



Sylvain Sylvain



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100 Club

25/07/13

As with last Friday's gig, if you get a chance to see an old legend take it. We had the choice of seeing the New York Dolls guitarist at the Square at Harlow or at the 100 club. The former venue just seemed right. I do like the club as it is steeped in history and when you think of all the old artists and stars who have trod the boards at this iconic venue, it is a fantastic place to be. I know that some of my mates can't stand it but it was great that night. The other good news, was that with the weather that we have been having it can get stuffy down there but the air con was actually working. As usual we missed the 2 support bands and got there just in time to see the main event. Too much time in the pub, which is strange as the 100 club is one of the few places to do proper beer.

The audience was as you would expect, young people on the grungier side and older people like ourselves (50 odd) who remembered it from back in the day. Not a lot of people in between. Sylvain came on stage and looks very good for someone who is 60ish and has lived the rock and roll life style, wearing his trademark floppy cap and leather waistcoat with a lot of energy, he had Gary Powell, ex Libertines on drums and bassist Jerome Alexandre with him. They were both as you would expect loud, brash and plenty of attitude. The set started with "Cops" and went through all the usual Dolls tracks "Trash" "Pills" (I know it's a Bo Diddley cover but the Dolls made it their own). There was the Velvets "Femme Fatale" Johnnie Thunders "You can't put your arms around a memory." Sylvain's own song "Leaving New York." Everybody had a great time and the best was yet to come as in the encore as he was joined by Punk Rock royalty on stage with a rocking version of "Personality Crisis" ably abetted by the Pistols Glen Matlock on Bass and Clem Burke from Blondie on drums. A fantastic end to a wonderful show. I thought Clem was going to break the drums with the ferocity he was hitting them.

Summing up it was a privilege to be there that night and if you get a chance to see him in a small venue like this, take it, there is so much energy in the atmosphere you wont regret it.

Duncan, July 2013.

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