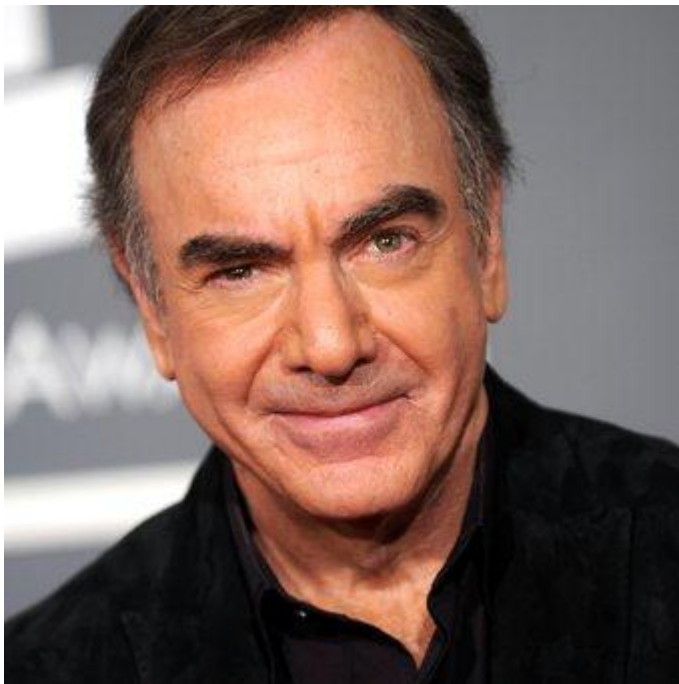




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Review of Neil Diamond's Show in Perth

Review by Gillian O'Shaughnessy



Neil Diamond performed at Perth Oval last night.

“I may be still flushed with enthusiasm after seeing Neil Diamond at Perth Oval last night but I saw what, in the cold light of day, still feels like the best concert I've ever been to”. ~ Gillian O'Shaughnessy

Music Details

- Venue: **NIB Stadium**
- Performer: **Neil Diamond**

I've grown up with Neil Diamond; 'Hot August Night' is one of my top five best albums of all time. So when tickets went on sale a few months ago to his only Perth concert, we were hunched over the computer poised to leap on tickets the second they went on sale.

NIB Stadium is such a great venue it's hard to get bad seats but ours were wonderful.

I was a tiny bit worried because this concert tour is based on his latest album, 'Dreams', which is a collection of Diamond's interpretation of other song classics, and while it's a great album I just really wanted to hear all my old favourites. And I wasn't disappointed.

All but one of the songs he performed were classics, there was not one I desperately wanted to hear that he left out, 'Crunchy Granola Suite' went off, 'Sweet Caroline' had people jumping to their feet to wave their arms in the air and sing loudly along to the chorus.

He plays the audience so well, at the end of that classic he told us we'd done pretty well but not perfectly and he made us all do the last chorus again but come in stronger on the responses. It was great fun and he is something to see live.

Neil Diamond is a master performer and a master storyteller. He is the third biggest selling act in the world, behind Barbara Streisand and Elton John, and he's earned it.

He's been playing the same old favourites for years and years now, and you can tell he's been playing with the same backup band - they were all brilliant and really tight - yet there's nothing jaded or formulaic about his performance.

He sings every song as if it's the first time and he has that magic way of singing to everyone as though he's telling you something very special about himself. He feeds off the crowd and you can tell he loves live shows. At one point a woman ran up to the stage to dance and an overzealous security guard leapt up to make her sit down and was sharply told by Diamond to leave her alone, 'She's dancing with me!'.

This prompted a flurry of guards whispering desperately into their walkie talkies and running down to the front to crowd control but in a 24-thousand-strong throng of mainly over 50's, I don't think there was too much to worry about.

He finished on a beautiful rendition of "I Am ... I Said". He did a wonderful version and as he walked off the stage, he paused and turned to look at the crowd, as if possibly for the last time, in a beautifully timed piece of music theatrics.

Diamond, now an inductee of the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, has just turned 70 so I hope it wasn't prescient of being the last time we see this brilliant performer in Perth.

Review from Nadia Painter: "Absolutely wonderful. Saw Neil 6 years ago in Perth and last night's show was just as good. The man still has it."