

## Review

# Clique Girlz bring it home, give A.C. a dose of girl rock



The Clique Girlz — Ariel Moore, 14, Destinee Monroe, 14, and Paris Monroe, 12, originally from Egg Harbor Township — perform 'You Think' during their 30-minute set as the opening act for the Cheetah Girls on Saturday at Boardwalk Hall in Atlantic City.

Staff photos by Ben Foglietto

## EHT group opens for Cheetah Girls at Boardwalk Hall

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**ATLANTIC CITY** — Two female vocal trios performed Saturday at Boardwalk Hall, the Clique Girlz from Egg Harbor Township and the nationally known Disney act the Cheetah Girls.

If someone poured the money from the Cheetah Girls' stage show into the Clique Girlz, the local group could compete with them quite easily.

At the unusual start time of 4 p.m., the lights went down inside the arena, an

announcement came over the loudspeakers that the youngest international recording artists signed to Interscope Records — the Clique Girlz: Destinee Monroe, 14, her sister Paris Monroe, 12, and their best friend, Ariel Moore, 14 — returned to their home state from California for this performance.

Based on their Boardwalk Hall set, the Clique Girlz developed a little more flash since their area appearances here from 2004 to 2006.

All three girls came out in jeans, sneakers and different color jackets — Destinee in blue,

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The Cheetah Girls are touring behind their Disney Channel original movie 'The Cheetah Girls: One World,' which was released in August.



### On the Web

See video of the Clique Girlz and Cheetah Girls at:

Press of AtlanticCity.com



# Clique

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Paris in red and Ariel in purple — for their high-energy opening number, "Girls Rock." Thousands of preteens, teens and their parents greeted the performance of their first song with cheers. Considering they performed in their hometown in a place that can hold more than 13,000 people, the Clique Girlz showed no signs of nervousness and gave a very good performance.

"What's up Atlantic City, our hometown?" Destinee asked.

For their song that is currently played on Radio Disney, "Then I Woke Up," the girls sang into their cordless microphones as they broke out their choreographed dance moves. The members spread out across the huge stage and kept each side of the arena engaged in their performance.

They performed in front of their logo with the group's name written in silver with a heart, a crown and a star above it.

One video screen on each side of the stage zoomed in for closeups as each girl sang lead, so the people sitting in the back and on the second level could feel like they owned a front-row ticket.

After two original songs, the Clique Girlz provided a big shock for the parents by singing a cover of former Go-Go's lead singer Belinda Carlisle's No. 1 hit from 1987 "Heaven Is a Place on Earth."

Even though the Clique Girlz major label debut awaits release in this country, they worked the stage like rock

stars, encouraging the crowd to clap along, which it did. Although they sang along to prerecorded music and backing vocals, they ended a capella.

The crowd stood, danced and sang along to one of their new, upbeat songs, "All For the Boys," before the trio settled down for a quiet number.

Paris asked fans to put glow sticks and cell phones in the air for the song "You Think," which featured just the three girls singing with no backing track and Destinee playing a semi-acoustic guitar while sitting on a pink stool. The crowd cheered in appreciation of the stripped-down number.

Cheers and applause greeted another of the up-tempo songs, "Smile," before they ended their set with another surprise.

They told the crowd to stand as the girls put on fedoras and the recognizable voice of Pleasantville-based music producer Rodney Jerkins came over the loudspeakers. He said the name Clique Girlz, and his production company, Darkchild, for a catchy, new song that Paris co-wrote and Jerkins produced, titled, "Brag, Brag, Brag."

With final words from Ariel, "Thank you, we love you," the Clique Girlz finished their 30-minute, eight-song set and received a great reception considering it was unclear how many audience members had been exposed to their music previously through either their official Web site, their MySpace page or Radio Disney.

Considering the concert headliners are relative veterans of the music business —

the recording careers of Adrienne Bailon, 25, and Kiely Williams, 22, span nine years — the biggest thing the Cheetah Girls have over the Clique Girlz at this point is an elaborate and well-produced stage show with eight male dancers, vertical moving platforms and chandeliers they can sit in that rise above the stage.

They are touring behind their Disney Channel Original Movie "The Cheetah Girls: One World," which was released in August.

Their enthusiastic performance with their singing, dancing, big smiles and frequent colorful costume changes delighted the mostly preteen and young teen crowd. Some audience members wore pieces of clothing with cheetah colors, Cheetah Girls T-shirts and buttons that featured one of the three members.

The Clique Girlz and the Cheetah Girls started their national tour Oct. 8 in Texas, and it ends Dec. 21 in San Diego.

For those who didn't make it to the concert and were lucky enough to stop by the Hard Rock Cafe Atlantic City inside the Trump Taj Mahal Casino Resort at about 12:15 p.m. Saturday, the Clique Girlz performed a two-song set and also signed autographs and posed for pictures with fans.

Their debut CD was released in August in Japan. Their U.S. album, which will feature some newer and different songs, is scheduled for release in early spring.

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