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Stars rally against violence

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SAVE for the three over-zealously excitable and high-pitched MCs, the 3R's public concert at KLCC's Esplanade was a commendable success despite appearing amateurish. The show could have benefited from a little less din from the hosts who screamed into the microphones.

There was also this cameraman perched on the jig arm of a crane, rising up and swooping down, threatening to drop onto the VIP audience section. These minor details aside, it was an enjoyable show.

Sheila Majid opened the show with Wanita, an apt choice for the occasion, which is tied to the International Women's Day celebrations. The predominantly female audience cheered Malaysia's Jazz Queen as she later spoke on violence against women.

Sarimah Ibrahim picked up the tempo soon after. Accompanied by back-up dancers, she sang two numbers. Her interlude discourse revolved around domestic violence, surprising the crowd with an account of a rather personal family experience.

Next up was Anuar Zain. His rendition of Through the Fire showed off the extensive reach of his vocal chords and the power of his lungs.

To suit the occasion perhaps, Anuar wore a beautifully tailored mid-length jacket in champagne-coloured Thai silk. A Ziana hand-me down?

Then came Camelia in an obvious Tom Abang Saufi ensemble of pristine white Tutsi top, pristine white Capri pants, and white see-through pareo with black Pua motif. After two songs, she was joined by Ning Baizura.

An exchange of thoughts on harassment between the two singers showed how different they were. Ning said she would tell the wolf-whistlers off to their faces while Camelia... well, Camelia wouldn't.

A ballet performance followed Ning's awesome delivery of Mariah Carey's Hero Next, reigning rap princes Joe Flizzow and Malique of Too Phat had the audience all worked up and eating out of their hands.

Next, reigning rap princes Joe Flizzow and Malique of Too Phat had the audience all worked up and eating out of their hands from the time they went on stage. All at once the youthful sea of fans rose to their feet en masse, pushing up against the barricade.

Flizzow and Malique did not disappoint. Animated and energetic, the young men let lose a few thousand volts of charges. Pandemonium on stage, pandemonium in the audience and a mild party at the VIP seating area.

VVIP guest Datuk Shahrizat Jalil even got off her chair for a little jiggy with Too Phat, presenting a great photo opportunity for shutterbugs. Organiser Datin Paduka Marina Mahathir was also seen putting in her two steps' worth.

Closing the show was Bollywood group Synergy, who toned things down with a with a romantic re-enactment of Kuch Kuch Hota Hai, complete with Shah Rukh soundalike.

(END)