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Concert recap: Slayer at the Capitol Theatre

When a Thrash show newbie thinks of attending a [Slayer](#) concert, an image comes to mind of upside down crosses, dark lyrics being shouted with fury over fast intense music, and general carnage. And that is exactly what this Examiner encountered at their sold out show at The [Capitol Theatre](#).

By the time the white curtain was raised to cover the stage while [Slayer](#)'s crew set up, [Testament](#)'s Chuck Billy had already elevated the room's energy after encouraging a competition between the two sides of the large mosh pit that took up a good portion of the floor. But when the curtain dropped as Slayer went into the opening notes of "Repentless," the level of excitement went off the charts. With such a ferocious riff like the one that kicks off that song, it is impossible not to join in the headbanging and fist raising (check out the official video for the song [here](#)).

The current lineup of Slayer includes original members Tom Araya on vocals/bass and guitarist Kerry King along with the Gary Holt on guitars and Paul Bostaph on drums. The band had great onstage chemistry as both guitarists and Araya lined the stagefront to form a wall of Metal as Bostaph kept up the furious pace of each song in

the back. While the band and fans raged on, the giant backdrop changed throughout the show from a Jesus crying tears of blood, to a huge banner emblazoned with the Slayer logo to a nod to the Heineken label design paying tribute the late Jeff Hanneman, the original Slayer guitarist who passed away in 2013.

The triple bill, which also included openers [Carcass](#), was like a lesson in the History of Metal right before your eyes and ears, as all three bands began unleashing their pioneering sounds around the same time in the mid-to-early 80's. Though Holt is not a founding member of Slayer, he is also a member of Exodus, who paved quite a bit of the way for future bands as well. Slayer is known as one of [the Big Four](#) (alongside [Metallica](#), [Megadeth](#) and Anthrax) because of their huge influence and their ability to stay relevant even through all the changes Metal has seen over the years. Even now, no one can touch their fierce sound. And, based on the way they whipped the sold-out house into a frenzy, and the cries of "Slayerrr!" before they ever even hit the stage, it's pretty hard to top their connection with their loyal fans who filled up the house on that blustery Winter night.

Check out my photos of the show [here](#)! You can follow me on Twitter at [@ConcertExaminer](#)!