



Music Review

June 2020

U2 - eXPERIENCE + iNNOCCENCE tour 2018

London - O2 Arena

Set Up

U2 used a large stage that spanned almost the full length of the O2 arena. There was the main stage and a smaller b-stage that was round. The b-stage is a screen itself. Both parts of the stage were connected with a walkway that had a 29 metre long video screen. The band could climb into the screen that can be raised and lowered. They can interact with the images on the double sided screen and still be seen through the imagery. They can also make it so you can't see them in the screen, so they can be there one moment and then not there the next. When the screen is lowered to the stage it can be raised again and the part the band is on can be left on the stage. The walkway that the band is on can also be raised and lowered so it can be set at an angle. The whole set up allows every seat to be the best as the whole band can move about due to multiple drum kits, one even in the screen itself. The whole set up allows for an immersive experience.

Performance

U2 uses all the lighting and set up to create an immersive performance. The band move around the stage a lot but also come back together and play in close proximity to each other just like they would have done when they first started as a band. They incorporate lights and use imagery on the screens to make the show amazing. Despite being on the top tier, I still felt like I was part of the show because when they perform, they perform for everyone and not just for the few close to the stage. They didn't have a support act so it allowed them to play more of their songs. They started with an explosive intro by playing The Blackout but still incorporated older songs such as I Will Follow, that remain timeless classics. The explosive intro got me feeling really excited for the rest of the set, like a support act would get you ready for the main act. The band work together flawlessly and have perfected the sound levels of all the instruments so you can hear each part like you can on an album. Despite the songs being like they are on their albums, they still retained the live sound and that feeling that you can only get when you are hearing the songs played live. They structured the set list so that one song flowed into the next and told a story. They structured it like a play is structured, in an order that makes sense.

Fergus (Year 8)