

2019 Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Induction

On March 29, the thirty-fourth Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Induction took place at Barclays Center in Brooklyn, New York, and featured a number of inductees who provided their audience with sentimental anecdotes, gratitude, and a handful of political statements, namely statements criticizing the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame for its failure to induct a higher number of women. The annual ceremony featured seven diverse and widely known inductees: Stevie Nicks, the Cure, Janet Jackson, Roxy Music, Def Leppard, Radiohead, and the Zombies.

The inductions of Nicks and Jackson evoked much excitement and hope for the welcoming of more worthy women into the Rock Hall in the near future. Nicks, now the first woman to ever be inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame twice, used her speech to condemn the Rock Hall's blatant lack of recognition for the musical talents of women. She was soon supported by Jackson, who has been eligible for induction for over a decade, and concluded her speech with a plea on behalf of women in rock: "Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, please, 2020," Jackson said, "induct more women." With highlights such as these which sparked enthusiasm and ambition in the hearts of viewers nationwide, came a whirlwind of criticisms targeting other, less inspiring parts of the ceremony.

Several fans voiced disappointment at the fact that two of the seven inductees chose not to perform at the ceremony. While the audience enjoyed performances from Nicks, the Cure, Def Leppard, the Zombies, and Roxy Music, Radiohead and Jackson opted out, citing two very different reasons. Radiohead did not perform due to the

absences of band members Thom Yorke, Jonny Greenwood, and Colin Greenwood. Ultimately, Ed O'Brien and Phil Selway were the only members who decided to represent the band at the ceremony, and the two decided a performance would be unnecessary. Jackson refused to perform due to the fact that the induction was set to air on HBO, a network also airing a documentary about sex-abuse allegations against her brother, Michael. Another disappointment voiced by fans of Roxy Music was the absence of Brian Eno, a founding member who was kicked out of the band in the early '70s for his struggle to get along with fellow band member Bryan Ferry, as well as his desire to begin a solo career. Although most were not expecting Eno to make an appearance, the Rock Hall's ceremonies have, in the past, been used as a safe platform for a friendly reuniting of parted band members; however, this was not the case of Roxy Music, much to the disappointment of long-time fans.

Guest appearances by artists such as Don Henley of the Eagles, Brian May of Queen, Harry Styles of One Direction, David Byrne formerly of Talking Heads, Simon Le Bon and John Taylor of Duran Duran, Susannah Hoffs of the Bangles, and Trent Reznor of Nine Inch Nails helped to boost ratings and attract viewers. These appearances, along with standout performances such as the Cure's nostalgic performance of the 1979 post-punk hit "Boys Don't Cry," made for a memorable ceremony, and left fans to wonder if their favorite bands may finally be inducted in next year's 2020 Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Induction.



The Cure prepare to perform at the 2019 Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Induction.

Source: USA Today