

ENTERTAINMENT



Janet Jackson Ignites Tacoma Crowd

by Angelique Sanders



Janet Jackson kicked off the second leg of her 1990 "Rhythm Nation-Summer Escapade" world tour in Tacoma last Wednesday and Thursday nights, with R&B singer Chuckii Booker.

Jackson's energy was powerful, moving the crowd to singing and dancing. The special effects were tremendous, in that they coincided well with the emotion of the concert.

At the opening of Jackson's portion of the concert, a concentric-square stage lifted Janet while the opening music of "Control" unfolded in the darkened Tacomadome. Suddenly, lights from her right and left found their way to Jackson, as she stated: "This is a story about control. My control. Control of what I say, control of what I do..." And this time I'm gonna do it my way. I hope you'll enjoy this as much as I do..." And the crowd did, showering her with praise in the form of applause and screams. Even Chuckii Booker's mention of her name brought security but in full force, in response to the crowd's tremendous reaction.

The crowd found Janet's passion and strong emotion endearing. At one point, she smiled out at the crowd and was so moved, she paused from singing and cried for a moment...this proved that despite rumors, Janet was not just lip-syncing, though background voices were not other singers, but canned versions of her.

Jackson tearfully told the crowd, "I love you all so very much"; she

proved it with her strong show. Ignoring her older work, she focused on her more popular recent material from "Control" and "Rhythm Nation 1814". For most songs, Jackson and her accompanying dancers re-enacted her videos to the "t", including outfits and dance moves, and even some props.

Her performance in "All Right"--which was very much like her video--reflected her similarity to her brother Michael (who canceled a scheduled Tacoma appearance last year).

The dance pace slowed when Jackson sat down for a heart-wrenching version of "Come Back To Me". The audience was also treated to a never-before viewed video for "Black Cat", which deals with the problem of a spouse with a drug problem. The song opens with the line "Ain't no acid in this house" and the shriek of a leopard.

Janet took the stage for an encore in military drag, and illustrated her trademark industrial, choppy, energetic dance moves to "Rhythm Nation". She and her fellow dancers were highly visible--even from a poor vantage--as concert-goers were aided with a huge television screen.

Chuckii Booker, Janet's musical director and band leader, performed 45 minutes of cuts from his album "Chuckii". Despite poor stage equipment and hampered sound quality, Chuckii's energy and strong, danceable R&B were the perfect complements to Janet Jackson's concert.

Angela Winbush Electrifies Portland Audience



by Tony Washington

The very talented Angela Winbush appeared at The Starry Night June 9, 1990. She did more than appear: the talented vocalist put on a clinic. Most of the

material done was off her latest LP The Real Thing. One had to witness this event to believe the energy that was generated. In the duet with Ronald Isey: Lay your troubles down, brought the crowd to its feet many times. Angela Winbush easily joins the likes of Janet Jackson, Anita Baker and Whitney Houston to name a few. I highly recommend R&B listeners to get a taste of her music. Energetic, classy, talented, she was a treat to watch. In the event she comes to your town don't miss it! Thanks, Angela, for visiting the Rose City. Also a special thanks to NewStarr, B.E.A.N. Productions, and the Starry Night for providing first class seating; the organizing and coordinating was excellent.

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-J. Lynn Ervins

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