



Eddie Vedder of Pearl Jam.

▼ REVIEW

# Pearl Jam proves they are rock 'n' roll kings

By Mike Devlin

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Perhaps the best way to summarize Pearl Jam's triumphant return to the stage would be to nip a line from Neil Young's classic rock 'n' roll ballad, *Out of the Blue*: "Hey, hey, my, my, rock 'n' roll will never die".

Ironically, it was those precise words — passionately sung by Pearl Jam's Eddie Vedder during a jam-inspired

reworking of the band's hit, *Daughter* — that provided Pearl Jam's Sunday night's Vancouver performance with such meaning. The Seattle band's sold out show proved loud and strong that rock 'n' roll is definitely here to stay.

Despite this being their first tour in close to four years, due mostly to an ongoing Supreme Court battle with Ticketmaster, Pearl Jam looked like the rock 'n' roll upstarts of their earlier days. They were angry, passionate and

clearly up to the task of pleasing 16,000 of their closest friends. Crowd favorites like *Jeremy*, *Black*, *Given to Fly*, *Not For You* and *Wish List* were, of course, on the evening's agenda.

During the second of two encores — an uncharacteristic move by the band, yet one that was an obvious show of affection for the raucous capacity crowd — a spirited Vedder made his way from the stage onto the crowd's outstretched arms. The crowd lifted Vedder high

above their heads as he sang the final chorus of the band's breakthrough hit, *Alive*.

It wasn't until the band's second encore, which included the rarities *Leaving Here*, *Yellow Ledbetter* and a cover of The Who's *Baba O'Reilly*, that Pearl Jam finally made sense of the previous two-and-a-half hours. This band loves their fans, and their fans, in turn, have made Pearl Jam the undisputed kings of rock 'n' roll.