

From: bernard

NEXT...is a fitting word / topic after seeing our girl tonight in Hamburg. Anybody who really, REALLY...knows me, knows how detailed / anal / fastidious to a fault I can be < grin!
> shut-up, Supreme Court!!!

tonight puts to rest any question / ponder about any basics as to Diana's talent / focus. She is the CONSUMMATE professional...thus, any REAL peers / professionals in other areas / disciplines will ALWAYS appreciate where she's coming from. She is in GREAT SHAPE folks! I stand there looking at her merely 10 or less feet away...and I sometimes can't even believe the way she pulls off THAT LOOK! Stage make-up...LIKE BUTTA!!!

Understated...smooth, utterly FLAWLESS! However, there is a look in her eye that says...

HAVE FUN, AGAIN!!! she's doing what SHE WANTS to do. she's not performing from any kind of "obligatory" / desperate place...she's doing what she DESIRES to do...what she was MEANT to do. Just her level of comfort + JOY in standing before any number of folks giving her love (the theatre wasn't any sell-out, but such things do not matter...) and her giving it right back in such potency. Hamburg's performance space was akin to San Diego's...for any of you who had the opportunity to see her in San Diego. It was very modern...high-tech, with little teleprompter screens down next to the stage floor lighting...so, if she needed to...she could look down unnoticeably and see where she was in any given song.

her voice...BEAUTIFUL instrument. she seems very "family" with her band now days. she took time to acknowledge each member twice during the show...and foregoing any audience coming up on stage in this venue...she brought the background singers + guitarists down to the front of the stage on "I Will Survive" (closing song) for a little jam session.

She seems to be trimming the show down for stops which aren't as big / full...she didn't do "I Ain't Been Licked", "Reflections", "Endless Love" nor "Best Years Of My Life". She ROCKS OUT on "Love Child" (I'm still trying to understand what her foot-stomping -- in those special-made silver platforms -- is all about...) they've added a little samba / marangé-type jazz to the end of "Love Child" which has Diana shimmying her hips & shoulders...and really WORKING the song.

she opened in the red flamenco outfit...adding purple mink-type coat for "Touch Me In The Morning", then to the white & silver ensemble / gown / wrap for "The Boss", "It's My House"...then to the Lady Day finery w / head wrap...she wowed me with the new yellow ball gown...looking like a REAL PRINCESS for "Theme From Mahogany / Ain't No Mountain High Enough. And she closed in the black comfortable shift / cocktail dress...with A KILLER pair of red Jimmy Choo's OR Ferragamo's on her delicious little feet.the German fan club (Andreas & Carolin...SO GOOD to see you both!!!) had EXCELLENT front-row seats secured for myself, Dr. Jaap + about 8 others who all gave Mama Ross MUCH LOVE throughout the show.

I will write more of my reflections later...but, I wanted to send IMMEDIATE impressions to those of you watching / listening back in the states. it's almost 1am in Hamburg...7pm in NYC...4pm on the west coast. I'm on a second Long Island Iced Tea...and very ready to slumber with, of course...Visions Of Diana Ross dancing thru my head.

Much Love,

bernard