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## Concert Review: Foo Fighters at Prudential Center

England's [The Joy Formidable](#) is quickly becoming everyone's new favorite band and on Monday night the trio showed Newark, NJ's Prudential Center why. At first glance, singer/guitarist Ritzy Bryan might appear to be a dainty dollfaced cutie, but her performance proves she is really a wolf in sheep's clothing. While her speaking voice is timid and polite, her soaring vocals in songs like "Heavy Abacus" easily fill a big concert hall. And though she was wearing a proper dress, it didn't stop her from falling to her knees to rock out and shred some guitar while bassist Rhyddian Dafydd and drummer Matt Thomas headbanged and cajoled each other to play louder and harder.





*Lorraine Schwartz*

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During their finale, the three piece were so caught up in their own song, it was almost like they forgot that the crowd was there. And, how many times have you seen an actual gong at a rock show lately? Well, [The Joy Formidable](#) has one and Bryan gleefully bashed away on it with the force of a lumberjack as they ended their must-see set.

Next up was the legendary [Social Distortion](#). From set opener "Bad Luck" to set closer "Ring of Fire", the band sounded great. The guitars are as loud as ever and Mike Ness still delivers vocals with the same moxie he had when the group started out in 1979. Later [Foo Fighters](#) frontman Dave Grohl expressed how honored he was to have [Social Distortion](#), one of the most influential punk bands in history, on tour with them. He claimed that he'd send fan letters to the California band as a little kid along with "\$3.50 so I could get their 7" in the mail." Judging from the cheers that erupted when Social D's backdrop banner went up before they even hit the stage, many in the building related to Grohl.

Seeing short sets from both The Joy Formidable and Social Distortion was a bit frustrating as they are both so good live. Unfortunately, the bands don't have current plans to play the

immediate New York City area in the near future. But if you're up for a weekend getaway, you can see The Joy Formidable play Pawtucket, RI this Friday at the Met; Social Distortion will play this Saturday at the House Of Blues in Atlantic City and Sunday in Stroudsburg, PA at the Sherman Theater. Check both bands' sites for details.

Though the [Foo Fighters](#) just played the IZOD Center about two months ago (my review [here](#)), many fans journeyed out to see them headline again at the Prudential Center. For a full three hours it was nothing but non-stop rock from Dave Grohl and his bandmates drummer Taylor Hawkins, guitarists Chris Shiflett and Pat Smear, bassist Nate Mendel and touring keyboardist Rami Jaffee. All the major hits were covered from "Learn to Fly", "Breakout", "Everlong", "Times Like These" to "The Pretender" as well as old school favorite "This is a Call" and new tunes like "White Limo", "Arlandria", "These Days" and "Dear Rosemary", which featured a live guest spot from another Grohl idol, Bob Mould (of Sugar) who came out to play guitar and sing backing vocals Monday night.

Foo Fighters have already earned the title "Legendary" for a lot of reasons. They're one of the most successful and most loved bands in history. But even with all their accomplishments (which includes six Grammys, headlining all over the world, endless magazine covers and chart-topping albums), they haven't forgotten a major reason why their live show is one of the best: their fans.

Besides playing great music and raging on stage, the Foo-audience connection is a huge part of why their concerts are so fun. Whether

it's going crazy during "All My Life", fist-raising to "My Hero" or "Best Of You" arena singalongs, fans never seem to tire out even though the show length is equivalent to a road trip to Baltimore. Much to the delight of the crowd, Grohl teased that they may even take a break from huge venues to play more intimate venues. If Foo Fighters can tear the roof off joints from Prudential Center to Wembley Stadium, one can only imagine the wreckage they'd leave behind in a small town club like Bowery Ballroom or The Chance. Here's hoping we find out.

Check out my slideshow from the show [here](#). Follow me on Twitter [here](#).