



CONCERTS

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Michael Schenker's Temple of Rock, Fury U.K. Fuzz, Athens 20/04/2012

"Mickey's" visit in our country with two shows in Athens and Thessaloniki gave his fans chills, and made every rock fan happy and eager to watch the shows and show their respect of he great guitarist. But, unfortunately this wasn't shown on the first show's attendance, which can be described as poor, for such a show, although the venue was changed to a bigger one, and that gave the impression of a lot more people was going to turn up.



FuryUK, who have become regulars in our country, as this was their third appearance here, and they even have a song written about the city of Athens, "Athena", opened the show. They played for 45 minutes and they did a good job, although they had the usually awkward role of the support act, and they were completely metal, while the main event wasn't that heavy... they moved a lot around the stage, they showed passion, and... real fury, and they were playing with the crowd a lot, which is always good. Except from their needless drum solo, they were pretty good.

Setlist: I See Red, Fall From Grace, Alien Skies, Taste The Blood, Athena, Manslaughter, Drum Solo, Call To Arms, Death By Lightning





After a small delay due to technical problems on Michael's pedals, the great guitarist showed up on stage, and you could tell from the very beginning that the guy was happy and in great mood, a fact that would make our expectations for an amazing show rise, but... something was wrong throughout the show. It was Doogie's vocals, who seemed that he was giving an unfair fight against the setlist that included songs from UFO, Scorpions, and MSG, also the crowd didn't seem to get very excited, and finally the band despite the other big names in the lineup (Buchholz, Rarebel) didn't seem to nail the songs. For that last one, I don't know if it's due to the "special" setlist for Greece, or something else, but it was obvious that something was missing... and that wasn't Schenker's performance, who had obviously lost some serious weight, that was amazing. The guy did everything, he moved around a lot, playivvy his guts out on his historical black&white flying V, giving "homework" to all the guitarists who turned up to watch him do his thing. Every time he played a solo there were waves of Goosebumps spread all around the venue and cheers of admiration for a great player who seems that he is in a great shape, and that's the most positive thing about the whole story.



Doogie on the other hand, although he showed signs of passion, and enthusiasm throughout the show he seemed that he couldn't perform the songs the way he should, and I bet he'd wanted to. Sometimes he wasn't even singing, or you couldn't hear what he was singing –that wasn't his fault though!-, while his voice sounded like it wouldn't fit in some of the songs. Where it really did the trick was on "Before The Devil Knows Your Name" from the "Temple Of Rock" album, and in a couple of UFO's. We could find a couple of excuses I guess, like that he had to perform material by different kind of singers (Mogg, Meine, Barden, Bonnet), or that this was the very first show of the tour, but on the other hand White is famous for being a "mission impossible" kind of singer. Maybe, the certain repertoire doesn't fit to his voice that much...



Finally, one other thing that impressed me was the lack of passion from the crowd, which is something rather unusual for a Greek audience. Sure, it was a mix of ages, and rock/metal fans, but at some points it seemed that they didn't know the songs, while they didn't go wild despite the crescendo of UFO, and Scorpions great tunes. The exception was the Greek Scorpions fan club, that gave a powerful presence on the front right, on Schenker's feet. Something happened in the end with "Blackout", but that was near the show's finale! Let's hope that there will be another visit of Schenker's Temple Of Rock in Greece, and hopefully with one of the other lineups, because Doogie was willing, but...

setlist: Into The Arena, Armed And Ready, Lovedriver, Another Piece Of Meat, Cry For The Nations, Let Sleeping Dogs Lie, Coast To Coast, Assault Attack, Before The Devil Knows Your Name, Lights Out, On And On, Let It Roll, Shoot Shoot, Rock You Like A Hurricane, Rock Bottom

Encore: Holiday, Blackout, Doctor Doctor

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