

Jimmy Buffett defies judgment day prediction, remembers roots

Written by By TERRY MATHEWS, News-Telegram Arts Editor
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If Harold Camping's judgment day prediction had come to pass at 6 p.m. Saturday night, some 30,000 parrotheads would have missed a terrific show by Jimmy Buffett at the Pizza Hut Park in Frisco.

After taking a pretty serious fall from an Australian stage, the big Kahuna has bounced back and resumed the "Finland" tour with his talented backup band, the Coral Reefer Band.

From the moment he stepped up to the microphone until the final encore, the world's richest beach bum entertained the faithful with songs about sailing the world, lovely women and being overserved with adult beverages.



Along with standards like "Margaritaville," "Cheeseburger in Paradise" and "A Pirate Looks at Forty," Buffett's put some old chestnuts in the set list, pleasing us long-time parrotheads, while showing new fans why he's played to sellout crowds for the past 40 years.

Buffett, who turns 65 this year, got his start playing bars in Texas and along the Gulf Coast. Legend goes that fellow troubadour Jerry Jeff Walker took Buffett to Key West the first time. He fell in love with the town on his "first look," moved there and adopted the easy, breezy beach lifestyle.



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After “Margaritaville” hit the charts in 1977, Buffett began branching out, opening his first Margaritaville retail store in Key West in 1985 and adding a restaurant in 1987. He’s also penned several books and joined Ernest Hemingway and John Steinbeck by being number one on both the fiction (“Tales from Margaritaville” and “Where is Joe Merchant”) and non-fiction (“A Pirate Looks at Fifty”) best sellers list. He also has his own record label, a radio station, his own beer and his own brand of tequila. In short, the man doesn’t have to work, but keeps touring because he loves what he does and he loves his fans.

Buffett has a special place in his heart for Texas. When he was a hungry young musician, trying to make a living, he always found work in the Lone Star state.

“In simple words, I never forget the days when it was Texas kept me alive and singing away when I couldn’t get work anywhere else,” he said as he introduced the evening’s final number. “Here’s a song I wrote way back when in those days. It has a lot of meaning. Thank you, Texas, for all the years. Here’s a little road song.”

He then played “Livingston’s Gone to Texas,” a song from his 1974 album, “Living and Dying in Three Quarter Time.”

For those who were fans long before there was a name for us, it was a special moment. The last time I heard that tune live was at Mother Blues on Greenville Avenue sometime in the late 1970s.

Thank you, Jimmy, for all the good times. See you next year. Phins up.

For a complete set list and links to recordings of the show, see

www.buffettnews.com/forum/viewtopic.php?f=29&t=86350

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