

ENTERTAINMENT

Faith and Dru Hill should come to Las Vegas more often

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Sentinel-Voice

Fabulous.

That word describes the Faith and Dru Hill concert on Thursday, April 15 at the House of Blues at Mandalay Bay, 3950 S. Las Vegas Blvd.

I needn't say anymore, but I will.

So this guy is standing onstage with this dancer in the beginning. Everyone's wondering who he is. Both of them are dressed in black and leather, and she's crawling between his legs and writhing around and humping the floor.

I could see the pop-up bubbles over some of the men's heads: "If only I could take her home tonight."

I'm no prissy prude, so I was laughing and yelling along with everyone else, egging the dancer on.

When he started singing, he did a snippet of "Let's Chill" by Guy. Finally, after a couple of riffs and attempts at getting the crowd hype, the beat dropped and "Touch Me, Tease Me" starts playing, the song from "The Nutty Professor" soundtrack. Why, it was Case up there the whole time!

He opened for the Faith/Dru Hill concert.

He performed three songs, complete with freaky dancers and a willing young member of the audience upon whom he went through the motions of performing oral sex.

How could you top that?

Just ask Faith Evans.

The banging beat to "No Other Love" (borrowed from Isaac Hayes' "Walk on By") kicked in shortly after Case left the stage, and four female dancers started whipping their butts around and kicking their legs higher than I can. (That's pretty high.)

Then, a voice cut through the darkened lights. The owner of it, Faith Evans, then strutted out in a sleek, little black number, her voice easing into a medley of her hits from 1996, "I Remember", "Soon As I Get



Sentinel-Voice photos by Ramon Savoy

(Top left) Jazz, Sisqo and Nokio, the members of Dru Hill, turned it out at the House of Blues at the Mandalay Bay on April 15. (Above) Faith Evans gives it all she's got at the Faith/Dru Hill Concert. (Left) Case opened the event.

Home" and "Ain't Nobody". Male hip hop dancers flew on and off stage during the songs, jerking and contorting their athletic bodies in delicious ways that made pop-up bubbles appear over my head, figuratively speaking.

Faith went to church a couple of times, especially on "One Wish", a song written by Babyface featured on her new album.

There was a short intermission, accentuated by a Notorious BIG classic.

Then homegirl came back out in a sophisticated and sassy white pants and jacket suit. She performed "All Night Long", "Keep the Faith", "No Way", "One Wish" and the finale, "I Never Knew There Was A Love Like This Before." Faith thanked the fans and told everyone she loved them at least three times during the night.

"I loved the stage energy!" said David Phillips, a concert attendee and now, a Faith fan forever after Thursday's performance. "She could've come alone and performed and this would've been worth the

\$40."

Enter the Dru

After a long intermission and a complete overhaul of the stage to an oriental decor, three dudes came out in monster masks and long robes.

The fourth costumed figure held a staff as a kung-fu-like skit played in the background. He condemned one of the characters to death; the others swarmed in on the unlucky soul and the lights went black.

Then the lights exploded, the figures threw off their costumes and there was Jazz and three dancers hoofing to a funky bassline.

Then the stage flooded with a couple of rappers and Nokio and Sisqo came into the mix, as the group wailed the line, "Are you ready to freak?" Their snapping dance moves, jacking and gyrating, and hyperactive style charged the audience.

They sang all of their hits



including "Tell Me", "Never Make A Promise", "In My Bed"—the original and the remix—and "How Deep Is Your Love". Jazz and Sisqo graced the audience with heartfelt solos, giving their comrades opportunities to change, as there were several costume changes during their performance.

The group's tremendous stage presence and sound was only eclipsed by the screams

of the women in the audience whenever Sisqo yelled, "Where all my single ladies at?" and invited young women onstage. (They never did actually bring anyone onstage that night.)

I've seen this year," said concert-goer James McKinney II. "I'm surprised (by Dru Hill)... They're actually quite captivating."

I couldn't agree more James. I couldn't agree more.

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