

Review: Rick Springfield rocks the Rose Theatre

SPECIAL

Posted Oct 17, 2013 by [Kristal Cooper](#)

If there's only one takeaway from a Rick Springfield concert -- aside from the fact that the 64-year-old rock 'n' roller puts on a hell of a show -- it's that he has some of the most delightfully boisterous fans in existence.

Toting along everything from vintage records and copies of Springfield's autobiography to giant homemade letters ('R' and 'S' of course) that light up and lace g-strings ready to be flung at the stage, the (mostly) women who make up Springfield's fan base are an exuberant bunch who infuse the concert venue's atmosphere with an excited energy even before the lights go down. For his part, Springfield and his band are game to play with the crowd and that's evident from the moment they hit the stage.



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Opening with 'Wide Awake' from his latest album *Songs for the End of the World*, Springfield took the stage at Brampton's Rose Theatre with a vengeance, ripping into the song and his performance with gusto.

From there, he and his band, George Nastos, Paul Trudeau, Rodger Carter and local boy George Bernhardt, barreled through a just over 90-minute set crafted to please admirers of Springfield's classic song catalogue, as well as those who are more familiar with his newer, rockier discography.

Speaking of the songs that made Springfield a star back in the '80s, the singer is refreshingly amiable about giving the people what they want. "Oh, we don't do that one any more" is his winking answer to the numerous shouted requests for his biggest hit 'Jessie's Girl' even as he artfully weaves a few bars of the song's memorable opening into a mash-up of his other hits, eliciting jubilant screams from the crowd.

By the time the moment for 'Jessie's Girl' finally arrived -- after an emotional acoustic set (during which Springfield thanks the crowd for their thoughtful silence), two instances of the singer climbing through the crowd via the tops of the theatre seats, a sing-along to 'Don't Talk to Strangers' and lots of witty banter with the audience -- the Rose Theatre was in enough of a frenzy

that even the audience members who had resisted dancing up to that point were on their feet and shrieking their appreciation for Springfield's lithe and energetic show.

A two-song encore saw the crowd dancing in the aisles and long after the lights came up, Springfield's enthusiastic fans lingered around the stage, comparing favourite moments from the show, gathering up guitar picks, set lists and stray rose petals. That's just the effect that Rick Springfield has on his fans.

Rick Springfield continues his North American tour. For more info on upcoming tour dates, check his [official website](#).