



PASADENA
Independent

Pasadena, CA
July 26, 2016

The Yardbirds Delight Fans at The Rose in Pasadena



Jim McCarty rocked The Rose on Friday, with the energy and precision of a man half his age. – Photo by Terry Miller

Two weeks ago, we got the rare opportunity to speak with Jim McCarty, founding member and drummer of the legendary Yardbirds.

On Friday night, perhaps one of the hottest days of the year, one of the hottest acts took to the stage at The Rose to an incredibly enthusiastic, albeit smaller, audience than I expected.

Back in England, particularly northern England, there was a plethora exciting rock 'n' roll in the 1960s — The Beatles (the Mods) with their amazing vocals and studio experimentation; The Rolling Stones with their Rocker moniker and radically raw sound; The Who with their wild live shows; The Kinks with their wit and repartee, combined with “music hall sensibility,” according to one critic ... The Yardbirds are the quintessential Blues/Rock band that launched the careers of such guitarists as Eric Clapton, Jeff Beck, and Jimmy Page. Though The Yardbirds called it quits by the late 1960s, longtime drummer and founding member Jim McCarty has kept The Yardbirds' music alive over the years by touring with other players who are drawn by the band's “seminal mix of blues, soul, and psychedelia,” according to Steve Pfarrers a writer with the Daily Hampshire Gazette.

In 1992 the band was inducted into the hall of fame, when U2 guitarist The Edge was quoted as saying the Yardbirds were “loud and exciting.” It [the induction into the hall of fame] was a pivotal moment in McCarty's career.

In 1966, the band also released its earliest live recordings, with Sonny Boy Williamson, as Sonny Boy Williamson & the Yardbirds. The Yardbirds with the core membership of Relf, McCarty, and Dreja performed its last show on July 7, 1968. Page, with outstanding touring obligations for the Yardbirds, assembled a new lineup: his old bassist friend John Paul Jones, singer Robert Plant, and drummer John Bonham.

The New Yardbirds ultimately would become Led Zeppelin.

On Friday, the drummer who started it all was in full control of a beautiful set of DW drums and had the energy and precision of a man half his age. McCarty was in his element with musicians who not only know the classic hits, but really feel the music.

The smiles on the faces of the audience said it all ... The Yardbirds were a big hit. To hear McCarty talk about the band, click [here](#).