

Ozomatli Lights up The Venice West with Friday Night Fiesta

Jacob Navarro Oct. 18, 2025

Amidst the sound of audience chatter and colored lights surrounding the stage, The Venice West radiated the spirit of Los Angeles as it welcomed Ozomatli, celebrating 30 years of music.

The band came out with a bang, erupting the venue with the sounds of percussion, the most I've ever seen on one stage, heavy bass, and what one might call pure energy as they played the sounds of "Dos Cosas Ciertas." Every note bounced off the venue walls and scattered throughout the crowd, which gave viewers a brief sense of what was yet to come. Like much of the band's music, Ozo has a unique approach to their craft as they fuse genres such as funk, cumbia, and hip-hop to create something that feels like a drive through downtown, a mix of cultures and community all on one stage. It didn't take long for the crowd to feel the music's contagious rhythm as they began to sing along with the band and fill the first five rows of fans with dancing that lasted the entire night.



Following their introduction and a brief celebration of the Dodgers' win minutes before the show started, a wave of rhythm erupted within the crowd as the band danced along and played several hits, such as "Saturday Night" and "Cumbia de los Muertos", to name a few. The raspy brass cries of their trumpets cut through the sounds of the guitars and bounced off the pacing beats of a cowbell to create a groove that one can't help but bump their head to. This vibe continued all night and can be perfectly stated as one audience member yelled out, "God damn!", during the middle of a solo. While the vibes were high and the night had only just begun, the band took some time in between songs to highlight an upcoming No Kings Protest and recognized the young members of the audience

highlighting the significant role they have in shaping the future of our world. This wasn't the first instance where the band has done this, as they have been advocates for social change and have participated in several movements throughout their 30 years of existence.

As the band continued to play on, I began to notice several unique instruments being played, such as the melodica and the high and sharp rattling sounds of a referee's whistle. The audience danced, waved their hands in the air, and chanted "Ozo...matli" throughout the entire show. As the band began to wrap up their final few songs, they went out with a literal bang as the sounds of bass drums filled the crowd and sent vibrations through your chest, and the band performed in a large circle in the middle of the crowd. Amidst the spilled drinks of the front row and the bumping of the concert floor, the band made the night feel like the heart of Los Angeles came together to let loose. For a few hours, the worries of the outside world faded, and ended with the riveting display of a band and their audience becoming one.