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ASAP Rocky at the Golden 1 Center

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ASAP Rocky at the Golden 1 Center

By Soukay Mbaye

As I walked into the Golden 1 Center, in Sacramento, California, there was a buzzing electricity in the air. There were people of many ages breathing in this electric air and pacing around with anticipation. The lights were on and everyone was making sure they secured their seats--whether those seats were the ones they paid for, or the ones they just really wanted and had a low risk of being caught taking. Everyone around me had on their best outfits--the outfits that would best display their dedication to the artist they were there to see, while simultaneously showing everyone else around them the extent of their knowledge regarding the artist's favorite brands, or exclusive merchandise with the artist's name and/or face on it. The environment was happy and dangerous. Everyone had the same thing to look forward to, and once we stepped into the auditorium, we all consciously decided to have nothing to lose. This night was going to be an all cards on the table, risk-it-all kind of night.

The date was Saturday, February 1st, when I saw ASAP Rocky; during his *Injured Generation Tour*. The lights went down and his openers kept us occupied by letting us release some of our anticipation through dancing and socializing. The genre was hip hop, so the longer everyone spent in the atmosphere, the more drunk on energy, ambition and passion they would become.

ASAP Rocky put together an impressive set list of twenty two songs: "ASAP Forever," "Buck Shots," "Praise the Lord," "Telephone Calls," "Yamborghini High," "Babushka," "Gunz N Butter," "OG Beeper," "Distorted Records," "Tony Tone," "Fukk Sleep," "CALLDROPS,"

“LSD,” “Kids Turned Out Fine,” “Everyday,” “Wild For the Night,” “R.I.P.,” “Plain Jane,” “Slob on My Knob,” “No Limit,” “Fuckin’ Problems,” and “Long Live ASAP.”

He intensified the experience by using exceptional visuals and props on stage such as graphics from his music videos mixed in with camera footage of him live on stage, displayed on a huge screen--in conjunction with the visual effects being projected onto the stage platform itself. He also used his famous “dummies,” the people he takes with him on tour and brings out on stage to issue out moshpit “instructions” and to deliver ASAP Rocky’s specific commands to the audience such as clap their hands, or flash their breasts. They also spontaneously dive out into the audience for crowd surfing; in ways that ASAP Rocky cannot for his own safety.

No matter which mood ASAP Rocky delivered, the audience members were fully mesmerized and gave him their full attention. His setlist had a wide range of tempos - from upbeat and happy, to rage, chill, vibey, and the list goes on. He would not only represent those moods in how he delivered the song, but also in the lights and effects on stage, such as fire exploding when a song was at its climax. Not many people were on their phones either. The first few songs were recorded to the best of the audience members’ abilities while jumping and screaming, but after they acquired sufficient footage for posts, bragging, or memories, most people locked their phones away and fully immersed themselves into the experience.

ASAP Rocky also showed his devotion to his fans by stopping the show or calling out security if someone was removed for “having a good time” or thrown out of the concert venue for reasons he deemed unfair. He would also invite audience members on stage to work out their problems if he saw them getting into a fight within the mosh pit. They completely forgot about whatever caused them to hit one another, and got distracted by the fact that they were on stage

with ASAP Rocky. They would then dance together, enjoy each other's company, and appreciate the experience even more.

ASAP Rocky did pretend to wrap up his show, but later came back for an encore. I'll admit, I fell for that tactic and always do. I grabbed my purse and my coat, melancholy about the ending of such an electric night, and the impending return to reality, when I started hearing everyone around me scream "*Encore! Encore! Encore!*" as loudly as they possibly could. When ASAP Rocky performed one more song, the audience went wild and was much more satisfied and prepared for the impending end of the night.

At the time of this writing, ASAP Rocky was still on tour and had twenty one upcoming concerts all around the world. He played Los Angeles, California; Shanghai, China; Vancouver, Canada; Paris, France; Odense V, Denmark; Lommel, Belgium; Stockholm, Sweden; London, UK; and many more amazing locations.

All in all, the concert was very much worth the ticket price of eighty five dollars. In fact, it probably should have been more, based on where I ended up sitting! ASAP Rocky definitely held up his end of the bargain and rose to the occasion, considering his music videos are often near impossible to reenact in real life. He left the fans wanting more, but at the same time, left them with a full belly!