

CHRIS, Bo & MELEYA wrote about:

CSNY: Déjà Vu **Benefit Screening 7/17 SF, CA (Neil Content!)**

REVIEW by CHRIS

PART 1:

Brown pants, brown sports jacket, white shirt with paint, athletic shoes with paint, no sunglasses.

Neil gave a short introduction before the film.

Film is amazing!!!!

Standing ovation, all the while he takes his time to reach the stage, a few minutes.

He sat with the panel describe below. Moderator asked a few questions, everyone answered a couple times, seemed like they cut it short.

Neil seems deeply moved. While answering his last time, he got up from the chair and spoke while putting his arms around the shoulders of Josh Hisle and Karen Meredith.

All the while.

The Rust Row was the First Row!

Rustie ovations to Bo during opening credits and when he appears, Neil sitting 4 row back.

In seating order, Bob Garriott, myself, Meleya, Paul, daughters Maya and Britney, Jim and Els Beller.

More to come in a few days, gotta go.

This is an R & R weekend. Rust and Reenacting.

PART 2:

I arrived to pick up my will call tickets around 6:10 PM. When I picked them up I found out I could go right into the theater (after selling my spare to someone outside).

I reserved enough seats in the front row for our rust group - Bob Garriott, myself, Meleya, Paul, Meleya's daughters Maya and Britney, Jim and Els Beller.

Soon after Meleya, Paul, daughters Maya (age 9?) and Britney (age 13?) arrived. We were sitting in our seats and on the edge of the low stage a few feet in front of our seats.

At one point I heard someone say `More Barn' and that perked up my ears. There were two guys talking a couple rows back and they knew the term but not the `story'.

I mumbled under my breath as I passed Meleya, "Time to straighten them out". :)

They were great guys (one being the guy I sold my spare ticket to) and I told them the story. We had a great time swapping Neil stories. One guy had been to 11 of the 14 1996 OPL shows but was not a rustie. (Hey Adam, are you here?)

Bob asked me if I had a question, I did, more on that later.

Neil was introduced and gave a brief introduction. Then he sat next to Pegi on the isle in the 5th row.

As mentioned in part 1, we rusties gave our ovation to Bo Alexander during the opening credits (Meleya throwing in a whooooooo) and when he appeared on screen later. I'm sure everyone in the theater heard us both times.

At the end of Bo's segment I saw, out of the corner of my eye, Meleya wiping her upper cheek.

I got a little misty eyed myself towards the end of "For What It's Worth" thinking back on the first time I heard the song. The recent `Music that changed your life' thread had conjured up my memory of hearing it in a tent at a friends yard, back in the day, sharing our first cigarette. Seeing Neil and Stephen jammin' onscreen brought back that memory again.

Very interesting `feedback' from the Atlanta crowd, from those who left the show when "Let's Impeach The President" started. Wonder what `some' may think now, 2 years later.

Standing ovation at the end of the credits and while Neil `walks towards the' stage, a few minutes at least.

The panel took questions from the moderator (who sucked). He asked these long drawn out questions and it seemed they were more confusing than pointed. Those on stage did a good job with the answers they gave.

As I said in part 1, Neil seemed VERY moved by the whole thing.

During one of the questions, I was looking at the moderator. I glanced over to Neil, who was 10 feet in front of me, to see him staring at me. Maybe it was the "Tonight's The Night" t-shirt I was wearing (Bob, next to me, was wearing a Bridge logo shirt). I couldn't hold it, had to look back at the moderator not wanting to break any concentration Neil might have been doing listening to the question.

The mics cut out and that was the end, without any possible questions from the audience.

As people were leaving the theater, we rusties were hangin' by the stage soaking in the experience.

It got even better!!!!

After a few minutes, Neil came out to be with Pegi and folks. It turned into a `meet and greet'!

Only a couple dozen people from the audience realized it and as Neil moved around, it was a rather intimate meet and greet (crowd size wise).

He gave out autographs readily (saw him sign a baseball) and took in comments, with minimal interaction.

I got my ticket signed.

My question? Well it turned into more of a comment at that point.

As he signed my ticket I said calmly "Neil, release `Time Fades Away. You played it last week and it sounded wonderful."

He smiled as I stepped back and he turned to the next person.

He seemed to really take a liking to Maya and Britney, the only kids in the whole audience that I saw and certainly the only kids at the impromptu M&G.

At some point LA Johnson said they were going to exit by the way of backstage (maybe they thought of going through the lobby?). As they moved in that direction, I saw Paul shake Neil's hand and thought "OMG, here is my chance!" I stepped up and extended my hand, there were only a couple people around. He looked over and shook my hand with a smile.

(makes up for the `lost opportunity' at the 11/12/87 Fillmore Bluenotes show – my life is complete now :)

We were all flying high with what just happened!

Bob and I saw Elliot in the lobby and Bob got to ask `his' question to him. Something to the effect "When will Neil play the Bay Area"?

Elliot mentioned the Bridge shows. I chimed in with an almost whinny voice (on purpose) "But I want a CDII tour show". He smiled, we laughed, it was very relaxed.

I thanked him for all his help with Neil's career and keeping him on track – letting him do whatever he wants to do.

I mentioned I said something to Neil, and wanted to mention it to him – release `Time Fades Away'. When I then said "He played it last week and it sounded great" he raised his eyebrows and put on a BEAMING smile. It probably brought back the memory of Neil playing it.

Then Maya and Britney came up and asked him to sign their mini-poster they gave away at the raffle desk. Elliot seemed very touched and happy to do so. I thought I heard him say `nothing like this ever happens to me".

When I came out of the bathroom, there they were getting their picture taken. Elliot in the middle with his arms on the shoulders of Maya and Britney.

Again, we were floating on air as we said our goodbyes on the sidewalk.

What a night! ! ! !

Chris
CW Cannoneer

PS had a blast at the Civil War `Living History' reenactment. Everything went especially well which contributed to a perfect R & R weekend (Rust & Reenacting)

COMMENTS from BO

Nice happenings at the viewing, Chris, and Paul, and Meleya. And thanks for the shout out at the viewing! ;-)

I've been trying to be quiet about Deja Vu myself while it comes out. I want people to see it and form their own feelings about it...

And it's a little funny...for me....being in it. Although I made my little video to go in it, it's really more my dad's and family's story, so I don't want to act like it's a "me" thing. It wasn't. So it's a little goofy for me to talk about it.

Of course they caught be being upset, watching it with them, but that was a real thing, and well....

But I'm proud of Deja Vu, Neil and CSN, and my little part. Made me more happy, than sad, to see my mom and dad up there on the screen.

Kind of made me feel good, like I had brought them out to meet everyone, and ya'll (those that I care most what they think about Deja Vu - other than the rest of my family). Especially the parts at the ocean - other than the film I can hardly remember my dad at the ocean, but my mom loved to swim, and you can see it in her face in the ocean on that raft. I thought of that scene while playing with my wife and kids at the beach a week or so ago.

I'm still blown away by Families, how much emotion Neil wrung out of me on it. I really felt what Neil said about it on the Charlie Rose interview. There are many ways to interpret it, but that was the feeling I had, the fleeting final thoughts of a soldier who is about to die. Makes me think of my dad. Those thoughts are what made me make my video.

And it makes me think of the soldiers over there now. God help them come home safe. Meeting Josh and Michael from the movie, really made me realize the guys over there are the ones who really know, really risk it all, and really suffer, and really deserve a lot of respect.

Neil, and David, Stephen, and Graham deserve a lot of credit for what they've done with the Freedom of Speech tour, and Deja Vu. Playing their music, their way, getting their message out, whether everyone agrees or not, and criticizes or not. I got the chance to speak to Neil a while back, and I told him how courageous it was of him for doing so. I'm proud of them.

Chris, Paul, Meleya & Bob, it's great that you got to meet Neil and the gang like that after the show. What a great way to wrap up seeing tha movie.

Bo.

REVIEW by MELEYA

Okay, so I wasn't going to pipe in just yet until I got the story all straight in my head but since Chris already took care of most of it for me.

Paul and I drove into San Francisco after work with the girls and got there at about 5 or so. We hung

out at the Peace Plaza watching the Taiko Drummers. Pretty cool for a Thursday night. There was only a small crowd watching but very attentively. We had a place picked out to go eat but when we went to go get our Deja Vu tickets at Will Call the man at the door said there was a line already for will call. We decided we should probably just go back to the Kabuki Center and find a place to eat. The prices are very reasonable but what to eat? My kids are pretty picky unless you can find some sort of meat, noodle soup or rice. Hmm...Japanese food, should be able to accomplish that. So, we settled on a little place and had a really good dinner for less than San Francisco prices.

We got out of dinner by 6 something and were getting in line for will call when I heard a familiar voice behind me. It was Chris Horn!!! Woo Hoo!!!

Rusties are Everywhere! So, Chris finished selling his ticket to one of the most thankful persons I've ever seen. The guy continued to talk about it to other people in the theater once he got in. Anyway, Chris was very excited and asked us to hurry with him because he had to get seats or had seats. We didn't have tickets yet and had to stand in line for those so Chris took all of our jackets (hell, I'd have given him my shirt if I knew where he was headed with them) and ran up the stairs. When we got our tickets and got in the theater we found out that Chris had saved the front row for 8 of us. Now, keep in mind that it wasn't til I got there in the front row that I had really bought the idea that Neil was really going to be there. I mean, he's tired from flying, appearing in the East Coast and he's going to cancel. The Rusties sat and got all caught up with one another and Paul settled in to his first Rust Fest as a West Coaster. Paul later commented to me that he was pleased with how everyone treated him so kindly. I'm glad he felt at home with the CA Rusties although we don't meet nearly as much as the East Coast Rusties. That may take some getting used to.

Back to the story. The kids were excited and we were excited and Chris was off telling the More Barn story to some people a few rows behind us. I heard him say to them "just one more story" which made me chuckle. How can one help but feel at home with Chris there chatting. Thank you Chris! So, the emcee comes out and introduces holy shit Neil Young. My god it was real!!! AND (never start a sentence with AND unless you're excitedly talking about Neil) I WAS SITTING IN THE FRONT ROW. As often happens when Neil comes in the room (for us stalkers anyway) it is as if everything in the room disappears except for Mr. Young. He is such a powerful presence in person. I forgot my whole family was with me and Rusted Others were with me and I was there to see a movie. Neil only had a few words and then it was on to the movie.

I recommend seeing Deja Vu no matter what your political beliefs are. It was amazingly filmed and probably one of the most personal movies I've ever seen. As Chris stated in his account, I was crying in several moments of the movie. It was very moving and for those of us that seem to forget sometimes what is going on in the world, it was a reminder that there are individuals involved in all of this. I enjoyed watching the CSNY tour up close as I DID NOT sit in the front row for that one. I enjoyed every bit of the movie and although it made me sad it did do what it set out to do and that was to make me think. It also made my children think which is even more important.

After the movie Neil came on stage with two of the subjects of the movie as well as Mr. Cerre. The interviewer wouldn't stop and let Neil answer a question. He was probably extremely nervous but just one you thought the question was asked he would continue and ask another question in another way. How could a person possibly answer what he was asking??? Did he ask something? I guess Neil was tired of wondering too because he obviously caught Chris' eye and then caught my eye. I've never had Neil look directly at me and to know that he was looking at me was hard to even describe. Kind of scary, but kind of cool. I was wondering if he was getting as anxious about the question guy as I was. After the question that wasn't a question was asked? Neil got up and went to the two subjects and put his arm around them and kept going on about how he was glad they were there and a part of this project. That made me tear up too. Then they cut the mic and Neil blamed himself for that, said he blew it or something to that affect. Said how he talks too much, he ruined it because he can't stop talking and "that guy just talks too much, he never quits" or something to that affect which made us all laugh. Reminder of Greendale. The theater claimed to have run out of time and they cut the interview as done right then. Neil went out to the audience and met some folks. I pushed my girls in to get their autograph and to say hi to Neil for the second time in their lives. When Maia came back with the autograph (my kids are stalkers too) I asked if they reminded Pegi and Neil that they had met at Pebble Beach. I'm sure he would have remembered and if not, Pegi would have. Brittany was stuck behind Neil the whole time and was trying to climb over the seats to get in front of him and when someone pointed her out, Neil turned around looked at Brittany for a long time and laughed a bit. She missed the whole thing. Maia went and said hi to Pegi and asked for a photo. Brittany took the photo of Maia standing in front of Pegi with Pegi's arms around her. Cute picture but Brittany forgot the flash. D'oh! I'm still a bit upset about that as it was an amazingly cute picture. Neil was taking off into the

back and there was just enough room for Paul to go and shake his hand. Paul put his hand out and Neil thanked him! What a fun thing! Paul thanked him back and I was happy he had his opportunity to shake Neil's hand (a first, and for those who are wondering, Paul is NOT a stalker.)

After this we were shoo'd out of the theater for "another showing" and there were more fun people to say hello to in the lobby. We saw Elliot out there and little Maia stood next to him and gently tapped him on the shoulder for him to turn around so she could say hello and have him sign her poster. He said he would be honored and said he was really nobody but he would sign it.

Now, here is what Chris missed. I had told the girls after they had already met Elliot to tell him that they liked him in Human Highway. They went and told him and he said "No one has ever said that to me before!" He was absolutely beaming and it was so good to see someone get a little bit of happiness like that. Then he started to walk away and I told the girls it was their chance to get a photo with him since they didn't get one with Neil or Pegi. They asked for his photo and he said he would have his professional photographer take it for them. He kept telling the girls they were crazy (I guess for wanting a picture with him) but he was pleased. I wasn't paying attention and finally I turned around to watch when Elliot met my gaze and said "Are you their mother? You're very cool, this is very cool." He was grinning from ear to ear and was thrilled that these two little girls were there and wanted to have a moment with him.

After all was said and done Brittany admitted to me that she didn't remember Elliot in Human Highway but Maia did. She has a good little memory for movies and characters. Brittany is kind of stuck on Dean Stockwell at this moment in time. We're watching the DVDs for Quantum Leap and she definitely has a crush on him. Don't tell her I told all 5000 of you. Anyway, we then went outside and Paul met Mr. Cerre and we waited a bit for the limo parked out front to leave just in case we were to get one more glimpse. Neil didn't show so the Rusties parted company and we walked around the corner to see the Fillmore in real life. I've still never been in there so that is on the agenda at some point for Paul and I.

We drove home and the girls and I discussed the movie and the war the whole way home. It was good to know they were paying attention and they are paying attention as they are our future. Knowledge is power and the key to change.

How they use it is their own decision but I am glad I can help to give them the tools and as much information as possible to make their own decisions.

I'm sure I missed some things but I loved the movie, loved seeing Neil and Elliot and I will never forget this special family time, this special Rustie time for our little Rustie family. Paul, feel free to add where I missed things.

Love and light and try to remember peace.

Meleya...Giving off Light

