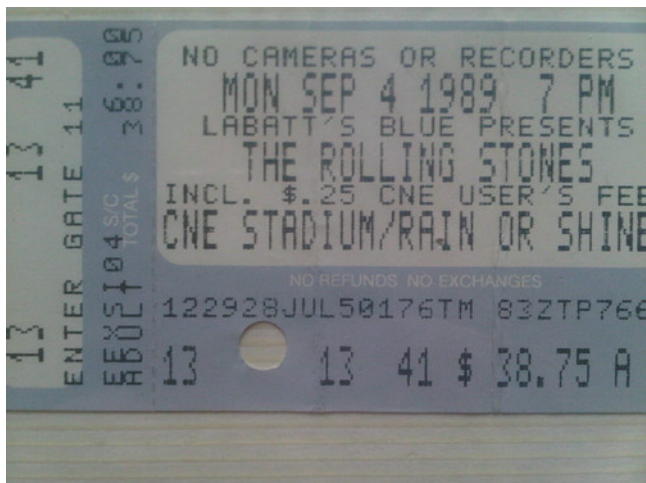


The Rolling Stones Are Golden: 50 Years Of Rock And Roll | Allan Besselink

Written by Allan Besselink
Friday, 13 July 2012 16:21



I would have to admit that it is, at first, an odd phrase to utter: the Rolling Stones are 50 years old. Say what? Seriously? Hard to believe, isn't it? Queen Elizabeth II just celebrated 60 years on the throne. Now, the Rolling Stones celebrate their golden jubilee, with 50 years on the throne as the undisputed kings of rock and roll.

In 1974, they said "it's only rock and roll". Little did they know just what rock and roll would mean to the culture as a whole over the past 5 decades.

We can thank the Stones for bringing the blues to mainstream awareness. It started with the name – derived from a [Muddy Waters](#) song. The blues inflections didn't stop there though. Their earlier music had that greasy, behind-the-beat vibe of the blues greats. Somehow, they translated this feel into some of the greatest rock and roll songs of our era. A Jagger – Richards song can be a thing of beauty, and only 3 or 4 chords total.

A good band might put out some good albums, but the real test is in the live performances. After all these years, this is what continues to be the life blood of the Rolling Stones.

I have had the good fortune to see the Rolling Stones twice. Each time, I thought it might be the last opportunity to see the legends perform live. Each time, I was wrong! The latest rumor is yet another [upcoming tour](#). Not bad for a bunch of guys in their 60s and, yes, now, their 70s. I am sure that Mick Jagger will still be running and strutting around the stage nonetheless, still trying to work his magic on the ladies.

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