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Godsmack to Tour the US in 2011: Headliners at the Carolina Rebellion Festival and Rockstar Mayhem Festivals

by [Michele Mussatto](#)



If Godsmack's 2011 tour is anything like their Oracle tour last year, get your wallets out, your moshing loins girded, and make plans to go! As lead singer Sully Erna advises "strap yourself in and hold on tight, cuz this ride goes reeeeeel fasst this summer...can't Fu@?kin' wait!!!"

Godsmack pulled out all stops on their 2010 tour in support of their album *The Oracle* which came out last May, and this year's tour promises more of the same. Their energizing sound and heart stopping show has established them clearly as one of heavy metal's mega-acts, ranking them along with other greats known for their amazing shows, including Iron Maiden, Rush and AC/DC. *The Oracle* album has received rave reviews from metal sources, being touted as Godsmack's heaviest album to date, and their best album since their first album titled "Godsmack" released in 1998.

Godsmack is kicking off their 2011 tour of the United States at the [Carolina Rebellion](#) festival on May 7 in Charlotte, NC. They will be joining alternative metal giants Avenged Sevenfold, Three Days Grace and Stone Sour as headliners for the Rebellion. Tickets for the festival went on sale February 18th. Godsmack will complete the rest of their tour as headliners along with Disturbed and Megadeth at the [Rockstar Energy Drink Mayhem Festival](#). This festival will

take place at 27 locations throughout the US beginning in San Bernardino, CA in July and wrapping up in West Palm Beach, FL in August. Pre-sale tickets for the Mayhem festival go on sale April 8th.

Godsmack's show is a must-see. Quite simply, they rival the greatest heavy metal acts of all time with their live performance. Their sound system is amazingly clear, ominous and loud. Robbie Merrill's bass lines echo in your chest during songs like "What If," bringing chills to your skin and vibrations to your water bottle and, er, other things. Every band member contributes to vocals, including a tongue in cheek lead vocal by Merrill of Queen's "We Will Rock You" while holding the mic with one hand and plucking the bass with the other. Sully Erna is a multi-talented singer, writer and music visionary, but also a fantastic drummer and accomplished guitarist as proved by his drum and guitar solos. Erna does a tasty and unique electric guitar solo crouching next to the amplifier and purposely creating feedback for special effects. Drummer Shannon Larkin is a show by himself, tossing his sticks in the air and twirling about the stage on his moving drum stand. Erna and Larkin do a great drum duet that rocks the house, each vying for the most attention in their acrobatic dual performance. Guitarist Tony Rombola is a joy to watch and to hear play, making your heart skip a beat with his super-fast, grungy, melodic licks.

Godsmack went the extra mile to position themselves as one of metal's greats during their 2010 Oracle Tour. Beginning with a few stanzas of Black Sabbath's *War Pigs*, Sully urged the audience to sing along assisted by lyrics displayed on their enormous LCD screen. Once the audience was engaged, he continued with a medley of songs and LCD images of the most famous rock tunes and musical legends of all times, including Rush, AC/DC, Ozzy Osbourne, Judas Priest and Iron Maiden. Lastly they displayed a picture of the recently deceased Ronnie James Dio, metal's biggest proponent of musician rights and one of the greatest metal singers of all time, to whom the audience gave a standing ovation. This montage is a ballsy way show that Godsmack is not afraid to compare themselves with these rock institutions.

Aside from their music, Godsmack's special effects are fun as hell to watch. In addition to the movie theatre-sized LCD screen floating behind the set and the gliding, rotating drum platforms, Godsmack also delivers laser lights, projected video images, pyrotechnics, confetti, smoke, and amplifiers that rise up and down seemingly defying gravity on invisible cables. And I neglected to mention that Larkin's drum platform is nestled in a 15-foot glowing sphere which rotates open to expose his performance upon the stage at the start of the show.

The Oracle tour featured the following twelve song set list, which they anticipate mimicking on the 2011 Mayhem Festival tour as time allows:

- Cryin' Like a Bitch!!
- Straight Out of Line
- Awake
- War and Peace
- Love-Hate-Sex-Pain
- What If?
- Voodoo
- The Enemy
- Keep Away
- Speak
- I Stand Alone
- Serenity
- Whatever

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