SOME OF THE PEOPLE who flocked to Yma Sumac's sold-out Feb. 17 show at the Ballroom—which kicked off a three-week engagement that marked her first New York appearance in 13 years—must have been there for the music. But the glittery diva seemed dominated by thrills-seekers lured by Sumac's exotic reputation as a flamboyant diva and a self-styled Inca princess. Everyone, however, was probably disappointed.

Despite her fabled garishness as a performer, Sumac's most distinctive feature has always been her remarkable five-octave range. At the Ballroom, it appeared that age had shrunk that range slightly (Sumac also said it was cold affecting her voice), although it was still impressive to hear her dip down into its booming depths and swoop up into its eerie, birdlike heights.

There were three main problems with Sumac's show: the general tinniness of presentation; the disorienting lack of musical communication between the singer and her six-piece band, led by keyboardist Stephen Gaboury, which suggested there had been insufficient rehearsal time; and—most surprising, and most disappointing, of all—the material she chose to sing.

When Sumac rose to fame in the '50s with a series of concert appearances and Capitol albums, the haunting, otherworldly songs she sang were as much a part of her appeal as the way she sang them. But at the Ballroom, her set was dominated by new tunes she has written herself, apparently in a misguided attempt to reach a contemporary audience.

These did little to showcase her range, which may have been a practical consideration. They also had English lyrics, most of them rather awkward, and bland, middle-of-the-road pop melodies—at least one of which Sumac would have been more at home in Nashville than in Sumac's native Peru.

Yma Sumac's desire to remain up-to-date is understandable. But she was a far more formidable artist when she was timeless.

**PUBLICITY PRINTS**

**BLACK & WHITE 4x10s**

500 - 50.00 1000 - 85.00

**COLOR**

1000 -$388.00

Above Prices include typesetting and freight. Send 8x10 Photo - Check or M.O.

**Full Color & B/W Posters**

Compositions - Cartons - Other Sizes

**Send For Catalog & Samples**