

MUDVAYNE

by: Face Paint

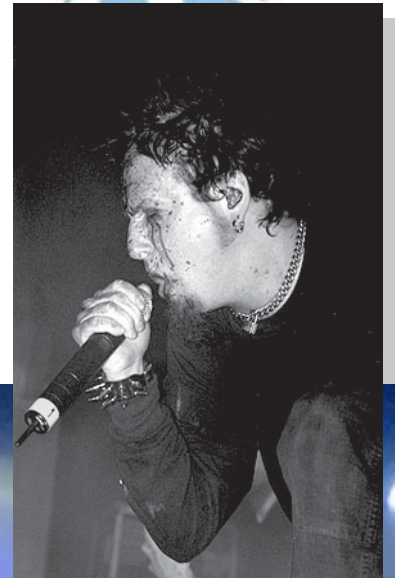


Pittsburgh was lucky enough to receive a show from the powerful Mudvayne on their day off from the Sanitarium Tour with Metallica. Being a fan of metal, and of course Mudvayne, I was excited to see this band for the third time. What was also intriguing was the fact that not one, but two local bands would have the honor of opening up. Being familiar with both, and a little jealous of both, we showed up early enough to support local music. Much to my surprise so did many others. But what would not be surprising would be that most of the people probably had no idea they were seeing local music. Not only was the sound for both local bands on par with the national act, but also so was the show. Casting Method and Gutterfly proved once again that Pittsburgh is second to none in their musical talent. Both put on very professional shows built on emotion and aggression.

With a tough act for any band to follow, Mudvayne took the stage after what seemed to be one of the lengthiest interludes I've ever seen...sans the band Down. Sticking to the usual play list that they performed the last time they visited the city of Steel, the four members took the stage with no make-up or masks of any kind. In my mind, this was very nice to see. It was all about the music...something that seems to be missing in this world of image

first mentality. The music was tight, the aura correct and the stage presence great. Only one thing seemed to be on the negative side of things this night. Whatever the singer is calling himself these days, he seemed to be on the darker side of health, tired from touring in stadiums or just acting a little lazy. Somehow I doubt it was the latter, but it was still a little concerning. There were many times during the songs that he would take a break, skip parts or just stop singing.

Now, I'm not one to criticize someone who makes a living of tearing his throat apart day in and day out. Not only is it my dream, but also something I'm sure is quite trying. I only ask for a true attempt, something I'm more than sure he did. My first assumption was illness. But I think that was done away with when a discussion took place with a friend after the show. As all people most likely do, we were talking about what was cool and what our thoughts were on the show. I pointed out how the vocals were a little weak. After talking about it...it seemed his voice was not the thing of concern. He sang great, had power in his voice and still was able to hit those high screams that just tear away at your throat. All the melodic singing was done, for the most part, correctly...when it was done. Maybe it was just a lack of cardio workouts, who knows.





What was great to see was how the new music, especially the songs being played on the radio, came across live. It seems Mudvayne has transformed themselves into musicians who can play music to keep themselves interested and still keep the crowd involved. The songs they played off of the second disc seemed to bring forth a better crowd response, then the ones from the first...minus Dig of course. One can figure this came from the time spent on the road and seeing what brought about certain reactions from the crowd. Still, Mudvayne were able to keep things original with their wonderful time changes, syncopation and a total lack for some certain song

structures that would leave the most talented musicians scratching their head. There was something for all heavy metal fans this night. Minus the somewhat lackluster vocal performance, it was a great show all in all.

