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Duffy, Bush Hall, London

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Duffy goes confessional. “This is a tough one for me. I wrote this song cos I fell in love for the first time ever but I didn’t have the balls to tell him. [The crowd ahhh] Yeah, and I still haven’t told him, I’m such a coward. So don’t tell him, don’t blow it.” ‘Stepping Stone’ is melancholy but strong in sentiment, with a soulful musical backdrop that cushions the rawness of the vocals making it fun to dance to. Duffy twists the microphone from side to side as she sings the ad libbed “whoahs”, creating a cool phasing effect until the song ends with funky, thudding percussion and mellow piano.

‘Syrup & Honey’ is stripped back to electric guitar and vocals, eliciting great whoops and cheers from the appreciative crowd. Guitarist John Green drops his head as he shrugs out the chords, old-school style, with Duffy sounding at her most raw and lovely. An extended comedy pause before the ending gets everyone smiling with delight. It’s a treat to see such a talented vocalist enjoying herself so much on stage. A couple of girls next to me exclaim to each other: “She is SO good”, one says. Her friend nods emphatically in agreement. “Scary, isn’t it.”

‘Mercy’ is bigger than on the record, its heavily borrowed vintage sound given a big dose of personality by the band. Duffy bobs and twists, squeezing her eyes tightly shut as she hits the high notes, savouring each one then throwing herself back in to the groove. The audience are with her all the way, quite literally going wild as the track ends with a big theatrical rolling drum fill. “See you next time, thank you for your support!” Duffy cries as she and the band troop off stage.



They aren’t gone for long, returning for a triumphant rendition of ‘Distant Dreamer’, a grand torch song with a gorgeous slow melody and intense musical backdrop. It’s a fine end to the set and a wonderful introduction to the young lady from Wales who’s making such big waves in the music world at the moment. Tonight’s performance proves whatever success she has will be totally deserved.

Duffy set list

1. Rockferry
2. Warwick Avenue
3. Hanging On Too Long
4. Breaking My Own Heart
5. Stepping Stone
6. Syrup And Honey
7. Delayed Devotion
8. Serious
9. Tomorrow
10. Mercy
11. Distant Dreamer

Try Duffy if you like: Amy Winehouse, Corrine Bailey-Rae, Dusty Springfield

See all pictures of [Duffy](#)

Laura Kidd

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