

Normally the shows I go to are a loud, raucous affair. So, going to see an acoustic performance was a change of pace for me. However it was one that I was looking forward to. Wednesday night The Color Fred, well Fred anyway, hit the Blender Theater at Gramercy for their New York stop of the Summer To Remember Tour, Having previously seen Fred electric with the full Color Fred lineup as well as Taking Back Sunday when he was part of the group.

My first thought was that I hoped it wasn't going to be boring, since the show was basically going to be one man, his guitar and a mic. Well my fear was allayed the moment Fred stepped on the stage. He's definitely not a man who's going to stand in one spot and sing the acoustic set in a reserved manner.

No, this guy owned the stage as if it was a rock show. He belted out each song with tremendous passion, roaming the floor while he powerfully strummed each chord as if the song moved him so much he couldn't sit still in peace. He'd even come out to the stage's edge to sing with his fans, forming a bond with them that someone sitting quietly on a stool under a spotlight can't.

A crowd favorite was a nod to his musical past as part of Taking Back Sunday when he performed "New American Classic", which inspired a singalong by those who've continued to follow him into this new chapter of his music career. I was hoping he would cover Michael Jackson's "Human Nature" as I saw on youtube <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zbr-RrpA75g> recently. But this night he broke out some Zeppelin and sang "That's the Way." OK, that'll do.

According to Tom DeLonge, guitarist/singer for the reformed Blink-182, and frontman for Angels And Airwaves, a band The Color Fred toured with awhile back, he loves Fred Mascherino because he's "The one person in the entire world that's capable of doing something grander than what he's done before" with another band. That's quite a ringing endorsement. My encouraging words are as follows: why wasn't the Color Fred headlining? Here's hoping he comes back soon.