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Lush

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Lush are finally back in Los Angeles after an almost 20-year absence! "It all comes full circle," said lead vocalist/guitarist Miki Berenyi as she reminisced about the first time the band played the legendary Roxy Theatre even further back in April of 1991. Berenyi, Emma Anderson, and Phil King have reunited with notable new drummer Justin Welch of Elastica (please get back together) and have hit the road to promote their career retrospective *Chorus* and excellent new 4-song EP, *Blind Spot*, after making their festival return this past weekend at Coachella.

Berenyi really is the center of the band (and the only member we heard a peep from between songs). Anderson and King diligently carried on, while Welch seemed to relish the opportunity to bring this fantastic band back to life. This new lineup is strong, but could benefit from spreading the spotlight around a little bit.

Every era of Lush's past and present was represented with special attention given to (arguably) their best album, *Split*. Fans of early EPs *Mad Love* and *Scar* were treated to several songs from each. Hell, most of essential EP collection *Gala* was played tonight. The band's last album and detour into Britpop, *Lovelife* got the shortest shrift with only "Ladykillers" making the cut. *Spooky* was represented by three songs, including evocative album opener

"Stray," kicking off the first of two encores. New song "Out of Control" fit nicely near the middle of the set. If only they could have worked in "Nothing Natural" somewhere! Maybe they'll surprise us in the Fall, when, as Berenyi announced to the crowd, the band will return to the States to remind us of how special they were and still are. If you never saw Lush the first time or just need a fix after two decades, then you...must...get...tickets...NOW! Lush still got it!

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