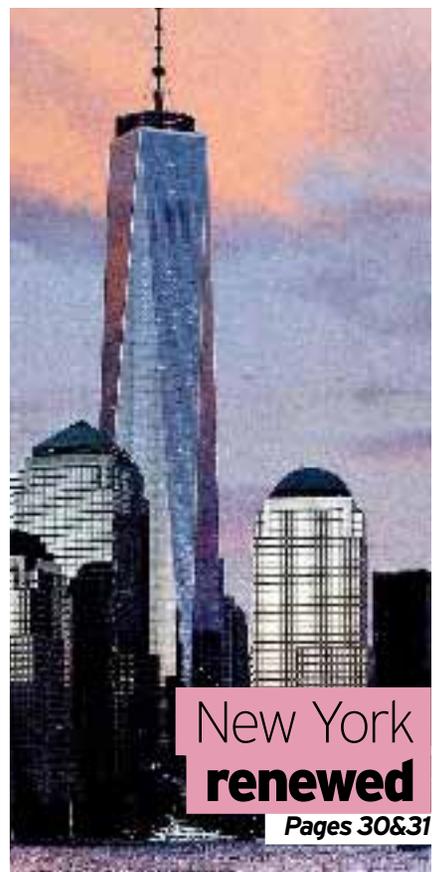


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# What's On



## This girl certainly still knows how to **have fun**

WHAT'S ON EDITOR  
**GORDON BARR**  
REVIEWS CYNDI  
LAUPER AT  
NEWCASTLE  
CITY HALL

WE have waited 21 years for music icon Cyndi Lauper to return to Newcastle City Hall.

Has it been worth the wait? Hell yes...and then some!

She may have turned 63 years old a few days earlier, but Cyndi still owns a stage and has an energy, never mind that incredible voice, of someone half her age.

Backed by a terrific band, she made a Detour to the City Hall on the back of her new country covers album of the same name.

The set was a cracking mix of this new material plus a jaunt down memory lane with most of the hits and some surprise lesser known material thrown in for good measure.

Kicking off with Funnel of Love, the lead-off track

from Detour, Cyndi delivered from the word go and you just knew you were in for a special evening.

Dressed to impress as always, and with those long flowing purple locks of hair, a Cyndi show is as visually entertaining as it is to listen to.

From Funnel we were straight into She Bop, from the She's So Unusual album, sounding as fresh today as to when first released in the early 80s.

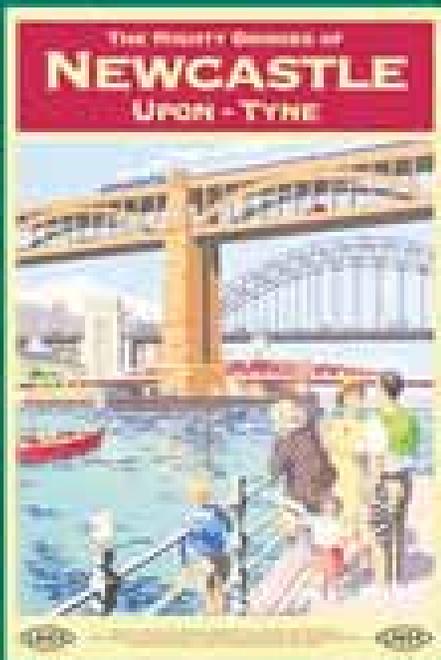
That killer voice never missed a note and while she might not go for those incredibly near-impossible high notes as often these days, when she does, she nails them!

Part of Cyndi's enduring appeal lies with her personality and connection with her fans. Usually at a gig, if the performer starts a 10-minute-plus talk just two songs in, they are at risk of losing the audience. Not so with Cyndi, we were hooked on her every word as she explained, in her kooky, round-the-houses way, why she decided to release a country covers album.

At the end of the day, though, it was the music we had come for first and foremost and whether she was belting out heart-wrenching renditions of The End of the World or Misty Blue or raising the roof with I Drove All Night or the Prince-penned When You Were Mine, she knocked us for six.

Added into the set was The Goonies R Good Enough - what a reception to that one! - and the wonderful You Don't Know...lyrically so apt consid-

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ering the present political climate both here and in the US.

The biggies were saved for last and as soon as the opening bars of Money Changes Everything rang out, the concert stepped up another gear.

Time After Time, Girls Just Want to Have Fun and a finale of True Colors (with Cyndi on her own on the stage) had us begging for more.

But alas, she was gone. Off to make her Glastonbury debut.

Let's just hope she doesn't leave it nearly as long to pay Newcastle another visit.



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