

Destiny's Child and the MTV TRL tour

Drama, fire, power, beauty and the love of God

By Debbie Hall
Special to Sentinel-Voice
On Friday, Destiny's Child, along with Eve, 3LW and Dream, sang, danced and

day, singing with City-Hi, who created a frenzy in the audience.

But the evening belonged to Destiny's Child from Houston, Texas, all under 21 and ready to create a destiny of their own since their breakout hit four years ago. First, huge video screens introduced their upcoming

shoot into the air as Destiny's Child rose - not from the ashes, but surrounded by the one element that can travel uphill. Dressed in gold lame boots, short-shorts and bra, Beyonce Knowles began with the opening of "Independent Women Part 1," and sang, "Tell me how you feel about me," stopping to let the answering out from the packed auditorium.

To screaming approval, the group continued with 13 songs and a few surprises. Discussing the many letters they receive, and moved to tears, Knowles discussed how one fan shared that her stepfather was molesting her, so Knowles wrote a song to everyone to stay strong.

Each of the three was then featured with their own spotlight, beginning with Kelly Rowland singing a solo accompanied by a harpist. Michelle Williams was next with her solo cover of "O-o-h Child," and Knowles's solo was a song of love to all of the children.

There was even a little old time religion when, in the middle of a gospel set, Rowland admonished the crowd, "We're singing for our Lord Jesus Christ and there are too many people sitting down! We

singing out of respect and you need to show respect too!"

Rock and roll was part of the mix, with guitar riffs and the obligatory drum solo during the set change. The dancers, male and female, were "bootylicious," and Destiny's Child ended the evening with a feel good "Happy Face," confetti and balloons, and singing to adoring fans that "everything's gonna be alright."

What was the biggest surprise of the evening? NO ENCORE.

The lights came up and it was time to leave after three hours of giving it up to a group transcending all genres, stereotypes, and its multiracial fan base.

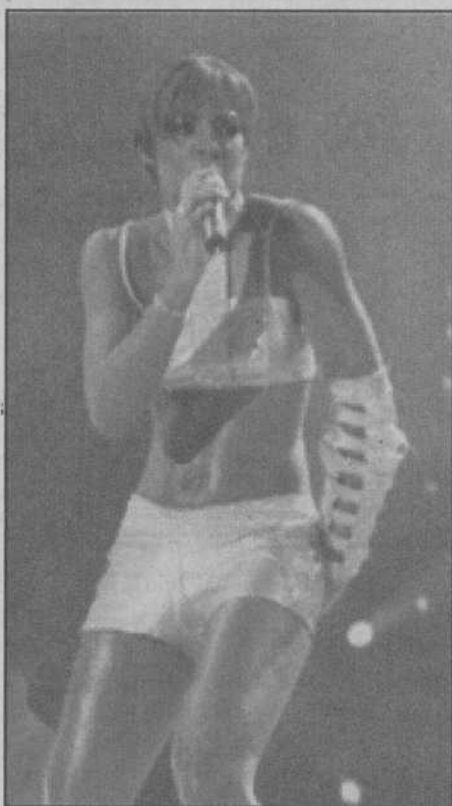


just kicked it for over 8,500 screaming fans at the Mandalay Bay Events Center. The audience was a mixture of African-American, white, Asian and Hispanic with an age range from pre-teen to adults who might admit to being in their fifties. This concert date was part of the Destiny's Child MTV TRL United States summer tour, with their last date in Hawaii on September 21, one month to rest, and then on to Great Britain in November.

Dream, a pop group of four white teenagers, sang from their current release, "It Was All a Dream" - produced by Sean "P. Diddy" Combs on his Bad Boy Entertainment label - including "This is Me" and their pop hit, "He Loves U Not."

But then came a flash of fire and pyrotechnics surrounded by some evil-looking creatures that Eve, the only female MC on the New York Ruff Ryders' label, appeared and demonstrated why she is the hottest rapper to-

cartoon, due to debut on the Disney Channel. Then it was "The Story of Destiny" on the video monitors, with fire jets building around the stage to



Beyonce Knowles heats up the Friday crowd.

Sentinel-Voice photos by Ramon Savoy

Dream (directly above), produced by Sean "P. Diddy" Combs, wiggles to their pop hit "He Loves You Not." Pictured from top to bottom, Kelly Rowland and Michelle Williams of Destiny Child was joined by Eve for the MTV TRL tour at the Mandalay Bay Events Center.


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