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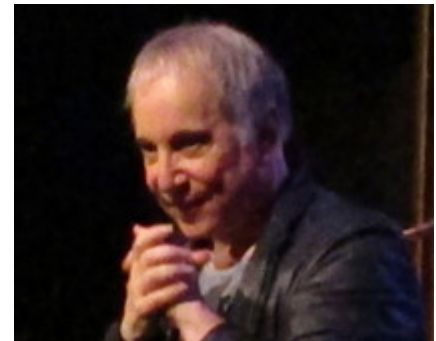
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Concert review: Paul Simon at Webster Hall

June 7, 2011

5:37 PM MST

Monday night, music legend [Paul Simon](#) played [Webster Hall](#), finishing the first leg of his tour promoting his latest [album](#), "So Beautiful or So What." With no opening act, Simon and his band took the stage around 8:30 p.m. and launched straight into "Boy In the Bubble" off his Grammy-winning album "[Graceland](#)."



Lorraine Schwartz

It was 1986's "Graceland" that attracted fans from my generation, initially because of his hilarious video for the single "You Can Call Me Al." The [video](#) featured Chevy Chase, at the height of his movie [career](#), and was a big hit with the MTV generation. In fact I would go so far as to say most of the [Webster Hall](#) audience were actually fellow '80s kids rather than the older set who were around when Simon was still a [team](#) with Art Garfunkel. This goes to show that even though the most talked about music from the Reagan era is usually bubble gum synth-pop or hair metal, Simon's African-influenced [melodies](#) clearly made their way to the headphones of many teenagers' Walkmans.

Simon went on to play a good mix of solo material ranging from the recent album to his first post-Simon & Garfunkel album, 1972's **Paul Simon**." Included were the latest "Dazzling Blue," "Questions for the Angels," "Rewrite" and "So Beautiful or So What" and past greats like "50 Ways to Leave Your Lover," "Kodachrome," "Mother and Child Reunion," "Diamonds on the Soles of Her Shoes," "Late in the Evening" and "Obvious Child." Simon also covered Simon & Garfunkel tunes "Sounds of Silence" and "Only Living Boy In New York" as well as Jimmy Cliff's "Vietnam" and the Beatles' "Here Comes the Sun."

Hearing those songs played in a small East Village theater was amazing enough, but the biggest treat came at the end of the night when **David Byrne** of the **Talking Heads** joined Simon and his band for a rendition of the Talking Heads classic "Road to Nowhere" with Simon on harmonica, followed by a great version of "You Can Call Me Al" with Byrne and Simon trading off vocals and dance moves.

As the crowd filed slowly out of Webster Hall after Simon had taken his final bows of the night, Frank Sinatra's swinging cover of Simon & Garfunkel's **Mrs. Robinson** played over the loud speakers, marking the end of a great evening for those lucky enough to snag a ticket to the sold-out show.

Video clips:

"Obvious Child"

"Road to Nowhere" with David Byrne

"You Can Call Me Al" with David Byrne

"Still Crazy After All These Years"

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