

Redman Does Halifax

by Marc MacDONALD

Yes, Yes y'all, Scooby Dawg and Coolbreeze travelled to Halifax to see Redman, the Funk Doc, perform on Saturday night. We got to Hometown around 7pm, and the town was humming with electricity because of Redman. Ok, it was probably because the CIAU basketball tournament was on, but let me dream, all right? So we got to the Halifax Forum after it had started at 8. We would have been there just in time to catch Halifax's own Goods, Scratch Bastard, and Kaleb Simmons perform, but Halifax Metro Police prevented this from going down. (Major friskage was in effect).

Everybody had to wait in a long line up in the freezing cold parking lot to get in. The line was poorly organized and moved very slowly because the police and security had to frisk every single person going in and search their bags. It's a Redman show, so of course there is going to be drugs! In some cases, the cops would double search people already frisked by security, but, mysteriously, weed was still getting snuck in.

We got in just in time to see the last of the Goods' performance. Beatbox wunderkind, Kaleb Simmons dazzled the audience with his simultaneous harmonica-playing/human-drum machine-trick. Up next came the Homies. No that was not a typo; some lame-ass group named themselves the Homies. Their flow was not bad, and they had a female MC, who was pretty nice, but their rhymes, content, and stage presence was not great. I guess the crew developed from a clothing store, which made sense because they looked like a billboard for their shitty products.

Scott Boogie emceed the entire show, introducing artists, trying to hype the crowd, and giving the suburban bangers lessons on hip-hop show etiquette. Most of the audience was too high to retain any of the knowledge for any length of time. Kwite Sane, a DJ from Montreal, came out and assisted Scott in demonstrating the proper way to nod yo



head, by beat mixing some newschool hip hop shit. His selection of tunes was mostly average and kind of dull. And whenever he put on a really good classic cut, he'd disrupt it and mix something else in right away before I could get my boogie on. Shit.

Saukratees from T dot came out after the crowd was properly hyped and supplied with Trojan condoms (care of Scott Boogie and some honies handpicked from the audience to hand out the jimmy hats). Sauks is down with Redman and Dej Jam, which is major props for any Canadian artist. He performed some old and new stuff including his new track off the *How High* soundtrack, and his biggest hit "Money or Love." Saukratees was ill, but he didn't have enough songs that the crowd was familiar with to keep them interested (keep in mind that the audience consists of predominantly white kids who are really fucking high by this point).

Finally the crowd got what it paid for (and I'm not still talking about the cheeba cheeba). Redman came on stage to a tremendous initial response from the audience. I was nervous at first because he played some classics such as "Time 4 Some Aksion" but cut the song short. However, this was effective at getting the crowd hyper and kept up the pace of the show. Red played full versions of his biggest joints including "Rockwilder," "Pick it Up," "I'll Be Dat," and "Smash Sumthin." He also had the legendary DJ Kool come out

to help him with "Let's Get Dirty." Kool looked and sounded old enough to be Redman's grandpa, but he blessed the crowd with an interactive version of his anthem "Let Me Clear My Throat."

Redman used humor, smokin, call-response games, tight lyrical flow, and even some stage diving to delight the crowd all night. Even

though many people in the audience sang along to Redman's lyrics, the overall response from the crowd was not as enthusiastic as it should have been. It may have been the abundance of weed, lack of alcohol available for purchase, the presence of Halifax's fascist police, or just wack fans. Reggie "Redman" Noble even tried to get the girls to "show they titties," but to no avail. Sorry Redman, Halifax girls are too classy for that—um ...well kinda. The biggest response the rapper got from the audience was when he divided the Halifax Forum in half and started a mudslinging call and response from each side of the audience. Half the building was instructed to point their middle fingers across to the other side of the crowd and scream "Fuck dat side" with Redman. Overall it was a banger show and Redman proved "why them hardcore promoters still book me/You shook G/...word up."

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