

Only a handful...

Pics Bar, Bury. This location will go down in the history books as being the place where a select few witnessed a coming together of free spirits and punk rock. This was the location of the unveiling of the much hyped and duly noted Monkeys Punk. This band of FCUM brothers provided a sound not heard since the Pistols rocked the Lesser Free Trade Hall back in '76.

OK so I may be going overboard a little bit. However if you can stay with me for one second, what I will say, is that without a shadow of a doubt these five lads from the various corners of Manchester walked onstage that night as five individuals with a love for FCUM and their music, but they walked off stage as a fully fledged band with an already growing cult status. These lads rocked the house that night. The band that played after them who were to be the main set that night sent a glowing tribute to the band later on and could not believe that this was the first time that "the Spunkers" had played live.

Strutting down the stairs of Pics Bar they preened onstage like five lads who knew it was their time...and didn't they just throw it all in our faces. From the first twangs of the Tenpole Tudor classic "Swords of a Thousand Men" we all knew then that we were gonna be in for a great night. Monkey Spunk front man George (that's right, FC's very own kit man) has a presence on the stage that draws you in and takes you with every song they play. His voice carries over the hard sound of drummer Mark who smacked every skin that night to perfection. The Wig on twang stick looked composed and aloof whilst the two guitarists Irish Paul and UTB's very own Wolfie slashed every note with a hard edge that I haven't heard live from a band for a long time.

The set list compromised of mainly classic punk tunes including the Ramones "I Wanna Be Sedated" and the Buzzcocks "Boredom" but the band also got down to the Inspiral Carpets' terrace favourite "This Is How It Feels" just to get all the crowd involved. The band could have played all night...and to be fair they nearly tried to when George got them to run through NMA's "51st State" for a second time but this, alas, was the final tune for the night.

So as the crowd cheered them off, something inside of me said that the gig was more than I had expected it to be. If you get a chance to see them live then I could not recommended it more highly. This band will go on to bigger and better places than Pics Bar in Bury but what can't be said is that this night will ever be repeated again. Wednesday 2nd July 2008. That date will be forever marked for me as the day when only a handful of people can really, honestly say that I WAS THERE.

Peggars

After scribing this review Peggars' pet terrapin was given back to him safe and sound

