

Avril Says, 'I'm With You' At Jones Beach Theater

By Iris Wiener
info@longislandernews.com

To the great delight of thousands of devoted fans, Avril Lavigne gave one of the final performances of the 2005 summer concert series at the Tommy Hilfiger at Jones Beach Theater on August 27. Accompanied by punk rocker Butch Walker and contemporary artist Gavin DeGraw, Lavigne put on a show that reminded everyone on Long Island why her albums continue to ignite hit after hit.

After getting her audience jumping in the air with set-opener "Sk8er Boi," one of Lavigne's top selling singles off of her first album, *Let Go*, she proceeded to run

through a bunch of favorites with some new sounds worked into the mix. Amongst startlingly focused vocals with "I'm With You" (performed to a starlit/cell-phone carrying audience), "Don't Tell Me" (a major success found on her second album, *Under My Skin*), and "Fall to Pieces," Lavigne proved herself beyond her talent as a songwriter and singer. The dark hit "Nobody's Home" profoundly resonated in the foggy air as she performed the song solo, guitar in hand. Despite Lavigne's heavily laden ring finger from her recent engagement to Sum 41's Deryck Whibley, her hands lightly flew from the guitar to the piano when she delivered the moody tune "Forgotten" under a red-copper chandelier.

Lavigne even took her turn with the drumsticks during a rousing tune with Butch Walker as she once again demonstrated the many arenas in music that she has already conquered at the age of 21.

Later, Lavigne donned devil horns for the profound crowd favorite "He Wasn't," followed by what was probably the most interesting aspect of the evening. To awesome cheer, she covered Blink 182's hit single "All the Small Things," giving it a refreshing female sound and new energy. Predictably, but in every way appropriate, Lavigne closed the show with "Complicated," the song that catapulted her rise to fame.

DeGraw provided another thrill when

he gave new meaning to his lyrics "surrounded by impostors everywhere I turn," from the single "I Don't Want to Be." Microphone in hand, he ventured to the second level of the theatre only to return to the stage by climbing over seats with the accompaniment of his fans' helping hands. Not for a moment did he stop singing, essentially raising the bar for crowd surfers everywhere. When he proceeded to belt out "Follow Through" and "Chariot," it wasn't hard to see why his songs can be found on most anyone's MP3 players. Ultimately Lavigne's invigorating concert was only complemented by the inclusion of the DeGraw, making for the perfect close to summer concerts.