



Great British Rock and Blues Festival 27-29 January 2012 Skegness

Gallery



Presents

Deborah Bonham

Artist: Deborah Bonham

Reviewer: Kevin Cooper

Having been fortunate enough to see the late John Bonham with Led Zeppelin at Knebworth way back in 1979, his son, Jason drumming for Paul Rodgers and more recently Black Country Communion, I was pleased to be able to complete the "Bonham Trilogy" and see Deborah Bonham perform in her own right with her own set list and with her own band.

No matter what you think of Deborah Bonham's music, as soon as she takes to the stage (barefoot) the one thing that you notice is that she has great presence. She takes centre stage and all eyes are drawn to her.

She began with "Shit Happens" and "What We've Got" which were quickly followed by the new song, "I Need Love". She then delved back into what is my favourite album "Duchess" to give us rousing renditions of "Jack Past 8", "Pretty Thing" and "If You Had A Little Love".

Taking the time to catch her breathe, she warmly thanked the crowd for their appreciation and proceeded to perform three new songs, "Killing Fields", "Painbirds" and "Feel So Alive". If the rest of the new album is as good as the four tracks performed I for one can't wait to get hold of a copy.

"Duchess And The Shufflemeister" was to be the last track pulled from the "Duchess" album and then it was back to 2004 and into "The Old Hyde" the album being named after the family's Old Hyde estate where Deborah had lived and grown up as a child.

It must be said that by this time Deborah's voice was sounding splendid, sometimes soulful, sometimes rock-filled and sometimes Bluesy. "No Angel", "Devil's In New Orleans" and "The Old Hyde" were all perfectly delivered, as they echoed around the hall to a crowd eager to hear every word.

After 70 minutes the crowd had been treated to a strong set list which combined songs from her previous two studio releases; together with 4 new songs, and a truly rousing finale, a cover of Led Zeppelin's "Rock'n'Roll" which almost brought the house down. This was a truly remarkable end to a truly remarkable performance.

Whenever I think of great British Female singers, I think of Maggie Bell, Dusty Springfield and Elkie Brooks. From now on I will be adding Deborah Bonham to that list and I can't wait to see her perform again.