising" and "Fortunate Son."

During "Bad Moon Rising," he sang the chorus wrong, singing "bathroom on the right" instead of "bad moon on the rise," the line being one of the most misquoted lines in rock and roll history.

The encore consisted of two songs, the same songs that appeared on the album, "Proud Mary" and "Traveling Band." Both being crowd favorites, they were a good way to end the show.

Although Fogerty's latest album is a live concert from this tour, he stayed too much to the set list that appeared on the record.

He started ended with the same order as the record but deviated during the middle of the show.

While the crowd responded well to the former lead singer of CCR, his set seemed very rehearsed and stale.



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