

## The Hot Spot: FiLaBuStA

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I know I told you all a while back to go see FiLaBuStA whenever you had a chance. Well, I hope you heeded my advice. Here's the thing. I get to see a lot of different bands every weekend. Some of them are quite nice and perfect for the small venues they perform at. Some of them capture their audience with the way they conduct themselves on stage. Some of them are simply amazing, and I want to see them over and over again.

And then there are a select few bands, such as FiLaBuStA, who absolutely have that certain je ne sais quoi that puts them firmly above and beyond the rest. As they say, the proof is in the pudding, and on Saturday Kenny James (vocals, guitar), Mike Kreidel (drums) and Lorin McLain (bass) provided convincing evidence that they're not just '...playing star again..'

As the opening act for STYX at the Stargazer Pavillion at Cliff Castle Casino, FiLaBuStA owned the stage and the crowd. The guys had procured a press pass for me (thank you so much Kenny, Mike and Lorin), and I was very excited to see how they would fare. They certainly didn't disappoint and actually managed to exceed my expectations.

Cool as cucumbers (though Lorin afterward admitted to having felt quite nervous) they played their hearts out in front of a huge and very appreciative crowd. Their original songs went over incredibly well, and some people started dancing in the aisles of the VIP section early on. The weather was great, the venue beautiful, and the band outstanding. All I can say is this: the FiLaBuStA guys belong on a big stage. They were stars on Saturday, no doubt about it.

Then we watched STYX perform. There is really nothing that I can write about this band that hasn't been written before. They are just amazing. They got on stage and they delivered. The audience sang along to every song. Tommy Shaw et al put on a show that made everybody forget that any time had passed at all. Between high kicks and jumps, flawlessly executed music, Tommy's arms (which look like they belong on a 19-year old), confetti and beach balls, I was truly transfixed.

STYX performed all the favorites (though in my mind the song 'Come Sail Away' will forever more belong to Cartman) and some of their lesser known songs, all of which brought back many fond memories. I am very thankful to FiLaBuStA for allowing me to be part of this wonderful evening.

Kenny, Mike and Lorin seized the moment and made it their own. I have a whole new respect for the magnitude of their talent. I am grateful to the huge bands like STYX for continuously sharing their awesomeness with us. And boy, I sure love what I do, because it allows me to take it all in first-hand!

Looking ahead: FiLaBuStA can be seen at Annie's Attic on Saturday, May 28th, starting at 9 p.m.! Sunday, May 29, finds Sir Harrison at Coyote Joe's from 8 till midnight! And the Prescott Summer Concert Series kicks off at the Courthouse Square with Road One South on Friday, June 3 at 6:30 p.m. Fantastic bands, all of them! Rock on!

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