

KILL 'EM ALL FOR ONE TOUR REVIEW

This summer saw the joint RAVEN/METALLICA "Kill 'Em All For One" Tour winding its way across America, leaving smashed craniums and snapped necks in its wake. Kicking off in New Brunswick, N.J. on July 27th, the tour concluded September 3rd in San Francisco. Highlights of the tour include a wild show in Chicago on August 13th where, with video cameras rolling, METALLICA's Kirk Hamett lost his guitar in a tug-of-war with some overzealous fans (The instrument was later recovered by roadies)! Texas, despite sweltering heat, was also named as a "happening" tour stop (especially Austin).

On the other side of the coin, the low point was unanimously charged to be when the Metal entourage trekked through the bleak and hostile redneck strongholds of Arkansas and Oklahoma. The bands were booked into halls ranging from 14,000 seat convention centers to huge barns in the middle of "Pastureland U.S.A.", with barely a hundred or so people turning up for the shows. Maybe the two Metal bands should have hooked up with WAYLON & WILLIE for this part of the country (Imagine the jamming version of "On The Road Again" they could've done! Yee-Haw!)

At last though, their arduous journey brought them to California. Following a one night stand at the Country Club in L.A. on August 30th, their dirt and dust encrusted U-Hauls, with "No Life 'Til 'Frisco" scrawled on the sides, pulled into the Bay Area for the final three dates of the tour. Needless to say, the "Bay Bangers" turned out en masse for these, the heaviest shows of the year.

Palo Alto, the poser center of Northern California (where they think headbanging is when you hit a toilet with a hammer), was the sight of the first night's thrash session. In keeping with its "beat off" tradition, the folks at the Keystone Palo Alto refused to let the bands use their PA system (which they had been dragging along with them all the way from New Jersey) and also told them the volume level had to be kept down so as not to disturb the neighbors!

METALLICA's problems began almost as soon as they hit the stage.

During the opener "Hit The Lights" some degenerate moron in the front row used a knife to slash the patch cord leading from Kirk Hamett's effects board, causing his guitar and amp to fall silent. With the song finished, Kirk threw the axe down in disgust and walked off stage, and at the same moment, half of Lars Ulrich's cymbals inexplicably fell over.

As can be guessed, these mishaps created quite an awkward delay. James Hetfield and Cliff Burton did their best to amuse the crowd as the roadies scampered about trying to piece everything back together. After around ten minutes of this chaos, METALLICA were able to continue and at once stormed through a vicious assault on the senses with "The Four Horsemen", the instrumental "When Hell Freezes Over" that segued into "Phantom Lord", "Seek & Destroy", "Metal Militia", and the set closing "Whiplash" (with the "Pulling Teeth" bass intro).

For reasons unknown (even to the band), "No Remorse" was left out of the set tonight, but "Motorbreath" served as the band's encore. Also as part of the curtain call, Kirk Hamett (who was making his debut Bay Area appearance with METALLICA) performed a great solo spot, complete with smoking amps and Blackmore-style guitar treatment.

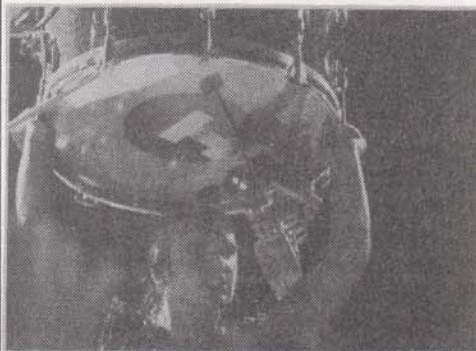
Despite the problems and the typically lackluster South Bay crowd (Barely a dozen "real" bangers thrashing about; the other couple of hundred punters spent most of the time sitting on their hands wondering what those dozen maniacs were doing.), METALLICA delivered a deadly set and it was great to see 'em onstage again after six months! While it definitely wasn't the smoothest METALLICA show ever, it certainly was an ominous prelude to the aural destruction of the next two nights!

RAVEN put on an excellent performance in "Poser" Alto, and since this was my first chance to see the Geordie lunatics live, this set really blew me away. Kicking the show off with "Take Control" from the new LP, they proceeded to rip ears and faces off with "Firepower", "Hell Patrol", "Read All About It", "Rock Until You Drop", "All For One", "Faster Than The Speed Of Light", "Break The Chain", "Run Silent

Run Deep", and the set closing "Don't Need Your Money". They also ran through "Seek & Destroy", which they dedicated to the killing of all posers (roughly the entire population of Palo Alto) and over the next couple of nights they usually altered their set by one song, and this night they killed with a great version "Lambs To The Slaughter" from their first album.



Photos By Wayne Vanderkuil



Drummer Rob Hunter was especially maniac this show as he banged his hockey helmet-protected head on cymbals after practically every