

corporate greed." It is hard to recall any other music project that has generated such a substantial collection of merchandise. In return the project probably produced more press than any other Neil Young enterprise and reviews covered the full spectrum of reaction. A small selection of opinions about the *Greendale* film make for interesting reading: "An odd but sometimes loveable little mixture of great rock 'n' roll and charmingly primitive filmmaking" —Michael Wilmington *Chicago Tribune*; "So terrible, you can't believe Young isn't simply having a big goof on all of us" —Karen Karbo *The Oregonian*; "The ceaseless 4/4 lumber of Young's perennial backing band, Crazy Horse, combined with the aggressive grunginess of the imagery, bespeaks commitment, and a sense of purpose" —Kevin John Bozelka *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*; "If this didn't have Young's name attached, it would likely have sunk without a trace" —Marc Savlov *The Austin Chronicle*.

willie nelson's fourth of july picnic

Willie Nelson's '4th of July Picnic' first began in 1972 and his 30th Anniversary picnic took place at the Two River Canyon Amphitheatre in Spicewood, TX on July 4-5, 2003. With a lengthy schedule of artists to accommodate during the day, Neil Young's set was bound to be restricted and the seven songs that he performed with Crazy Horse on the Saturday understandably contained no *Greendale* material, instead relying on some of the classics—*Love To Burn*, *Sedan Delivery*, *Powderfinger*, *Prisoners Of Rock'n'Roll*, *Roll Another Number*, *Down By The River* (these last two with Willie Nelson on guitar) and *Rockin' In The Free World*. For the last song Young was also joined on stage by Chief Dan George and another unknown Indian dancer.

farm aid 2003

In early September Young interrupted the *Greendale* tour to play his usual slot at Farm Aid, this year held in Columbus, Ohio. Once again the nature of the show mitigated against the *Greendale* material although on this occasion he did finish his set with *Be The Rain*, one of the few songs from the project that commentators felt would be capable of a stand-alone performance.

valley music festival

On September 20, 2003 the first phase of *Greendale* shows ended and a week later Young played the Valley Music Festival at the Firestone Vineyards in Los Olivos some 50 miles north of Santa Barbara, California. The set was mostly older material but did include *Falling From Above*, *Leave The Driving* and *Bandit*. With CPR on the bill as support it might have been expected that Crosby would join Young on stage at some point and he duly appeared for the final song *Ohio*.

17th bridge school benefit concerts

A month or so later Young was back at the Shoreline Amphitheatre in Mountain View for the 17th Bridge School Benefit concerts where he performed solo and with Crosby, Stills & Nash and also accompanied Pearl Jam and Willie Nelson during their sets.

east asia and australia

Shortly after the Bridge concerts Young travelled to Hong Kong for one of a local government sponsored series of concerts designed to raise the profile of Hong Kong following the spring SARS epidemic. The show took place in a car park that was awaiting development and was one of the few non-*Greendale* concerts during the year. Other artists who appeared during the week included The Rolling Stones and Prince. Young then continued his journey eastward with performances in Japan and Australia. After a three-month break he resumed touring in Vancouver. A further eighteen *Greendale* shows followed—the 70th and final performance being in Amherst, Massachusetts. Followers would have to wait until the following September to see Young onstage again.