

Edinburgh Jazz & Blues Festival 2019 – Donny McCaslin

Donny McCaslin played at Teviot Row on Thursday night as part of the 2019 Edinburgh Jazz and Blues Festival.

This was a genre crushing performance from Donny McCaslin with his band featuring two other players who appeared on David Bowie's final album ★, Tim Lefebvre on bass and Jason Linder on keys.

McCaslin has previously played in the city's Henry's Cellar Bar but this was his first leading and it was a night to savour. Guitarist Jeff Taylor handles lead vocals on a number of tracks alongside McCaslin on backing. Funky art-rock opener *What About The Body* begins with a sax vamp that resembles Guns N' Roses *Welcome To The Jungle* and from there we go in many different directions.

There are moments such as *Break The Bond* where band and audience were on a different plane with McCaslin getting wonderfully lost in the moment.

One of many standout tracks was the driving *Shake Loose*, this was heavier than Slayer one minute, the next it was steering towards a 70s Weather Report vibe.

On drums, Zach Danziger was a joy to watch throughout. *Eye Of The Beholder* was a poignant closer from current album *Blow* and tonight live it continues to soar. For the encore, McCaslin delivered a pulsating version of Bowie's *Look Back In Anger* which suited this band down to the ground while

reminding us pop music can be experimental and edgy.

Fans in Bowie t-shirts grinned from ear to ear. McCaslin is happy to have them along for the ride.



PHOTO Richard Purden