

Speedwagon and Benatar; A Serious Rock Concert

July 25, 2010 at 3:39 am | Posted in Concert, Rock, Vocal | 2 Comments

Tags: Awesome, Dodge Theatre, Pat Benatar, REO Speedwagon, Review, Rock, Roll



Rule 1 - Kick ass.

Rule 2 - Have Fun.

Rule 3 - Make sure everyone in attendance knows you are abiding by rules 1&2. (Involving them in the process helps immensely.)

Edwin McCain Review

Kevin Cronin of REO ran out to introduce this guy as his good friend while the house lights were still up. Those house lights were

immediately killed and Edwin started to tell stories. Yes, actual stories. *He talked to the audience.* Why? Because, it turns out the guy is pretty easy to listen to, and his songwriting is awesome. It also tells stories. Good stories. Listenable stories.

Along with his long time buddy, Craig Shields, they told stories and played great songs that kept the crowd engaged the entire half hour that they were in front of us. This guy grabbed my attention from word one, and captivated me through the last note.

REO SPEEDWAGON REVIEW

What can I really say here? If you normally read my reviews, you know what it boils down to - they suck or they don't.

This is different. This should be the encyclopedic definition of ROCK CONCERT. Okay, aside from the fact that Dodge Theatre isn't going to allow pyro, nor smoking inside the venue - this was a rock show by definition in any form.

Kicked ass. Guitars made of solid pieces of wood and sporting fresh steel strings, wailing under fluid fingers. Turned to 11, I'm pretty sure. Drum beats were so solid, so tight that I can't begin to tell you how great they sounded.

Kevin Cronin, the lead singer, sang the songs just like you always heard them. Whether you heard them on vinyl, CD, or 8-track; it doesn't matter. That's how you heard it live, assuming you heard a live version. 😊

The players played. They interacted with one another like they had been friends for years. Probably because they have. They gave their stage techs a hard time over mis-tuned guitars or the inability to hear something through their stage monitors. It was all casual and fun, like friends ribbing each other over a mis-spelled word in a scrabble competition.

Seriously, the band was incredible. Sound mix was incredible.

The light show was awesome. Finally, a lighting operator that understands you can mix colors. Orange and purple - cool. Red and white - very cool. Move the color zones, very nice. Not everything has to be a wash of one color. Complementary and contrasting colors are put into a wheel in art school for a reason. This operator used those wheels well. Kudos.

I believe the stage and light setup was designed by Paul of Masterworks. Looked awesome, and you should give him credit for that. He is, apparently, a badass that doesn't subscribe to the front/back linear truss theories but likes triangular lighting designs married with a clean back line. I like that too. Cheers, Paul.

Bottom Line - REO Speedwagon Kicked Ass. No need to take our names.

Pat Benatar Review

What do you want me to say? She subdued the video intensiveness of REO, preferring to go with primal colors and simple objects for the most part. The moving lights, that were so accentuated during REO, became bit players in a choreography that did nothing but drive her vocal abilities home.



Tonight proved that Patricia, as her husband and guitar player calls her, was not an MTV fluke. She didn't sell millions of records because she looked cute. She sold them because she can belt out lyrics like nobody else, and present a story that is timeless.

Pat is a vocal powerhouse. She's a girl with a voice 50 feet tall. I want to see her do a duet with Rob Halford, or Bruce Dickinson; perhaps Geoff Tate. I don't know. She is in *that* class. The waters where nobody wants to even tread.

Her hubby, Neil, is a guitar master. The two of them together have to be seen to be believed. Well, maybe not. You know the songs. They are just like that in real life, only better. She belts, he makes his guitar scream. It's awesome to witness. The drummer is surrounded by glass, because his drum kit really *is that badass*. Of course, the bass player is up to par too. You really have to see the four of them onstage to really understand why MTV made theirs' one of the first music videos ever aired. They rock.

Summary

Kick ass rock and roll. Go see them. Don't miss them. Plan on being on your feet for at least 3 hours. This, my friends, is a rock concert. Moving lights, smoke, video, and above all awesome musicianship and vocal abilities that will keep your fists pounding and ass shaking. Rock on.

★★★★☆ 5 Votes

Share this: [Tweet](#) 3 [Facebook](#) [Google+](#) [LinkedIn](#) [StumbleUpon](#) [Reddit](#)

PAGES

Concert Photographs
Crüefest 2008
Queensryche American Soldier 2009
U2 360 Tour
Local Phoenix Music Scene
Donna Jean's Libations
Reverend Felcher, Joe's Grotto
Portraiture

COPYRIGHT JIM PETROSINO 2009-2010
© Jim Petrosino, 2009-2010. Unauthorized use and/or duplication of this material without express and written permission from this blog's author and/or owner is strictly prohibited. All Rights Reserved.

ARCHIVES

October 2010
September 2010
August 2010
July 2010
June 2010
May 2010
April 2010
March 2010
February 2010
January 2010
December 2009
October 2009
September 2009
August 2009
June 2009
May 2009
April 2009
March 2009
February 2009
January 2009
December 2008
November 2008
September 2008
August 2008

MY FLICKR GALLERY PHOTOS



[More Photos](#)

CYBERS'S LATEST SHOTS

WaterParkSilhouette
Water Park Sunset
AppleLightBokehSquare copy
AppleLightBokeh copy
Sunset Point, AZ HDR
Bali Tomato Flower
Miniature Antique Trucks
VictoriaMod
Tractor at the Ghost Town
Sedona Arizona
Alice In Chains
Lemon-Krayola
Wind Turbines in Black & White
Black Eyed Peas
Black Eyed Peas
Black Eyed Peas
Sunday Bloody Sunday In Green
Bono Throws Up the Peace