

LIVE

LACUNA COIL, MOONSPELL, PASSENGER & POISON BLACK

London Astoria

Tonight saw an evening of gothic metal from Century Media held at the Astoria and the only UK gig to be played by **Lacuna Coil** last year.

First up was **Poison Black**, whose sound comprised of big but formulaic riffs with the odd keyboard instrumental weaving through, sounding very similar to Paradise Lost. As a band in their own right they were pretty good but nothing new, unfortunately.

Passenger, who were next on the bill, were fronted by In Flames singer, Anders Fridén. To be honest, they didn't have much of a stage presence - basically looking like five scruffy guys in their mum's garage. They hail from Sweden and play a strain of nu-metal so similar to Korn, it could have been a cover band. They churned out hypnotic metal riffs with their faux Jonathan Davis whining the vocals and rasping his rap. Some tracks had female vocals that floated over their dirgey sound.

The third band to take the stage were **Moonspell**, a well established five-piece from Portugal. This is the first time that I had seen them live and was eager to see them in the flesh. A skinny figure looking for all intents and purposes like a gravedigger entered the stage - this is Fernando Ribeiro, their frontman. His vocals are very exotic (dare I say, vampiric?) and the use of chimes and screams help to set their distinctive mood. Unfortunately, the crowd did not seem to warm to them as much as expected. Their last track "Full Moon Madness" was easily the strongest of the set. Finally, **Lacuna Coil** take to the stage. They are a six-piece with two singers, from Italy. The men wore frock coats and Cristina Scabbia (the female vocalist) was wearing a bondage outfit. Her mesmerizing and haunting vocals interwoven with the seductive guitar riffs especially in the track "Cold Heritage" were inspiring. For the first time, the band were using a backing track which was a little disappointing but I was to learn later that Cristina was suffering with a throat infection and in order that the show went on, this was the way to go. During "Heaven's a Lie" the crowd were given the chance to sing along - and you know you've made it big when the audience jumps at the chance to participate.



Lacuna Coil



Moonspell