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Review Room filled with love for one of rock's great survivors

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FTER 50 years of performing - including a spell with Deep Purple in the early 1970s when he regularly played in front of 250,000 people – Glenn Hughes has experienced it all, but this sell-out show at the Fleece just may have been the hardest gig of his career.
The 65-year-old rock legend's moth-

Glenn Hughes

The Fleece

By Mark Taylor

er had died the previous day and although he stuck to the 'show must go on' mantra of well seasoned performers, he admitted that he wasn't in a good place and emotions were

running high.

Hughes is one of rock's great survivors and his years of excess are well documented in his autobiography. He lost most of the 1980s due to his drug and alcohol addictions. At one point his weight ballooned to 17-stone due to his fondness for Mars bars – legend has it he used to eat crates of them for breakfast at his Beverly Hills home.

Sober and clean for the past 27 years, his only addiction these days is running around LA "like Forrest Gump" - a habit that recently resulted in him having to have a dual

knee replacement.
With his mop of brown hair and the sort of tight-fitting paisley suit only true rock stars can get away with when they are of pensionable age, Hughes looks in great shape con-sidering what he has been through.

The last night of a triumphant British tour to promote his new album, *Resonate*, Hughes appeared with the tightest of bands made up of Scandinavian musicians including the pouting, leather-clad guitarist Søren Andersen.

Although several songs from the new album were aired and well received by the fans, particularly *Flow* and *Stumble and Go*, the 90-minute set covered his entire career.

Hughes turned the clock right back

to his first band, Trapeze, for the psychedelic-tinged *Medusa*, a song he said he played at Bristol's long-lost Granary Club in 1970 – much to the appreciation of some of the older members of the audience who may well have been there 47 years ago.

One Last Soul and Black Country from his Black Country Communion collaboration with Joe Bonamassa and Jason Bonham received two of the biggest cheers of the evening, as did the news that they are releasing a new album later in the year.



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Although principally a bass player, Hughes possesses one of the most extraordinary voices in rock – an ear-splitting falsetto that reaches high notes singers a third of his age would struggle to match.

His trademark voice came to the fore in an epic version of Deep Purple's *Getting Tighter*, with a pum-melling bass line that almost lifted

the flagstones beneath our feet. Also from 1975 Deep Purple album Come Taste The Band was the classic You Keep On Moving, which had the

leather jacketed middle-aged men around me punching the air.
But it was a blistering encore of

Deep Purple's *Burn* that acted as a reminder we had just spent 90 minutes in the company of a musician who truly deserves his place in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

Hughes may be mourning the sad loss of his mother but there was no doubt that he was among friends on his final night in the UK and the room was filled with genuine love for one of rock's great survivors.



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