

Unforgettable sweat on floor

The Clash powered to the Wellington Town Hall on Sunday night to give a concert few will forget.

The band ran onstage to a barrage of applause, paused for a quick "ello" and started rocking. The pace didn't slacken all night. People still queuing to get in knew the Clash had begun as "London Calling" rang from the inside. Some fans missed four songs before they could get to their seats in the sold-out hall.

All four band members worked hard from one song to the next. They played so

aggressively that their sweat was mopped off the floor. Those in the audience who weren't raging in front of the stage sat seemingly, mesmerised by the band which flawlessly played its own variations of rock, reggae and jazz.

Music off the Clash's latest albums ("London Calling" and "Sandinista") dominated the concert. Old punk favourites and new songs, including the new single, "Radio Clash" were thrown in, too.

Joe Strummer (named for his rhythm guitar playing) sang most songs with excellent vocals from Mick Jones (lead guitar) and Paul Simonon (bass). His rest, when other band members, including drummer Topper Headon, took over lead vocals, was well deserved.

The songs came and went — "Brand New Cadillac," "Guns of Brixton," "Armageddon Time" and "Bank Robber." After two hours, the band left the

stage to a continuous chorus of "More, more, more." It came back to do three encores of at least three songs each.

To start the last encore, Mick Jones came back alone and started up with "Jimmy Jazz." The others emerged one by one to play until they seemed physically exhausted. As Simonon walked off stage, he shook several of the outstretched hands from the audience and the lights went on.

Missed the gig? Then pray the Clash return — but be in early next time.