

THE THE Marquee

THE SOME Bizzare roadshow rolled into the Marquee for its second week of residency with Matt Johnson stage centre and a whole host of friends helping out. Billed as 'Rock 'n' Roll With The The', the show was exactly that.

Since the days of Presley, all and sundry have passed under the collective banner of R 'n' R but tonight Matt Johnson managed to stage an encyclopedia-like interpretation of the seedier — and more exciting — side of the medium. Performances and delivery varied, mainly due to the atrocious sound, but the spirit that is R 'n' R was evident.

It was ambitious and, in the overriding chaos, the multi-faceted Matt came over as a nervous narrator trying frantically to hold things together. Band members came and went; Thomas Leer on keyboards, Orange Juice's Zeke on drums and even Marc

Almond arrived to give an impromptu Mamba rendition.

Straining through a PA that sounded like a sweaty sock, Matt sang along to tapes of his two most recent singles and 'Red Cinders In The Sand' from the underrated 'Burning Blue Soul' LP. With two drummers, a rhythmic holocaust was set up and the next minute, with the stage empty, Matt and a single companion beat hell out of a kitchen sink. Very contemporary but so classic, the misplaced and mislead R 'n' R experience.

It was years of living with Rock 'n' Roll all poured out in the space of a couple of hours; inevitably, it ended in trouble as all edge music does. The guitar hero display was interrupted when someone took exception to Marc Almond. Marc responded by crowning him with a guitar, the gig collapsed, the band left the stage.

It was provocative and at times unlistenable but it was Rock 'n' Roll, it was a spectacle.

DAVE HENDERSON

SOUNDS
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