

Kid Rock loud, proud in concert at Coliseum

BY JEFFREY LUTZ
The Wichita Eagle

Kid Rock wears many hats, and not just of the fedora and cowboy varieties he displays in public and during his concerts.

Rock has songs describing himself as a cowboy, lowlife, American bad guy and cocky. The last one may be deserved since he's a world-famous musician who was once married to blonde beauty Pamela Anderson.

Rock brought his cockiness — and his plethora of personas — to the Kansas Coliseum on Friday night, playing a three-hour show and displaying his knack for performing songs in the rock, country and hip-hop genres.

Rock, whose real name is Robert James Ritchie, was joined by J. Geils Band lead singer Peter Wolf and iconic rapper Rev Run of Run DMC.

The show was scheduled to start at 8 p.m., but Rock took the stage about half an hour later wearing a white suit with a black shirt, white tie, black fedora and his trademark sunglasses.

The 36-year-old opened the latest stop on his Rock n' Roll Revival tour with "Rock n' Roll Jesus," the title track to the album he released in October. After "Welcome to the Party," Rock introduced Wolf, who sang "Love Stinks," a J. Geils hit from 1980.

What Rock's show lacked in production value was made up for in his ability to keep the crowd on its feet. The stage had no video screen and the lighting scheme was simple, but that didn't seem to

REVIEW

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bother the 6,000 or so in attendance, who sang along word-for-word to many of Rock's songs.

Even the casual fan could have found a recognizable song during Rock's set. He played all of his biggest hits, including "Cowboy," "American Bad Ass" and "Bawitdaba," which closed the show.

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Rock's slowdown didn't last long, however. He closed the first set rocking it out with Wolf as the two traded vocals on "Centerfold," the J. Geils Band's only No. 1 hit.

After intermission, Rev Run joined Rock and allowed him to tap into his Detroit hip-hop roots. After opening the second set with "Devil Without a Cause," Rock and Run teamed up to perform some of Run DMC's biggest hits, such as "Tricky" and "You Be Illin'."

They also performed a duet on "Walk This Way," a song made famous by Run DMC's cover of it with Aerosmith. Rock played the role of Steven Tyler and was able to get his voice to nicely reach the squeals for which the Aerosmith lead singer is known.

Rock, who opened the second set wearing a black jumpsuit lined with glittery gold trim, didn't interact much with the crowd, but he kept it alive by referencing Wichita and Kansas during several ad-libbed lyrics.

One moment of note came during "Picture," Rock's 2001 duet with Sheryl Crow. Crow's portion was handled by one of Rock's backup singers.

After a stint showing off his skills on the turntables, Rock returned to the mike to send the crowd out on a high note. After bringing Wolf and Run back to perform a cover of Buffalo Springfield's "For What It's Worth," Rock amped up for the finale, making sure fans left having heard all of his major hits.

Rock's second show in Wichita was loud, unpredictable and provided a forum for him to gloat unabashedly about his personal virtues. But we expect that from rock stars, so his arrogance only helped the show.