

James and Carly Together

T WAS, IN A WORD, MAGIC. What began as a performances. Taylor sang such fan favorites as simple, benevolent gesture by two Island night extravaganza in the history of Martha's Vineyard: Livestock '95, the dazzling James Taylor-Carly Simon concert held August 30 at the Steven Tyler for a sexy, rollicking rendition of new Agricultural Hall fairgrounds in West Tisbury.

Billed as "a private party for 10,000 people," the concert attracted fans from across the Island and

money for the Martha's Vineyard Agricultural Society and its newly constructed post-and-beam barn, but the show was much more than a benefit. It was a marvelous testament to the talents and community spirit of two beloved local artists.

The concert marked the first performance in sixteen years for the former husband and wife singer-songwriters, and the evening lived up to its pre-show hype with many emotional, nostalgic moments. At the end of the first set, Simon joined Taylor for his song Shower the People, and

later, the pair hooked up for a sassy rendition of Mockingbird, their classic duet from the 1970s. Other pairings followed on Marvin Gaye's How Sweet It Is (To Be Loved By You), and the final soaring encore, Lonesome Road.

to me," Simon said.

It certainly felt right to the 10,000-plus ticket holders to Livestock '95. In addition to the duets, both Taylor and Simon delivered knockout solo

Something In the Way She Moves, Carolina In My music legends became the largest one- Mind and Your Smiling Face. Carly sang Anticipation, dedicated Nobody Does It Better to James and was later joined by Aerosmith lead singer You're So Vain.

The multiple standing ovations from the audience confirmed the enduring appeal of both Taylor and Sithe mainland for an exhilarating two and a half hour mon on the Island; both stars maintain homes on the show. Taylor and Simon performed songs from Vineyard and have lent their names to a variety of lotheir impressive catalogues of music to raise cal charities. Thirty years after they got their starts play-

> ing the Mooncusser coffeehouse on Circuit Avenue in Oak Bluffs, they are both national icons, playing to sold-out audiences throughout the United States and beyond. But on the Vineyard, Taylor and Simon are considered family, and Livestock '95 took on the flavor of a long-overdue and joyous reunion.

And you truly had to be there. Livestock '95 sold out its 10,000 tickets in a stunning four hours, causing hundreds of people to sign up for volunteer tasks such as parking cars or ripping tickets just to get a place inside. Organizers held firm to their

promise of keeping the concert a local event; national media outlets were blacked out and the standard trail of VIP ticket holders had to wait in line like everybody else. There will be no compact disc. pay television show, home video or movie of the "I don't know what it is, but this just feels right event. We are left with only memories of Carly and James dancing across the stage together in song, but they are vivid memories, ones that will be impossible to forget.

- JASON GAY

















