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warrior soul in chicago

i've been a fan of the band, warrior soul, for probably close to 15 yrs but they're one of the few bands i really like that i haven't seen before thursday night. they played at the double door and tix were a very reasonable \$10(!). how often can you see a really good band for that price these days??

when warrior soul hit the stage at 11:45pm (late show, especially for a week night), a few more people showed up (still a lighter crowd than i was expecting...and the DD ain't even that big) and moved right up to the stage and the energy level raised *several* notches. they were introduced as "sarah palin's favorite band" *insert sarcasm*

kory clarke is the singer and driving force behind warrior soul. the rest of the band's line-up has changed a bit over the years and now he has an entirely new band behind him. he's a surprisingly small dude (maybe 5'5") but he has a great gravelly growl.

i always felt warrior soul had the pissed off 'tude of a soundgarden and some of the political-ness of a rage against the machine...but they don't really sound like either band. most of their stuff is a straight up RnR vibe (a bit like ac/dc, motorhead or even a buckcherry) but sometimes they'd go for a more ethereal, trippy vibe but that wasn't their strength, imo. when they do the drinking/fighting or railing against the republican party and failed government with balls to the walls riffs, that's when they shine.

WS always showed me glimpses of what i thought they were capable of but they really didn't put it all together til their 5th album, 'space age playboys'. that was the album i knew they had in them. it was what i felt they were capable of for an entire album. then they broke up. if i had a dime for every band i liked that broke up after their peak...(van halen after 1984, the toadies, afghan whigs, soundgarden, speedball, just to name a few)....

the new band...well, i never saw the old band live but these new guys were pretty solid, if not always spectacular. the drummer's rhythm seemed to be a bit off at times. i played drums as a kid, so it's something i pay attention to and is a pet peeve of mine. most people probably didn't even notice. the guitar players had their moments but other times they didn't have the punch i was expecting. probably the most solid guy was the bassist. he was also good with the back-up vocals and having a real good time. it's always better when the guys you paid to see are having fun at what they're doing.

kory was the main draw, tho, and he's a really good frontman. i also appreciated that they played mostly older stuff. it was a good setlist. they played most of my faves and finished up after about 75 minutes, ending around 1am. the encore was my all-time fave WS song, "wasteland". it's the song that got me hooked on the band. i also got one of the setlists off the stage, which kory signed after the show. i

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told him i've been a fan for a long time, since i first heard "wasteland", but i hadn't seen the band live until tonight. he seemed really appreciative and approachable.

they sold the new album, 'chinese democracy' (beating axl to the punch) at the show. thing is, it's only 8 songs and came in a cardboard sleeve (the cover is an entertaining pic of tricky dick nixon shaking hands with elvis) with no lyrics or other pictures and they charged \$15!! i was pretty shocked they'd charge that much for just 8 songs. most bands would sell that for \$5-8. i'd suggest they'd lower that to no more than \$10, if they'd like to sell more copies. the shirts were a reasonable \$15. i've listened to the album a couple times and it is pretty good but they really should consider lowering the price. at least the cheap admission price made up for it.