



*Hey, hey, mama,
said the way you move
Gonna make you sweat,
gonna make you groove*

Whole Lotta Led were playing their first gig in Bangor, North Wales despite them being formed in 1996 and having toured the UK virtually non-stop ever since!

My mate Bob has seen them a few times before and kept telling me how '*awesome*' and '*brilliant*' they were but, as he's a G3 nut (*Satriani, Vai & Malmstein please – he'd rather forget about the Fripp fiasco*), I took his recommendation with a hefty pinch of salt, especially as he reckons Keith Emerson is a better keyboard player than the man who in my opinion invented Rock keyboards, a certain Mr R.Wakeman!! I mean ...you **have** to suspect someone who holds such clearly erroneous opinions like that don'tcha?

Anyway, this time, Bob wasn't too far off the mark. I might not go so far as to call Whole Lotta Led '*awesome*' (excepting a couple of bits) but '*brilliant*' is a word I'd happily pin onto a review of their set.

Opening with 'The song remains the same' and comfortably moving through Zep classics such as 'Nobody's fault but mine', 'The Lemon Song', 'The Ocean'

and 'The Rover' the band had settled down to a good first half set.

When singer **Lee Addison** said it was time for us to get 'Moby Dick-ed' some members of the audience left their seats at the thought of a 20 minute drum solo.

Silly Bastards!! They missed one of the finest examples of rock drumming I've ever seen. I can't tell you how long it did last because it was so entertaining but drummer **Graham Twist** would certainly have made Mr Bonham proud with this example. The way he knocked the be-jeezus out of that shiny green kit was worth the £12 ticket price alone in my opinion. I don't often agree with my mate Bob but this part of the show was indeed worthy of '*awesome*'.

The second half set was the entire **Led Zep IV** album. Starting (natch) with 'Black Dog', the wonderfully swampy bass lines delivered expertly by the Fender Precision wielding **Geoff Hunt**, then, straight into the instantly recognisable hii-hat opening of the hard-driving but unimaginatively named 'Rock & Roll'.



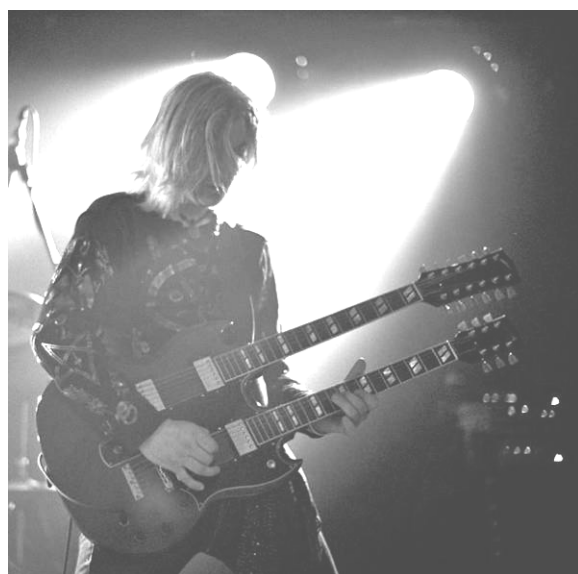
There followed a complete change of pace with bass player Geoff picking up the Mandolin to transport us to the world of Hobbits with 'The Battle of Evermore' - Addison's vocals supplemented by

drummer Twist singing the Sandy Denny part, not in some weird falsetto either but sung normally and to surprisingly good effect.

Then guitarist **Nick Ferris** picked up his twin necked Gibson and, as we'd already had 'The song remains the same' this meant just one thing ...it was 'Stairway' time.

Ferris's guitar work on 'Stairway' is another example where Bob's '*mot de jour*' of 'awesome' might comfortably be applied. This guy is no mean plank-spanker and certainly knows his way around a fretboard.

By now, if the massive grin on singer Lee Addison's face was anything to go by, the entire band was clearly enjoying themselves. The set finished as you'd expect with a wonderfully moody version of the mighty (and relatively topical in a kind of perversely ironic way) 'When the levee breaks'.



To well-deserved cheers, whistles and applause from the Bangor crowd the band exited stage right only to return after a quick towel-down to launch into an encore with the all-time classic 'Dazed and Confused'. Then, the number they'd kept 'til the end – the number they just **had** to play – 'Whole Lotta Love'.

Expertly done as we'd now come to expect with Nick Ferris seemingly enjoying himself performing some quite dubious hand movements on the Theramin while Addison shredded his vocal chords for our entertainment, the band slid 'Communication Breakdown' seamlessly into the middle of 'Whole Lotta Love' before finishing off to an instant and much-deserved standing ovation from the Bangor crowd.

As bands go I think these guys are pretty special – they're tight, know their stuff and deliver it superbly. As tribute bands go I think these guys are in a league of their own. Page, Plant, Jones and Bonham they're not ...but then they never claim to be either. They don't try to look like Led Zeppelin – they just *SOUND* like Led Zeppelin. They let Zep's music do the talking and they play it well with the passion and respect it deserves.

If you like Zep (*and who reading this newsletter doesn't?*) and you've not seen these guys, make a point to go and see them when they're next on near you – hell, travel miles to see them if you have to! Trust me ...you'll be glad you did.

Hwyl,

Gareth

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WalesMensa's Newsletter

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