

“No More? Patton & Co.'s Last Hurrah at the Palladium”

by Michael DePalma

Word Count: 1133 with setlist, 927 without

Faith No More's two-night U.S. farewell at the Hollywood Palladium in Los Angeles on Nov. 30 and Dec. 1 was emceed by a midget. It featured opening performances by a dancing magician, a full Mariachi band, and a monster mask-clad punk band who were book-ended on stage by go-go dancers. So it was all business as usual for this highly influential and eclectic band calling it quits.

At 3'10," emcee Selene Luna took the stage each night in a marijuana leaf costume. She ranted about Proposition 19 and height jokes before giving way to Robert Zabrecky, an LA-based magician who is a frequent performer at the Magic Castle in Hollywood. A trick of cutting folded paper to spell out “Faith No More” drew cheers from the crowd.

Tuesday’s opener, The Creepy Creeps, came out in a smoky haze, adorned in vintage blue tuxedos and monster masks. Their throwback sound suggested a 60's surf rock sensibility in a Misfits package, complete with heavy classic rock organ and go-go dancer flash. Their punk energy was undeniable, but the tempo never seemed to change. As singer Dr. Creepenstein introduced each subsequent number, comments like “And it will sound just like the last song” could be heard throughout the throngs.

Wednesday’s opener, Mariachi Los Toros, fared much better, and even they were surprised by their warm reception. The crowd responded to their virtuoso fiddle and guitar playing, shouting along to the traditional Mariachi wails. Quartet Redd Kross came out to a less enthusiastic audience, who by then were growing impatient for their glimpse of Mike Patton and company.

Patton was in rare form both evenings, exhibiting a frenetic presence to rival his performances at the San Francisco shows last April. He held the crowd rapt as the band plowed into a varied setlist with some pleasant surprises. Bassist Billy Gould and keyboardist Roddy Bottum attacked their instruments with the desperation of lovers soon to be parted, while guitarist Jon Hudson's calm demeanor and drummer Mike Bordin's steady rhythms anchored the sound.

## **Night One**

Standby opener of the tour “Reunited” got cheers and a cigarette-lighter sway. Then the floor erupted into moshing madness at the first sounds of “From Out of Nowhere.” Surprise Number One of the night was delivered as Bottum's keyboard introduced the first performance of “Everything's Ruined” in over a decade.

Faith No More kept the crowd on its toes, changing up the tempo from the driving “Caffeine” to the funky “Evidence,” or switching effortlessly from the storming thump of “Cuckoo for Caca,” into the band's signature Commodores' cover “Easy.”

For the first encore, “Helpless” was dusted off the shelf. The band's mash-up of the “Chariots of Fire” theme segueing into “Stripsearch” followed, before Patton conducted the crowd into the opening notes of “Spirit.” Some teasing ensued when Bottum couldn't remember from which of their early records the track was taken. “It was off your second record, Roddy. I know. I was a fan,” Patton deadpanned.

The band left the stage after a second encore that included Burt Bacharach cover “This Guy's in Love With You.” Actor Danny DeVito, a friend of Patton's, casually waltzed across the stage during the song for a surreal close to the evening.

## **Night Two**

Faith No More pulled out all the stops for their final night, complete with special guests and audience participation. The previous night's opening number “Reunited” was replaced by a pulsating “Pills for Breakfast” instrumental which flowed directly into “Be Aggressive.”

Patton's megaphone came out to play for “Land of Sunshine,” but the crowd got really excited a few songs later when guitarist Hudson rang in the first chords of “Got That Feeling,” a manic surf-rock-influenced piece that had been as underplayed on the reunion tour as the previous night's “Everything's Ruined.”

The band's cover of “Ben,” which was first played on the second night of their San Francisco homecoming, slowed things down before the guitar-driven “Ashes to Ashes” whipped the crowd back into a frenzy.

“Midlife Crisis” kept the intensity going, but must have gotten drummer Bordin over excited. As he left to use the restroom, Patton teased that the audience would be swayed. “They're gonna turn on you man.” A fan was invited to come onstage

and play the drums for a few seconds, and the band pretended to break into “Spirit.” “Hey, give it up for Rich,” Patton shouted, unaware that Tool drummer Danny Carey had crept up behind him to say a quick hello.

A cover of the Manhattan's “Kiss and Say Goodbye” closed out the main set. It was an emotional piece in light of the band's insistence that this was their final U.S. show together. The Palladium faithful wouldn't let the night end there.

Encore number one featured a reunion of sorts, as the band Sparks came out for a collaborative “This Town Ain't Big Enough for the Both of Us,” complete with one-time Faith No More member Dean Menta on guitar. Menta stayed out for the next track “Digging the Grave.”

Perennial favorite “We Care a Lot” started the second encore, which ended with “Pristina.” Whether a result of two nights of intensity -- or some emotion getting the better of him -- Patton's vocals suffered a bit. He remained no less engaging as he dove into the crowd at the song's conclusion.

Everyone on the floor veered left to keep Patton on the wave, perhaps literally and figuratively getting their last grasp of him with this band. Once helped back to the stage, Patton and company took their leave for good.

### **Setlist, Tuesday, Nov. 30th, 2010:**

- Reunited (Peaches and Herb cover)
- From Out of Nowhere
- Everything's Ruined
- Caffeine
- Evidence
- Surprise, You're Dead
- Chinese Arithmetic (with “Poker Face” Lady Gaga cover)
- Last Cup of Sorrow
- Cuckoo for Caca
- Easy (Commodores cover)
- Midlife Crisis
- Gentle Art of Making Enemies
- I Started a Joke (Bee Gee's cover)
- Epic

- Ashes to Ashes
- Just a Man

*Encore 1*

- Helpless
- Chariots of Fire/Stripsearch
- Spirit

*Encore 2*

- We Care a Lot
- This Guy's in Love With You (Burt Bacharach cover)

**Setlist, Wednesday, Dec. 1st, 2010:**

- Pills for Breakfast
- Be Aggressive
- Land of Sunshine
- Everything's Ruined
- Evidence
- Got That Feeling
- Last Cup of Sorrow
- Helpless
- Cuckoo for Caca
- Ben (Jackson Five cover)
- Ashes to Ashes
- Midlife Crisis (with "Sir Duke" interlude)
- Spirit
- King for a Day
- Epic
- Kiss and Say Goodbye (Manhattans cover)

*Encore 1*

- This Town Ain't Big Enough for the Both of Us  
(with Sparks and Dean Menta)
- Digging the Grave (Dean Menta on guitar)

*Encore 2*

- We Care a Lot
- Pristina