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## Miles Hunt and Erica Nockalls

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It's worth getting the comparisons out of the way first.

There's a section of the population for whom The Wonder Stuff are the sacred cow.

Less 'out-there' than Pop Will Eat Itself and much more English than the Pixies or Nirvana, both of whom they could arguably count as contemporaries, they presented a skewed view of teen angst which carried many through schooldays, first jobs or Uni in a way no-one else could have done.

Miles Hunt and Erica Nockalls are not The Wonder Stuff.

Miles (Apologies to him and the many fans gathered at The Cellars at Eastney last night) looks vaguely like a mixture of his younger self and Robert Palmer. Weirdly, he looks pretty good on it.

Erica, playing violin beautifully against Miles' acoustic guitar, can't produce the level of noise the Stuff blasted out at Reading in 1992, when the band headlined Friday (Saturday – Public Enemy, Sunday – Nirvana).

But Miles still has the voice, and Erica's remarkable performance adds depth to a strong set.

The evening sees them play tracks from their career as a duo, with Miles' distinctive vocals never fully tearing the crowd from Erica's performance on the violin. I wasn't familiar with the whole set, but on the basis of yesterday evening, it's a catalogue worth getting hold of.

Erica sings just once, and you hope the pair have more duets planned, as her strong but delicate voice balances Miles' vocals perfectly.

When Miles announces two tracks from their latest album *Catching More Than We Miss* will be followed by songs by The Wonder Stuff songs, and adds 'I can hear the sigh of relief around the room', it's not true, but with a back catalogue like his, and a fanbase as dedicated as he and the Wonder Stuff's are, the 20 minutes of joy which followed was the only likely result.

After a set including *Caught In My Shadow*, *Circle/Square* and *Here Comes Everyone*, the duo step away, leaving the crowd to look forward to a Wonder Stuff tour in April, and more in the future from Miles and Erica.

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