MUSIC

IN ATTENDANCE

PINK TURNS BLUE IN LOS ANGELES

OCTOBER 10, 2014 · ELIZABETH RHODES · LEAVE A COMMENT

Pink Turns Blue are currently on tour and stopped in Los Angeles for a show on September 18th at The Echoplex.

German-based Pink Turns Blue formed in 1985 with Thomas Elbel, Mic Jagwer, and Marcus Gilijes. Their first release *If Two Worlds Kiss* (1987 on label Fun Factory) became a seminal album in the post-punk genre with the song "Walking on Both Sides" garnering the band attention by showcasing their sound of thematically remastic-yet-despairing lyrics atop solid basslines and guitar work all tending to a moody, cold vibe befitting of the era. Pink Turns Blue's music is a contemplation of the uncertainty and fear of the Cold War period living in a divided Germany and the attempt to translate the longing for romantic rapture and a questioning of trust and faith in people, institutions and is overall *Listeners need to look on Further than to "Missing You"* from the first album to understand the dichotomy of dark cynicism and romantic vulnerability emblematic of Pink Turns Blue's catalog. The band went on to produce eleven full-length releases in total, most recently with *The AZBECT – Untold Stories* (2006, Orchestra Records).

Photo Credit: Pink Turns Blue Official Facebook Page

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The band up to the current tour was unusual because so many devoted fans of 80s dark wave and post-punk knew how rare of an opportunity it is to see Pink Turns Blue perform in the United States. In fact, the band disbanded back in the mine and reunited initially at Wave-Gotik-Treffen in 2005. For this tour, the current line-up is comprised of Mic Jagwer (vocals, guitar), Reiki Velten (bass), and Paul Richter (drums). Pink Turns Blue's set during their stop in Los Angeles at The Echoplex included many of their best known songs and had plenty of audience members singing along and dancing.

Photo Credit: Pink Turns Blue Official Facebook Page

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The openers for this show warrant mention because they were incredible. Over is a self-described anarcho post-punk sheath were hard based in Portland, Oregon. They gave a performance that stand out because not only was the band tight, the vocalist Ruby Monet had a stage presence that is often hard to find or easily dismissed. She commanded her space on stage and fronted the set with a haunt-ingly beautiful act of self-flagellation that brought back early memories of a young Siouxsie Sioux playing with the sensuality inherent in various religious acts and displaying a startling assertion of her own power and sensuality. Bonus points to Over for their cover of INXS's "Don't Change".

Photo Credit: Over

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Los Angeles-based Wetwear Pact played a set of straight-up coldwave with eerie guitar sounds and echoing vocals. They set provided a musical respite between Over and Trotwood and introduced this new LA band to a wider audience. Seeing a band like Trotwood is almost like stepping back in time the fashion, hair and makeup of feel vocalist Trish and saxophone/backing vocalist Ruby reference 80s punk, goth, and new wave reminiscent of Rebella Ballet and Czech Lacquer. The music of this dark punk band from Berlin is fun and their set was consistently high energy. Trish's fanciful dancing and playful demeanor was an unexpected delight of the event. Curiously there was no drummer on stage for this band, leaving the work to a laptop instead.

Photo Credit: Wetwear Pact

A major shout out is due to Michael Stock, founder of Part Time Punks for making this show possible. From his all-vinyl DJing between sets to the handmade flyers for each show, Stock's DIY love for off-beat alternative music is a reminder about the importance of community in supporting artists.

Photo Credit: Image Without Attribution, Flyer Design

For more information about the music, merchandise and upcoming tour dates for the aforementioned bands check out Pink Turns Blue's Website and on Facebook and Instagram, Totenhold's Bandcamp and on Facebook and Instagram, Wetwear Pact's Bandcamp and on Facebook and Instagram, Over's Website and Bandcamp and Facebook and Instagram, and Part Time Punks' Website and on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. And for more live show coverage check out more In Attendance write-ups.

–Elizabeth Rhodes

Elizabeth Rhodes is the Associate Editor of Auxiliary. Based in Los Angeles, she is a writer, DJ, modern linguist, and astrology junkie.

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