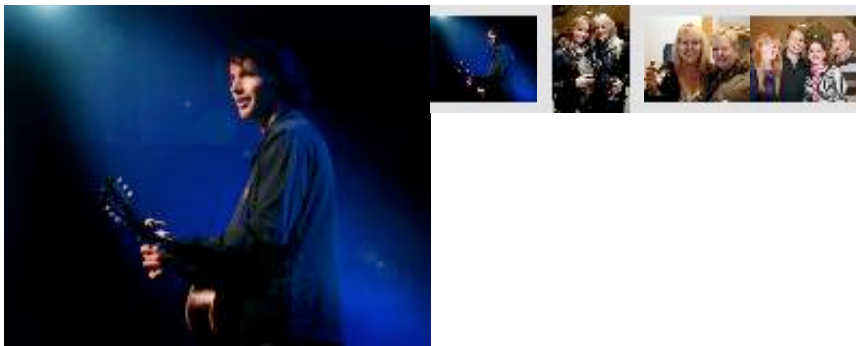


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- **Location:** Belfast

Blunt thrills Waterfront audience



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By [Kate Chambré](#)

HE may well be small but he's got one hell of a big belting voice.

James Blunt and his four-piece band played to an extremely receptive audience at Belfast's Waterfront Hall on Monday night.

Within minutes of the show opening to Give Me Some Love from his album All The Lost Souls, the glow of hundreds of camera phones could be seen lighting up the concert hall.

Dressed casually in jeans and a tee-shirt, the 33-year-old former Army captain proved that he is far from being a one-hit wonder, and that his repertoire extended way beyond the ubiquity of You're Beautiful.

"Nice to see all your smiling faces again," he said as he opened the show.

"I've been here a couple of times before."

Indeed, the first time he performed in the Province was with Belfast-born Katie Melua.

From the outset of the concert it was clear that the lyrics of Blunt's songs are every bit as powerful as the music itself, and are drawn from his own experiences.

And that his ability to capture the audience's attention is impressive - during certain tracks you could almost hear a pin drop.

"They say that the Irish probably have some of the best singing voices in the world," he said,

"We'll find out if that's true very soon."

Sure enough, the audience - made up largely of 30-something year old men and women - belted out the lyrics

to his more popular songs.

Blunt's music is romantic and appears to make people want to go wild with their arms rather than their feet. He humorously told the packed audience that the Press had labelled You're Beautiful the number one wedding song, Goodbye my Lover the number one funeral song and added:

"Here's one for divorces, it's called I'll Take Everything".

The set for the concert - entitled All The Lost Souls - did not disappoint either. Bright, psychedelic colours and powerful imagery creating a show-stopping spectacular especially as the gig drew to a close.

There's clearly a depth to Blunt's music that isn't quite so transparent in the lyrics of other bestselling artists - this became apparent when he sang No Bravery, a song about his experiences with the Army in Kosovo.

After drawing attention to the pretentiousness of the music industry and the Press's fascination of "whether Britney Spears is wearing knickers or not" he explained No Bravery was about "not what separates us or divides us but what connects us instead".

He sang this song playing the piano on his own with images of war played out on the screen behind him making the piece all the more poignant.

But make no mistakes Blunt is definitely not all serious.

After singing a cover version of Take a Look at My Girlfriend by Supertramp he hurled himself into the audience for a bit of loving.

Later, lipstick marks were clearly displayed on his cheeks.

Full marks for the quick set (and guitar) changes and to the stage hand who rushed out to stop the piano from toppling when a rather excitable Blunt started dancing on top of it.

"Thank you so much for coming and thank you so much for having us," Blunt said in a typically polite ex-public school manner as he finally left the stage.

Then much to his fan's disappointment he, Paul Beard (keyboard), John Garrison (bass), Karl Brazil (drums) and "the very small but perfectly formed" Ben Castle (guitar) left the stage for Dublin where they played on Tuesday night.

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