



WitnessReports:

♣'s 2nd Birthday

Glam Slam Miami

June 7 & 8, 1995

Being able to attend ♣'s birthday concert turned out to be extra special for me as it was my first time to ever see ♣ perform in person. ♣ hasn't toured in my state of Texas since 1988, and at that time I wasn't even old enough to drive a car. We flew into Miami, arriving on the evening of June 6 at about 7:40pm. We arrived at Glam Slam around 11:15pm to pick up our Gold VIP tickets. While we were in the box office, a woman working there looked outside and said, "I may be wrong, but I think the boss is here!" We immediately stepped outside where a large black limousine sat parked in front of the main entrance to the club. A security guard stood right by us, and nothing happened for a minute or two. All of a sudden, out popped ♣ himself, no more than 6 ft. away from us! He wore a sleeveless black and white jumpsuit very similar to the outfit in the "Love Sign" video. He also wore a black collar around his neck with letters written in white on it. It seems so strange now, but I can't even remember what the letters said; we just stood there in shock. As he headed for the main entrance door, he managed to crack a small grin at us before saying something to someone who met him at the door. We were told by ♣'s production manager in the box office that Gold VIP ticket holders would be admitted to a private press party at 8:00pm the following night and that all other ticket holders would be admitted to the club at 10:00pm. ♣ was expected to play sometime after midnight and end his show close to 4:00am. We were also told that we would be able to purchase merchandise from the NPG Store in the lobby as soon as the doors opened the next night. He also mentioned that the June 7 performance would consist mainly of *The Gold Experience* material and that the June 8 performance would consist mainly of brand new material.

The next day, around 4:30pm, we walked up the street toward the back alley of Glam Slam and noticed ♣'s limo parked at the back exit of the club. There were a few fans standing around, and we were told that ♣ was expected to leave the club around 6:00pm. Finally the band members exited the club and boarded a waiting tour bus about 20-30 ft. away. While we were waiting for ♣ to come outside, a familiar looking man wearing a baseball cap, t-shirt and shorts with sneakers passed right by us. Someone remarked that it looked like **Eric Leeds**, so I hollered, "Eric!" He turned around and approached us. He was extremely nice and shook hands with a few of us and even let us have our pictures taken with him. By 6:20pm, many fans gave up waiting for ♣ due to the sweltering heat and there were only about 6 or 7 of us left. At about 6:25pm, ♣ avoided the limo altogether and left by the rear exit, heading straight for the tour bus. He wore a large white felt hat and a long-sleeved green top sporting thick black vertical stripes and solid green pants. About 10-15 min. later, **Mayte** left and boarded a burgundy Lincoln Towncar. We were told by a VIP worker that the night before, ♣ was having some technical problems with his guitars and was so frustrated that he was considering canceling the performance altogether.

We left to get in line for the evening's performance a few minutes after 6:30pm. We finally found the line for the Gold VIP ticket holders at the side of the club. The other line began forming in front of the main entrance and it turned out that this was the line to be in, because they actually started admitting them before us. Someone told us that the show had been sold out. We Gold VIP's were not admitted to the private press party, in fact, no one was admitted until around 10:30pm. Some of us in the Gold VIP line left to go to the front of the other line when we saw them being admitted first. Surprisingly, we were admitted fairly promptly ahead of the others. No one was allowed access to the dance floor and stage area for at least another 30-40 min., but there was access upstairs for the \$50 VIP ticket holders. Gold VIP's were given gold paper wrist bands and admitted to a blocked-off area in front of the stage. The "Purple Medley" edit version was played when the dance floor opened, followed by several funk grooves including "Flash Light" by Parliament. We were able to get about 8-9 ft. away from the front of the stage towards the right side.

Mayte was scheduled to open for ♣ and she finally came on stage around 12:20am, wearing a hot pink limbo outfit. Simply gorgeous!! She lip-synched and performed dance routines with backing dancers to "Children of the Sun," "Rhythm of the Heart" and "Latino Barbie Doll." The set lasted around 25 min. and shortly thereafter, a bag of lollipops was thrown into the crowd. **Sonny T.** was seen walking around the club and **Mr. Hayes** stood inside the Gold VIP section and talked with the fans while signing autographs. He was really super nice to us all.

We were told by one of the stage crew that ♣ would not come on stage until 3:00am and that the club was packed with around 1300 fans. Fortunately, ♣ began his performance around 1:38am. A large white screen was raised and ♣ entered the front stage with a blistering rendition of "Endorphinmachine." With "slave" written on his face, he was dressed in a red robe-like suit, his top was tied to form a circle from which hung a pendant which, together with the circle, formed the symbol of his name. Towards the end of the song, ♣ had the entire crowd chanting, "Prince is dead," over and over again. From there, ♣ went right into "The Jam," introducing all the band members as well as himself. "The Jam" spilled as usual into the deeply soulful ballad "Shhh," too incredible for words! Next, ♣ did a little instrumental number and had us all repeat, "Can't get enough of that funky stuff," over and over. ♣ really does have telepathic ability, he was having us say what everyone was already thinking. "Days of Wild" was the song played next and ♣ immediately had everyone wave the "wild sign" high from side to side. ♣ continued the performance with a masterful version of "Now," which was followed by "TMBGITW." At one point during this song, ♣ paused to get nasty with Mayte, who was wearing a white bikini top and very short hot pants. Next was an extremely funky version of "Pussy Control" where ♣ had us all practicing the chorus before he began. None of the women seemed offended by the song, probably because it is about something they've known all along. The next song was "Letitgo," which blended right into a soulful performance of "Pink Cashmere." Next was the new version of "Loose!" which had everyone jamming. After a very brief pause, ♣ performed a truly astounding, acoustic style version of the NPG *Exodus* track, "Count the Days." ♣ would not have the crowd mellowed out for long though, and followed with an extremely funky "Return of the Bump Squad." The next song was the Prince number "7," preceded by an instrumental introduction for Mayte, who had changed into a gold outfit, to do her sword dance to. After "7," ♣ left the stage for about 10 min. during which the crowd chanted "Prince is dead" in hopes of bringing him back quickly.