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The Steve Miller Band rockin' me (and the crowd), baby, at Jazz Fest

Sue Strachan **MAY 7, 2018 - 2:16 AM**

1 of 7



The Steve Miller Band code out the Gentilly Stage on the closing day of the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival on Sunday, May 6, 2018.(Photo by Chris Granger, NOLA.com | The Times-Picayune)

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For those of us of a certain age, let's say baby boomers, the Steve Miller Band is our summertime soundtrack with each song a nostalgic memory of hanging by the pool or

swimming hole with friends, playing kick the can, going to camp, AM radio, and for some, smoking weed.

So whoever did the line-up for the Gentilly Stage on the last day of the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival must have had that in mind, creating the right vibe for the audience -- Flow Tribe, Mia Borders, George Porter Jr. and Runnin' Pardners, and The Radiators @40 -- before the Steve Miller Band got on stage.

The Steve Miller Band has played Jazz Fest before: 1999 and 2004 with saxophonist John Handy, according to the Jazz Festival and Foundation archives. Miller, 74 years old and now into a 50-year recording career, and his band were glad to be back (he called New Orleans the cultural heart of America) -- and the crowd, which extended through the field in front of the Gentilly Stage and onto the racetrack -- were glad to see them. (Even Quint Davis showed up for a song.)

The set list consisted of songs that were from his greatest hits repertoire: "Swingtown," "Take the Money and Run," "Dance, Dance, Dance," "Abracadabra," and the "Joker," to name a few,

while he also added some blues songs, one in honor of T-Bone Walker ("T-Bone Shuffle"). Extended instrumentals on songs like "Fly Like an Eagle" showed off Miller and the band's musical dexterity.

It was when the set was down to the last three songs that the band and the crowd were completely in sync: "Rockin' Me Baby" had people singing along, clapping in rhythm, trading verses with Miller (who was clearly enjoying himself) and almost everyone was dancing, including a dance party of college students in the VIP area in front of the stage, continuing on through "Jungle Love" and "Threshold/Jet Airliner," showing that while baby boomers may be who came to see the Steve Miller Band, the Gangster of Love's legacy will endure.

Set list

The Stake

Swingtown

Abracadabra

Living in the U.S.A.

Take the Money and Run

Mercury Blues

T-Bone Shuffle

Stranger Blues

Dance, Dance, Dance

Wild Mountain Honey

World Turn Around

Serenade

Going to Mexico

Space Cowboy

The Joker

Space (intro)

Fly Like an Eagle

Rockin' Me

Jungle Love

Threshold/ Jet Airliner

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