

KISS



MEGA - REVENGE !

Revenge Tour Report by Arash Moussavian

After a brief delay in their initial touring plans Kiss commenced the American leg of the Revenge Tour in Allentown, Pennsylvania on 10/01/92. As the band made their way across the United States towards the west coast, I became more and more enthusiastic. The last time I had an opportunity to speak with any of the current members of Kiss was during the four California shows supporting the Hot In The Shade album in September 1990. Therefore, I was looking forward to the band's arrival in California. I hereby present my review of the Revenge show(s), as well as the events that transpired during the final four dates on Kiss' Revenge Tour.

12/16/92
(San Francisco, California)

The first of the four shows was on a Wednesday in Sacramento, California. Since the band had the following day off and would then play in Oakland on Friday, I was fairly certain that they would use San Francisco as their home base for these three days. As a result, I spent a large portion of the morning contacting major hotels in San Francisco to determine where Kiss would be staying at. During this period I received a phone call from my friend named Tim who had obtained word of the hotel that Kiss planned to use in San Francisco. Tim also gave this information to my friends Kazue and Chikako who came from Japan to attend the three shows in California. So I made plans to meet Kazue and Chikako at the designated hotel.

I arrived at the hotel at 2:10, placed my car in a private parking lot and began to walk to the hotel. As I reached the final intersection separating me from the hotel I looked to my left and saw Eric Singer right next to me walking in the same direction. I introduced myself and he asked me, "Where are you from?" I told him I was from Iran. He then asked, "Do you live here now?" I answered in the affirmative. Once we reached the hotel lobby I questioned him about the whereabouts of the other band members. He told me that Bruce was in his room while Gene and Paul were still in Seattle, where Kiss played a show on 12/14/92, and that they would be flying directly to Sacramento. He then took the elevator up to his room. A few minutes later Bruce came down from his room. He was in a big hurry and only said hello as he was leaving the hotel lobby. I decided to stay at the hotel for another hour, but I did not see Eric or Bruce again. Since I wanted to avoid rush hour traffic I left for Sacramento at 3:30.

(Sacramento, California)

I arrived at the Arco Arena in Sacramento at 6:15, and it was very, very cold. The eight thousand five hundred seating capacity venue which hosted Kiss on their Crazy Nights Tour is located in a desolate part of the city. After picking up my photo pass at the will call window I entered the arena through the crew personnel entrance. Along the walls were fluorescent pink colored flyers which read, "KISS DRESSING ROOM" with an arrow drawn in the appropriate direction. Once I reached Kiss' dressing room I was informed by the security guard at the door that Kiss had already arrived. I waited outside the dressing room for some time, but it was apparent that the band members were busy preparing for the show. I decided to say hello to Tony Byrd, Paul's guitar technician, and Dave Bonilla, Gene's bass technician. With the exception of Dave's absence from the Hot In The Shade Tour due

to his commitments to David Bowie's concurrent road venture, I have had a chance to get to know both of them on every tour since the Crazy Nights Tour, including Paul's solo jaunt in 1989. I asked Dave how the attendance had been on the American leg of the tour. He chuckled and merely replied, "No comment." But when I asked him about the Cleveland, Indianapolis and Detroit shows his eyes just lit up and he enthusiastically talked about how great those shows were.

I made my way back to Kiss' dressing room at around 8:15. Upon my arrival, Eric walked out and handed me a brand new pair of his drumsticks. Shortly thereafter, Bruce came out in full costume and with a guitar. Due to the fact that he had to do a photo shoot for S. I. T. strings he did not have the time to stop and chat. At approximately 8:45 a group of about thirty fans with Pre-Show passes were escorted into a loading dock area nearby the dressing room. A few minutes later Gene, followed by Eric, came out to meet the anxious group of fans. Akemi, a fan from Japan, immediately walked toward Gene and gave him a hug. As Gene and Eric met and signed memorabilia for the first few fans they stood back to back playfully nudging one another, and then proceeded to take a few steps to their left and right thereby forming a circle configuration. A friend of mine named Johnathan gave Gene a Coventry flyer to sign. Rather than sign it right away, Gene spent a minute or so inspecting the flyer to determine whether or not it is an authentic one. He carefully analyzed its front and back, and also held it up in the light. After about fifteen minutes Andre Augustine, the band security guard, escorted Gene and Eric back to the dressing room.

Shortly after the fans with Pre-Show passes left the backstage area Bruce completed his photo shoot and came to talk with me. A few minutes after Bruce left Gene came out of the dressing room and casually began to walk around. I asked him whether or not the band will be playing a New Year's Eve show in Japan to be followed by an Australian tour. His response was to say, "I would like to play both of those countries." I also thanked him for providing me with the motivation to continue with my academic studies. He was impressed at the fact that I was applying to law school and stated, "You did it yourself."

Kiss was scheduled to start the show at 9:30, and I left the backstage area to head for the photo pit at 9:25. While most of you have probably already read reviews of the Revenge shows in the United States I will provide an overview of the show. As the house lights went out, that was the cue to start the intro tape that appeared to me to be unidentifiable noise with a great deal of distortion and some feedback. The black curtain masking the stage then fell to reveal the stage with the Statue of Liberty centerpiece from the chest up. The band initiated the show with Creatures Of The Night enhanced by a huge explosion. Gene and Paul both wore black leather pants. Gene sported a vest consisting of metallic rings interspersed throughout the entire garment. He also had matching "braces" covering his forearm, and a shirt imprinted with the term, "BLOW ME BLIND." Paul wore a vest covered with automotive patches. Underneath he had on two shirts with a netted one bearing a skull design on top of the now famous t-shirt imprinted with, "fuck." On the other hand, Bruce wore black jeans for pants, and a long-sleeve black shirt embossed with subtle patterns. As far as Eric's stage clothing, all I could visually see was a headband during all four of the shows.

Creatures Of The Night led straight into a thunderous version of Deuce complete with the choreographed three-man strut from yesteryear. Then it was time for the first song off of Revenge which was I Just Wanna. This was the first song during which the band utilized lasers to enhance the show. There was also a sing-along