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## Josh Taerk LIVE @ Water Rats, Kings Cross 8.10.13

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 Live Reviews

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The infamous Water Rats in Kings Cross plays host to the 2nd date of a mini UK tour for Josh Taerk, the 22 year old Canadian singer/songwriter. Josh has made the trip over to the UK to promote his self-titled album, Josh, at various venues up and down the country. It's hard to imagine that the college student, studying English Literature, finds the time to write, record and tour let alone knock up his 5th visit to our shores in 2013 alone.

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The backroom of this low key, Kings Cross pub has had rock n roll royalty such as Bob Dylan, Oasis and many more headline and use the venue as a stepping stone to international acclaim, Josh is certainly in the mood to follow in their footsteps. As i begin my approach to the venue i'm quick to spot Josh as he mingles and takes time to speak to fans outside the before the show, which i later see ,with hindsight, is only a small insight into his ability to charm. As he takes to the stage and begin his floorless set his crowd interaction and stage management is seamless. Trying to understand Josh is only 22 years old is a hard task for even the most cynical as he introduces his band, coerces the crowd and generally enjoys his time on this modest stage. It's an unfortunate evening to have an event such as this as it hasn't brought out a crowd you feel this young man deserves but what is does do is provide Josh a look into how hard it can be to crack an overseas market when you are on the outside looking in. However his enthusiasm for music, the UK and performing is nothing short of admirable and emulates, not only, throughout his performance but also after the show when i get a chance to sit down and chew the fat with him. He tells me stories of how his first found his voice, incidentally an evening encounter with a female camp counsellor, his favourite bands and inspirations and also his continuous encounters and support from a certain member of Bruce Springsteen's E-Street Band, which led to a concert where he performed with the infront of a couple of thousand.

Josh's inspirations aren't a secret and are very much on show for the world to see. These include artists such as Springsteen, Fleetwood Mac and somewhat suggested by me, The Police. When i mention this is in our post-show chat Josh is thankful for all of these comparisons. Josh's set showcases his songwriting ability which is evident in his soon to be released album. The high points of the show come when he performs his, already released, singles Grace and Smell the Roses which draws a modest sing along from the crowd. His music is infectious and catchy and will leave you humming along as you leave, whether you know it or not.

As Josh continues onto his next gigs in London and Manchester you get a sense this man is enjoying every minute of what he is doing which only makes you want him to succeed even more.