

IRON MAIDEN 4 LIFE

By Dave Pankew, Tuesday, 18 March 2008

First off, if you have never heard of Iron Maiden or only have slow jams on your MP3 player ... log off and think about how wack you are. Iron Maiden has probably been rocking steady for longer than you have been alive. These 50-56 yr old rockstars have been murdering stages worldwide for 35 years and we got an invite from our Loyal Advertizers Kinetik to go see them. "We flew up to Toronto to do a car show but the real motivation was to see Bon Jovi and Iron Maiden at two different concerts up there!" says Kinetik President, Pat Szeman.

And as if the skies opened up and it was some divine signal from heaven, as we were driving by the airport I look up and start screaming "Iron Maiden, Iron Maiden" Mark the Editor is riding shotgun and looks at me to see whats wrong. I just pointed up and there it was...the sickest tour plane ever built 'Ed Force One' a massive 757 airliner with the 'IRON MAIDEN' scrawled across it. And check this, it is flown by the lead singer, Bruce Dickinson who is a licensed pilot! Thats dirty!

After a long 3 days at the Performance World Show held at the International Centre we all piled in my 740 and hit the freeway at mach speeds. Pat and Rich from Kinetik were amped, they had been talkin' about the show for weeks and bought tickets as soon as they went online. Some how we scored good seats in the 100 level to the left of the stage despite the fact that that level and floors were SOLD OUT IN 15 MINUTES!

The crowd there was hardcore, we saw loads of custom embroidered IRON MAIDEN leather jackets, original concert Ts and dozens of tattoos of some of their legendary album covers. The range in the crowd was definitely huge, I'm talking floating somewhere between 14-65 and can't recall seeing anything that diverse. No matter what color or status you were at a show, like this if you were ready to wil'out and do some headbanging you were welcome. There were Investment Banker looking guys there sporting slacks and Prada shoes but rocking orginal concert Ts, indicating these guys just got off work 12 hours at the bank!

Show starts, and Maiden is rocking heavy. They all look the same, still rockstar skinny with long hair and sleeveless T's. Few more lines and bags but man they rocked out, especailly the the soon-to-be 50 year old lead singer Bruce Dickinson who was killin' it with scissors after jumping off a row of monitors, running around a 20 foot high platform busting sick moves for each side of the sold-out crowd. After some face-melting classics, Maiden pulls a bunch of headbangers on stage to mosh and freak out, some of the hardcore metalers were actually headbutting each other. But topping that was when their 20-foot tall mascot Eddie pops onstage and cruises around shooting laser beams and smoke from his hands and there was almost a riot. Which we are sad to say didn't happen.

The crowd was bananas and the whole place smelled like the chronic. Maiden did some encores bringing the show to almost three hours of serious head-pounding metal. Dickinson announced that a documentary film crew was in Toronto to film some of the madness and that this venue rocked so hard they will be back in the summer based on the energy and all that bank they made.

After the show the PAS and Kinetik crew went to keep it rolling at a nearby bar which was packed with Maiden fans. Some drove 17 hours from Missouri, saw the show and were driving back. Others flew 5 hours and some even from Europe catching this final date on the tour.