



*By Ronny North - GJD Contributor*

I was really psyched when I heard that Ace Frehley was doing a tour this year. My connection to Ace began at the age of fourteen when I received KISS's *Destroyer* record for Christmas. That spring my father took my brother and I to see our first concert in 1977. It was KISS on their *Love Gun* tour at the peak of their fame. After seeing the band live in action, Ace became my first guitar hero and KISS became my favorite band. I decided to start playing guitar, and I wanted to play like I Ace in the worst way. He is really the reason I play guitar today.

Heading into the show at the Hollywood HOB, I didn't know what to expect since he hadn't toured solo in years. I have seen Ace play live in KISS several times over the years, but for whatever reason I have never seen his solo tours.

When we arrived at the House of Blues for the show, there was a great crowd in attendance. I decided to watch the show from behind the soundboard so I could see and hear everything perfectly. Soon the house lights went out and intro music came on with a cool women's voice doing a count down from the smoke filled neon lit stage and then some lasers started going off. It all looked great. Then Ace hit the stage with his band and his trade mark Cherry Sunburst 3 pickup Gibson Les Paul in his hands and dove into his song "Rip it Out".

From the start, you could tell that Ace was playing and singing in great form and his band was tight. Throughout the evening they played all Ace's hits from his solo records and some KISS classics as well. Some of the songs they performed were "Shock Me", "Fractured Mirror", "2000 Man", "Rocket Ride", "New York Groove" (where he played his light up guitar), and many more.

