Moon's death eclipses Who Are You

By Drew Blakeman

In case you hadn't heard by now, drummer Keith Moon of the Who died last week of a drug overdose, officially listed as a natural cause. In case you hadn't heard by now, drug overdose is one of the more frequent causes of death in the world of rock. Moon's tragic death came immediately after the group's successful tour of Australia and New Zealand, as well as a reported drug overdose. The original Keith Moon of the Who died last week.

The dialogue drags in spots, but is generally lively, and laced with truly humorous exchanges. Back Country is less to be noted for its verbal humor, though, than for its wit of motion. While the script is often considerably more to hold the audience's attention, the physical action onstage is. Choreographer Margo Sappington has put together some exciting dance numbers, enjoyable entertainment. 

All three groups have aged reasonably well, and, considering the volatility of the rock industry, their longevity is nothing short of remarkable. They have shown it is possible to remain a viable force on the rock scene long after they were supposed to have been all washed up. Of course, no group would last that long without a good deal of talent to back them up, and all three have proved quite capable of producing good material over the years. Even their worst stuff is not bad, and the songs aren't bad but not great, and the songs aren't bad but aren't anything to write home about. Their sound has changed as much as they have. It is still clearly Who, but certainly a much older version than Who's Next. They don't quite fit as snugly as they used to, although the years of familiarity make everything sound very comfortable.

To put it simply, Who freaks will like the record but others will probably be able to neither take it or leave it alone. Who Are You will not gain the group any new fans. Whether this will be the last Who album remains to be seen, although I would suspect that the remaining three band members are not yet ready to call it quits. Keith Moon will be missed by his fans and colleagues, and it's a shame that the Who could not recapture enough of their former glory with Who Are You to provide him with a more appropriate epitaph.

To harp on the subject of death still further (yes, I know it's a drag, but that sort of thing happens these days), the death of Lynyrd Skynyrd band members Ronnie Van Zant and Steve and Cassie Gaines was potentially an even worse tragedy, if that sort of thing can be measured. Their chartered plane crashed into a swamp on the heels of the release of their best album to date, Sweet Survivors, which I consider to be one of last year's best as well. The band had just begun to reap widespread acclaim on both domestic and international

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