



*By Ronny North - GJD Contributor*

RATT played Disney's HOB on April 19th. It was the second to last show of their little So Cal mini tour as a warm up for some European shows in June. The band's current line-up is fronted by original singer Stephen Percy (back on lead vocals), Warren DeMartini on lead guitar, Robbie Crane on Bass, Bobby Blotzer on Drums and John Corabi on Rhythm guitar.

By the time I arrived at the show the place was already packed. I regularly see concerts at the HOB, but I have never seen it so crowded. It was beyond sold out, and everyone was there to see the band they knew and loved from the 90's.

When the show kicked off, the crowd jumped right in and started singing along to every song. The band was just tearing it up all evening and played all the hits, plus a few songs that they haven't played in years - including the single "Giving it All Away". Stephen's vocals were really strong and the band was really tight.

If you're a guitarist, you have to appreciate Warren DeMartini's playing. He is such a solid player and really has soul in his sound. I've always been a huge fan of his style, and if I could play like anyone it would definitely be him. He's got it all, and to top it off, he doesn't tap. On this night, Warren's tone and playing was better than ever and he really is one of the great players of our generation.

His amps were Diezel VH-4 Tube heads (which sounded like a great old Marshall Plexi). He played a brown Performance Strat style guitar for most of the songs along with a signature Charvel Strat and a natural finish Performance Tele style guitar with single coil pickups.

When it comes down to it, the most important thing is great songs - and RATT has always had catchy songs that put them one step above their peers of the day. Every song in the set was a hit, and the fact that they've sold several million records proves my point.

After the show, I had a great time hanging with the guys and chatting at the after show party. It's always great to talk with Warren and he has to be one of the nicest guys I know - a real guitar hero.

If you get a chance you really need to check out RATT on their current tour. You'll be glad you

did. And if you're like me, you'll go home after the show and pick up your guitar and find yourself saying how did Warren play that solo??