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THE RUBY SUNS

Becks Music Box

Friday 6th March, 2009

by Anetta Nevin

It was a warm evening on the esplanade, when [THE RUBY SUNS](#) and [HIGH PLACES](#) took Becks Music Box to a world away from our own. Although the acts were not necessarily from lands too far from our fair city, they led us to another realm through an auditory adventure of Polynesian and African rhythms.

The modest duo High Places started the night with a delicate performance. Taking control of the very sparse looking stage, which was set up with nothing more than a small table of musical electronics and the few odd auxiliary pieces of percussion. This simple yet intimate set up allowed High Places to execute perfect flowing dreamscapes, which had the ability to float through the night. The only complaint that could be said for the performance was the technical difficulties with the PA, which interrupted their tender set, however this is something beyond the bands control.

As the night progressed, the mood shifted slightly, and the Ruby Suns took to the stage. Being only slightly less modest than High Places, this New Zealand act introduced a live rhythm section to the sparse electronic set up, and expanded on the evening's exotic sound scapes. Introducing the bass and drums to the stage provided an entire revenue of energy to the Ruby Suns set, which by the end of, left the whole venue dancing.

As original member of the band, **Amee Robinson** was absent for the performance; her rhythm section input was substituted with a Melbourne man, stepping in to fill her shoes. Her absence was mystified, as there was no mention of why she was away, either in the bands news blogs or at the performance. Was this newcomer going to become permanent addition to the band? Whatever the explanation may be, the stage bubbled with raw enthusiasm.

The band performed a colourful set, which incorporated covers of artists like Kate Bush (doing her second most famous song), 'Running Up That Hill' and tracks from their latest album '**Sea Lion**'. They created an uplifting vibe, with steady growing

momentum including some energetic and powerful 'battles of the drums'. Some of the standout tracks of the night were 'Oh Mojabe', and the track with the perfect pun, 'Kenya Dig It'.

In the final song of the set 'Kenya Dig It' **Rob Barker**, one of the multi instrumentalists from High Places, graced the stage again to throw in more live percussion **as Ryan Mcphunn**, vocals, jumped from the stage to sing and dance with the heart of the crowd. This closed the bands sets in the pinnacle of a climax.

As this Saturday was the second to final night of the Becks Music Box season, it was the perfect way to draw it to the end with such an uplifting night. There is something very positive about seeing two bands on the same bill, which hold a bond enough to share the spotlight in each other's sets. This filled Becks Music Box with more electricity, and the evening is made just a little more special