

June 15, 2008

Trills and thrills

Anna Reguero

Got back from Eddie Daniels, and he was on fire. His fingers flew over those solos, demonstrating some mean chops on the clarinet. I've heard him play before (actually at the Iridium, where he recorded his last album) and even though I knew what to expect this time around, he never ceases to blow me away. And I'm a clarinetist AND a critic -- so I'm extra-hard to please when it comes to clarinet playing.

It seems he was having a bit of a hard time with the humidity, or rather, I should say his instrument. He was fiddling around with the mouthpiece to get it in the right, center spot. Ah, the pains of playing the licorice stick.

His tone quality is just beautiful, really covered and not at all the harsh clarinet sounds you hear from a lot of jazz albums. He took extended cadenzas within the tunes that could have been right out of a classical concerto. What skill he has that he can do that stuff on the spot, improvised.

I also got a chance to catch some of Juliet Lloyd's first set. She is darling, gorgeous, and her voice is full and clear. I've had her latest album in my car CD player for weeks now, and I have to say she's even better in person. She grew up around these parts, so go support your homegirl!

I'm off to catch some of Alison Brown Quartet and then John Scofield later. We'll see who else I catch in between.
