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# KISS

## HIT THE STONE!



Gene signing autographs in Stockholm

Photo - Rikard Goransson

After receiving news by a close friend that KISS would perform a concert at 'The Stone' in San Francisco on 23/4/92 (Thursday) a few weeks in advance, I could hardly restrain my enthusiasm for this show. While it may (arguably) be claimed

that San Francisco (and the Bay Area) has not been a cohesive base of fan support for KISS in the post-make-up area. I was certain that this trend would not apply to the stated club show for a number of reasons. First, this show would be the first live KISS concert since the Madison Square Garden show concluding the Hot In The Shade tour on 6/11/91. More specifically, this should be the first KISS concert held at a club since the Stone Pony show in Asbury Park, New Jersey in May, 1990. Most importantly, the Stone show would constitute the first live appearance of the newly-ducted KISS drummer, Eric Singer. A historic gig without a doubt!

As a bonus for the fans fortunate enough to attend this show, the band performed the "Revenge" album, in its entirety, over the PA system after the set by "Shooting Gallery" and before that of KISS. They commenced the show at approximately 10.20 p.m. with the tune 'Love Gun'. The sound system utilized for the show was superb, and have the effect of leaving a ringing sensation in my ears for the next two days. The band members began the show in a manner that indicated that they had been anticipating this show for a long time, and the ferocity they displayed could be described as anything short of magical.

The clothes which they wore appropriately commingled with the low key straight-ahead rock and roll setting for the evening. Gene Simmons, Paul Stanley and Bruce Kulick all wore black leather pants. Gene sported his 'Psycho Bitches' t-shirt along with a short-sleeve

unbuttoned black and white shirt with skull prints on top of that. Paul wore a black t-shirt bluntly imprinted with the term 'fuck'. Bruce's grayish-blue t-shirt consisted of a pyramid graphic much along the lines of that which appears on the back side of a one dollar bill. Eric's stage clothing was by far the simplest, and merely consisted of a pair of dark blue or black denim overalls.

In terms of the selection of tunes, "unbelievable" would be the only appropriate term that would come to one's mind. Some choices were definitely pulled out of the KISS vaults as they have not been performed live for approximately fifteen years. Such tunes included: '100,000 Years' and 'Parasite'. These two tunes plus 'Deuce', 'Firehouse', 'Rock and Roll All Nite', 'I Want You', 'I Stole Your Love' and 'I Love It Loud' received the fanatical response. Gene's vocal performance during 'Parasite' was pure magic. With a much-improved new image reminiscent of Mr. Malak Al Rahim from the 'Wanted Dead Or Alive' film, he seemed to spit out the lyrics to the said tune as if they were poison.

Although I had anticipated to hear one ballad either in the form of 'I Still Love You', 'Reason To Live' or 'Forever', no ballad was performed. However, in an effort to give the impression of attempting to slow down the tempo of the show, Paul introduced 'I Stole Your Love' as a ballad. The band then exploded into a rendition of this song that had Paul dancing and prancing across the small stage and exhibiting energy that can be best explained as parallel to that of Paul's during 'Detroit Rock City' from the "Animalize Live Uncensored" video performance in Detroit, Michigan.

Aside from the stated tunes, the following ones were performed: 'Strutter', 'Cold Gin', 'Detroit Rock City', 'God Of Thunder', 'Shout It Out Loud', 'Calling Dr. Love', 'I Was Made For Lovin' You', 'Lick It Up', 'Heaven's On Fire' and 'Tears Are Falling'. Although the band played no songs off "Crazy Nights" or "Hot In The Shade", they did play three new songs: 'God Gave Rock And Roll To You II', '(The) Unholy' and 'Take It Off'. The response to these three songs was not as strong as the aforementioned. In the case of '(The) Unholy' and 'Take It Off', this was simply due to the fact that these are as yet unreleased tracks from the forthcoming record slated for release on 19/5/92. In the case of 'God Gave Rock And Roll To You II', since this tune represented the last project in which the lamented Eric Carr took part in, one could sense the somber mood that engulfed the crowd in respect to Eric's memory.

The two hour show concluded appropriately with a ravenous performance of 'Rock and Roll All Nite'. If this show is to be any indication of the stance that KISS plans to take with the "Revenge" album and the official world tour which begins on 16/5/92 in Glasgow, Scotland, then one could hardly argue that the album and tour are inappropriately coined. As was the case with Eric's debut performance with KISS at 'The Palladium' in New York City, New York on 25/7/80, the Stone show on 23/4/92 will also permanently be etched in KISS-tory. The only difference herein being that while I did not attend the former show, I was certainly in attendance at the latter!

Arash Moussavian, KISS Army Intl.