

KoRn, family give Philadelphia new concept of values

By Jesse Gutierrez
Staff Writer

When I say family values, what do you think? Church on Sundays, respect your elders, Thanksgiving at grandma's? Well, not any more! When I say family values, I'm talking about Orgy, Rammstein, Ice Cube, Limp Bizkit and KoRn. On Sept. 26 at the First Union Spectrum in Philadelphia, 15,000-plus gathered to witness, in my opinion, the best tour ever put together.

Promptly at 7:00 p.m., Orgy took the stage. Their hard-core sound definitely gave the crowd a good warming up. Ten minutes after that, Limp Bizkit took over. The curtains opened to reveal a flying saucer that had



Photo by Jesse Gutierrez
Rammstein's lead singer brings new meaning to the term "en fuego."

apparently crash landed on the set. But have no fear, no one was hurt. When the hatch opened the band made their way on to the stage. These aliens did no anal probing. No sir, they fed the crowd with what they wanted. "Counterfeit", "Nobody Loves Me", "Stuck" and of course their version of "Faith" were cranked. Along with songs from Three Dollar Bill, Yall\$, Fred Durst and his crew covered an old Ministry track, "Thieves."

Before the crowd had time to catch their

breath, Ice Cube, accompanied with a half dozen grim reapers, pumped up the crowd. He didn't miss a bass-thumping beat. People were more than satisfied with his performance. Just when you thought it was over . . . it wasn't. Believe it or not he covered tracks from his old crew, NWA, by rocking the mike with "Straight Outta Compton" and "F**k the Police." I was surprised to see the building still standing when it was all done.

Shortly after, Germany's Rammstein was up. I'll tell you this much, you don't need to

be a fan to be knocked off your feet by these guys. About two minutes into the first song, the man on the microphone burst into flames. As if that wasn't enough, streams of sparks sprayed from his boots,

while lasers shot from the stage soared above the crowd.

That leaves one more band . . . room for five more dudes. Jonathan Davis, Fieldy Snuts, Munky, Head and David . . . better known as KoRn. I don't have the words. These guys were so amped, so intense. There was no turning back. Opening with "It's On!", they never stopped. They covered all their bases. Along with "Got the Life", "Dead Bodies Everywhere", "BBK" and "Justin." Ice

Cube joined them on stage as well to perform "Children of the KoRn." Fans of classic KoRn were not deprived either as the band ripped up the stage with "Twist", "Blind", "Ball Tongue", "Faget" and "Shoots and Ladders" (Yes, Jonathan was on the bagpipes).

The end of the show was, without a doubt, something every individual should witness before they go to their boring grave. After exiting,

the stage went into motion. It slowly spun around. To reveal what? To reveal both KoRn and Limp Bizkit -- all of them, on one stage at the same time! Together, they closed the show with "All in the Family", a back and fourth rage session between Fred Durst and Jonathan Davis.

The KoRn Family Values Tour is still on the road, with more dates to be announced.



Photo by Jesse Gutierrez
KoRn's bass player Fieldy Snuts rips through their set.

Fuel show hits home crowd

By Victor Viser
For The CapTimes

Fuel has one of those names that seems to have been developed by recording company A&R people to facilitate use of the cliché in concert reviews. For example, "Fuel was on fire" or "Fuel ignited the crowd" or "Fuel burned down the house." Well not me. No siree, you won't find this reviewer falling prey to the easy literary out. Rather, let me

say the Fuel/Badlee's concert Sept. 16 at the York Fair, was a spirited exhibition of youth dynamism accentuated by Shellyian (Percy) lyrics and lofty chorale movements and an appreciating, if not ebullient, audience of 2,500 obviously loyal aficionados. Take that you A&R guys.

Fuel, which calls Harrisburg it's home, made a return to this area after a successful concert tour, and just days after their hit album, Sunburn, was certified gold for sales over 500,000 units. And what a show this was. Whereas many acts who perform in the outdoor environs of the York Fairgrounds are usually operating on an uninspired autopilot (most geriatric-rock acts are notorious for this), Fuel's performance was anything but paint-by-the-numbers. And from my vantage at ground zero in the mosh-pit, this event was a longtime coming for the concert-disadvantaged Yorkians.

To be sure, they played their hits, but it was the performance of their less known B-side works that carried the night. In works such as "Walk the Sky", "Sunburn", and "Jesus or Gun", Fuel exhibited their unique brand of balladeer-punk stylistics. Until you've seen and heard singer/guitarist Brett Scallions in concert, it is truly hard to believe anyone could ever vocally control the punk-scream for pop-culture ears — yet he does it with remarkable skill. And what Scallions lacks in charisma, he makes up for in a refreshing

sincerity, almost bordering on politeness, which directly connects with his no-frills-just-give-me-the-music audience.

However, when guitarist Carl Bell announced with the kinetic fretting of his guitar, the familiar radio-play tunes such as "Bittersweet", "Shimmer", and, especially "Mary Pretends", this sonic youth crowd moved as one mass, giving themselves over to the group and allowing the rhythm to permeate their souls. Yes, these are the *sonic youth* in a very real sense. And Fuel responded filling each and every work with attention to detail that was at once immediately engaging and fluidly dynamic. There is no doubt, Bell draws influence from the great concert guitarists of the '60s and '70s -- Page, Townsend, Trower and especially, I would venture to say, Lifeson of Rush.

Along with the substantial and precise bottom rhythm provided by bassist Jeff Abercrombie and drummer Kevin Miller, Scallions and Bell moved through a repertoire of Fuel club hits, including "Ozone", "Song for You", and "Hideaway", as well as a couple of untitled tunes, all leading to their encore — a frenetic, double-time rendition of the Beatles', "Revolution".

But this was not the first Beatles' tune of the night. For the opening act, the Badlee's (too bad about their record company fiasco), after their own inspired performance of hits and works, played the Beatles', "When the Rain Comes", as their own encore. I must say, while Fuel's Beatles was great to see, the Badlee's Beatles was even better to hear.

Imagine. Two Beatles tunes by two popular bands in the same concert. Are we post-modern, or what? More about the socio-ritualistic masculine mosh-pit culture in another installment.

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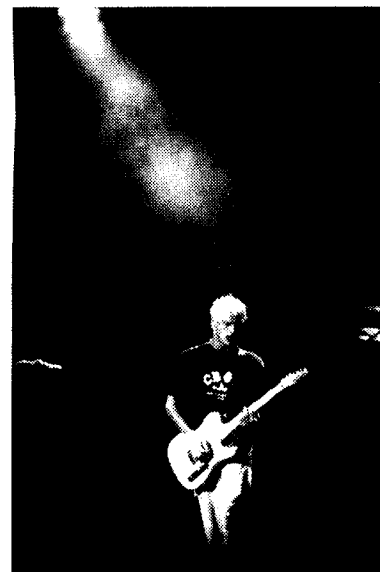


Photo by Victor Viser
Fuel guitarist and vocalist, Brett Scallions, puts on a show for the York Fair concert crowd.

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