



PHILADELPHIA FEVER

MAY 19, 2014

Well, it's concert number two, and I am already somewhat speechless. I was determined not to make comparisons between concerts or cities or fans while on this tour. What I didn't realize is that this challenge is easier than I thought it would be, and here's the reason why that's so. Although the music was the same, every moment was completely different. I mean every moment with the fans at our gathering (separate article coming about this), each second in the arena before the show and all those precious moments that Barry was on stage were unique and unusual.

The fans in the arena that I spoke with weren't wired or crazy, just respectful and feeling lucky to be in their seats. As usual, many traveled long distances to see Barry, and they were serious about their icon, more in awe and reverent of what was about to occur, an historic musical event. They also seemed to be emotional in a quiet way, moved by the experience before it even happened. I also saw more generations sharing the concert, many parents with children and grandparents with their children and grandchildren. How fitting, for the music has spanned several decades; and in many cases, there were teens and twenty-somethings singing the songs with their more mature family members.

What I felt was different about Barry tonight was his laid back, cool customer performance. Even if he was nervous or apprehensive (and I know all performers feel jittery before a show), there was no clue about this being in his wheelhouse of thoughts. There were thousands of people staring at him, and he chatted up the crowd as though he was doing an acoustic performance in a tiny club. He was mellow, gentle and funny. I love the way he acknowledges fans in the audience and waves to people he recognizes, throws kisses and laughs along with the outbursts of adoring affection that emanate from the crowd throughout the show.

The performances from the supporting musicians were superb, and Barry clearly enjoys listening to them. It's fun to watch HIM watch Samantha and Beth and Steven as they each take a turn with the music. He nods his approval, and applauds with the rest of us, usually with a big grin on his face.

For me, some songs stood out tonight. I think that "Grease" is a particularly tough song to perform, (and one day I will ask Barry if he agrees with me about that.) It was impossible not to dance and gyrate to that song this evening. Super! I also thought that "Lonely Days" and "Tragedy", which are powerful pieces of music, were so energetic that I had no problem making a complete fool of myself singing every note and nearly losing my voice. Usually this is what occurs with "Stayin' Alive".

The bottom line was that Barry is getting into the groove, and the audience loved every word out of his mouth. Unless you're a musician, it's difficult to realize how much hard work is being put into every moment of the show. **THEY ARE WORKING.....**and that work is for the fans. The cool part is that the work is a passion for Barry, and that passion shows.

Many of my friends and family were in the audience tonight, and they commented to me that they couldn't get over how he sounded just like he did thirty years ago. My son said, "He sounded just like a Bee Gee" and when I asked him what else he expected, he commented, "Well, no one who's been singing that long ever sounds as good as they used to, but Barry does." I think that's all there is to say about this show.

Goodbye, Philly, and thanks. On to Wantagh!