



## Music

Monday, May 14, 2007

### We Hear It Live: The Kooks/Illinois

Indie rock band du jour, *The Kooks*, make music that you just want to bounce to while singing along at the top of your lungs. We suppose that's why most of Friday night's sold-out crowd was drunk, packed in, and ready to fight anyone who tried to push their way to the front of *The Fillmore at Irving Plaza*.

But first, the openers, PA rockers *Illinois*. (We know, their name is confusing!) The last time we saw Illinois was from about 5 feet away in the basement of *Cake Shop*, a teeny NYC venue that sells, um, cake. They filled the place then, and we'll be damned, they attracted a decent-sized early crowd at the Fillmore, too. Lead singer Chris "Arch" Archimbald hurried through catchy gems, "One on One" and "Headphones," off the band's latest EP, *What the Hell Do I Know?*, to keep within the short set time. (Seems like he sensed most people were itching for The Kooks.) Still, you wouldn't know it from the hearty cheers at the end of their set. It official Arch, we love you, too!

Now, The Kooks.

After strutting on stage after 10ish, lead singer **Luke Pritchard** barely uttered a word to his adoring fans, but it didn't matter much. After launching into single "Eddie's Gun" there wasn't one person left standing still in the building. (And that's a feat for New Yorkers, people take my word.) The boys ripped through most tracks from their debut album, *Inside In/Inside Out*, but unlike their last show at The Bowery Ballroom, this time we were treated to a smattering of new songs—all rowdy, all fan-approved. We swear if you didn't know they were new, you wouldn't have known the difference—there was literally no change in enthusiasm. By set enders "Jackie Big Tits" and "Sofa Song," you'd have thought half the crowd ran a marathon. The Fillmore was sweltering, everyone was sweaty, and, happily, most of us were too happy to care.

- Robin Monheit



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