

Revolver

August 10, 2004 @ Horseshoe Tavern - Toronto

Reviewed by: Deanna St.Croix of Stonerrockchick.com

This band, made up of some long-time musicians in the scene, is new to me. In fact, not until I received an e-mail with the date of the band's show at the Horseshoe did I even know of their existence. I don't know what they say, because it potentially speaks to a lot of things. Things I won't get into here. What I can get into right here and now is - Nick Walsh. You may remember him from his front man days with Slik Toxik, one of the few Canadian early nineties/late eighties metal bands to have actually 'made it'. Keep in mind making it meant having two videos on Much and being recognized as 'rock stars'. The days in which this occurred were lovely fine days in which rock and roll was a lot about showmanship, killer and catchy tunes, and the ability to make the girls hearts skip beats. Nick and the boys known as Slik Toxik had one incredibly catchy and kick ass song entitled 'White Lies/Black Truth' about a funny little cocaine habit. And it kicked ass. We were always proud that Nick was up there right along with Sebastian Bach. Nick was proof that putting on killer shows at the Gasworks and Rock and Roll Heavens could actually get you somewhere.

Skip forward to today and you'll see Nick Walsh has matured, and that his fellow band mates in Revolver are some of the best from the current scene - Laurie Anne Green (various projects), Sheldon Thomas (Edwin and others), Gene Scarpelli (various projects - son of Gino Scarpelli of Goddo fame) and Sean Kelly (Crash Kelly). So it was with much excitement and a lot of curiosity I took myself to the Horseshoe this fine evening to catch Revolver and see if they still had some of the magic Slik Toxik had. I wasn't expecting a Slik Toxik clone, but I was praying that Nick 'still had it'. Arrival to the scene of the Horseshoe, uneventful. Show slated to start at 9, I drag my best friend up to the front as far as comfort would let me go, and got ready to be utterly disappointed or mightily surprised and pleased. 9:20pm, the band comes on stage, the smoke machines start, the lights flick on with all colours, and I am beginning to feel excitement. The band, minus Nick, start getting it together and begin the first of several kick ass songs. That's when life came back into my body. The old life, the 90's rocker chick life, that second when Nick Walsh walked onto the stage looking exactly as he did way back when at the Gasworks, when I remember him as a shy guy who wasn't even old enough to drink. Right off the bat Nick starts out with some stage banter, right off the bat Nick starts acting, looking and singing as if time has not moved since the early 90's. I don't mean the music, I mean the attitude, the stage presence, the absolute look and feel that here was a rock star, and it was okay to be hot again and a rock star.

The songs forth coming from the band were dynamic, loaded with rock and roll attitude, steeped just right in today and just right in yesterday. The atmosphere and the amazingly fine hooks coming from both Laurie and Gene were straight from a manual how how best to play. Seriously, this was one fine group of musicians, all around. Gene laid his hands on the guitar like solos were king. Laurie played bass like a semi-shy bassist whose subtlety is her charm, and it worked great. And Drummer Sheldon was spot on. Rock and roll hair and all. Sean Kelly, well he kicks, enough said. The shining star in this show though, was the never aging, perpetually beautiful Nick Walsh. Now here was truly a guy who had not aged, and who was not one bit afraid to bring back the sex into rock. His stage presence was amazing, his ability to get the crowd going was genuine. This is the sign of the true rock star. And Nick was on in full force. I loved every second of this show, every second. The new songs were really good, the energy level was high like a cathedral ceiling. True to my inner rock metal self, the highlight of the show for me was the classic 'White Lies/Black Truth' which the band pulled off with oh so much rock and roll panache. I felt like life was mine for the taking again, that maybe I should get loaded and have loads of sex and fun. Unfortunately, common sense came back. Probably a good thing.

This is just the beginning for Revolver. Their next set will be opening for Vince Neil in Toronto. Way to go guys and gal. Truly a great listening and visual experience. I wish you all the best, and I am sure the best will come. You just don't pass up a band with as much combined history and talent as Revolver. No, they will lay waste to this scene, and move on past it. Rock and roll is here to stay, and Nick and the band proved that. Here's looking to another Revolver show.

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