

Calendare by Mark Mardon

So many artists . . .

A day or two earlier at *Viva Variety 43*, an appreciative crowd applauded several acts pulled out of the hat by showman Steve Murray. Funnymen P.A. Cooley and Drew Todd did a scene from *Quite Contrary*, in which two queens meet in the Castro and engage in snappy gay-cliché repartee, employing such words as “brobdignagian.” Fresh Meat Productions dancers Sean Dorsey and Mair Colbreath turned in a beautiful piece, with voice-over narrating the experience of a new girl in 4th grade class, bossy and magnetic, who mistakes Sean for a boy and asks for a kiss, prompting Dorsey (who is super boy-cute) to dance with Colbreath (playing the new girl) while musing on whether it’s right to fool mother nature. Vocalist Benn Bacot displayed his deep, rich seductive baritone. Tall, dignified, black, wearing hat and glasses, dapper in dark slacks and jacket over b/w-striped shirt, with white shoes, Bacot showed how smooth jazz can get. “You Don’t Know What Love Is,” he sang, and I believed him. Closing the show were vocalist/songwriter/pianist Spencer Day and cellist/jazz guitarist Yair Evnine, who rendered a couple of Day’s songs and an outstanding cover of Leonard Cohen’s “Hallelujah”, as smooth as k.d. lang’s version. ▼