

Pat Benatar (concert review)

Rag (Fort Lauderdale, FL)

December 1980

-Bruce Harmon

Photos by Steve Roop

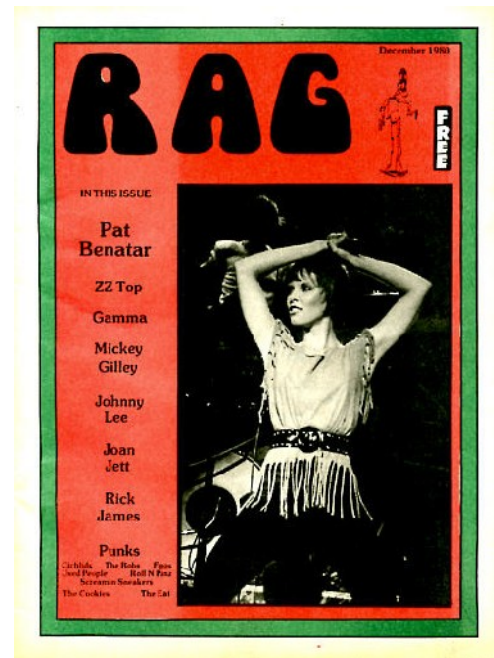
Riddle: Who is 60 inches tall, weighs about 95 pounds and possesses one of the strongest and most dynamic voices among female rockers today?

Answer: *Pat Benatar*.

All 60 inches of *Pat Benatar* paid a return visit to South Florida with an explosive performance at the *Sunrise Musical Theatre* that left quite a few people spellbound.

Nine months ago, when her tour called for small halls and a few clubs, she performed at a small club which only held about 500 people.

On her latest tour, it's a whole new story. This time around the small clubs are gone in favor of bigger auditoriums.



Opening the show with "I Need A Lover," Ms. Benatar proceeded on to treat the SRO crowd to over an hour of outstanding rock and roll. If it's possible to pick certain songs that stood out above the rest, one would have to include "We Live For Love" for the way Ms. Benatar handles the super high vocals (almost enough to shatter glass) with such ease, "In the Heat of the Night" with it's haunting vocals and superb solo by *Neil Geraldo*, and "Hell Is For Children" a song about child abuse with gutsy vocals by Pat. Other crowd pleasers were "Heartbreaker," "Hit Me With Your Best Shot" and her version of the old *Rascals* hit "You Better Run."

If you were lucky enough to get a ticket for the show you were treated to much more than just the singing of *Pat Benatar*. *Pat Benatar* is backed up by four of the most talented musicians around today. While she is considered the "star," credit must go to *Neil Geraldo* for his flashy lead guitar solos and backing vocals (he's also Pat's boyfriend),

Scott Sheets on rhythm guitar, *Roger Capps* on bass and vocals and the wild and entertaining *Myron Grombacher* on drums.

Unlike her performance earlier in the year, the evening was not marred by a bomb scare or anything else. It was simply flawless.

Unfortunately all good things must come to an end. Even after three encores it was still hard to believe it was over.

From all of us who attended, thank you, Pat Benatar, for one of the hottest and most unforgettable performances in South Florida in quite some time.

