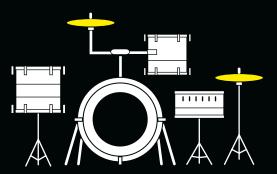


THEATRE ROCK OF AGES: A CLOSER LOOK



ANATOMY OF A ROCK BAND

A rock band is a small ensemble of musicians who perform rock music. Rock bands may include a variety of instruments, but the most common configuration is a 4-part band consisting of lead guitar, rhythm guitar, bass guitar, and drums. The lead vocalist may just sing, or play an instrument as well. The microphones and amps help turn up the volume to make the band loud.



★ DRUMS ★

Along with the bass and the rhythm guitar, the drums make up the rhythm section of the band. The drum kit (also called a drum set or trap set) is a series of drums, cymbals, and percussion instruments meant to be played by one person using drumsticks and foot pedals. While drum kits may include a wide variety of percussion instruments and may be customized for each individual drummer, a typical rock drum kit consists of a snare drum, a bass drum, one or more toms, a hi-hat, and one or more cymbals.



* LEAD GUITAR *

The lead guitar provides the melody lines, guitar solos, and riffs for the songs. In a rock band, the lead guitar is most often an electric guitar. An electric guitar is played by strumming, plucking, tapping, or slapping the strings. In order to hear the notes, the electric guitar most be plugged into a guitar amplifier (also known as an amp) before being sent to the speaker. This also makes the electric guitar loud. The sounds from an electric guitar may be altered to create effects such as reverb and distortion. Often, the lead singer plays the lead guitar.



★ BASS GUITAR ★

The bass guitar (also known as electric bass or bass) is similar in appearance to an electric guitar, but has a longer neck and fewer strings. The bass is primarily played with the thumb or fingers by plucking, slapping, popping, tapping, thumping, or picking the strings. Players may also use a plectrum, or pick, to make sound from the strings.

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* RHYTHM GUITAR *

Along with the drums and bass, the rhythm guitar provides the rhythmic pulse, or beat of the music. The rhythm guitar is played by holding down a series of chords with the fretting hand, while strumming, picking, or plucking rhythmically with the other hand. Often, in a rock band, the rhythm guitar is also electric.

* MICROPHONE *

Also known as a mic, or mike, the microphone is used in a rock band to amplify the vocals and instruments and make the music really loud.



★ NIGHTCLUBS OF THE PAST ★



The musical Rock of Ages takes place in 1980s Hollywood nightclub. Situated in the heart of the Sunset Strip, the fictional club, Dupree's Bourbon Room is headed for the wrecking ball to make way for new development including the corporate athletic store, Foot Locker. Much like Los Angeles in the 1980s, Seattle has seen many of its former rock and roll venues bulldozed to make way for high-rise, high-end condominiums and chain stores. Here is a look at just a few of the rock clubs of Seattle's past.



CROCODILE CAFÉ

Opened in 1991, this is arguably one of Seattle's most well-known clubs. Host to Nirvana, Pearl Jam, Cheap Trick, R.E.M, Mudhoney, Yoko Ono, and many others, the club has a strong hold in Northwest music history. The club abruptly closed in 2007, breaking many music lover's hearts. After many renovations and reconstruction, it reopened in 2009 and still hosts a variety of local, national and international bands at its Belltown location. Even while new buildings rise up on nearby street, the Crocodile Café remains as a neighborhood mainstay.



GORILLA GARDENS

Located at 5th and Jackson, Gorilla Gardens was the site of Guns N' Roses first show in Seattle. Other bands such as the Ramones, Sonic Youth, Violent Femmes, and local band Soundgarden also played this seedy all-ages club, whose clientele was mostly hard core punk rockers and heavy metal fans. After a year in its International District location, the club moved to the Queen Anne neighborhood where it would gain notoriety in 1985 as the site of a violent clash between club goers and Seattle police after a Circle Jerks concert. The riot marked the end of Gorilla Gardens, but the Seattle grunge scene was just beginning.



THE OFF RAMP CAFÉ

Before they were known as Pearl Jam-one of the most notable and beloved Seattle rock bands-the band performed their first-ever live show as Mookie Blaylock in this iconic club in 1990. The Off Ramp Café closed its doors in 1999, but the site still house two rock venues-El Corazon and The Funhouse.



RKCNDY

Opened in 1991, this all-ages club was host to many of the most popular rock bands of the 1990s including Pearl Jam, Nirvana, Radiohead, and Built to Spill. Pearl Jam recorded the video for "Alive" here. RKCNDY closed on October 31, 1999 and the site is now home Spring Hill Marriot Suites, with a 24 Hour Fitness right across the street.



O.K. HOTEL

Scenes of the movie "Singles" were filmed in this legendary Pioneer Square club where the Seattlebased, Nirvana played "Smells Like Teen Spirit" for the first time. Other grunge bands that played at the O.K Hotel include Tad, Mudhoney, and Mother Love Bone. After the 2001 earthquake, the club closed and became home to an art gallery and the O.K. Apartments.