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JOHNNY MARR LIVE AT THE EL REY THEATRE

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

At multiple points during **Johnny Marr**'s show at Los Angeles' El Rey Theatre last weekend, a loud chant of the legendary guitarist's name – with an expletive that begins with an "F" in the middle – rose up from the capacity crowd.

The adoration was well deserved. Throughout a 90-minute set, the innately cool **Marr** was on top of his game.

Marr chose wisely from his two stellar solo albums – 2013's *The Messenger* and 2014's *Playland* – keeping the pace ebbing and flowing with fuzzed-out rockers like "Boys Get Straight" and lush groovers like "New Town Velocity." And for those clamoring for some timeless Smiths songs, Marr obliged by dipping into that iconic catalog on several occasions, as well.

Decked out in a slim denim jacket and jeans, Marr walked on stage in front of a banner bearing his name carrying a sharp Sherwood Green version of his **signature Fender Jaguar**. He immediately launched into *Playland*'s "Back in the Box" and then went back to the Smith's 1984 self-titled debut album with "Still III."

No matter what era he chose, Marr's guitar mastery was on full display. Marr stalked the stage, at times leaning close to the guardrail to give fans a

close-up view of the killer riffs of “Easy Money,” “Upstarts” and “Generate! Generate!” At others, he leaned back from the microphone to let the crowd sing along with him for Smiths classics “The Headmaster Ritual” and “Bigmouth Strikes Again.”

Marr even played “Getting Away with It” from his late ‘80s group with New Order’s Bernard Sumner, Electronic, and a fiery new solo track called “Spiral Cities.” Clearly, Marr was having a good time, bantering with the audience and waving his axe as he got lost in the music.

For an encore, Marr bookended his Depeche Mode cover of “I Feel You” with the Smiths’ “You Just Haven’t Earned It Yet, Baby” and “How Soon Is Now?” The latter drew a raucous ovation, and it was an impeccable closer. Marr’s distinctive voice was perfect for the brooding tune, and the lengthy instrumental portions allowed him to continually build on its echoing, psychedelic vibe.

As fans filed towards the doors of the El Rey, there were shirts for sale at the merch table with “Johnny F***in’ Marr” emblazoned across the front. Judging from the reaction to the night’s concert, it’s a shirt everyone in attendance would proudly wear – if they weren’t already.

Click [here](#) for more information from Marr.







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