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APRIL VERCH

Verch brings a trifecta of talents to the Lyric stage

By Kate Winquist

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Canadian fiddle phenom and stepdancer, April Verch and her band made a stop in Swift Current on the Lyric Theatre stage on Friday night.

Music and dancing has been a part of Verch's life forever. She started step dancing at the age of three and playing the fiddle when she was six years old.

“My parents were big supporters and fans of the local music scene, Verch tells us during her sound check a few hours before her performance. They were always at dances and jamborees and jam sessions. My Dad plays guitar and sings and had a country band that played locally when I was small.”

Performing the majority of songs from her milestone 10th album *The Newpart* on this night, Verch digs deep into tunes from the era before the often-mined mid-century heyday of bluegrass and folk. Verch and her fellow trio members, Cody Walter and Alex Rubin highlight the simple pleasures of upright bass, guitar, clawhammer banjo, mandolin, voices, fiddle, and stepping in intimate conversation. At the heart lie Verch's delicate voice, energetic footwork, and stunning playing, a trifecta of talents she brings together simultaneously along with charm, humour and boundless energy on stage.

The Newpart holds special meaning for Verch in that it is essentially an album that is dedicated to home.

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taking stock and looking back and I have a great appreciation for how hard it is to have longevity in this business.

“It was important to me, just on a personal level. I’ve been at this a while and I think I’m sort of at that age and point in my career where I’m sort of taking stock and looking back and I have a great appreciation for how hard it is to have longevity in this business. What sticks out to me ... that’s the constant. Where I came from. Home. The place where it started. Being able to go back there. That’s what keeps it all relevant. I’m really lucky to still have my parents there, to be able to go back to where it all started. It wasn’t so much a musical thing, but it’s something that I wanted my fans to be able to understand who I am better.”

Fans on this night were treated to a mix of traditional styles ... instrumentals “Belle Election”, “Cruel Willie” and “Dry Bones” along with vocals on audience favourites, “Bring Your Clothes Back Home” and “It Don’t Do Nothing But Rain”. Then of course there was the step dancing. Verch’s performance was electric. The Lyric was filled with shouts and hand-clapping and when the final notes were played, the band was beckoned back to a standing ovation.

Near the end of our interview, Verch stated how fortunate she is to do what she loves.



CODY WALTER AND ALEX RUBIN

“I’m lucky to do what I love and it still strikes me that I do what I love and then people leave at the end of the night smiling. How is it possible that we can both be so happy?” Verch laughed.

There were plenty of smiles at the Lyric Theatre on Friday night. Suffice to say, Blenders concert goers were the lucky ones.

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