

# SPARKLEHORSE

*600 people came. Most all of them stayed, seated, sweating in a loft space with no windows, adorned with the work of gifted artists and most breathtakingly: musicians. There were five. And they played most intently. So lovely was their sound that one shy girl got chills and a room full of people with uncertain motives were moved to cease conversations and study the band: the Sparklehorse band.*

*They glowed with a humble confidence -- scarcely detectable, save the knowing smile and sincere reaction to a charmed crowd. A show successfully completed. Birthday wishes granted and chocolate chip cookies shared.*

Sparklehorse's debut New York/CMJ performance surpassed our best expectations by a long shot. The turn out was massive. The crowd's reaction was wildly enthusiastic. David Lowery (Cracker) joined the band for an old Camper Van Beethoven cover.

Vic Chesnutt closed out the night -- singing stories about stuff you've done and places you've been. You know where he's coming from and you can sing along cos you know the words already. You laugh because it's funny, or is it?

Thanks to those who were there to spend a hot night with friends and music that means so much to so many.

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If Daniel Johnston could go beyond the limits of his mental unrest and explore the possibilities of his talent, he might make a record like *Virtuosi* ~~but in a more complex~~. Virtual one-man band Mark Linkous, aided by a few buddies in the Richmond, Virginia, scene, offers up an inner world that's wistful, creepy, and relentlessly poetic--this is rock as Impressionism, drifting into irresolution, focusing for a moment that explodes in light. People (himself included) compare Linkous to Magnetic Fields mastermind Stephen Merritt. Maybe this is a movement--call it Dreamism, a collision of memory and desire within the mystical world of the pop tune. Thread Waxing Space, Friday. (Powers)

**Vic Chesnutt:** Bitterness battles the yearning for redemption in Chesnutt's folk songs, which take their stories both from his hard-knock life--he lost the use of his legs in an accident a few years back--and from his documentary-realist imagination. And he's not afraid to explore what can be learned from both sides of the fight. With Sparklehorse (see Short List), Co-Stars, and Jule Brown. Thread Waxing Space. (Powers)



Water boys: Sparklehorse take the plunge.