

DOWN 18769AF
**Roseland Ballroom,
New York, NY
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Phil Anselmo, Pepper Keenan, Kirk Windstein, Rex Brown, and Jimmy Bower are no strangers to playing arena-sized shows packed with kids falling over themselves to get a closer look. After all, their respective backgrounds in Pantera, Corrosion Of Conformity and

Crowbar were nothing to scoff at – and let's not forget long-time New Orleans cult-doom act Eyehategod. So Roseland Ballroom transforming itself into one massive pit of sweaty fans, crushed front-row huggers and screaming girls in tight everything should have been no surprise.

And it probably wasn't, but when the house lights came on, and that sea of Pantera, COC and DOWN t-shirts raised their fists and shouted in approval of the larger-than-life men that stood before them, the humble, sober and surprisingly fit Anselmo could do nothing but react with gratitude and amazement. It was a welcome reaction that amped the crowd into a fit of insanity during the song that immediately followed.

The night began as it always did for the band, with a movie that boasted some of the most influential acts on the band's sound, interrupted by backstage antics and other clips of the band them-



selves. This is the buildup to see the guys in the flesh.

So when the lights came on and the band immediately jumped into "The Path," an uproar of ejaculatory satisfaction overcame the crowd.

DOWN, touring in support of their latest release, *DOWN III: Over The Under*, was as unreal as the band's hype has been surrounding the new release, and then some.

The band played songs from all three of their wildly popular albums, including "Lysergik Funeral Procession" from *Down II: A Bustle In Your Hedgerow* and "Jail" from *NOLA*, but they concentrated on their latest release. Other memorable songs included "Lifer," "Temptation's Wings" and "Eyes," each of which sounded as speaker-blowingly good as the CD version and were completely flawless, a demonstration of professionalism perhaps at odds with the band's doomy, swampy, substance-soaked reputation of old, but these are new times.

Anselmo looked like the million-dollar man, without even mentioning his voice, that has remained intact and pitch perfect through the years, and it was evident tonight that the shell that was his well-documented, former destructive

self had completely shattered. His command of the crowd – rivaled by none in this age of half-enthused, wholly timid, and completely uninspired, unimpressive, and bland frontmen from the latest wave of pseudo-metal bands – was refreshing, to say the least. If you've never seen Anselmo pace back and forth on the stage, making eye contact with each and every one of those that cling on to the dividers up front, rib-to-metal, arm outreached, constricted breath under the weight of the hundreds behind them, then there are no words that can explain his presence without losing a large chunk of the aura he carries onto the stage. ☘

SETLIST

- The Path
- Lysergik Funeral
- Procession (No Intro)
- Lifer
- Three Swans And One Star
- Hail The Leaf
- I Scream
- Ghosts Along
- Learn
- Melissa
- Lias (I Don't Know What They Said But...)
- N.O.D.
- Temptation's Wings
- On March The Saints
- Beneath The Tides
- Losing All
- Eyes
- Jail
- Stone The Crow
- Story Me In Smoker