

SHORT SETS

REM

MADISON SQUARE GARDEN, NEW YORK CITY, 19/06/08

Undiscovered tribes in the Amazon rainforest could tell you REM are the most reliable live band around, but they still get better on every tour. It's easy to see why: instead of going overboard on the excellent new album or catering to MSG's yuppie punters with the hits, the trio dive headlong into the back catalogue and blast out gems like 'Harborcoat', 'Driver 8' and 'Fall On Me' (assisted by Johnny Marr) as though they wrote them yesterday. A fantastic show but no point savouring it - tomorrow night will probably be even better.

Hardeep Phull