



feedback

OF MONTREAL

Beck's Music Box, Perth

28/02/09

Bursting to the brim with outlandish lyrics and surrealistic glitz, Of Montreal's sold-out Perth debut was first and foremost a lesson in getting down, out and proud. This was mainly thanks to the showmanship of lead singer/guitarist Kevin Barnes, who acted kind of like the centre of gravity around which the other colourful O.M'ers made their equally thrilling orbits.

Dressed in some kind of flowery lime green dress, sporting a tasselled shoulder bag and plenty of eye makeup, Barnes revelled in breathing life into his lyrics, as showcased in second song *Bunny Ain't No Kind Of Rider* which he spat out with a jaded campiness more befitting a cabaret than a crowd of hundreds of indie pop fans. With something like nine albums' worth of material behind them, it wasn't so much about *what* they chose to play, but *how* they chose to play it, with the tipsy crowd choosing "hysterical" as prime receiving mode for the first few bars of just about every song.

Probably the show's most memorable aspect for many was the constant feature of various masked creatures

engaging in play battle with each other on stage. Whilst black Spiderman, lizard man, tiger man and a gold "Sunlandic Twin" man were good for a laugh, unfortunately they made a huge diversion from the musical substance of OM's set at times.

Id Engager saw OM leave the stage to thunderous applause and rattling of the hardwood floor before the band returned for their encores, finally ditching the circus and entrusting themselves to the crowd's love for their songs' functions as stand alone masterpieces.

DANIELLE MARSLAND

