

Live At Leeds 2013

Review of Live At Leeds, 4th May 2013

Live At Leeds 2013 saw over 100 acts play across nine city-centre venues. This was the most entertainment the festival has offered in its seven-year history.

Three venues were within easy walking distance of Millennium Square. They included Nation of Shopkeepers and the O2 Academy. Other venues such as Leeds University and The Brudenell Social Club involved long walks across the city, or if you wanted to get there in good time, a fairly pricey taxi journey. So, like any large festival, it was impossible to see and appreciate the whole thing. For a very favourable £22.50, however, no one could argue they weren't getting an absolute bargain.

The first band of the day at the O2 Academy was local five-piece, The Pigeon Detectives. Their on-stage theatrics – with singer Matt Bowman often swinging his microphone lead around like a lasso and spraying water into the crowd – is perhaps the best thing about them. Certainly energetic, The Pigeon Detectives are basically a Kaiser Chiefs rip off playing bland rock music to adoring 14-year-old girls. A disappointing start.

Next up were Newcastle's Little Comets. Despite some technical difficulties, Robert Coles and the lads didn't disappoint with their repertoire of mini indie-pop anthems. The stage, however, was a little too big for them and both they and the organisers will wish they'd been located elsewhere on the day.

Tribes followed and fitted the Academy bill perfectly, playing their now anthemic hits to a capacity crowd.

Unknown Mortal Orchestra was the most anticipated band of the day at The Cockpit – BBC 6 Music's Marc Riley was even in attendance for this one. After spending an age setting up, the psychedelic American three-piece finally launched into a mesmerising set. Highlights included Swim And Sleep (Like A Shark) and So Good At Being in Trouble, from acclaimed album II.

The Leeds University Refectory was the final stop for Everything Everything. Playing for well over an hour, the Manchester band's eclectic and complex songs, with front-man Jonathan Higgs' excellent vocal range, kept the crowd

enthralled the whole time. Higgs commented at one point that he didn't realise "this many people knew who we were," as he gazed out across the large 2,000 capacity space.

A great day out and well worth a visit again next year.

**A version of this article originally appeared on NE:MM.*