



Bills fans can SCORE BIG with Time Warner C

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An incredible night of true rock 'n' roll

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Getty Images file photo
The Black Rebel Motorcycle Club
"adrenalized" rock fans who caught the act
Tuesday at the Tralf.

If you take the stage dramatically while Jim Morrison and the Doors are howling out the tribal beauty of "My Wild Love," you'd better have brought you're A game. Particularly if you've grabbed your band's moniker from the name of Marlon Brando's biker gang in the rock 'n' roll-encouraging "The Wild Bunch."

Talk about summoning some icons to herald your arrival.

As it turned out, living up to such lofty standards was not a problem for The Black Rebel Motorcycle Club — for my money, the only true rock 'n' roll band to have emerged into the popular consciousness in the last 10 years.

The Tralf was the spot, the heat was unbearable and — man it was nice to participate in a genuine, sweaty, incredibly loud and integrity-fueled rock show in this city again.

It has certainly been a while. Yeah, we've had some cool stuff. But nothing dangerous, nothing that seemed to be touched by the same wand as — oh, you know, the Velvet Underground, the Doors, the Jesus and Mary Chain, Chris Whitley or the Clash.

Yes, I'm dropping names all over the joint, but I'm inspired as I write this, full of the thinly veiled adrenaline that must've touched people the first time they heard Elvis, the Beatles, the VU the Patti Smith Group, Television, or — hate me for this if you will — Black Sabbath.

Not that I'm comparing BMRC to any of them, because that would be both foolish and cheesy. But that moment when you realize that you're experiencing the genuine article, that particular little subdivision of time when you know you've heard the amplified audio version of the truth — well, that's a moment to savor. And it's also a moment to summon all the rock heroes of your past, to welcome them to the party, in a sense. Surely, so many of my heroes would've dug what BMRC did Tuesday night.

The group — guitarist/vocalist Peter Hayes, bassist/guitarist/ pianist/vocalist Robert “Levon Been” Turner and drummer Nick Jago — has managed to pack into its sound smart, astute encapsulations of every decade during which rock has mattered — the '60s, '70s, '80s and '90s. (Yes, I left out this present decade. I guess, with bands like BMRC's help, I'll be able to stop doing that soon. Maybe.)

The group took the stage amid smoke and cool, subtle lighting effects, and fired into the bluesy swank of “Took Out a Loan,” a song that immediately summons the sex and sensuality of the blues, and rams it through a filter of the Manchester rock that produced bands like the Stone Roses and, to a lesser degree, Oasis.

These guys aren't hopping trends, past or present, however. They're blasting away the calcified self-indulgence of post- Nirvana corporate rock, mostly by reminding us that being polite and making “professionalsounding” records is what squares do.

So we were granted “Berlin,” a noise fest, and then a set that included “Weapon of Choice,” from the group's debut, “Whatever Happened To My Rock & Roll,” and later, the acousticbased, open-tuned blues-folk number “Ain't No Easy Way,” from the group's brilliant left turn, “Howl.”

The standout was certainly Haynes' absolutely astounding psychosexual take on “666 Conducer,” a tune centered on a riff that is worthy progeny of Led Zeppelin's “Black Dog.”

This was an incredible show. You should've been there.

Concert Review

Black Rebel Motorcycle Club

Tuesday night at the Tralf.

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