

# One American's Journey to Some Enchanted Evening

by Lin M

I first found Lee Mead several years ago after seeing a so-so US tour of Joseph here in Denver Colorado. We go to about five shows a year that stop here near the Rocky Mountains on their tour and most have been as good, or in some cases better, than productions we've seen on Broadway. That evening after being a bit disappointed, I went online to find out more about Joseph and the rest is history! I found the Any Dream Will Do program-and from the moment Lee turned around on Mack the Knife I was hooked! Not only was I sure he would win the program, but that I had to find out more. I've now watched every video, read every review and interview, bought all the CDs and become a major fan! Then I found the fan sites, especially LMAS where I first made contacts with Mead fans. Lee has the loveliest fans! They were very friendly and understood my growing obsession with everything Mead. Everyone online kept saying, "He's so much better live!"

And everyone was right! After months of planning, I flew to London for the last three dates of the SEE tour. It was a very long flight (11 hours through Iceland) and then trains on to Portsmouth, Tunbridge Wells, and Southend-On-Sea. I had advice from Lin, Joan and others along the way. Joan even gave me a day with her in London which I'll never forget! So kind!

I made it to the first theatre, and found my seat. Then the moment came, the lights dimmed, the band took the stage and the air was electric with anticipation. When Lee arrived to sing 'Where or When', oh my! The whole audience came alive. From that first song I understood what all the LMAS gals had been saying. With that beautiful voice he sings with his whole heart and fills the room with his passion for the song. The audience is mesmerized!

Each concert was a bit different in tone, I think because of the audience for each, but since I flew 5000 miles I decided I should see all three! I was so glad I did. I won't go through the set list which has been posted here often. Every one of the songs-along with moments of conversation and stories, comedy (and even dancing!)-were just pure magic! Highlights for me were 'Hushabye Mountain', 'Pure Imagination' and 'Feeling Good'. Those songs in person were just indescribable! I sat very close to the stage at Lin's suggestion and you can just feel the energy of each moment! He was lovely, if a little overwhelmed at the stage door, at the first two I saw. I was overwhelmed as well, seeing him up close. But he posed for a photo and signed my ticket. But of course in Southend he was off to see friends and family so naturally just said goodnight at the stage door and was off. The fans respected this and understood for the most part.

Just another thought about the fans... Many of them have been friends for almost 10 years-since the ADWD days. How wonderful is it that this special man engenders such a warm reaction that friendships are formed that last decades? I made new friends as well through

Lee. I said to the ladies I met along my way his passion and kind, gentle spirit must attract fans with the same. I met LoveLees, Northern Ladies, Meadaholics of course, and others who were friendly and kind, including me in their revelry and even helping with one complicated train journey.

A trip to see/hear Lee Mead live should be on everyone's agenda. I'm planning to go back next year sometime to see him and some of the friends I made through him.