



## NIRVANA/TEENAGE FANCLUB/ THE BREEDERS

The Point  
Dublin, Ireland  
June 21, 1992

**P**IXIES BASSIST KIM DEAL HAS THE most amazing ability to simultaneously smoke, play guitar, and sing, which is exactly what she did as she took her band, the Breeders, through its first-ever live show—well, third if you count two small Ohio warm-ups before arriving in Ireland to open for Teenage Fanclub and Nirvana, but the first in front of 8,000 excitable fans. Identical-twin sister Kelly played guitar, Josephine Wiggs pummeled bass, and cool newcomer Jim MacPherson pounded drums for this Father's Day, summer solstice performance; a stellar show filled with tunes from both their recent *Safari* EP and 1991's *Pod* LP. When Kelly stepped up to the mike to sing "I Just Wanna Get Along" (which was released only on cassette for some obscure British magazine), her only slightly trembling voice was supported by the

factory-turned-rock-venue was gonna come tumbling down. TFC's Norman observed, "They're mad," which, of course, in Queen's English means crazy, not angry. So when Kurt Cobain came onstage with his new short blond haircut, you knew it was love. It seemed to take a little time for Kurt, bassist Chris Novoselic, and drummer Dave Grohl to totally vibe with each other, but within moments, when "Aneurysm" kicked in, the world was right again. Guest vocals were contributed by the audience on all songs, especially "Polly," which was kinda eerie—a big Irish chorus singing about rape. Group participation was a theme, especially when Dave led the crowd in a clapping rendition of the Village People's "In the Navy." When the band left the stage, an Italian soccer chant from the crowd—a sort of guttural oomping sound—forced Nirvana back to do "Smells Like Teen Spirit" and "Come As You Are." Although the songs on *Nevermind* are *maybe* better known than other Nirvana tunes, overall, the crowd's energy was on it for every song. Spent and sweaty, the show ended without

Tennant and Chris Lowe brought a couple of English techno DJs over with them to kick-start the crowd, and although I know next to nothing about techno, I have to admit I really liked what I heard and would've loved to dance (but I'd have lost my seat at the bar).

I was psyched up for weeks before this, thinking about what to wear, where to go for preshow drinks and so on, but when the day finally came, I just went in my usual clothes after hanging out at a local bar. Pet Shop Boys were absolutely fabulous, playing all the hits like "West End Girls" and "Opportunities (Let's Make Lots of Money)." The stage presentation was very understated, nothing like last year's extravaganza at Radio City Music Hall—Lowe and Tennant, a female vocalist, and an obscured guitar player, and that was it. When it comes to the Pet Shop Boys, for me, the songs and the grooves are actually all that are necessary, so in that respect, something this low-key really worked. I guess this is the closest the Pet Shop Boys ever will get to playing somebody's backyard barbecue.

JOHAN KUGELBERG

### ROAD TRIPPIN':

**Bruce Springsteen**—North America:  
August 13–29

**Michael Jackson**—Europe: August  
through September

**Disposable Heroes of Hiphoprisy/  
Arrested Development/Me Phi Me**—  
North America: August

### FESTIVALS:

**Reading Festival**—August 28–30. England's premier alternative festival. Lineup at press time includes: Nirvana, the Melvins, the Wonder Stuff, Public Enemy, Beastie Boys, Shonen Knife, Eugenius, Pavement, L7, Screaming Trees, Björn Again (a Swedish ABBA cover band), and more.

# LIVE!

## Concert Reviews

crowd's enthusiasm. A guy front-and-center screamed, "I love you" over and over at Kim, and the set ended too soon.

Teenage Fanclub made the entire hall bounce up and down, although drummer Brendan wasn't as feisty as I've seen him before—no getting up in the middle of the set to use the loo (you know—British for "toilet"). But Norman, Gerard, and Raymond stumbled their bodies around throughout highlights such as "Metal Baby" and "What You Do to Me."

The first clue that this capacity crowd was going to go berserk for Nirvana's first show in three months was when a roadie climbed up a little rope ladder onstage to fix a broken light—everyone screamed so loud it seemed that this cement-

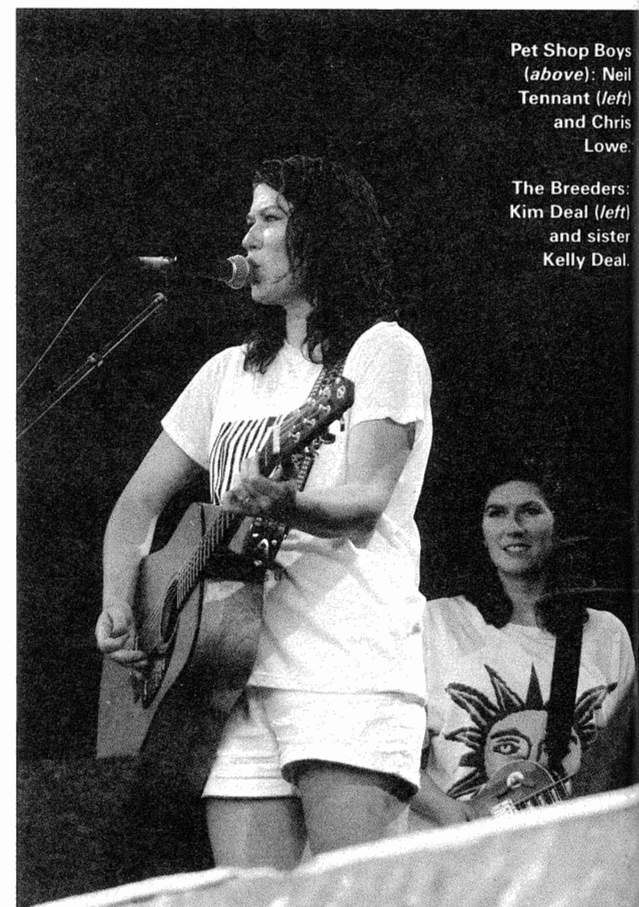
destruction. Maybe they don't do that anymore—or maybe I was in the loo and missed it.

LAUREN SPENCER

### PET SHOP BOYS

Roseland Ballroom  
New York City  
June 8, 1992

**MUST SAY THAT I WAS PLEASANTLY** surprised to see the Pet Shop Boys, the ultimate antibenefit band, play a Lifebeat AIDS benefit. New York's Roseland was crammed full of serious party people blended in with serious AIDS activists; In fact, most of the people there belonged to both groups. Neil



Pet Shop Boys  
(above): Neil  
Tennant (left)  
and Chris  
Lowe.

The Breeders:  
Kim Deal (left)  
and sister  
Kelly Deal.