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Beyonce Shows This Is Her Time At Dodger Stadium



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Media & Entertainment

I write about music and the business of music.



IMAGE DISTRIBUTED FOR PARKWOOD ENTERTAINMENT - Beyonce performs during the Formation World Tour at Dodger Stadium on Wednesday, Sept. 14, 2016, in Los Angeles. (Photo by Frank Miceliotta/Invision for Parkwood Entertainment/AP Images)

The two questions I'm inevitably asked the most as a journalist are:

Who's your favorite interview? (Alanis Morissette)

And who is the most famous person you've ever interviewed? Though I've met Tom Cruise, Scarlett Johansson, Mick Jagger, Stevie Wonder, Jay Z, Kanye, Robert Plant, Shaquille O'Neal and hundreds more people known around the

world, I always say Bono. Bono might or might not have as many followers on social media as a Kardashian, but he carries himself with the countenance of royalty. He walks into a room and you feel the presence.

Beyoncé has become the closest thing to Bono in music. Adele and Taylor Swift might sell more records, Katy Perry might have more Twitter followers, but even they will tell you Beyoncé exists on a different plane; she has transcended pop music and achieved icon status. It's a presence; Beyoncé is one of the few people who makes a room stop or who other stars want to be.

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The demand to see her sold-out "Formation" tour at Dodger Stadium was so great (and demand for tickets was so high even nosebleed resale seats went for over \$100, comparable to Adele's recent run) that the traffic delay for more than 50,000 fans caused the show to start an hour late. The best comment on social media from angry Echo Park residents was, "Echo Park is such gridlock right now I thought Obama was here, but it turned out to be Beyoncé." Close second was "Tonight is the night Beyoncé broke Echo Park."

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The Obama comment was fitting. Again, like Bono, Beyoncé carries herself as if she is royalty. Monica Molinaro, a journalist and Beyoncé fan, summed it up best, "We're there 'cause she's one of our favorite divas. She's amazing, and I'm sure she knows it." Though she did have flash on her incredible screen set-up at one point during the song "Don't Hurt Yourself," the phrase, "God is God. I am not."

That's why you go see Beyoncé, not because, like Adele, you want to have a beer with her after. You buy tickets to see Beyoncé because there is a theatrical presence and air of perfection you dream of.

Her “Formation” tour delivered all of that and more with what seemed like 10 or so costume changes, almost two and a half hours of music broken into five acts as if a Broadway show, and countless video vignettes documenting her family life and carefully letting people into the private side of Queen Bey. As a spectacle, with its pyrotechnics, giant video screens, rotating stage and fireworks, it is nearly unrivaled. “I’ve never seen a show quite like Beyoncé’s,” said Molinaro, who just saw Guns ‘N’ Roses at the same stadium two weeks ago.

“Formation” is a coronation, and, as such, the music is secondary to the massive scope. That said, Beyoncé first became the sensation she is today on her vocals and performance. And that was celebrated often in the more than 30 songs, with “Ring The Alarm” standing out in particular, as well as “All Night,” which she introduced as her favorite song to sing off *Lemonade* because it’s about redemption and makes her feel good, and “One Plus One,” which she said was her favorite song to sing. And an acapella mix was a potent reminder that she was a powerhouse vocalist first.

When you are Beyoncé, there is no letup. To achieve the level of fame she has, there is a drive even more forceful than her vocals, and that was clear watching as every song seemed to be competing to top the last and you could see the slightest bit of frustration at one point when the crowd didn’t sing along as vociferously as she wanted. Though that was a minor thing, because there was clearly no question how devoted the Beyhive is to their queen. And she repays them, including fan videos talking about what beauty means to them in “Flawless.”

Molinaro noted how much Beyoncé’s fans “revere her.” As Molinaro accurately stated, “This is Beyoncé’s time.” The why and how will be discussed for years after. But watching the show at Dodger Stadium, there was no questioning who rules the world right now.



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I have written for Billboard, Rolling Stone, the L.A. Times, Yahoo, Vice and every other major publication as well as host the Hulu interview series Riffing With and teach music journalism for Grammy Camp. I have had countless amazing experiences in music, from tea with Nei...

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