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SURFING THE WAVES OF POPULAR CULTURE BY MICHAEL GILTZ & FRIENDS

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2006

Surfing Through Manoel Felciano

I saw the new Broadway production of Sweeney Todd recently and loved it. I knew Michael Cerveris and Patti Lupone would be terrific, of course. The big find for me was Manoel Felciano as Toby -- he was magnetic. Last night I saw him at Ars Nova, a 99 seat theater that often hosts Broadway stars giving informal shows on Monday nights when their show is black. Manoel -- who has a battered beauty akin to Gael Garcia Bernal -- was charming and amusing and definitely showed his preference for pop and rock over show tunes. He also was generous with the spotlight -- showcasing his one-time roomie in a song they'd performed in their band and bringing up buddies from Yale to do an a capella version of "How High The Moon." The main focus was on songs that served as touchstones for Manoel including Steely Dan's "Peg," George Michael's "One More Try," and a duet on Mariah Carey's "Vision of Love" that was funny, proved how difficult that guilty pleasure is to sing and would go to Number One if released as a single. The final surprise was a song from his musical director's musical The Hidden Sky. The title tune, it was terrifically engaging and original and made you want to hear more, just like the first time I saw Manoel himself. A real talent.

POSTED BY MICHAEL IN NEW YORK AT 11:25 AM

4 COMMENTS:

Anonymous said...

Is he gay?

2:36 PM 💼

Michael in New York said... Sadly, I don't think so.

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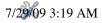
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