

# Waters builds wow into Pink Floyd's 'The Wall'



KATHLEEN GALLIGAN/Detroit Free Press

Ex-Pink Floyd mastermind Roger Waters performs "The Wall" for a sellout crowd Sunday night at the Palace of Auburn Hills. **SEE MORE PHOTOS AT FREEP.COM**

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FREE PRESS POP MUSIC CRITIC

It was worth the three-decade wait.

Sunday night at the Palace of Auburn Hills, ex-Pink Floyd mastermind Roger Waters scaled the heights of "The Wall," the 1979 concept album that stands as one of the rock canon's all-time greats. In an ambitious show before a sellout crowd of 13,500, Waters and his band wound their way through the album's gritty, politically pointed tale of psychological isolation.

It was a rock production unlike any the Palace has seen in recent memory. A frenetic, unrelenting spray of pyrotechnics adrenalized the crowd out of the gate, as Waters and his band launched into "In the Flesh" first in a scheduled 2½-hour set of songs. From there it was a wow-inducing onslaught of stunning

visuals, massive inflatable characters and crystalline audio delivered through a precisely calibrated surround setup.

Most impressive was the wall itself — a vast stack of "bricks" methodically layered by stagehands, one by one, through the show's opening half. By the time Waters reached his show's intermission to the sounds of "Goodbye Cruel World," the 35-foot-high wall covered the entire stage vista.

The evening closely followed the album's template, though some numbers were enhanced with extended grooves and instrumental breaks. Singing and chanting along, the Palace audience locked in with Waters and the familiar "Wall" story. As he reached a key line in "Mother" — "Should I trust the government?" — the crowd broke out with a resounding "Noooo!"