

REVIEW: Caravan of Thieves perform at Woodstock's Bearsville Theater



- April 12th, 2011 10:29 pm ET

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The [Caravan of Thieves](#) opened their set at Woodstock's [Bearsville Theater](#) on April 9 by playing a bunch of junk — a hubcap, frying pan, and buckets, to be exact — in a “Stomp”-esque rhythm that instantly had audience members up and dancing.

The foursome from Connecticut, who bill themselves as “Gypsy, swinging, serenading, firebreathing circus freaks,” combined vaudevillian antics and slapstick humor with beautiful vocal harmonies and spot-on instrumentation. Upright-bass player Brian Anderson furiously pulls and slaps, contrasting well with violinist Ben Dean, who plays with graceful speed and agility, often bending and swaying with each lingering note. Acoustic guitarists/vocalists/married-couple Carrie and Fuzz Sangiovanni provided witty banter between songs (which they co-wrote). Her singing varied from melodically sweet to hauntingly sultry, while his impressive, speedy gypsy-jazz strumming is accompanied by fun whoops and yowls.

The band's performance often incorporated crowd interaction. During “Rattlesnake,” for instance, Fuzz encouraged everyone to hiss like a snake. While Dean's violin harmonized with Carrie and Fuzz's vocals — and Anderson's bass provided a slinky pulse — audible hisses rose from different sides of the room (and continued on throughout random points during the night).

The group played a few cover songs with their own gypsy twist, including a bouncy, swinging version of Michael Jackson's “Thriller” (they made it work—and yes, people were doing the zombie dance); and a stellar rendition of Queen's “Bohemian Rhapsody.” The latter elicited an enthusiastic approval from the crowd — people sang along shamelessly and loudly.

Each of the band's original songs had storylines that were almost as entertaining as the performances, such as Bar Isole — as Carrie explains: “It's a song about a man and a woman who get married, have a house in the country — but she gets bored, begins visiting an attractive bartender in town — only to find out that he's already having an affair with her husband.”

The final song of their (practically begged-for) encore was titled “Raise the Dead;” during this tune the band came down into the general-admission standing area and asked everyone to huddle in close for a singalong. The entire house was whooping, stomping and clapping along (with the occasional snake hiss still sneaking in) to the pirate-esque, bar song.

The passionate performance allowed listeners to forget their cares and become a part of the caravan for a night.

Link:

<http://www.examiner.com/underground-music-in-new-york/review-caravan-of-thieves-perform-at-woodstock-s-bearsville-theater-review>