



Superchunk



The Clouds

Livid leaves hot legacy

LIVID FESTIVAL

Brisbane
December 12

AFTER 12 hours and more than 20 bands at Davies Park in Brisbane, the biggest impression I was left with of the Livid Festival was the heat.

The music was great but the oppressive, burning heat had a way of making its presence felt far longer than any act on the bill.

But Queensland's version of the Big Day Out was a huge success. Now in its sixth year, the Livid Festival was bigger and better.

At 11am we got our bearings while local Brisbane bands Squelch and RubberBug played.

Then we saw Welcome Mat, one of Sydney's finest indie/grunge/pop bands, with lead vocals shared by guitarists Cory Messenger and Wayne Connolly and bassist Ben Mullins.

Events seemed fairly cruisy — people were trickling through the gates. It was very laid back. But this changed when Def FX hit the stage.

They are not one of my favourite bands but they are great live and they played extremely well songs from their new album *Light/Speed/Collision* and older favourites.

You Am I were on the second stage. Another Sydney band, they are one of the more successful "alternative" bands who play a mix of 70s hard rock, 60s psychedelia, US college and loud guitars.

They have just signed to rooArt after two well-received EPs (*Snaketide* and *God Damn*). Their current EP, *Can't Get Started*, is great and their debut album should be out in February.

Died Pretty were also fantastic. They played a few new songs and some classics from *Doughboy Hollow*. New drummer and ex-Cloud Stuart Eadie is sounding good.

A quick munch and back to see North Carolina indie/punk greats Superchunk. This band were theoretically one of the headliners

and they were good without being overwhelming. Loud, noisy and fast, they played well.

But it was Michelle Shocked I was dying to see again and she didn't disappoint.

She sang the first song accompanied by her mandolin and a band which included a fiddler, then she switched to acoustic guitar.

The Texan singer/songwriter shared her views and some fascinating stories. She mesmerised the audience.

Michael Barclay, of Paul Kelly band fame and who is currently in great new Melbourne band the Victory Girls (with ex-Huxton Creeper Rob Craw), was drumming but the rest of Michelle's backing band had come from the US.

The Cruel Sea were great and then it was a small and much-appreciated break before Tumbleweed delivered one of the truly awesome sets of the day.

Later, Lush were disappointing, obscured in a haze of smoke. Still, they'd just finished nine weeks of festivals across the US and were perhaps a little sick of them.

The Clouds played straight after but they sounded similar which was unfortunate for both acts.

After Screamer were fuzz grinders the Meanies from Melbourne who put on a great show.

By the time Nick Cave and the Bad Seeds started I was feeling a little sun-struck and nauseous.

But it was worth it because all the bands combined to provide a great day's entertainment — almost worth the long trip to Brisbane.

Don't miss the Big Day Out when it hits Perth on January 30 at South Fremantle Oval. Get along early because some of the young bands on the bill will really be worth seeing.

Get plenty of sleep the night before, take sunburn cream, a hat and plenty of water and you're guaranteed a great day and a rewarding musical experience.



Fiona Horne of Def FX.



Michelle Shocked

Words: SERENE CONNEELEY Pictures: AMANDA FORBES