

A Big Special
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Friday, 27th Feb I get to Roundhouse, Camden alone. I'd done some recon on Big special or 'BS' before I'd reached and was not surprised to see a majority-white crowd, with many beanies atop their heads and flannel shirts aplenty.

I caught the second half of the show due to unforeseen circumstances but I was glad I did. It was quite endearing to see middle-aged Londoners throw their hands up and whoop with joy to some sexy trumpet, anthemic, pop-y synths and even some poetry, where everyone turned their flashlights on (albeit begrudgingly).

It wasn't my kind of music – but the vibe was enjoyable! You could feel how *special* the gig was to them: the constant shout-outs of gratitude, the encore. The song I caught when I entered was 'SHITHOUSE!' from their latest album - and as one guy said drunkenly on the tube platform afterwards, "it didn't feel like a song, it felt like an expression for the week." What a beautiful thought - rather than a pub-brawl or isolating, he went out in expensive London-town and sang loudly to a song as a release. BS is quite special for creating that space.

Waking up the next morning to news of Iran being bombed by US-Israel, it settles my stomach just slightly to remember BS's shout to "Free Palestine, Sudan and Congo" and to kick "Reform Out". The audience's cries and echoes of agreement remind me that there are good and *angry* people, who will find a way despite it all.

