



MONSTERS OF ROCK

***** JUNE 3RD 2006 @ MILTON KEYNES BOWL
DEEP PURPLE, ALICE COOPER
JOURNEY, THUNDER, QUEENSRYCHE, TED
NUGENT, + ROADSTAR*****

The line-up for *Monsters of Rock*, the legendary one-day hard rock festival taking place at Milton Keynes National Bowl on June 3rd, has now been finalised. The readers of Classic Rock Magazine, who are co-sponsoring the event with Planet Rock Radio, have voted Roadstar, (formerly Hurricane Party) onto the bill as opening act.

Tickets, priced £38.50, are on sale from all usual agents, and via credit card on 0870 400 0688 or from www.getLIVE.co.uk. Doors open at 11.30am.

Monsters Of Rock 2006, promoted by Live Nation, marks the welcome return of the Daddy of all one-day Heavy Metal festivals to the rock music calendar. While hard rock has never gone away, it has to be said that interest in heavy music's glorious heritage has never been more intense, with new young rock fans eager to check out legendary colourful giants of hard rock and heavy metal such as Deep Purple, Alice Cooper, Journey, Thunder, Queensryche and Ted Nugent.

Monsters Of Rock was born in 1980 on the crest of the New Wave Of British Heavy Metal, and is synonymous with the very cream of hard rock and heavy metal. Acts such as AC/DC, Aerosmith, Bon Jovi, Def Leppard, Dio, Guns N' Roses, Iron Maiden, Kiss, Metallica, Motorhead, Ozzy Osbourne, Rainbow, Status Quo, Van Halen, Whitesnake and ZZ Top have all graced the Monsters' stage over the years.

Monsters Of Rock 2006 headliners Deep Purple - the self-proclaimed 'heaviest of heavy rock bands' - are currently being hugely lauded for their latest, 2005 studio album, 'Rapture Of The Deep' and have just sold out a massive Arena tour of Europe. At the end of April Deep Purple set off on a month long Australian and Japanese tour before returning to the UK to play *Monsters of Rock*.

Ian Gillan comments that "For Deep Purple to headline the return of the mighty *Monsters of Rock* Festival in 2006 is somewhat appropriate, as this brings two venerable giants of hard rock together for the first time. I have great memories of playing the *Monsters of Rock* as a solo artist back in 1982, and am very much looking forward to Deep Purple's debut appearance."

Alice Cooper's 2005 'Dirty Diamonds' album received rave reviews on release last Autumn, and he subsequently sold out a massive UK Arena tour in November 2005. The Alice Cooper band fly in to the UK for *Monsters of Rock* after a 12 date tour of Canada.

The opening lines of his official biography on alicecooper.com say it all:- "30 albums and some of the most famous rock songs ever recorded, you'd think Alice Cooper's demons would've been conquered by now—or maybe locked in a cage and fed undercooked meat. But the man who changed the course of rock music in the '70s with bloody guillotines, sparking electric chairs, slimy boa constrictors, and a little blood and eyeliner still has more

to slay in 2006. Alice Cooper is master at re-inventing himself, shedding his skin like one of his snakes to become everything from a mascara'd grave robber to a leather-wrapped street hooligan, a film noir detective, insane asylum honor student, and nihilistic dada-ist."

Classic Rock Magazine's Jerry Ewing reviewed Deep Purple and Alice Cooper's co-headline German tour at the Munich Olympiahalle on February 18th in the current, May 2006 issue, giving us a tantalizing taste of what can be expected on June 3rd:-

"Given what he's used to these days, Alice Cooper must feel like he's had to squeeze his production onto the stage tonight, appearing as Special Guest to headliners Deep Purple, even though the stage at the Olympiahalle is by no means small. Alice won't disappoint his legion of fans, and despite the fact that he's not headlining, they get everything he's got. So along with a super-tight band, and Alice's 25-year-old, B-Movie actress daughter Calico on whips and chains, there are all the props and paraphernalia that make up Cooper's current stage show. Not that lack of space affects the current performance. This is the second Cooper show I've seen on the Dirty Diamonds tour, and although he's been good on other occasions I don't think I've ever seen him this on fire before.

Tonight the Olympiahalle is packed with 12,000 rockers eager for anything that Purple have to offer. With their headline slot at the eagerly anticipated Monsters Of Rock Festival in the UK this summer, a new album selling more than they have for a considerable time and a whole new audience, Deep Purple are on the up again. This is evident from the time they take to the stage. An impressive blaze of lights announces the arrival of the band, and opener 'Highway Star' works perfectly to set the show in context. Much of the first half is given over to material from their new album 'Rapture Of The Deep'. It's mature heavy rock that you sense enables Purple to ease their way towards the expected classics that everyone is waiting for. Equally apparent is how well guitarist Steve Morse and keyboard player Don Airey have settled into the band. Airey's spectacular keyboard solo is a major highlight, another is when Morse is joined by Alice Cooper guitarists Ryan Roxie and Damon Johnson at the end of the show and they toy around playing the opening snippets of a host of classic rock songs, before ending with Purple's own signature tune, 'Smoke On The Water.'

JOURNEY, will be performing live in the UK for the first time in 26 years since playing a sold out, packed-to-the-rafters gig at the now defunct 3,000 capacity Rainbow in Finsbury Park on September 22nd 1980. Journey are arguably the biggest AOR (Adult Oriented Rock) band of all time, having scored numerous top ten US singles and sold over 75 million albums since their inception in 1973.

Journey, formed by former Santana guitarist Neil Schon in 1973, were honoured with the 2,275th Star on the Hollywood Walk Of Fame on January 21st, 2005 which will forever be known now as 'Journey Day', as declared by Hollywood's Mayor Johnny Grant. Their latest album, 'Generations', was released by Frontiers Records in the UK last August.

"As Journey albums go, this is as heavy as they have sounded in many a year. In fact, not since 'Frontiers' have Journey sounded as varied and as heavy as they do on 'Generations'. It's also the best album they've made since 'Raised on Radio' and, as AOR albums go, this is the big one. This is the album of the year and make no mistake. 10/10" wrote Rob Evans in Powerplay Magazine's September 2005 issue.

THUNDER, one of Britain's most popular Hard Rock acts, whose blues tinged star has been on the up and up over the last few years, have been confirmed fourth on the bill, sixteen years after they first played Monsters of Rock in 1990. "Am I looking forward to playing at Monsters again? F**k Yeah! Absolutely" says Singer Danny Bowes, continuing "We got a fabulous kick-up when we played Monsters Of Rock in 1990, there was such an incredible collective release of energy and adrenaline when we got on stage. And we are an even better band now!!!"

Thunder have scored 17 top 40 UK chart singles since their 'Dirty Love' debut in 1990 on EMI. Thunder's most recent hit, 'I Love You More Than Rock 'N' Roll', which charted at 27 in November 2004, was the first to be released by the band themselves *on their own label*. Thunder's last studio album, 'The Magnificent Seventh', was also the first to be released on their own STC Recordings label, in 2005. They came up with a blinder.

"For their seventh album, Thunder's pursuit of cool remains the same lazy saunter as ever. Quite patently, this is a band that stopped trying to impress media twats a long time ago. As always, their emphasis remains on well-crafted hooks, good-time lyrics and songs so honest you'd trust them to babysit the kids. Danny Bowes is still a powerhouse vocalist and band lynchpin Luke Morley has delivered arguably his most solid set of songs for years. For honest-to-goodness rock'n'roll played with finesse and balls, Thunder take some beating." Henry Yates – Classic Rock Magazine March 2005.

Queensryche release a brand new studio album, 'Operation Mindcrime II', the follow up to 1988's three million selling breakthrough concept 'Operation Mindcrime' opus, on Rhino Records on April 10th. Commenting on why the band chose to return to 'Operation Mindcrime' again now, singer Geoff Tate says that 'Considering where we are in our society today and how little things have changed since the late 1980's, it was too ironic not to continue the story. We've entered this brave new world where everything feels the same, but it is really worse.'

Queensryche were formed in 1982, their embryonic sound given an immediately distinctive vocal edge by Geoff Tate, who had studied opera but turned to hard rock because of the lyrical freedom it offered. After 1984's 'Warning' and 1986's 'Rage For Order' albums, their Gorge Orwell inspired 'Operation Mindcrime' concept album lifted Queensryche into rock's stratosphere.

TED NUGENT, the larger-than-life survivalist hard rocker, who lists his vital stats as '6'3", 180 lbs., hazel eyes, lots of hair, surplus attitude and energy' on his official tednugent.com site, is making a very rare appearance on the UK live stage. His last, heaving, sold out Astoria gig in June 2002, was his first UK concert for more than a decade.

Ted Nugent, the number one guitar showman extraordinaire, has sold over 30 million albums to date and his 2005 US tour set attendance records at venues nationwide. Former Damn Yankees man Ted is the best selling author of books like 'God, Guns & Rock-N-Roll', and 'Kill It And Grill It', and is a regular columnist and contributor to over 40 publications.

Ted Nugent has surfed the rollercoaster of rock as a solo artist for over thirty years now. His 19th studio album, 'Craveman' was released in 2002; "'Craveman' proves the Nuge proves can still churn out likeable, loutish lyrics with unwavering energy and conviction. Ultimately, they're as earthy, powerful, and primal as the macho man who's created them" said Amazon.com. "His fiercest effort in decades, and certainly his heaviest ever. Having realized that any attempt at subtlety or grace would be a waste of his precious hunting time, even "Damned if You Do," which sees him reunited with former Damn Yankees bandmates Tommy Shaw and Jack Blades, is surprisingly ballsy and un-cheesy" wrote artistdirect.com.

www.monstersofrock.co.uk

www.deep-purple.com

www.alicecooper.com

www.journeymusic.com

www.thunderonline.com

www.queensryche.com

www.tednugent.com

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