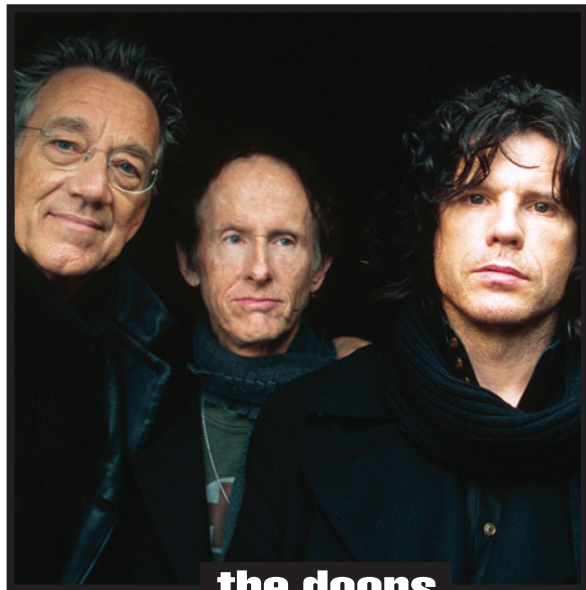




the doors

THE DOORS/VANILLA FUDGE/ANTIGONE RISING/
PAT TRAVERS/MACY GRAY/PERRY FARRELL/
JOHN SEBASTIAN/*Trump Taj Mahal*/Aug. 5

by Glyn Emmerson

ATLANTIC CITY, NJ—TV tapings can be a mixed bag. On one hand there's lots of downtime, delays and fake cheerleading done by producers in the front row to make it look like the crowd is enthusiastic and having fun. On the other hand most bands step up to the plate and offer up powerhouse performances for the camera.

At Trump Plaza in Atlantic City members of The Doors opened up

VH1's *Decades Rock Live* with a stellar lineup that included fellow '60s act Vanilla Fudge, Antigone Rising, Pat Travers and guests Macy Gray, Perry Farrell and John Sebastian.

Throw in a power outage, some tunes that had to be done twice and the added drama from Doors co-founder Ray Manzarek who unleashed the band's new name from the stage stating, "This band is, was, and always will be called The Doors." He then dedicated their performance and new name to the "the memory of Jim Morrison and the last song Morrison ever played on earth, 'Riders On The Storm.'"

Putting to rest the ongoing saga of lawsuits from the Morrison estate and ex-drummer John Densmore who fought the band's usage of The Doors name, Manzarek, Robby Krieger and front man Ian Astbury ripped through their set with the passion, rage and fury of a pissed off beast defending their legacy. Say what you will about Astbury's cloning the body and soul of the Lizard King of cosmic punk in his frayed jeans, snakeskin boots and leather jacket. One thing for sure is he has channeled the mighty one's roaring mouth and bravado into one of spiritual reverence.

Krieger, Manzarek and rhythm men Ty Dennis and Phil Chen pounded through the songs with the ferocity of a gang of neighborhood toughs as they ripped the doors off the band's doomed legacy into something positive and now.

On "When The Music's Over" the slow, somber and funereal drone gave way to the grand finale buildup, release and collective orgasm of the 5,000 plus on "we want the world and we want it NOW" as Krieger and Manzarek sliced into the crowd with twisted echoes of reverb and the cacophonous mix of sweat, blood and sonic boom.

Macy Gray joined the band for "Love Me Two Times" that had the coy, sultry Amazon woman strutting her stuff in a peach sequined dress and oversized afro like a bad-assed mama from planet *Shaft*.

Jane's Addiction front man Perry Farrell turned "Touch Me" with a string quartet and horn section into a torchy love ballad as he pranced

and preened onstage in his tiny frame with eyes ablaze that took the music to the present. "Crystal Ship" and "People Are Strange," dedicated to the boardwalk freakshow going on outside, added a sense of the surreal, trippy, magic that was always at the core of The Doors' sound.

They closed with "Light My Fire" that had Krieger and Manzarek counter riffing off each other like gunslingers in a spaghetti western.

Antigone Rising who set a precedent by selling their new one exclusively at Starbucks opened with a Doors medley, then played "You're The Reason" that went down like a de-caffeinated, stale latte. The reunited and original Vanilla Fudge played "She's Not There" and The Doors' "Changeling" proving that they were one of the best cover bands of the '60s.

The show ended at 1:45 in the morning with the prophetic '60s anthem "War" (what is it good for!) that members of the Fudge, Doors, Antigone Rising, John Sebastian and Pat Travers rocked out in honor of George Dubya's wicked ways.

Check out VH1 in the fall for this show's airing.

antigone rising

