

Creedence Rock Group on Fire

NEW YORK — Creedence Clearwater Revival, that snarling rhythm beast from the "bayous" of San Francisco, returned to Fillmore East, March 22, as the hottest rock property since, well—Spirit, who preceded John Fogerty, his flannel shirt and Earth Music, with a tight flight of Space Music. The Aynsley Dunbar Retaliation, a British blues quartet recording on the Blue Thumb label, rounded out the bill with hard drumming at the hands of group leader Aynsley Dunbar.

With a voice as big as the outdoors, as tough and raw as scrap iron, John Fogerty has answered the mating growl of Janis Joplin like a lumberjack

Romeo singing to his "Suzie-Q" without ever having to set foot out of the deep woods. His Bunyanesque blues roar reduces the call of the wild to a whimper while his guitar breaks are truisms, strung together simply, deeply and repeated like a catechism again and again. Unlike Joplin, Fogerty's fire is only in his voice. His stage life is mild, dressed in overalls and a silent partner to the animal in his throat that comes alive to chew on "Proud Mary," "Good Golly Miss Molly" and "Born on a Bayou."

Along with Tom Fogerty, Stu Cook and Doug Clifford, the Berkeley-born blues artist drove Creedence through their beat-

heavy bayou blues, lapsing effortlessly into long, psychedelic breaks, and reeling hypnotically to the thud of the tireless, syncopated drum. Fogerty is a rock star of the first magnitude, a secular singer who, like Screamin' Jay Hawkins, could put his unique vocal personality to standards, pop tunes and oldies, lengthening their contemporary life spans by rocking them with a beat, rolling them in booming rhythms and raking them over his vocal chords. The group is riding high with their second Fantasy album, "Bayou Country."

Spirit, West Coast quintet recording for Columbia's Ode label, ascended to curtain time for Creedence with an eclectic spin through the rock cosmos. Flirting with jazz, electric chamber music, psychedelia and experimental rock, Spirit breezed through their "I Got a Line on You" hit, "Get It All Together" and "Uncle John." Spirit, featuring Ed Cassidy on drums, Randy California on lead guitar and singer Jay Ferguson, proved to be one of the tightest, most "together" rock groups to hit Fillmore, making the changes through complex stops and starts in and out of melodies seemingly set adrift in time, and working like "The Family That Plays Together," their latest Ode album.

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