



The Stone Roses are the subject of 'Made of Stone,' a documentary that will premiere Tuesday night at the Trocadero in Philadelphia. 'Made of Stone' chronicles the rise, fall and unlikely reunion of The Stone Roses, one of the biggest bands in British history.

By [Michael Christopher](#), Delaware County Daily Times

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Rarely— OK never — has Rock Music Menu made a “Show of the Week” a film, but in this case, it’s a must.

Tuesday night at the Trocadero will see the Philadelphia premiere of “Made of Stone,” which chronicles the rise, fall and unlikely reunion of one of the biggest bands in British history, The Stone Roses.

Having reunited in 2011 after a 16-year hiatus, the band reunited and played a series of sold out gigs around the world since, including two Stateside stops headlining weekend one and two of the Coachella Festival in California earlier this year. If you’ve never heard of the band don’t fret, it was a musical phenomenon that, like so many others, were relegated solely to the U.K. But the impact it had reverberates to this day.

In May 1990, England was full of unrest politically, artistically, culturally and most definitely musically. There was a shift though, and it was never more evident than at the Concert at Spike Island, headlined by The Stone Roses and its enigmatic singer Ian Brown. The funny thing? The show wasn’t even that great. The Roses set was plagued by sound problems, but Brown still controlled the crowd, and the performance in one fell swoop represented a shift in the scene.

Oasis leader Noel Gallagher credits the show with inspiring him to launch his band, as did about every other melody and harmony-driven act that helped drive the “Cool Britannia” movement, a celebration of English culture that made a fairly large dent here in the States, the first significant one in rock music since the Beatles first landed in the early ’60s.

In England, though, everything changed. The Tories were out, and Tony Blair’s New Labour movement was in. Films like “Trainspotting” exploded and crossed cultural boundaries, the fashion and art world were ablaze like never before and new music pushed the limits from rock to electronica.

But what happened to The Stone Roses?

Basically, they fell apart after releasing just one more unremarkable record in 1994 and falling victim to all the typical break-up ingredients: Drugs, infighting, egos. But to this day, anyone familiar with the U.K. music scene holds the band in great reverence. Brown put out a string of solo albums, and other members followed suit by launching mildly successful acts such as Primal Scream and The Seahorses.

After years of shunning his Rose-colored past, Brown began mixing in some of his former group’s songs into his live sets, and at times invited ex-bandmates to join him onstage. But it wouldn’t be until the funeral for bassist Mani’s mother in 2011 that the four would be in a room together. Under somber circumstances, it refreshed a friendship and musical partnership that has flourished to this day.

“Made of Stone” director Shane Meadows told U.K. publication NME last week that while he was finishing up the documentary, he showed up where the group was rehearsing and spied a four-track recorder out. He wasn’t left alone in the room with it though and wasn’t allowed to hear any of what it contained.

“I know they were writing and it wasn’t fiction and I know that there were definitely tunes getting laid down,” he said. “But, as with everything to do with The Stone Roses, putting a time frame on it I wouldn’t have the faintest idea.”

Rumors persist that The Roses will tour the States early next year and that a new record will see store shelves sometime in 2015. So if you haven’t heard of the band yet, expect to in the coming months. But until then, definitely try to make it out to see “Made of Stone” on Tuesday.

“Made of Stone” premieres at The Trocadero, located at 1003 Arch St., at 8p.m. Tickets are \$10, and the showing is 21 and over.

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