

ARTS AWARD REVIEWS : Pink Floyd Exhibition

Sean



Last year, I was fortunate enough to go to the Victoria and Albert Museum to see a widely known Arts Event.

As we entered the Exhibition we were given a pair of Sennheiser headphones to a signalled MP3 player, which triggered an audio file depending on the location you were currently in. The quality of these headphones were of high standards but they weren't the best ones had ever tried.

On the other hand, almost like being swallowed into a retro 60's Camper van, walking into the boot was surreal. A few steps ahead I saw an actual artefact passed from Syd Barret (one of the founders) from the psychedelic rock band. I ventured across the eye catching rooms and the contents of it which was just plain amazing. Everything, everywhere was a part of the history that made the band what it is today, everything was a benchmark in the history of Pink Floyd.

The exhibition started from the 13th May - 1st October, in this period 300,000 people went making it one of the most visited exhibitions ever. That is over 3 Wembley Stadiums at full capacity.

The band formed by friends in Cambridge, started off from a privileged background in the psychedelic era gaining moderate success before making their follow up album to 'Wish You Were Here', then they reached fame with 10th studio album (The Wall) eventually leading Roger Waters to a solo career. About 20 years later, in 2005 they reunited as a full group for the first and last time before Richard Wright passed away. Pink Floyd is arguably one of the most influential British Rock Band of all time.

Thomas

Last year I went to a Pink Floyd Exhibition in the Victoria and Albert Museum. It was named "Their Mortal Remains".

At the entrance, we were given a pair of headphones conjoined with an electric signal based Audio player, which functioned by us walking around between various parts of rooms in the exhibition, which all had precise informative pictures and cards, in addition to guitars that the members owned and art they drew.

At the very first stage of it there was a replica of a touring van, although the van looked quite immense to what probably the original van looked like. There was a path through the van, and as we walked through it, it seemed like we were being engulfed by psychedelic rabbit hole. There were very vibrant colours contrasted with the dark and mystical sort of walls. Then other stages of the exciting and almost historic journey, included flying pigs (hanging from the ceiling), some sheep, warplanes and UFOs. Furthermore, an impressive replica of the Battersea Power Station, almost the size of the actual power station inside the museum.

We also came across artefacts, of the ingenious legend – Syd Barret, which felt quite honourable just to look at them. There were drawings and photographs by him, and of course he will never be forgotten by the band, with the *Wish You Were Here* album, addressed to him.

Then there were videos and imagery from the time, for example a director that decided to use Pink Floyd's music for a very explosive scene, and it really worked with the hard-core psychedelic sound in the background, mirroring the vast and tragic destruction of a building.

Additionally, there were some lyric notebooks, and music you could also listen to that weren't released before.

Not to mention a visual reproduction of the album cover *Division Bell*, which features Ely Cathedral distantly in the background, but quite viewable. It was all very entertaining.