

## KID ROCK

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of Kid Rock during the 40 years of his life accompanied by songs from the same years.

About 15 minutes after the lights went down, Kid Rock finally emerged to sing "American Bad Ass," from 2000's "The History of Rock" album. The stage was set up to look like a saloon, and Kid Rock entered through doors under a longhorn bull design with smoking horns. Flames shot to the sides of Kid Rock, who wore a black T-shirt, blue jeans and a backward trucker hat. After the opener, he launched into Lynyrd Skynyrd's "Sweet Home Alabama" before the band arrived. Early on, he performed songs with the backing musicians from his opening acts.

If Kid Rock, whose real name is Robert Ritchie, had been born 20 years earlier, he might have been the face of Southern rock in its heyday of the late 1960s and 1970s. That title probably is shared by Lynyrd Skynyrd and the Allman Brothers, but Kid Rock has revived that era while putting his stamp on it with influences from several genres.

Tuesday's show was a nod to old-time country and Southern rock, which combines element of country, bluegrass, blues and hard rock. The first opening act, Ty Stone and the Truth, featured Stone on vocals that sounded remarkably Kid Rock-like.

Stone, like Kid Rock, features an impressive vocal range without the twang of their Southern rock predecessors. Both are from Detroit and combine a blues element with a powerful voice that translates well to a harder

Truth, was especially impressive on a cover of John Mellencamp's "Hurts So Good."

Second billing went to Jamey Johnson, more Nashville-influenced than Kid Rock and Stone. Johnson's early career was spent penning songs for country superstars such as Trace Adkins and George Strait. Perhaps his most recognizable composition is "Honky Tonk

Badonkadonk," a hit for Adkins in 2005.

Johnson's hourlong array of slow songs didn't set the stage for the rocking effort Kid Rock was set to produce, but Johnson energized the crowd with "The Ride," a song made famous by David Allan Coe. His sometimes plodding performance didn't dampen enthusiasm for Kid Rock, who received thunderous applause before and as he took the stage.



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