

Prince - The Concert Chronicles+ is Francis Nicholas Driscoll's expert witness account of 11 Prince concerts over 32 years, in great, explicit, funky design and detail!

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By Francis Nicholas Driscoll

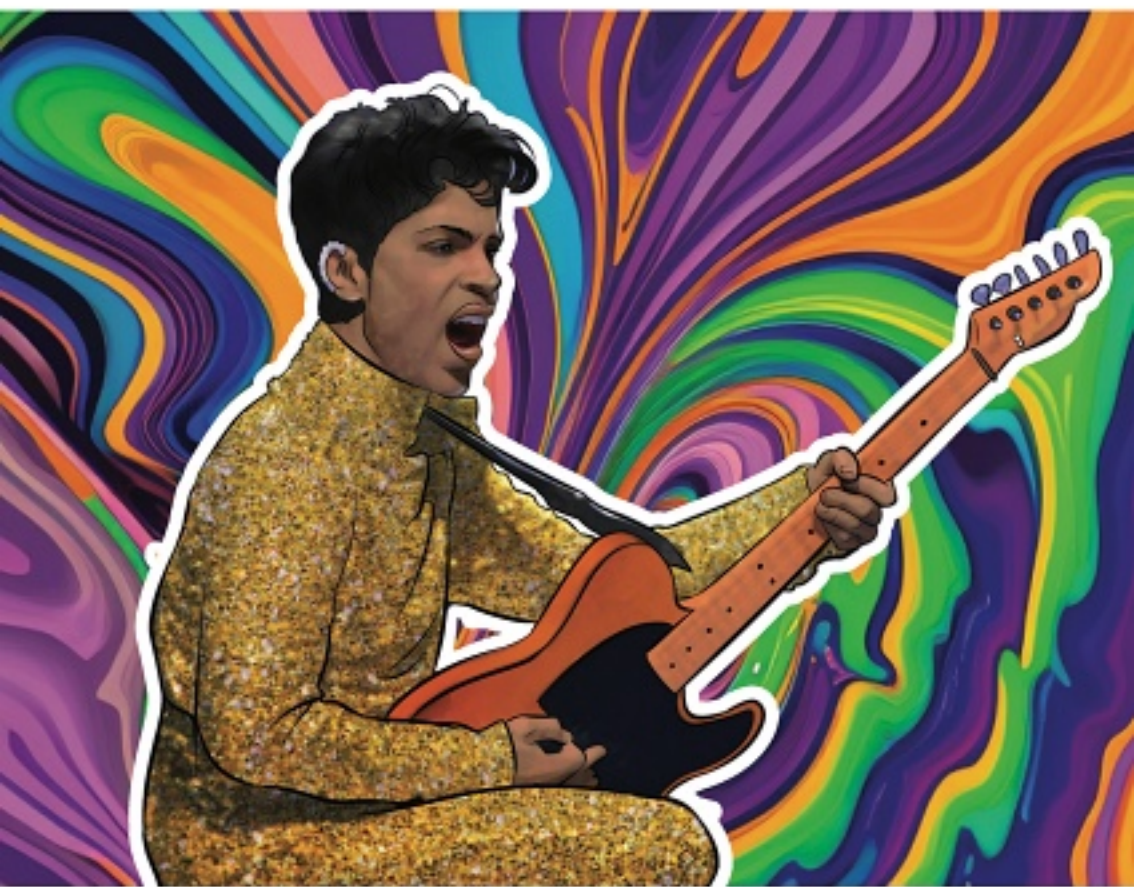
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PRINCE

THE CONCERT CHRONICLES+



BY
FRANCIS NICHOLAS DRISCOLL
THE QUINTESSENTIAL
QUADRIPLEGIC

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Prologue

Greetings! And welcome to my story.

I started following Prince in 1985. I had known about his presence in the music scene previously due to his monster hit “I Wanna Be Your Lover”, however, his outfits and flamboyancy was something I didn’t understand as a kid, but then, one day as I cut school in Brooklyn, I was hanging out on Sackett st. with Jose, Jimmy and Oswald, and Jose played a song called “Computer Blue” and I was mesmerized, and I’ve been a fan ever since!

So from there, I bought a Cassette called Around the World in a Day, the cover reminded me of The Beatles’ Yellow Submarine Album and the Music was as good! I missed the Movie Purple Rain in Theaters and was so sick of hearing When Doves Cry, but I loved the songs on the Albums that weren’t hits, and at this point, I picked up the VHS Tapes of Purple Rain and Prince And The Revolution Live, and the fact that he made a Movie out of his Album, and then with the Live Video, he demonstrated that it wasn't a fluke, he really did write and sing and play everything, so I knew even back then how great he was, and that set forth the 30+ year journey I took as a Prince Fan in which I saw him in concert 11 times, and more recently was so inspired that I recorded my very first full album of Intellectual Properties, dedicated to him, and to say that Prince is the reason I am a Professional Musician, Producer, Filmmaker, Recording Engineer, and now an Author is an understatement, I have nothing but praise and gratitude to the Greatest Musician who ever laced up a Guitar String, The one and only Artist Forever Known As Prince! I will carry the Purple Torch forever.

Contents

Chapter 1: Madison Square Garden	1
Chapter 2: Livesexy	5
Chapter 3: Life Trajectory	7
Chapter 4: The Artist	9
Chapter 5: New Power Soul Festival: Souled Out	11
Chapter 6: Musicology	13
Chapter 7: Prince Returns to Hartford	15
Chapter 8: Purple Reign	17
Chapter 9: 3121	19
Chapter 10: 20 Ten at Madison Square Garden Again!	21
Chapter 11: 3rd Eye Girl	25
Chapter 12: Band Members and Collaborators	27
Chapter 13: Prince's Transition	29
Chapter 14: The Movie	31
Chapter 15: Celebration of Prince	33
Chapter 16: The Revolution Resurrection	35
Chapter 17: Concert Films	43
Chapter 18: Elisa!	45
Chapter 19: Virginia	47
Chapter 20: The Aftermath	49
Chapter 21: Set Lists	51
Chapter 22: The Haters	53
Chapter 23: The Concert Chronicles +	55

Chapter 24: Top Tier Tributes	57
Chapter 25: The Albums	59
Chapter 26: I Would Die For You	61
Chapter 27: Concert Perspectives	63
Chapter 28: More Aftermath Thoughts.....	67
Chapter 29: Honorable Mentions.....	69
Chapter 30: The Rediscovery.....	73
Chapter 31: Being a Prince Fam	75
Epilogue	77
Acknowledgments.....	79

Chapter 1: Madison Square Garden

When I was a kid, Madison Square Garden was THE place to see a show, everyone who was at the top of the Music Industry got to play shows there and it was always magical! So when I found out that Prince was bringing his “Hit and Run” tour to my city, I grabbed my Aunt Donna, met my friend Terek on the line, and waited for Prince Tickets outside The Garden for hours! We got the Tickets, and heard later on the radio that it SOLD OUT!

The Concert happened on Aug. 2nd, 1986, it was incredible! The Concert kicked off with the Title Track “Around The World in a Day” and then he immediately preceded to play the first 4 songs of side 1, of his current album “Parade”, I’m thinking this guy’s good, real good. Wow.

I can only remember certain highlights of this concert, due to it being over 3 decades ago, but things stand out like the long versions of “Head”, “Mountains”, and “Anotherloverholenyohead”, I can’t remember what the Encores were, I know “Kiss” was one of them because it was number 1 on the charts. I don’t think he closed with “Purple Rain”, I’m pretty sure it was “When Doves Cry”! I left the Concert thinking wow, He’s great, He’s going to last a long time, and I was right! I had no idea, however, about the journey he was about to take me on and how much his life ran parallel to mine for so many years and situations.

There were melodramatic theatrics, such as a tub that Prince laid in while Purple Rain showered him from the roof of the Garden, the band was bigger than it was in the Movie, it contained a horn section, and it was just unbelievable how they played for 3 hours without even taking a break: The Roof Was On Fire! And I got to hear him do Soft and Wet that night, which was his very first Single from his debut album For You.

It left me wanting more, but I definitely felt as if I had witnessed the future of rock and roll, and at a place like The Garden, it was confirmed!

Mick Jagger, David Bowie, Freddie Mercury and Brian May were all in the audience!

Key Point: During the Concert, he would tap any band member on the shoulder and give them a 5 minute break, in which he would play their instrument, so by the end he had played every single instrument on that stage.....except the horns, he wasn't good at horns. I had to mention this though 'cause I can't believe I remember it all.

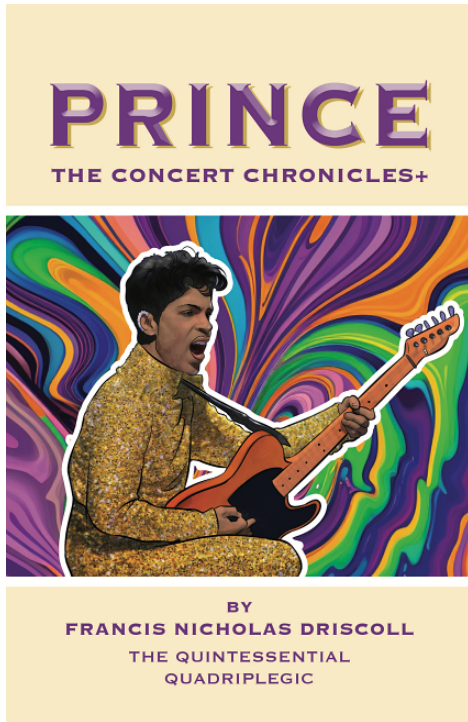
Ticket Buying Experience:

Incredible. Back in those days, we only had Ticketron, there was no Ticketmaster, the Internet wasn't even a thought yet. So we were allowed to camp out overnight outside Madison Square Garden's Box Office on 8th Av. For Prince and the Revolution Tickets when they went onsale!

Around the World in a Day
Christopher Tracy's Parade
New Position
I Wonder You
Under the Cherry Moon
Raspberry Beret
Delirious
A Love Bizarre
Do Me, Baby
Controversy
How Much is that Doggie in the Window?
Automatic
DMSR
When Doves Cry
Anotherloverholenyohead
Head
Pop Life
Girls & Boys
Life Can Be So Nice
1999-Paris Aftershow Set List, 2 weeks after

Prince

The Garden! Similar in retrospect, in many ways, though The Garden List also had Mountains Long Version, The Roof is on Fire, and the Encore was When Doves Cry.



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