

MUSIC

Lenny Kravitz, Cranberries, Wolfmother @ Riverstage, Brisbane (24/03/2012)

by Julie-Ann Ellis
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Aussie lads, **Wolfmother**, zestfully opened with *Dimension*, *Woman* and *Love Train*. They are the ultimate masters in modern psychedelic rock music and the audience reacted with unified head banging. **Andrew Stockdale** geed up the crowd furthermore by stating, "It's been seven years since we have played Riverstage and now we get to play with Lenny Kravitz". Their fastidious but short set held the audiences hearts and minds with their classic song, *Joker and the Thief*.

Dolores O'Riordan's recent bout of food poisoning and the postponing of the **Cranberries** Sydney show meant that they were determined to give Brisbane an outstanding live performance, and that they did. The long-running band granted us with forty five minutes of sweet sounding music. They opened with *Dreams* and *Linger*.

Lead singer, O'Riordan, held an awe-inspiring on-stage presence with dreamy vocals and exceptionally easy-listening songs. The beautiful vocalist had the Riverstage mesmerised with her passion and finesse throughout the entirety of the Cranberries set. While delivering new song *Tomorrow* (from the Cranberries sixth album *Roses*), O'Riordan felt the lyrics so intensely that her body swayed completely in sync, and during *Ode To My Family*, O'Riordan made eye contact with everyone in the first rows.

The band have worked hard on their new album to keep that unique Cranberries feeling but with a fresh new twist that revitalised the senses. They also performed *When You're Gone*, *Stars*, *You and Me*, *Electric Blue Eyes*, *Free to Decide* and *Salvation*. The absolute magical purity of their compositions held the audience captive from their initial stage entrance to their mind-blowing closer *Zombie*.

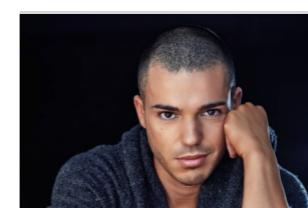
Lenny Kravitz' opened with *I Belong To You*, *Always On The Run*, and *American Woman*. His latest album *Black and White America Tour* is a melee of bohemian melodies were evident through his ownership of love, power and reality during his polished performance.

Kravitz exudes calmness, style and strength for nearly two hours. He hypnotised the crowd with suave moves and a silky voice (disguising his sore throat) while delivering *Stand by My Woman*, *Believe* and *Fly Away*. Kravitz humbly interacted with the teeming masses. During his performance, he commented on the beautiful Queensland weather and his admiration to his fellow music lovers.

The eight piece band projected comfort and clarity with an elaborate selection of instruments; electric guitars, drums, brass and wind. *Come On Get It* was a delightful excuse for a playful jam, featuring three talented exuberant brass players and **Craig Ross'** exceptional guitar solo. From the new album; *Black and White American* was layered with groovy tranquil sounds, *Rock Star City Life* demonstrated Kravitz' brilliance by mixing the old with the new.

The aural and visual delight continued with the smashing crescendo of brass in *Mr Cab Driver*; the audience jubilantly sang to *Fly Away*; and classic *Are You Going to Go My Way* rocked the Riverstage. Lenny Kravitz ended the music celebration with the perfect message: *Gotta Let Love Grow*. A true rock star.

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