

I was covering All Points West the day that tickets went on sale for Nine Inch Nails' 4 night stand in New York City this past week. I was upset. But, what can you do? Answer: Follow NIN's Twitter and pay close attention, because that's how I found out last Wednesday that more tickets had been released for the Terminal 5 shows. Being online too much actually paid off!

When I arrived at the venue, I was forced to take a spot up on the third level balcony due to the fact the good vantage points were already taken. I was a little disappointed at first, because Terminal 5 is set up in a rectangular shape. So if you find yourself on the side railings, you have to lean over and look to your right or left, which is kind of annoying. However, as soon as it went dark at showtime and I saw the blue lights of cell phones scattered across the floor suddenly whoosh forward against their will, I was perfectly happy to be away from that insanity. I appreciated it even more over the course of the evening, as this ended up being one of the hottest show experiences of my life. It's nice to have your own personal space in that kind of humidity, not to mention a surface to place my best friend that night, which was a large cup of ice water that kept me from passing out.

The vibe of the evening felt special from beginning to end, and not just because Kanye West and his lady Amber Rose were in attendance. This was supposedly one of the last performances Nine Inch Nails will play (additional dates for this "Wave Goodbye" tour are scheduled in Chicago, Toronto and L.A.), before they take a break of undetermined length. So it was do or die time for Nine Inch Nails fans. Scalped tickets had reportedly sold for \$800 a ticket in some instances. How the buyers solved the dilemma of gaining entry at a paperless ticket event where credit cards and IDs were checked at the door, and only if your entire party was there, is beyond me.

Opening with "Home", the band continued to play a set that lasted just over 2 hours and included some hits you might know, and some you might not. "March of the Pigs", "Wish", "I'm Afraid of Americans", "The Hand That Feeds" and "Head Like a Hole" will sound familiar to the casual fan who listens to the radio or checks in on the music television channels occasionally. "Burn", "La Mer", "Gave Up" and "Eraser"...probably not.

The highlight for me was the second song of the night, "Terrible Lie." This has to be one of the angriest songs ever written. At the first sound of the earsplitting "Hey GOD!" and sight of the near-blinding white light that was choreographed to the two syllable outcry, I couldn't help but raise my fist along with the people on the floor. Or at least the ones who weren't smashed in together being forcibly swayed in multiple directions as the fans behind them tried to push their way forward to get closer to their earthly god, Trent Reznor.

Another great moment of the night was when Peter Murphy joined the band for "Reptile". "Reptile" is an amazingly twisted song that mimics the sounds of a rattlesnake's hiss in the music itself. It seemed a perfect fit for the legendary Goth rocker. He performed it as naturally as if it were his own, bending with the heavy groove of the song and shining a stage spotlight on Trent as he sang the chorus along with him. Checking out the YouTube video of Murphy entering the stage hanging upside down by his feet made me wish I had made it out to night two of the Terminal 5 series.

At the beginning of the night, the room was full of anxious fans wondering what the setlist was going to be and what surprises Trent and company would pull. By the end, the sweat-soaked crowd was worn out from a two hour marathon of heat, eye-assaulting lights and great music who considered themselves lucky enough to be part of one of four crowds to help the city of New York "Wave Goodbye" to one of the greatest bands ever. At least til the next farewell tour...?