SPIN

Best of SXSW 2012

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by SPIN Staff

Bahamas: Afie Jurvanen took the pulpit (it isn't really a stage) at St. David's Church (it *is* really a church) backed by a drummer and a duo of singers in matching, shimmery blue dresses he later praised as a "wise decision." The Canadian musician, who's done time as a journeyman guitarist for Feist, cut a Ritchie Valens-esque silhouette and went for a few cheap laughs ("Lionel Richie is playing tonight, too — all night long, apparently"), but his extraordinarily deft guitar playing carried the night. His licks ranged from mellifluous to the kind of blues that could turn Jack White's head from 1,000 feet. He wrapped on a '50s style ballad called "Snow Plow" and the audience rose to their feet. Hallelujah. **CG**