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### 2009 Concert Reviews



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### Aerosmith June 16, 2009 - Comcast

Aerosmith rocked the hometown crowd on June 17 at Mansitelu's Comcast Center. While the band opened the show with a few hit tunes, such as "Cryin" and "Love in an Elevator," the band almost immediately jumped into playing their record Toys in the Attic from beginning to end. While some fans seemed excited for this venture, many walked away disappointed, wishing Aerosmith played more hits.

They did get around to "Dream On" and, toward the end, "Living on the Edge" but the audience seemed mostly bored with the decision to play all of Toys.

Many die-hards have seen Aerosmith before, and it was apparent this show was not a true testimony to this band's iconic legacy and willingness to keep rockin'. But despite the fact that many of us have seen Aerosmith before — even a show from a year or two ago would have proved these boys can still rock - it is becoming apparent these guys are just getting old. But that won't stop them.

In perhaps the most anti-climatic moment, Aerosmith brought out opening act Dropkick Murphys to play "Dirty Water." Even though their singer's microphone wasn't working for the first 30 seconds, it was probably better off that way. The tune was supposed to be an epic coming together of two Boston bands, passionate about their hometown.

Unfortunately, it turned it a bland version of the classic hit, and obviously Aerosmith didn't know better than to step it up and overshadow the Dropkicks. The tune would have been much better if, per usual, Joe Perry sang it as a solo.

All in all, many fans left the venue disappointed with the set list and some aspects of the performance, but that won't keep them away in the future. As long as these guys keep touring - and they will, wheelchairs and all - they will play to sold-out crowds. It just speaks to the legacy of Aerosmith, which will live on, despite a few off-kilter shows here and there.

Article and Photographs by: Krista Perry

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#### All American Rejects

w/ Taking Back Sunday November 10, 2009 Showcase Live, Foxboro, MA

From the moment The All-American Rejects lead singer, Tyson Ritter, made his way on stage in his light pink skinny jeans and bare, gold-glittered chest, fans knew they were in for an energetic and interesting show. The All-American Rejects certainly have their own way of taking over a stage and Showcase Live in Foxboro, MA on November 10 was no

Ritter's vibrant get-up was a flip from the look of Adam Lazzara of opening band Taking Back Sunday, whose stage presence and witty comments to the audience got everyone ready for the performance to come.

The band greeted fans by leading off with some of their best known songs, including Dirty Little Secret and Move Along. With the variety of hit songs AAR has written over the years, they seem to have attracted a diverse fan base. The comfortable yet modern venue housed a collaboration of young and old-bringing together everyone from pre-teen girls to post-college guys and beyond. Despite the spread in the audience, the dancing and singing showed equal enthusiasm from everyone.

As if the music was not enough, in the midst of the concert AAR unveiled a stage-sized projection screen behind them, and began playing an intriguing video of different words and images. As the audience directed their attention to the video, in an attempt to understand its meaning, few realized Tyson Ritter's stealthy slip from the stage, making his way to the middle of the crowd, where he performed surrounded by pleasantly surprised

The band's surprises did not end there; as they went on to play their rarely performed The Last Song, and none seemed disappointed when they returned to the stage for an encore, concluding the night with Gives You Hell, a sure sign that the band was enjoying every moment of their career and current

Article and Photographs by: Melissa D'Amico



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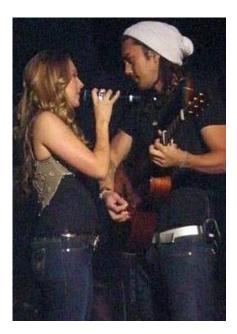
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"The Voice of an Angel"

Colbie Caillat October 05, 2009 Pabst Theater, Milwaukee, WI





"Breakthrough"

Colbie Caillat

Amazon

The lights go down to focus on a single spot on stage, the drums speed up and then all you hear is a single voice ring through the Pabst Theatre in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Colbie Caillat comes out on stage singing a song that she wrote to help her get over her stage fright. Caillat used her strength within herself to get over this fear. And she did a damn good job of it. I felt myself sinking slowly into relaxation to search for my own weakness and try to figure out what I could do to overcome them.

Then Caillat picked up the pace a little with her own version of her favorite song, "Don't Cha," (made famous by the Pussycat Dolls) but with a little bit of a soul twist. Calliat had the audience on their feet dancing! Everyone was smiling and having a good time. To add to that good time, the guitarist had a dance-off to a French-electronica/hardstyle with the audience. People were clapping and laughing. There was so much positive energy being fed back and forth between the audience and the band.

Caillat performed top hits such as, "Realize," and "Bubbly." Not to mention a very inspirational song about break up and moving on. She had the most powerful message about how break-ups happen, and about how no matter what, you need to keep on going, because it will always get better.

Articles and Photo By: Katy Hebel



"Fallin' For You"

I've been spending all my time Just thinking about ya I don't know what to do I think I'm fallin' for you I've been waiting all my life And now I found ya I don't know what to do I think I'm fallin' for you I'm fallin' for you

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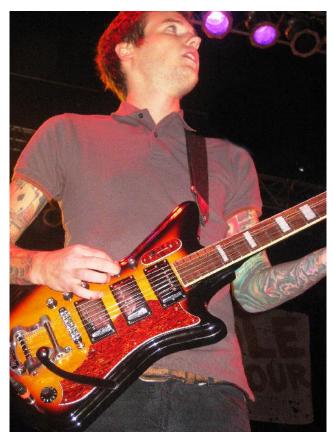
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#### Hellogoodbye

October 14, 2009 House of Blues, Boston



After witnessing many opening bands get burned time after time, I finally saw one succeed: Hellogoodbye.

Opening bands are always presented with an interesting challenge. Audiences rarely want to sit through some unknown band and I know I always avoid getting to the venue too early. No matter how genuinely good the music may be, it's hard to grab an anxious group's attention.

The answer, as I learned from Hanson's opening band Hellogoodbye, is to provide witty banter in-between each and every song. Tell jokes to each other, tell jokes to the audience, hell, even tell jokes about the audience, it doesn't matter. It draws the crowd back into the show and to be honest, makes the band a bit more likable. Plus, how else would I have known that the guitarist has an adorable English accent?

Once you become invested in the people, the music becomes a bit more enjoyable. I suddenly wanted these guys to succeed. Once I started listening, it turns out Hellogoodbye is a talented pop band. They provided a full forty-five minute set of music you can dance to. Not just head-bopping dancing either, but full on hip-shaking grooving.

The most surprising thing was that I knew a song! These are the guys that sing "Here in Your Arms". However the band is actually better than this particular song and it doesn't seem to actually represent who they are but it's always a good surprise to hear something familiar.

Hellogoodbye ended up being the perfect opening act. They kept me engrossed and entertained me in more than one way. If they pop up on your ticket, get to the venue early, if not for the music then at least for the two cute guitarists.

Articles and Photos by: Teresa Reilly

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#### Push Play

#### November 28, 2009 Paradise, Boston, MA

Picture this: It is Emily Osment's last night on tour as the opening act for the pop punk band Push Play at the Paradise Rock Club in Boston, and the crowd is singing along as she sings All the Way Up, when all of a sudden the four members of Push Play rush out on stage to dance around Osment and her band, jump around, and throw handfuls of chips and fruit out to the crowd

Without ever having seen this band in concert before, this little prank lets me know that I am in for a fun-filled, energetic evening, and it is all their fans need to get them ready for the main act. I mean, who does not like to enjoy a good chip or piece of fruit before a concert?

From the moment Push Play hit the stage, I could not tell what was louder- the music from the band or the screams from the young, swooning-girl-filled crowd. While there were minimal, if any guys throughout the entire crowd, neither the screaming girls nor band took time to notice. The pop punk band from Long Island pulls together a punk rock sound, and combines this with pop lyrics and a super-stylish look that appears to make them irresistible to their fans.

Playing songs from their new album, Found, released in September, the audience was more than happy to help sing along with songs including This is Us Breaking Up, Taking it Back, and my new personal favorite, Midnight Romeo. Emily Osment returned to the stage for a duet, singing Start Again with Push Play lead singer CJ Baran.

For a relatively young band, Push Play knows how to work with and interacted with the audience, talking and joking around between songs, while continuing to give their fans special attention throughout the performance. Not an ounce of energy was lost by the end of the night, and by their final song, the crowd was both satisfied and ready for more.

By: Melissa D'Amico





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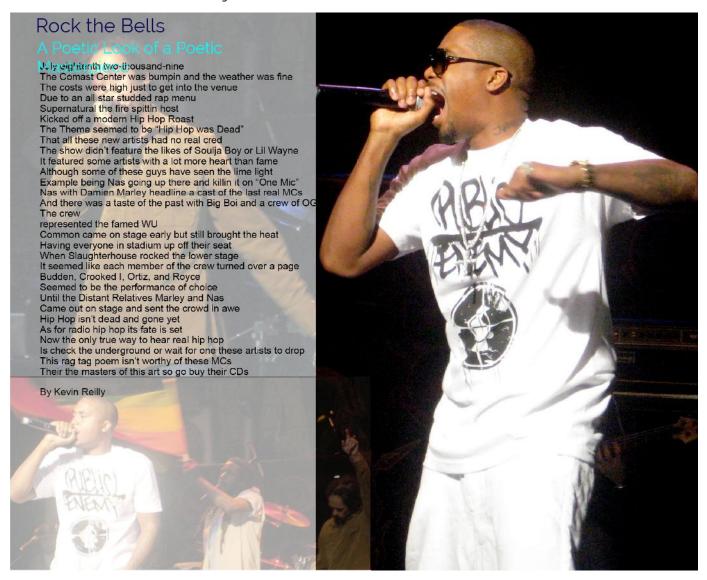
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#### The Black Hollies

November 27, 2009 TT Bears, Cambridge, M

The late 1960s rock scene was revived on November 27th, 2009 at TT the Bears in Cambridge, MA, as The Black Hollies took the stage. Everything about this quartet, from their look, to their vocals and instrumental sound brings you back to that era, and even just glancing around the audience may have you double-checking your calendars.

Compared to 1960s groups like The Kinks, The Black Hollies filled the small venue with music from their latest CD, Softly Toward the Light, released in October. The crowd was happily immersed in a collaboration of soul, blues, and garage rock. Lead singer Justin Angelo has an intriguing, airy voice that is highlighted by the deeper rhythms of the music.



The band's energy runs high with lively songs like Gloomy Monday Morning and Lend Me to Your Fire. Their upbeat sound and catchy lyrics made it difficult to listen without finding yourself at least tapping your foot or nodding your head with the music.

While keeping with the sound and vibe the group wanted to create, The Black Hollies showed variety within their performance, incorporating everything from cymbals to the electronic organ, guitar solos, and vocals that put a new turn on an older sound.

Article By: Melissa D'Amico

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The Low Anthem - MAME Magazine

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#### The Low Anthem

November 12, 2009 Paradise, Boston, MA

Attending a show of a band you've never heard of certainly brings hesitation when entering the door. It brings low expectations and a highly critical attitude. While waiting to be let into the Paradise in Boston there was no hope that The Low Anthem would succeed in bringing about a memorable night.

The audience was a decent number but seemed sober and low-spoken: not typically a great sign for a concert.

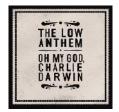
Yet when the band took the stage it all came into focus. These three people make exquisite music. It is enchanting and dynamic. The melodies are graceful and absolutely brought the entire audience to a stand-still. I began to feel jealous of the others who had discovered this band before I did.

The audience, beginning to fall into a comfortable slouch, heads on hands, leaning over the balconies, listening to songs such as "Charlie Darwin" and "To Ohio", when to a pleasant surprise the band brought out their fun, perhaps even more folksy "The Horizon Is a Beltway", which even further enhanced lead singer Ben Knox Miller's marvelous voice.

The mass of instruments used to accomplish these delightful songs is something of an achievement all of its own. 27 instruments are featured on their new album Oh My God, Charlie Darwin and its possible the band brought with them half of this ensemble to perform. Constantly switching between themselves and crew, the band showcased their massive range of musical ability.

After an hour of memorizing music, The Low Anthem gave a meek and humble "thank you" before departing, completely admonishing any low expectations of the night.

Article By: Teresa Reilly



Order their new album here: http://www.lowanthem.com/store.php





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### Third Eye Blind May 12, 2009: House of Blues

One of my favorite things to do when walking into a concert is to check out the demographic. It's typically pretty predictable and narrow. For example: the Jonas Brothers tend to draw pre-teen girls to their shows.

When coming up with how I thought this Third Eye Blind crowd was going to be, I assumed it would be the mid-20-year-old woman audience; the girls who had loved them in their glory day and were hanging on; the ones who rock out to adult contemporary on a regular basis. I was so wrong.

Third Eye Blind attracts mid-20-year-old dudes; the kind that play 90's hits at their frat parties. And they loved it. They threw their hands up like they were across the street at Fenway, cheering on the Sox. With one hand on a Blue Ribbon can and the other in the air, they were as happy as can be. They came to the show in packs and sold out the new House of Blues.

Of course there was the occasional working woman who enjoyed herself just as much as the dude next to her. I even spotted some high school kids on the phone with mom, letting her know they got there ok.

However, the fan base wasn't the only thing I got wrong. I was also mistaken about the band themselves. My experience has led me to believe that most 90's bands try and burn that image of who they once were away. They evolve and re-invent their music as well as their style. Let me just say that if you liked Third Eye Blind in 1997, you'll teal the arms user today. feel the same way today.

The lead singer was sporting a sheer black shawl/cape as well as occasionally putting on, what I believed, to be the hat that the Mad-Hatter wore in "Alice in Wonderland". However, that isn't what is important. What I should be noting is that the band put on an entertaining show that the sold-out crowd wholly enjoyed. They sprinkled in their old stuff with some new songs from their EP "Red Star", which was released late last year.

Don't let this article dissuade you. If you loved "Semi-Charmed Life" or "How It's Going to Be", you should check out their new stuff. They've certainly kept to their own style.



### Where You Know Them From

1997 Songs: "Semi-Charmed Life"

I want something else, to get through this Semi-charmed kinda life, baby, baby I want something else, I'm not listening when you say good-bye

#### "How's It Going to Be"

When I say out loud I want to get out of this I wonder is there anything I'm going to miss I wonder how it's going to be When you don't know me How's it going to be

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# Tinted Windows - August 3, 2009

four men could easily make one of the best rock albums of all time". They had the talent and the experience to do so. However, when I listened to their first single, "Kind of a Girl", I was surprised to learn that the rock sound I had anticipated was not coming out of speakers but instead, was this fun pop song. I didn't love it at first but I couldn't get it out of my head

Tinted Windows, made up of Taylor Hanson (Hanson), Adam Schielgler (Fountains of Wayne), James Iha (ex-Smashing Pumpkins) and Bun E. Carlos (Cheap Trick), recently released their self-titled album and have been making a handful of tour stops around the country in-between Cheap Trick's massive world tour. I was able to stop by their Boston show and experience the power-pop live and in-person.

The hip-swaying, tight-jean-wearing Taylor Hanson stole the show. While his dance moves might have been minimal, his voice was certainly not. His vocals perfectly followed the pitches of the fast-paced tunes. Not to mention, he isn't too bad to look at.

This is certainly not to undermine the other band members, especially the legendary Bun E. Carlos. I don't know how he felt about it but to go from playing in front of 20,000 people one night to 100 the next, then back to 30,000 the following night is probably not something many people can say. It's probably an even harder find to come across someone who does it for the love of the music.

Not that Tinted Windows is going to change the world but they are certainly making it a bit more fun. The show had a pulsating energy to it that had me racing back to my car to put on the album.

It's catchy, fun and happy, and doesn't pretend to be anything else.

"Tinted Windows" is now available

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