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WATERS LIVE AT THE TROUBADOUR

Written by **Mike Duffy** on February 10, 2016

Headlining the Troubadour in West Hollywood, Calif., over the weekend as part of KROQ's Locals Only concert series, **Waters** kicked off their 2016 slate of tour dates in grand fashion.

The San Francisco-based band brought a packed crowd to their feet with a show filled with joyous alternative-tinged anthems.

First, though, was Max and the Moon, an outfit from Chino Hills, Calif. Their brief set offered a collection of poppy singles like “Crazy” and “Harps” that saw pianist Matt Couchois and guitarist John Velasquez trading lead vocals as the young onlookers swayed back and forth.

Around 10 p.m., it was time for Waters.

Walking out on a stage decorated with brightly colored flowers, Waters was just relentless from the start, getting the audience to jump along with opener “Over It” and the infectious “What’s Real,” the title track off their excellent 2015 album.

Frontman Van Pierszalowski was irrepressible, as he regularly stepped away from the microphone to bound around Andrew Wales’ drum kit while shaking his wild hair back and forth. And that wasn’t just with the first two songs. Pierszalowski never let up through *What’s Real* singalong jams like “Breakdown,” “Stupid Games” and “Rebel Yell,” in addition to Waters’ late-2015 single, “Up Up Up.”

Guitarist Brian DaMert, bassist Greg Sellin and keyboardist Sara DaMert also joined in the fun, obviously reveling in the energy coming from the approving fans.

That energy reached yet another level when Waters busted out a cover of Miley Cyrus’ “Wrecking Ball,” which Pierszalowski prompted by noting that

they might need some help with the chorus. The Troubadour responded in kind, practically yelling the refrain of the pop smash back to the quintet.

For those eager to hear new music from Waters – and they will be working on fresh material in 2016 – the band introduced “Hypothetical,” a synthy number that went over quite well.

Waters closed their regular proceedings with an old favorite, “Got to My Head,” the song that they [played last April on Conan](#), before a raucous encore of “I Feel Everything” that left everyone breathless.

Earlier in the night, Pierszalowski mentioned that the last time Waters played the Troubadour, it was opening for the Mowgli’s. They’ve come a long way since then, but it’s clear there are even more exciting things on the way.

Click [here](#) for more from Waters.



Waters’ Van Pierszalowski at the Troubadour.



John Velasquez of Max and the Moon at the Troubadour.



Sara DaMert of Waters at the Troubadour.



Greg Selling of Waters at the Troubadour.



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