

# PRETENDERS LIVE

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After several complications, The Pretenders finally opened their world tour on January 14 at the Plattsburgh State Field House. Their opening act was The Cuts, a group from Burlington, Vermont, who filled in for the original act, Iggy Pop.

The Pretenders were originally scheduled to appear in Plattsburgh on November 15, 1986. The concert was then postponed to December 1, due to the death of the group's sound man. Shortly before Christmas Break, the date was changed once again to January 14, with the agreement that the group would open their world tour at SUNY Plattsburgh.

"With this tour, (Chrissie Hynde) aims to re-establish (The Pretenders) as a live rock-and-roll band." (Press Republican, January 12, 1987)

The group arrived in Plattsburgh about a week before their appearance to warm up for their tour. They put in a public appearance by playing a soccer match with the Fourth Ward soccer club. According to the January 12, 1987 issue of the Press Republican, "...the Ward club won, 11 - 10, before a crowd of about 250. Proceeds from the game will go to the Clinton County Office for the Aging." According to a review of the concert by Joe LoTempio, which appeared in the Press Republican on January 16, 1987, Iggy Pop's appearance was canceled due to travel complications and bad weather. It was disappointing that Iggy Pop did not perform, but most of the people who attended the concert may not have known who Iggy Pop is, especially if they have never heard his current, cool LP "Blah Blah Blah."

The concert began at about 8:15 p.m. with The Cuts, who visited Plattsburgh last fall with The Joneses and Screaming Broccoli. They put on a short but intense set,

which unfortunately drew cries of "Where's Chrissie?" and "We want Iggy!"

Their program, which sounded a bit like Simple Minds and Tears for Fears, included "The Raised Eyebrow" and "Architecture" from their 1985 self-produced and self-released album; "AWOL;" and "In a Different Part of the World" from their forthcoming second LP.

The house lights came up after The Cuts set and the waiting began. But the restless audience soon became interested again as the lights dimmed, the off stage fog machines churned into action and the percussion pulsated.

After a somewhat hesitant entrance through the fog, The Pretenders dived confidently into "Room Full of Mirrors" and went on to perform many songs from

their "Get Close" album. Additional songs were from previous recordings.

The older songs, "The Adulteress," "Precious," "My City Was Gone (Ohio)," "Middle of the Road," "Tattooed Love Boys," and "Brass in Pocket" were all performed well. Chrissie Hynde, the only original member of the band, sang in tune and with honesty.

Perhaps due to a lack of familiarity in the audience, most of the new material did not bring out the enthusiasm in the crowd of about 2500 like the older, well known songs did.

Even though the band seems to be somewhat uneasy, effort and determination are all present in The Pretenders' new world tour. But their first performance turned out to be a lot of fun.



Tim Stachurski