

The Dismemberment Plan

with Enon, Dälek, and The Gena Rowlands Band The Sapphire Supper Club, Orlando, FL May 19, 2001

by Julio Diaz and Andrew Chadwick

I've written in these pages before about the dearth of shows in Melbourne, Florida, and the difficulty in getting over to Orlando (just over an hour away by car) to catch a band. It's worth the effort for a truly special event, though, and this promised to be one. Having caught the ever-inventive Dismemberment Plan in an amazing but way-too-short show at last year's CMJ Music Marathon, I knew I'd be in for a treat. The post-Braniac/Skeleton Key noise/pop/post-rock of Enon also promised to be of interest, based on last year's *Believo*, and with a couple of fellow *Ink 19*ers in tow, nothing would keep us from the Sapphire Supper Club.

Unfortunately, though, the distance factor prevented us from making it to Orlando in time to catch opening acts The Gena Rowlands Band and Dälek. Not to fear, though -- fellow *Ink 19* scribe Andrew Chadwick arrived early, and provided the following report:

The Dismemberment Plan have consistently exceeded my expectations of them live. I would be blown away one show and the next would be even more amazing. I knew I would be at their Orlando show no matter what, especially since it was to be held at the Sapphire. Other than Enon, though, I wasn't too concerned about seeing the opening bands. Silly me.

The Gena Rowlands Band was tagging along with The Dismemberment Plan for most of their tour. Huh? How did they get such an honor? Who was this band I was going to have to sit through? They were comprised of a guy on guitar and a girl on violin. He began by relating a story from an interview he'd heard Ice-T give once. I missed the beginning of the story, but from what I could gather, Ice-T was explaining his involvement with Body Count. Apparently, back in the day, he wanted to experience hard, aggressive music. At the time, LL Cool J was big in the rap world. So instead, he would go see Slayer. He'd get his aggression out and come home and put on Sade or something. The parallel was drawn to tonight's show, and the importance of having an equal appreciation for different styles of music. It was also quipped that they were the Sade to Dälek's Body Count.

The Gena Rowlands Band spun out narrative tales of relationships gone awry and too much televison. As if you couldn't guess from their band name, there were pop references to movies and shows all over the place ("Garofalo, C'est Moi," for starters). The singer/guitarist had an intimately confiding, personable presence, and wasn't afraid to weave some jokes into his songs to make them a little more light-hearted. The violin was a wonderful complement to the guitar, sometimes adding melody, sometimes rhythmic tension. Together, they played memorable songs that made it quite clear why they were brought along. An amazing set from a group I likely never would have come across otherwise. Thank you, Dismemberment Plan. Their four song EP is lovely (with fuller instrumentation, as well), and there are MP3s up at http://www.genarowlandsband.com/.

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