



 **CLUB REVIEWS****Nellie Bly***The Joint*

Los Angeles

Contact: Hot Line, 213-694-2590**Web:** www.breech.net**The Players:** Missy Gibson, vocals; Mike Flanagan, guitar; Karen Morelock, drums.

Material: Somewhere between a less mainstream Sheryl Crow and the punkish aggressiveness of the Yeah Yeah Yeahs, we find Nellie Bly. The first half of the set features just Gibson and Flanagan, and the duo are obviously very comfortable together onstage. Their music, from the get-go, has a haunting quality, which makes it that much more arresting. The next few songs of the set are in a similar vein with a kind of modern-folk mixed in with a big of good-old rock & roll. The third song picks up the tempo, but it still maintains that rebellious, dark, folk-rock feel.

Musicianship: Gibson's smoky vocals mix well with Flanagan's brooding guitar riffs and the duo harmonize well. With bluesy, soulful roots delivered with no nonsense skill, this act serves true Americana rock at its best. On drums, Morelock is a bit rushed at first, but manages to find her rhythmic pocket before too long, providing a good steady beat for the already grooving duo.

Performance: Strong and comfortable onstage, Gibson and Flanagan had a subtle chemistry that worked. Gibson banged a stick on the mic stand and did so with plenty of style and attitude. Morelock stepped in at the midway point to fill out the sound and did a fine job for the most part, other than seeming to struggle some since she came in at the midpoint of the set.

Summary: Gibson and Flanagan are a strong duo. But, give them some drums and they really know how to rock, with songs that are good-old American rock & roll. Most impressive was that they started the set with a mellow folk-folk sound and ended up as a down-home rock & roll outfit. And, what began as a near empty room, ended up being a very satisfied full house.

-Dale Hill

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Photo not available. Photo caption: "Nellie Bly: True Americana rock delivered with no-nonsense skill."