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Bruce
Springsteen



Bruce Springsteen is perhaps the most dynamic rock'n'roller ever. His live performances are magnificent affairs, so fabulously awe-inspiring that he can hardly be compared to any current day performer. Even on vinyl, his rough voice contains more energy, excitement, and sheer intensity than any of his contemporaries. Bruce is a fine guitarist whose solos are as innovative as they are thrilling. As a lyricist, he writes

tough street poetry that hits gut level. There is little wonder that New Jersey, and more and more every place where rock'n'roll is played, is fanatical about Bruce Springsteen.

Although often described as a "prisoner of rock'n'roll", Springsteen is always in command of the music, creating images and setting moods effortlessly. Never does he surrender the energy of strength that has become



his trademark. Now winding up a long American tour upon the release of his fourth album **Darkness On The Edge Of Town**, Springsteen is enjoying the view from the top of the rock world, along with his talented and dramatic backing unit, the E-Street Band. But it was not always like this for the hard working New Jersey native. Springsteen, who celebrates his birthday only a few days after tonight's performance (September 23 to be exact), was born in near-shore town of Freehold. Determined to be a rock star, Bruce became a regular at clubs in New York City after graduating high school.

After going through a series of hometown bands including Steel Mill and Dr. Zoom And The Sonic Boom and his own Bruce Springsteen Band, Bruce was signed by Columbia's famed A&R man John Hammond. Bruce followed with his first album **Greetings From Asbury Park NJ**. Although the debut LP was acclaimed by the critics, it was not a commercial success.

Then in 1973, Springsteen released his **The Wild, The Innocent And The E-Street Shuffle**. Again the critics cheered while sales were slow. Bruce

had successfully fought Columbia to attain a harder edged rock sound to this record than the previous. This is not to say that a single weak tune exists on **Greetings**. The word on the street was that **Greetings** had been influenced by Bob Dylan while the **Wild** had more of a Van Morrison feeling to it. Certainly "Rosalita" had a spine-tingling effect akin to Van Morrison's "Caravan". But Bruce's style has always been his own.

The Band went into the studio to work on the new album which everyone knows and loves as **Born To Run**. The LP was first performed at the now famous Bottom Line gigs in 1975. And then simultaneously Bruce made the covers of Time and Newsweek. Suddenly the unshaven street punk had become a household word. Sensationalist reporters screamed hype. How could one be more wrong?

The material itself was fantastic and the present day Band coalesced around the LP. The album relied on a Phil Spector-like wall of sound. Never has a record captured the thrill of being alive as perfectly as **BTR**. Bruce took



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the fast-paced existence of the East Coast and recreated it on vinyl. Why fall asleep listening to California singer/songwriters? Put on **Born To Run** and be motivated.

After a two year wait the triumphant **Darkness On The Edge Of Town** was released. Certainly the album has a cooler, less exuberant feel to it; but it certainly contains the same positive spirit. The cross-country tour that began with the LP's release is still in progress and Bruce is taking the country city by city.

Backing Bruce is the driving six-piece E-Street Band. Drummer "Mighty Max" Weinberg has got to be the most highly amplified drummer in rock'n'roll. His powerful assault on the drum set occurs nightly, while Gary "U.S." Tallent adds the bottom with his bass. Simply stated, there is no better rhythm section performing today. Their rhythm lines are complemented by Danny Federici, whose organ is never less than inspiring. Pianist Roy "The Professor" Bitten provides those long piano introductions favored by Springsteen. Guitarist "Miami" Steve VanZandt adds his own zinging guitar to the lineup, and provides Springsteen with a partner to clown with on stage. No one, however, plays off Bruce as much as the "Big Man" or the "Kahuna", saxophonist extraordinaire Clarence Clemons. Clarence first garnered attention with James Brown, but now is almost legendary as the perfect foil for Springsteen on stage. This mammoth figure towers over Bruce as they dance towards each other every night. Clarence mimics Bruce's acrobatics to the delight of fans nationwide. To watch Bruce Springsteen and his band perform will transform anyone into a Springsteen fanatic.

Tonight, at the Capitol Theatre, we welcome the triumphant return of Bruce Springsteen to New Jersey. He has proven that he is unparalleled in contemporary music to doubters all over the country this year. Again he brings his own magical brand of rock'n'roll home to New Jersey where we have always known that he is the best. And he'll prove it all night.

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Photo credit - Bob Leafe.



Bruce Springsteen opens a bottle of champagne on stage at the Capitol Theatre's New Year's celebration. Photo credit - Bob Leafe.

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