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- Updated: 1:57 p.m.** Garth Brooks serenades cancer patient in Minnesota
- Updated: 1:46 p.m.** Jason Aldean's new album pulled off Spotify
- Updated: 1:22 p.m.** Lawyer: Bieber on track to resolve vandalism case
- 12:43 p.m.** **The Dudek Abides:** Last

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Concert Review

# Bryan Ferry debuts new song 'Loop de Li' at the Pabst Theater

By **Piet Levy** of the Journal Sentinel

Sept. 24, 2014

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SPOTIFY PLAYLIST

Just hours before **Bryan Ferry** took the stage at **the Pabst Theater**, the former frontman for influential art pop group Roxy Music announced a brand-new album was coming Nov. 17, "Avonmore," featuring such guests as Flea, Nile Rodgers, Johnny Marr and Mark Knopfler. And with the news, a new song, "Loop de Li," debuted on YouTube.

Then Tuesday night at the Pabst, Ferry performed the song live for the first time.

The recording's alluring, but the live rendition was outright intoxicating, a sublime swirl of funky guitar grooves, smooth strokes of sax, enigmatic lyrics and Ferry's relaxed vocals. The gauzy, dance-ready, recurring chorus sounds like it came straight out of Roxy Music's early '80s catalog.

Then Ferry followed it up with one of his first performances of another "Avonmore" track: **an exquisite cover of Robert Palmer's 1980 single "Johnny and Mary,"** Ferry's collaboration with electronic producer **Todd Terje.** Slowed down to a crawl, performed Tuesday over dreamy keyboards and snapped fingers in near-darkness, Ferry's rendition adds remarkable romanticism, and striking sadness, that's been locked inside **Palmer's snappier New Wave original.**

These special performances were just the icing on top of what already promised to be an exquisite treat: Ferry's first Milwaukee concert in 20 years.

Ferry turns 69 Friday, but he was as hip and fashionable as ever at the Pabst, arriving on stage sporting a psychedelic tuxedo jacket and an undone black bow tie. He evoked an old-fashioned approach to male swagger; namely, less is more. There was barely any banter during the 19-song, 77-minute set. His frontman expressions rarely extended beyond sly sways and the occasional bow (at least initially). His steady voice felt soft and warm,

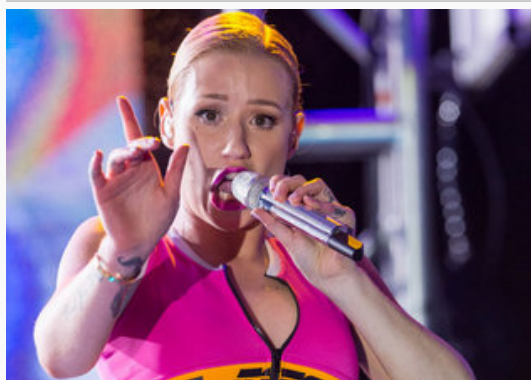
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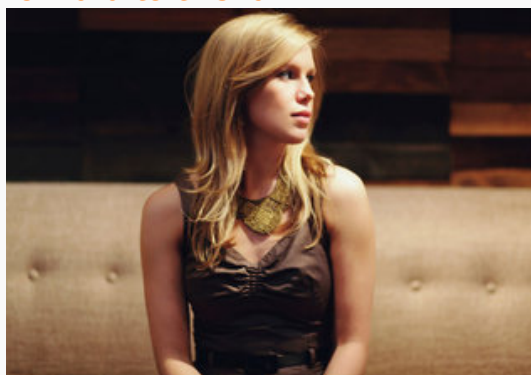


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**Top 5 fall albums to look forward to**

like being wrapped in satin sheets with a significant other.

But with this approach, Ferry maintained a mystery and a magnetism, to the point that a stripped-down rendition of the set list's best known song, "**More Than This**," seemed just as fulfilling as Roxy Music's enduring '82 recording.

But Ferry wasn't so cool that he had to hog the spotlight. Actually, a couple members of Ferry's band — saxophone player Jorja Chalmers and guitarist **Jacob Quistgaard** — were under the spotlight more often than Ferry. But they deserved extra attention for their numerous solos, especially when Quistgaard's masculine strut and Chalmer's feminine grace would come together and tango, as on an evening-ending cover of John Lennon's "**Jealous Guy**." (Backing singers Bobbie Gordon and Jodie Scantlebury also drew the eye with matching, sparkling black-and-gold flapper dresses, and their synchronized kicks for "Ladytron.")

And eventually, Ferry did let his suave down. Upon the sight of couples slow-dancing in the aisles for Roxy Music's "Avalon," Ferry paraded his own geeky dance moves, from community theater arm gestures for "**Love Is the Drug**," to driving an invisible steering wheel during "**Virginia Plain**," to some luau-ready hand rolls for "Editions of You." The latter song ended with Ferry playing keyboards with his right hand, his left up in the air behind him; he looked like he was riding a surfboard.

Sometimes, it really is hip to be a square.

Ferry wasn't the only one trying something new Tuesday. His opener, singer-songwriter **Dawn Landes**, performed a cover of Andy Williams' "Moon River" in public for the first time. Under the subtle glow from her accompanying electric guitarist, Landes' cover was sweet and demure. But when she belted out a surprisingly sturdy, showy note near the end of her set-closing "Bodyguard," Landes suggested she didn't need any protecting.

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## THE TAKEAWAYS

- Due to low ticket sales, Ferry's show was moved from the 2,500-seat

Riverside to the 1,300-seat Pabst. Pity there wasn't more support, but the show was better for it, benefiting from the Pabst's intimacy, and the energy of an appreciative, near-capacity crowd.

- Mr. Ferry, if you're reading this, even though the Milwaukee show technically underperformed, please don't wait 20 years to come back to town. Although I have little doubt you'll still be cool and rocking it in your 80s, just like Tony Bennett and Leonard Cohen.

## THE SETLIST

1. "Re-Make/Re-Model"
2. "Kiss and Tell"
3. "Slave to Love"
4. "Ladytron"
5. "If There Is Something"
6. "Oh Yeah!"
7. "Reason or Rhyme"
8. "Stronger Through the Years"
9. "Loop de Li"
10. "Johnny and Mary"
11. "Tara"
12. "Take a Chance With Me"
13. "More Than This"
14. "Avalon"
15. "Casanova"
16. "Love Is the Drug"
17. "Virginia Plain"
18. "Editions of You"

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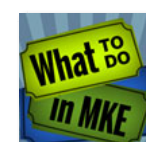
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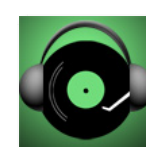


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**About Piet Levy**

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