

## Fudge Tidal Wave of Fury Power

NEW YORK — In an awesome display of U. S. rock power, Vanilla Fudge stormed through the swells and rushes of a titanic rock opera at Fillmore East, Saturday (8), capping an evening with Mainstream Records' flashy Amboy Dukes and Sirocco, East Village jammers, with a wall of music as steep and deep as a surfer's perfect wave.

A depth-charge to the gut of any heavy-headed rock nut, the organ plunges of the Fudge rhythmize the mind till it locks helplessly on the profound musical conversation between or-

ganist Mark Stein and group members Tim Bogert, Carmine Appici and Vinnie Martell. Formalizing past pop hits such as "Shotgun," "Some Velvet Morning" and "You Keep Me Hangin' On," into psychedelic dramas, the Fudge fall into bottomless Beethovenian plunges, gathering together great gulps of organ and piercing them with high-strung, speedy guitar work. They love to play a lot of music, communicating the feeling that being at a Fudge concert is like walking in on the finale of a fiery symphony and discovering that one, long finale is all they

play. The Atco group has taken a finale and turned it into one sustained rock symphony.

Bogert on Fender bass is the measure of excellence for all bassists. His efforts establish a new instrumental class—lead bass, relegating every other rock bass to second fiddle. Appici on drums is superb, while Stein on organ, waving his hands like an outraged conductor, makes a passionate dig into the keyboard. Bogert's solo in "Break Song" was the finest routine of the show, featuring Bogert snapping, strumming and racing his bass till it mimicked a melody line. Against this waterfall of music, the Fudge added those clear, choir boy voices, generating à unity of sound that glued together an entire audience. Their only bad habit, as in their other live performances, is that they, ultimately, pack up for the evening and stop playing. Something should be done about it.

The Amboy Dukes, a six-member band with a new lead singer Rusty Day, feature guitarist Ted Nugent who, in addition to his winging guitar dashes, wore the evening's freakiest outfit as he stunned the house with his powerful "Migration" solo. Featuring Steve Farmer's "Shade of Green and Grey," "Good Natured Emma" and some advice in "Let's Get Stoned," the Amboy Dukes showed explosive hard rock and high instrumental suspense, as well as a quick-sticking drummer in Dave Palmer. Staked by Nugent's guitar, and his material penned with Farmer, the Dukes could make a sudden charge to the front of the rock ranks. **ED OCHS**