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Pop/rock music

Mac Daddy: The fleet-fingered Lindsey Buckingham plays the Moore on Sept. 9

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Thirty years ago, mighty packs of rock dinosaurs roamed the earth, playing massive arenas, navigating epic snowdrifts and engaging in much interband high drama. Most of these creatures died out, but a few canny examples survived and evolved.

Lindsey Buckingham, Fleetwood Mac's guitar slinger, visits the Moore on Tuesday, Sept. 9, for the second show of his tour in support of his new record, "Gift of Screws." He'll amble onstage, mild-mannered and possessed of that relaxed California cool. And then he'll plug in.

Buckingham tears into songs like a lion into red meat -- he's not a craftsman or a technician; he just *needs* to play. And play he does. The fastest fingers in the West get more sounds from one guitar than seems possible.

Sure to be a highlight is his reimagined "Big Love" -- a track one would never have picked to become a showstopper. Rescued from the uberproduction of the 1987 Fleetwood Mac album "Tango in the Night," the stripped-down, acoustic tour de force will ring a bell with anyone who turned on PBS between 1997 and 1999, when the Mac reunion special "The Dance" was in heavier rotation than that damn Masters of Doo-Wop show is today.

Buckingham's voice is a powerful force as well. Pulled from the familiar context of his harmonic triumvirate with Stevie Nicks and Christine McVie, he's a master of the aching whisper, the scream and the crescendo: elements variously employed to great effect on the haunting "Trouble" and "Go Insane," now an unplugged, anguished lament.

The new record is reported to be "harder" than his last, the reflective "Under the Skin"; it's scheduled for release Sept. 16, so Seattleites will be going in to Tuesday's show cold. With a pro of Buckingham's stature, though, new material is hardly a burden for the audience to bear -- particularly for the privilege of hearing monster anthems like "Go Your Own Way" and "Tusk" in the intimate 1,500-seat Moore. And best of all, this gifted artiste is not too cool to pull "Holiday Road" out of his bag of tricks.

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