

When the Yeah Yeah Yeahs announced they were playing Radio City Music Hall, I was a little hesitant to try for tickets. The historical venue is of course one of the most beautiful in existence, but logistically it's not a great place for a shorty like me. The angle to the floor isn't enough to help me out should someone sit down in front of me. Plus, the balcony overhangs the back rows, so when I've sat up there, I feel like I'm miles away. But, when Ticketmaster's site spit back 10th row center, I knew I couldn't pass it up. That's just close enough that I could still see without too much frustration involved, so I quit complaining, snagged that ticket and prepared to get my dance on.

South Bronx natives ESG (Emerald, Sapphire and Gold) opened the show. Due to unfamiliarity with their music, I spaced out to their simple rhythms after a few songs and was verging on boredom. However I must be in the minority, because when Yeah Yeah Yeahs vocalist Karen O thanked them during the show, she exclaimed "Where would we be without them?!"

While waiting for the Yeah Yeah Yeahs, as superficial as it seems, I secretly wondered what Karen was going to wear that night. She has a cutting edge sense of style I don't see much anymore in the rock world and her outfits make the visuals of the show—Y-shaped confetti, giant bouncing eyeballs, and three great big glitter Y's—even more fun. When she made her grand entrance, I was delighted to see she once again brought fashion to the party.

Wearing what looked like a Halloween mask from outer space and a sparkly simulated-feather robe, Karen O and her band, machine drummer/guitarist Nick Zinner and drummer Brian Chase, began the set with Runaway off their latest album "It's Blitz!" She later ditched the robe to reveal a short black patent leather leotard with white inflatable wings, and white tights that matched the colorful pattern on the inner tube waist-wings. She wore for this ensemble for the rest of the show, trading the robe for a kimono and the mask for a colorful warrior headdress. All accessories which later had to be tossed off so she could fully rock out.

The highlight of the show for me was "Zero", a techno pop-rock song which got everyone dancing. The 17 song set included 5 more songs off "It's Blitz!" ("Dull Life", "Soft Shock", "Heads Will Roll", "Skeletons" and the acoustic "Hysterical") which all got a great response from the crowd. "Cheated Hearts" inspired Karen to take a trip through the pit to mid-song to sing along with fans, while an acoustic/orchestral arrangement of "Maps", dedicated to family members in the house, moved even Karen herself to tears as she looked out at the sold-out house. The show ended with the raucous "Date With the Night." I had hoped to hear my favorite song "Down Boy" (off the ISIS EP), but alas none of the songs from that CD made the cut.

The Yeah Yeah Yeahs are more creative than most of what's played on the radio today, so the eclectic sounds they come up with will appeal to all kinds of people. Their show attracts many different types, from the Brooklyn hipster to the suburban Hot Topic kid, to the sophisticated martini-sipping business man who sat next to me. They all filled the building that night to watch the compelling Karen O and her cheshire cat smile light up the stage with her boys and their crazy sounds backing her up.

I will admit I was taken aback by the Yeah Yeah Yeahs when I first heard the Fever to Tell CD (other than the more mainstream "Maps".) I guess I just wasn't ready for them yet. But after awhile they finally grew on me, especially when "Gold Lion" was released to radio. The swagger of that song hooked me right in and convinced me I should give them another chance. My desire to see them live finally hit when I saw an epic performance of "Down Boy" on Late Night With David Letterman in 2007. So to finally get to see them this year, and twice (having seen them at All Points West this past summer), was something I very much looked forward to. I was not disappointed! The Yeah Yeah Yeahs high energy rock show was definitely worth the wait.

They're coming back to town on the 29th to Williamsburg, but as is to be expected for a hometown club show, tickets are long gone. If you've got one, know that I am jealous!