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Popcorn Festival under way KISS fires up Marion crowd

Tribute band kicks off festival's entertainment

By JOHN JARVIS
 The Marion Star

MARION - After KISS Army's "Gene Simmons" blew flames from his mouth, a Mansfield woman smiled and gave her evaluation of the first night of main stage entertainment at the Marion Popcorn Festival:

"That was interesting," said Jennifer Scott, drawing a laugh from her boyfriend. "I don't know if Marion is ready for this."

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Joe Adams of Bucyrus said he wouldn't have missed the KISS tribute band's show.

"When I heard that they were coming, I was definitely coming," said Adams, a veteran of five KISS performances, including a reunion show in Detroit. He'd seen a number of tribute band concerts, as well, but not KISS Army.

Hearing KISS or any likeness of the black-costumed band that gained fame in the 1970s in part for its flamboyant stage presence was all right with him.

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The Marion Star/James Miller

KISS Army, a KISS tribute band, rocked the Marion Popcorn Festival main stage on Thursday.

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"Just like I said I was fascinated with them when I was young, and I just grew up with them. It's a great stage show and good songs. I love 'em all."

Standing outside the fenced-in audience area at Prospect and Church streets, Arturo Silva enjoyed some festival food and stopped by with his wife, Elizabeth Camacho.

"I think it's OK," he said, describing himself as more of a classic rock fan, noting that last year's performance by Foreigner was more his style.

Camacho shared his evaluation: "It's all right. It's not too heavy."

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