

PEARL JAM DEBUT TUNES FOR CLUB

AUDIENCE

ROCK BAND PLAYS 10 OF THE 14 SONGS ON ITS
UPCOMING *BINAURAL*, DUE TUESDAY.

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BELLINGHAM, Wash. — For at least 1,500 **Pearl Jam** fans, the wait for new music is over.

Wednesday night, during an intimate show in this sleepy town just south of the Canadian border, the Seattle quintet unveiled 10 of the 14 songs scheduled to be released Tuesday, on the band's forthcoming album, *Binaural*.

The crowd sprung, screaming, to its feet the moment singer **Eddie Vedder**, guitarists **Stone Gossard** and **Mike McCready**, bassist **Jeff Ament** and drummer **Matt Cameron** strolled aloofly onstage. The band immediately launched into one of the new album's more subdued songs, "Of the Girl." Most of the crowd remained standing — many dancing, screaming and singing along to older tunes — throughout the set, which lasted just under two hours.

Pearl Jam followed "Of the Girl" with the comparatively aggressive new tracks "Grievance" and "Breakerfall." Fourth on the setlist was the soaring, mournful first single from *Binaural*, "Nothing As It Seems" (**RealAudio excerpt**). Ament, who wrote the tune, abandoned his usual electric bass to pluck a cello for the number while McCready's wailing, animated guitar work drove the song and much of the remaining concert.

Among the songs that remained a mystery to fans who hadn't gotten their hands on an advance copy of *Binaural* or MP3s of its tracks were "Sleight of Hand," "Parting Ways" and "Rival," a song inspired by the Columbine (Colo.) High School shootings.

Vedder Strums Ukulele

Vedder was at his most charismatic and emotional while performing the band's older songs, displaying his characteristic stagger and grabbing the mic with both fists as he

wailed. Fans sang along with familiar tunes, such as "Black" ([RealAudio excerpt](#)), off the group's 1991 debut, *Ten*, and the driving "MFC" and "Red Mosquito."

One of the show's most magical moments occurred when Vedder strolled onstage alone, clutching a ukulele. "If you could — I know you're gonna wanna scream out — but hold your applause until the end," Vedder, bathed in blue light, said. "I don't wanna mess up."

A hush fell over the crowd as Vedder began strumming "Soon Forget," another *Binaural* number. Toward the end of the song, the audience laughed with him when he botched the song. It wasn't the night's only slip up.

At one point Vedder announced the band would play "Go" as Ament wandered offstage before launching into an impromptu blues number. The band goofed the setlist more than once, and Vedder jokingly said that at least they weren't butchering the songs.

Pearl Jam have a history of warming up for tours by playing small venues to work out those sorts of kinks. All glitches aside, the fans seemed to love what they saw. Many had traveled long distances, paid large sums of money and, at times, pulled bizarre stunts to get in.

Fierce Competition For Tickets

Fans had only about 30 minutes to snap up \$30 tickets after the show was announced on a local radio station. Those who missed the brief window of opportunity turned to scalpers — who asked for anywhere from \$125 to \$400 — and other acts of desperation.

Yuki Sodos and Effie Iannacito won a pair of tickets from a Seattle radio station. "I loved the new stuff," said Sodos, 26, pointing to "Nothing As It Seems" as her favorite of the new songs. "I heard that one and fell in love with it. I can't even describe the feeling I get. There are no words."

"I think Matt Cameron is bringing a lot to the band, and I think right now they're all really involved with writing," Iannacito, 26, said. Near the end of the set, the band played the hard-rocking Cameron-written "Evacuation," which will appear on *Binaural*.

John Schafer of Los Angeles and Glenn Seguin of Albany, N.Y., paid \$400 each for tickets. By hanging out before the 4 p.m. soundcheck they also managed a chance encounter with the band. "(Normally) you leave 'em alone. But we figured if we

[traveled all the way] up here, they'd talk to us," Schafer, 30, said.

Local college student Sean Cook, 22, paid for his ticket with his dignity. Wednesday morning a disc jockey at Western Washington University offered a ticket to the listener who pulled off the best public stunt. Cook danced at a busy Bellingham intersection for several minutes wearing only a strategically placed sticker. The police officers who stopped him after he fled the scene offered him another kind of ticket but then let him go with only a warning.

"It was a beautiful show — especially when Eddie came out and played his ukulele," Cook said. "I couldn't hear the lyrics as well as I could hear the instruments, but the beats were reminiscent of old Pearl Jam. They were very catchy, very good tunes."

The group will play Thursday night (May 11) in Vancouver, British Columbia, before heading on an extended European tour. The group will return to the States on Aug. 3 for a show in Virginia Beach, Va. The last scheduled date for the band's tour is Nov. 5 in Seattle.