

Kiss concert rocks all night long

CHRIS RICHTER Staff Writer

In last week's Free Times, there was an article about Kiss, and the author said "Kiss rules."

When I read it I was amused. I know they put on a great show, but these were the guys that, in a way, paved the road for the glam-rockers of the '80s.

Well, it's the day after the show and I've come to the conclusion that Kiss does, in fact, rule. These middle-aged rockers, decked out in white make-up, black spandex and platform boots put on what is, perhaps, the greatest show in rock'n' roll.

Opening the show was another Michigan band, The Verve Pipe. Had it not been for a butchered version of "Strawberry Fields Forever," they would have been forgettable. The Coliseum filled up quickly after the opening band finished. At 8:30 p.m., the curtain fell and the madness began. Explosions in the rafters drove the crowd into a frenzy as the band opened with "Duce." It became evident early that I was one of the few who did not know every word to every song.

I went to the concert wanting to see three things: fire, explosion and blood. Needless to say, I walked away more than satisfied. The band started into "Firehouse" and I knew what was coming up. At the end of the song, a roadie brought a torch to Gene Simmons. Simmons held the torch to his mouth and breathed fire over the front row.

When Simmons began his bass solo, an air of anticipation came over the crowd. About halfway through his performance, he got a deranged look on his face and blood began to trickle out of his mouth. Then the flood gates opened. Blood poured from his mouth, down his chin and onto his chest. He looked as if

he had just devoured some poor, unsuspecting animal. Simmons then walked to the middle of the stage, extended his arms and flew into the lights above the stage, where he landed on a platform situated in the middle of the structure. The rest of the band came on and proceeded to play, appropriately, "God of Thunder."

playing part of Beethoven's Fifth Symphony. Toward the end of his solo, his guitar began to smoke. Sparks and flames spewed from the pick-ups. He continued to play with his guitar flaming.

The greatest show on earth? I don't know about that, but it was pretty close. Reunited for the first time in 16 years, these guys put everything into their concerts including about 500 pounds of explosives, giving the fans exactly what they want.

The three huge television monitors showed the faces of the four members for a few minutes. The crowd grew restless and began to chant "We love Kiss."

The band came back out, and Paul Stanley informed the crowd that there was more to come. They broke into one of their most famous songs, "Detroit Rock City." Everyone went crazy as Stanley strutted, and Simmons stomped, across the stage. The lights went out and two spotlights shined on a stool standing in the middle of the stage. Peter Criss, the drummer, came out and performed "Beth," a ballad that turned out to be the only down note of the night.

The final song of the night was what Paul Stanley described as the anthem of the Kiss nation: "Rock 'N Roll All Nite." This was the song I had been waiting for all night, not only because it is great, but also because it is the only one in which I know all of the words. Simmons growled the lyrics as only he can, and Stanley's Pete Townsend-ish destruction of his guitar capped off an outstanding show.

The greatest show on earth? I don't know about that, but it was pretty close. Reunited for the first time in 16 years, these guys put everything into their concerts, including about 500 pounds of explosives, giving the fans exactly what they want. One shot, defining the fans' devotion, showed a female fan clutching an old Kiss lunchbox as if it were a family heirloom. The fans love Kiss and the band plays to satisfy.

Before the concert started, The Who's "Won't Get Fooled Again" was playing over the sound system. One line in it goes: "Meet the new boss/Same as the old boss." Kiss was the boss in the '70s, and still rules in the '90s.

Suddenly, the guitar left his hands, flew into the rafters and disappeared. Frehley played the rest of the show with a guitar that had lights reminiscent of the Las Vegas Strip. The band left the stage at about 10 p.m., but they were far from through.

Guitarist Ace Frehley also provided the Kiss faithful with excitement during his solo. He began with a change of pace,



Carolina culture



Carolina Culture

USC School of Music

- Spotlight on the Little Orchestra, Oct. 10, 7:30 p.m. Concert will be held in the Koger Center. Tickets available at the Carolina Coliseum box office, or by calling 251-2222.
- Pianist Leon Bates and full orchestra, Oct. 22, 7:30 p.m. Concert will be held in the Koger Center.. Tickets available at the Carolina Coliseum box office, or by calling 251-2222.
- University Chorus, Oct. 17, 7:30 p.m. Trenholm Road United Methodist Church.
- Faculty artist series—Bert Ligon Trio, Oct. 7, 7:30 p.m., School of Music Recital Hall.
- Faculty artist series—Constance Lane, flute, Oct. 7, 7:30 p.m., School of Music Recital Hall. Call 777-4280 for more details.
- Faculty artist series—Stellar Jazz, Oct. 24, 7:30 p.m., School of Music Recital Hall. Call 777-4280 for more details.
- Faculty artist series—Ron Davis, tuba, Oct. 28, 7:30 p.m., School of Music Recital Hall. Call 777-4280 for more details.

- Acoustic concert on the Horseshoe, Oct. 15. Tickets cost \$2 for members and \$4 for non-members. Call 777-7251 for more details.
- "Colonial Autumnal Traditions," Oct. 15. Participants will learn about fall colonial traditions.

Koger Center

- "Roger Whittaker," Oct. 3, 7:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$22.50 for adults, \$17.50 for students.
- "Jimmy Dorsey Orchestra," Oct. 11, 8 p.m. Tickets cost \$14.50 for adults, \$10 for students.
- "Peter Pan and Other Works," Oct. 18-19. Tickets cost \$10 for senior citizens, military and USC faculty and staff; and \$8 for students. Call 777-9353 for more details.
- "Grease," Oct. 26-27, 8 p.m. (Saturday) and 7:30 p.m. (Sunday). Tickets cost \$30 and \$28.

Drayton Hall

- "A Taste of Honey," Oct. 31-Nov.10, 8 p.m. Tickets available at the Longstreet Theater box office.

McKissick Museum

- Muses Night Out, Wednesdays at 8 p.m. and 10 p.m. These cultural arts programs are free and include light refreshments.
- "Jonathan Green Dinner," Oct. 4, 6:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$50.. Reservations only.
- "Jonathan Green Lecture and Book Signing," Oct. 5, 3 p.m. until 6 p.m.

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