

earthtone9

subsist

deadloss superstar

THE FORUM, SUNDAY 4TH MARCH

It's 4am and I'm sitting in bed, trying to write a review of the gig I was at a few hours ago. The trouble is, my ears are still ringing, and I'm finding it hard to concentrate. I don't even know why I'm writing this - perhaps it's because Subsist deserve a good review on the AUBL (eh, Big Bad?), or maybe it's because I'm just a student dirtbag with nothing better to do.

Anyway, the first thing that hits you upon walking into the Forum for the first time is the size of the place - it's massive! Imagine a huge underground vault, its walls decorated with Egyptian carvings, with a series of small caves at one end, filled to overflowing with the treasures of ancient Pharaohs. And all this while Limp Bizkit are playing over the PA system. OK, so maybe there's not much treasure left - it was probably nicked years ago - but there is a bar, and some earthtone9 merchandise, and some scabby bits of paper that Pete insists on giving out to everyone. It's also worth mentioning, at this point, the stage. It, too, is massive. In the event of anyone falling off it, death is almost certain. I feel nervous just looking at it, and I'm not even playing.

But **Deadloss Superstar** are. How they blagged this gig, I'll never know, but anyway it is they who have the privilege of entertaining the firmly seated audience that has gathered. I know it's a bit of a cliché, but I'll say it anyway: Deadloss Superstar ROCK! Really, they do. Brian jumps around and swears a lot. Martin laughs nervously and breaks a guitar string. Craig chain-smokes and just looks cool. (Remember kids - cigarettes might be bad, but they sure look good.) And Nick and the drummer guy - well I can't really see what they're doing, but I'm sure they're very good at it, whatever it is. The only thing Deadloss don't have is fans. Where is everybody? This is, like, The Fudge Guys, saviours of the Aberdeen music scene, professional liggers and generally ONE OF THE MOST ENTERTAINING BANDS AROUND. I think it is time that someone, somewhere started a Deadloss Superstar fanclub.

A fine performance is capped by Martin leaping off stage with his guitar and beasting it off the floor, before hammering it to death with a pair of drumsticks. Nice.

And now to the heavyweight bout of the evening. **Subsist** versus **Some Technical Problems**. In the band corner we have Arron, the (excellent) drummer who looks very hot, Ollie, the bass player who jumps around a lot. And we have Michael, singer/guitarist/shareholder and general pimp daddy in charge of Subsist. He wears a top that says 'Fuck the Post Office'. Cool. Competing against Subsist, we have a drumkit that keeps falling apart, a guitar that isn't loud enough and a bass strap that falls off. It is a tough battle, but in the end Subsist win by a comfortable margin. When they're good, they're brilliant, like on opening song *Watching Me Now*. And when they're not - well, they're still very loud and full of energy. This band is good. Go and see them. And someone buy Michael some waterproof eyeliner, please.

Finally we get to **earthtone9**. Sorry it took so long, but I'm not very good at this review thing, as you can see. I have to admit that I am probably the least qualified person to review this band. I have never heard any of their songs before. I don't know their names. I don't know where they come from. And I'm not even hard enough to venture into the moshpit.

The singer looks like the guy from Arab Strap, but with lots of shouting and aggression. He even drinks his water violently. The bass player wears shades, while guitarist #1 sports a Nick Oliveri beard. The drummer looks a bit crazy, but then so do all drummers. He is damn good. And as for guitarist #2, I'm not sure where he fits in really. Sort of a cross between Jimmy Page and one of the 3 Musketeers. Nice perm, I have to say.

Earthtone9 are VERY LOUD, and then 1. They use samples, and are really quite good, only you can't hear any of the vocals, just one big wall of noise. Hence the current hearing problem. They seem a bit pissed off with things. Because the hall is so big, and there are relatively few people there, the sound echoes off all the walls. To be honest, this is the sort of venue where you'd expect to see the Primary 6 nativity play being performed, not some heavy-as-fuck metal band. After 40 minutes of loudness, earthtone9 decide to call it a day. No encore, just a brief thank you and they're gone. I think I liked them, but my ears aren't so sure. I can safely say, however, that it is the best gig I have ever attended inside an Egyptian burial chamber.

Reviewed by Kai Sirius.