

CLASH/JAM/BUZZCOCKS/SUBWAY SECT/SLITS/ 6

This gig was ages ago now, but I thought that I'd review it anyway, it was so good. I missed the Slits and the Buzzcocks and what I did see of Subway Sect I didn't really like. They have this (contrived?) nervousness which put me off a bit so I only watched them playing one or two numbers, maybe they're too scared in case they become good I dunno. I missed a small bit of The Jam's set because I was in the disco/bar and they don't announce that the next band is coming on, what a place the bar is, the D.J. was playing all sorts of disco dross and all the plastic punks were pogoing to any of the crap that he played, they were just a bunch of posers, it put me off, these are the sort of people that get real new wavers a bad name. Someone shouted that The Jam were on and we all ran downstairs, I'd really been looking forward to seeing them after hearing a superb album. They played a brilliant set comprising of most of if not all of their album except the Batman Theme, which was a bit dissapointing, but what they did play, noone could complain, Paul and Bruce were pogoing about the stage and the crowds were going crazy. Audiences up here seem to go crazy at most new wave acts, probably because we are starved of decent bands and what we do get is well worth waiting for. The Jam encored with "Bricks and Mortar", I think, I had been drinking a lot so nothing is too clear. The curtain fell and the tension mounted waiting for The Clash, so I went back to the bar for a while for some lubrication, which was well needed after the sweat I'd lost watching The Jam. After a few pints I went back down to the main theatre which gave me a short time to observe the kind of audience. It was really mixed, all sorts had turned up to see The Clash mainly, but they all seemed to be enjoying it, which is the main thing I suppose. The shadow of Mick Jones behind the curtain brought up cheers from the crowd who were now well pissed and impatient, but not for long, up went the curtain and the moment we had all been waiting for had arrived, we were ~~XXXXXX~~ actually seeing The Clash, most for the first time. The crazed audience went mad with delight and soon the whole theatre was shaking with pogoers. Joe opened the set by singing "Edinburgh is burning" and burst straight into "London's Burning" a more suitable choice would have been impossible to make, everyone erupted including me so I lost track a bit of what was played after this. The gorillas employed as bouncers were in good/bad form, if you danced in the aisles, they gave you a few warnings, if they seen you in the aisles again, you were out! At one point Joe said "If there are any bouncers listening, they're only dancing" the crowd roared their agreement. The tension dropped a bit when Paul broke a bass string and he took ages trying to fix it, at this point Joe got out a radio and started playing around with the dials and it was obvious that they were going to play "Capital Radio" Bruce Foxtan ("here comes the Rickenbacker kid"- Joe) ran on and lent Paul his bass and they were all set to go again. They played all of the album plus "Pressure Drop", but ~~XXXX~~ I don't think anyone cared what they played because it was utter chaos. It was a gig to remember and The Jam were just as enjoyable as The Clash so everyone was very happy, I hope they come back soon. Later in the dressing rooms, I was too pissed to interview anyone, someone done it for me.

CLASH AND JAM PICS BY WALT DAVIDSON.



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