

Gentle Joni Returns to Town

By JACK LLOYD
Of The Inquirer Staff

Before Carole King and Carly Simon and all of the other female songwriters everyone is making such a big fuss over these days, there was Joni Mitchell.

When she first came on the scene a few years ago from her native Canada, Joni Mitchell was a wisp of delightfully fresh air. A source of refuge from the turmoil of acid rock and loud protest.

A touch of gentleness in a culture that could not properly support the flower children who flocked to San Francisco with flowers in their hair.

But Joni Mitchell endured. She kept on making her sweet music.

And she is still making this sweet music, which made the evening worthwhile for the sell-out crowd that went to the Academy of Music on Thursday night for her first Philadelphia concert in a couple of years.



JONI MITCHELL

... more sweet music

Taylor has discovered in herself a gutsy, unbridled spirit. I don't think she's ever before as strong a star personality. Her all-out, no-holds-barred performance is a phenomenon!"

—PAULINE KAEI, *New Yorker Magazine*

"Liz Taylor is spectacular ... she gives a performance that will be discussed all winter!"

—BERNARD DREW,
Gannett News Service

THEATRE 1812

1812 Chestnut St.
LO 3-7100

Theatre 1812 feat. at 12, 2, 4:05, 6:05, 8:20, 10:35

DOYLESTOWN BARN CINEMA

1 1/2 mi. S. on Rt. 611
ELLISBURG CINEMA
Rts. 70 and 41, Cherry Hill
ERIC II Brookhaven
Edgemont Ave., Brookhaven, Pa.

GATEWAY CINEMA

Rt. 202 S. Sch. Expy.
KESWICK GLENSIDE
Keswick & Easton Rds.

LAWRENCE PARK

Sprout Rd., Broomall

PLYMOUTH CINEMA

Ridge & Henry

PREMIERE

Neshaminy Mall at Sears

PRINCE

Princeton, N. J.

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Executive Producer ELLIOTT KASTNER
LADD, JR. Directed by BRIAN G. HUTTON

SEE DOG NIGHT sing "Going in Circles" the film and on Dunhill Records.

It was an elegant concert, because Miss Mitchell is an elegant performer. Not Vegas-elegance, to be sure. But the elegance of a soft, gentle young woman, singing about the things she has seen and the thoughts she has thought.

Joni Mitchell has a reputation for disliking the live performance, and so her concerts are limited. But if she does indeed dislike performing, it was not really evident Thursday night at the Academy.

NOT GUSHY

Drifting from guitar to piano to dulcimer — her only accompaniment during the concert — there was an increasing sense of the performer enjoying herself. Not gushy or even vibrant, because Joni Mitchell is none of these things. But she sang her songs comfortably, self-assured, projecting a mildly aloof graciousness.

Miss Mitchell sang many of the songs from her four albums, but she told the audience that "I have a lot of new songs for you tonight," and she was true to her word.

And when it was all over, there was hardly any doubt that Joni Mitchell made it one of the memorable evenings of pop entertainment at the Academy.

She could have done it by herself. But a bonus for the audience was the appearance of newcomer Jackson Browne, who opened the concert with a solid set of his own music.

Mall ERIC DUNHILL RECORDS HI 9-4800 LADD-KANTER PRODUCTION GR A-2600 PREMIERE Neshaminy Mall at 355-6300