

# Review

## The Onion Club

### American Apocalypse Now (Preview)

9 Nov 2017

Brian Hutton

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*"I'm going to a town that has already been burnt down  
I'm going to a place that has already been disgraced  
I'm gonna see some folks who have already been let down  
I'm so tired of America"*

And so starts the theme of tonight's performance, theatre, concert that is **The Onion Club**. A full performance focusing in on the inner workings of the land of the free and the dystopian disintegration it is currently enduring.

Many of my American friends are discussing online the degradation of their society, the bubbling hatred towards each other and the destruction of the dream they were brought up with.

The songs chosen are like a roadmap towards oblivion, and are chosen and delivered with rare power and brutal and visceral beautiful.

*"This is the end  
Beautiful friend  
This is the end  
My only friend  
The end  
Of our elaborate plans, the end  
Of everything that stands, the end  
No safety or surprise, the end  
I'll never look into your eyes again"*

Somehow, these lyrics seemed fresh again, as though written for the present.

Patti Smith's 'Pissing in a River' follows soon after.

*"My bowels are empty, excreting your soul  
What more can I give you ? Baby I don't know."*

'Crack of Doom' (The Tiger Lilies) passes into a small section of Anderson's O Superman and then into Radiohead's 'Lucky'. Things are really chewing into the gristle of modern America.

The song choices, poetical interludes and characterisations are all mesmerising, I know of many who would be fully absorbed and blown away by this performance.

The chilling version of Nick Cave's 'God is in the House' almost drops the temperature in the room although things start to warm up again with Randy Newman's 'Political Science'.

The concert finishes on a song called 'Glacier' by John Grant, which I'd never heard before but was such an uplifting and beautiful ending.

If The Onion Club are performing again, just go, and thank me later for telling you to. Thanks to Pauline Hynd (alias **Dubiety Brown**) and **Stephen Lee** for the high art.