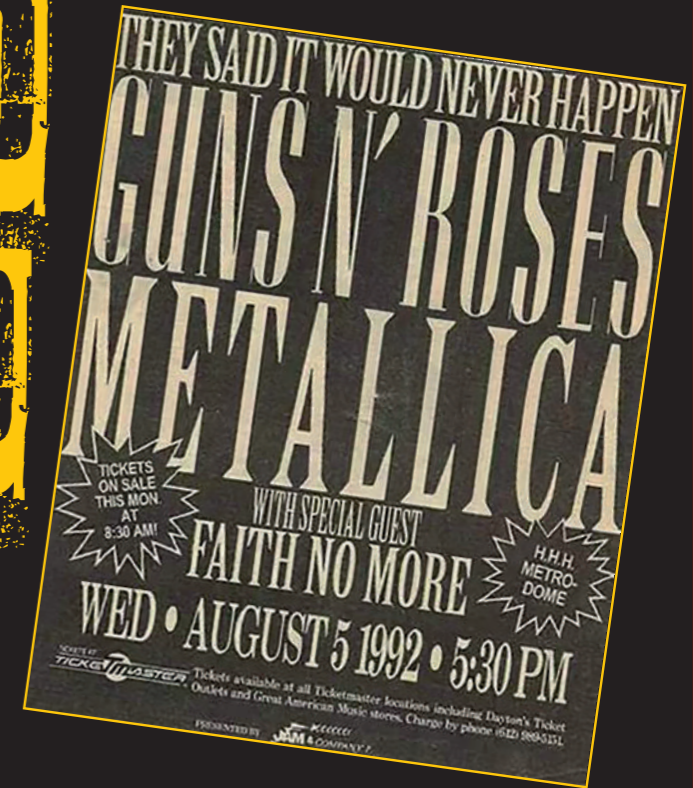




THEY SAID
IT WOULD
NEVER
HAPPEN!!!



...and some people ended up wishing it hadn't! When the two biggest rock bands in the world, **Guns N' Roses** and **Metallica**, joined up to tour North America in 1992 it looked like the greatest live package ever put together. But as *Dave Ling* recounts, things soon turned mighty sour...

METALLICA AND GUNS N' ROSES were the oil and water of the early-'90s rock scene. The former had emerged blinking out of the San Francisco thrash metal underworld, all

and with an avowed aversion to all of that LA music industry bullsh*t. The latter had made it out of the Sunset Strip glam rock world, embracing cocaine and heroin, and enthusiastically endorsing casual sex with any number of plastically enhanced women. Metallica were known to be a well-oiled machine, playing endless dates on endless tours and always being on point. Guns was a band permanently on the edge of a nervous breakdown. On the surface the two bands had nothing in common. Apart, that is, from the fact that they were both ridiculously popular, and they both liked to rock. Come to think about it, though, there was a certain mindset both groups shared. They could both do whatever the f*ck they wanted. And the idea that nobody thought they could pull off a tour together was the very thing that drew two very different, equally cantankerous acts into each other's orbit back in 1992.

You might want to take five minutes here to remember just how big these two acts were at the time. In those

pre-streaming days fans were absolutely ravenous for CD product, and both Metallica and Guns had released mind-blowingly successful albums in 1991. Metallica

were first out of the blocks with 'Metallica', known to all and sundry as 'The Black Album'. Released on 12 August 1991, it would go on to sell 16 million copies

in the US alone. The Guns double whammy of 'Use Your Illusion I' and 'Use Your Illusion II' arrived on 17 September that same year. They would go on to sell seven million copies each in the US. 'Big' is a word that barely covers the success both bands were enjoying at that same moment in time.

It didn't take a genius to work out that a tour featuring both acts together could mark a milestone in rock history. Nor did you have to be a particularly savvy businessman to realise that such a tour would be a monumental moneymaker. So from both the creative and the commercial side Metallica/Guns dates made perfect sense. And when you hit that particular sweet spot, then people invariably get their heads together and talk.

THERE WAS, nevertheless, some jeopardy involved. It was at that point unproven whether there were

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