

Regina Spektor

► Lock 17, Camden, London

► Thursday, November 24



The piano-punishing goddess of New York antifolk moves in delirious ways

Within seconds of Regina Spektor arriving onstage, two geeked-up indie boys have fainted, while a third stumbles blindly into a table, sending its contents flying. A concerned few check he's OK, but the majority tut at the disruption to their experience, their eyes fixed on the cherry-haired lady in the flouncy red sweater, hammering on her piano, charming the *fuck* out of the room. Make no mistake, there are people here tonight who *would die* for Regina Spektor.

And with good reason. On her third record 'Soviet Kitsch', out last year, the Russian-born, antifolk pal of The Strokes gave us

a record that was as gloriously articulate a dissection of the human heart as we'd heard since chancing upon mum's dusty Carole King vinyl up in the loft. Next year sees the release of 'Mary Ann Meets The Grave Diggers And Other Short Stories', a handily compiled catch-up compilation. It'll not only justify your love, but frank, stamp, and seal the deal for keeps.

And so, as she seeps into new single 'Carbon Monoxide', the room literally sways to the tempo of her heartbeat. Then, with a yearning, tear-tearing run-through of 'Samson', each and every set of eyes in the room follows every tic and turn of her curious face. But it's the towering, tempestuous majesty of 'Us' that almost

breaks the floodgates. Two hundred and fifty hearts work as one for the time it takes to open, elate everyone, and conclude the song. She's that rarest breed of musician - existing for the sole purpose of communicating pure emotion. In the wake of such charming, expressive, spiritual songs as those brought forth tonight, she's mother, lover and prophet.

There are people here tonight who love Regina Spektor. If you're not already one of them, you soon will be. **James Jam**

NEXT GIGS

Regina Spektor tours the UK in February 2006

WHAT YOU THOUGHT



"She was fantastic tonight. Beautiful and amusing at the same time. It was really special."
Sally, 21, London

Regina: indie boys might want to have a little sit down now

