

BLOC PARTY
FOX THEATRE
Apri 20, 2009

Went over to the brand new Fox theatre in Oaktown to checkout what's up with Bloc Party these days. The sound was a bit muddy and Keke Okereke, the lead singer, largely unintelligible even when speaking to the crowd, but the band remains solidly energetic, propelling the music forward without hesitation. The crowd clearly loves the band which pulled two encores out of its hat before the shouting, dancing audience, most of whom seemed to be long-time fans.



A Bloc Party concert is more like a revival tent jubilation than a rock show, and that night, the band really provided a solidly joyous experience, more of which are needed in times like these, Yet Bloc Party hardly sold any seats above the mezzanine level after a run at the Fox of sold-out shows.

According to Gordon Elgart (who thankfully gave credit to each band member) of Spinningplatters.com

“Kele Okereke, the lead singer, is one of the most charismatic lead men out there. He has an incredible voice that can sing the tender quiet moments as needed for “Signs” and “Blue Light,” yet he can bring the ferocity needed for songs like “Ares” and “Positive Tension.” He’s a powerful force, and there’s not many like him.

The rest of the band is nothing to laugh at either. Matt Tong, the drummer, is fast and precise. And on a personal note, his amazing drumming inspired me to go out and by a new drum set when I first heard it. His drum lines are driving and hold the band together. Bloc Party has a way of sounding a bit like a runaway train, as all the rhythms and counter-rhythms being played by the different members of the band clash in unique ways. If it were not for impressive Mr. Tong, things might go horribly wrong.

Both Russell Lissack (on lead guitar) and Gordon Moakes (on bass and synth, and drums on one song) tend to be overlooked . . .”



We tend to agree that Okerkele has a fabulous voice with great dynamic range and Russell Lisack (lead guitar) has just the right chops to allow the vocalist to breath. We would say that this band has some legs, and so should be around for quite a while. It was the raucous jubilation of the crowd filled with die-hard fans which brought out the band for a 2nd encore.

SETLIST

One month off
Trojan horse
Hunting for witches
Positive tension
Talons
Signs
Song for clay
Banquet
Where is home
Blue light
Mercury
This modern love
The prayer
Helicopter

FIRST ENCORE

Sunday
Ares
Flux

Like eating glass

SECOND ENCORE

She's hearing voices