

Music

FRIGHTENED RABBIT, O2 ABC, GLASGOW

JONATHAN GEDDES

★★★★

GLASWEGIANS are a hardy lot and snow was never going to stop them turning out in droves for Frightened Rabbit's celebratory salute to 2009. It was clear that many friends and relations were in attendance too, so you could understand why vocalist Scott Hutchison seemed nervous. When his guitar failed to emit any sound at all early on his unease was palpable.

The rest of the evening underlined how the group have grown from their humble beginnings as a one-man band with just Hutchison. Now five-strong, their strength was evident from the opening I



Feel Better, and a brooding, gigantic Fast Blood.

Such tracks embrace a thick post-rock sound, all epic crashes of noise capped by Hutchison's emotive vocal. Yet the band's folksier side remains intact, and the two worlds collided beautifully on a slow-building Good Arms vs Bad Arms.

With a mountain man beard, Hutchison looked capable of surviving the elements, and his songs are equally tough creatures that have comfortably sur-

vived moving up to bigger venues.

Tracks from next year's third album indicated the band's sound is swelling further. They've never sounded as urgent or driving as on Nothing Like You, and Living In Colour had huge drumbeats suited for arenas. It was the simple, acoustic Poke that was truly beguiling, sounding tender despite the foul-mouthed lyrics.

There was festive jollity amongst Hutchison's mordant lyrics, with a Santa hat being briefly worn by drummer Grant Hutchison and the band's own Christmas track popping up in the encore.

That also featured a touched Hutchison toasting the crowd, and only a truly frozen-hearted soul would not have raised a glass to arguably Scotland's finest band.



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on my mac