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# ATP NY 2010 at Kutshers Resort: sleepaway camp of a music lover's dreams.

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Kutshers in Monticello, NY

*Photo by Lorraine Schwartz*

Prior to making the trip up Route 17 to catch Day 1 of ATP NY, I read all of the extremely positive comments from other press outlets posted on the festival's [official site](#). [Rolling Stone](#) said it "One of the coolest festivals I've ever seen", [New York Magazine](#) called it "A kind of utopia", while [Obscene NYC](#) described it as "A magical indie rock fantasyland." Were any of these claims overstated? As I found out for myself, not at all.

With attendance purposefully capped at an intimate 3,000 people, this boutique fest takes place at a super cool location thought only to exist in movies starring Jennifer Grey and Patrick Swayze. Held upstate at [Kutshers Resort](#) in Monticello, NY (rumored to be the inspiration for the classic film "Dirty Dancing"), ATP NY's small capacity and unique choice of venue allow for an experience unable to be reproduced anywhere else. Unlike the behemoth outdoor mainstream festivals, at ATP NY you're free of port-a-potty trauma,

battles with dehydration, long distance parking, weather worries and unfairly priced concessions. You feel like you're at the sleepaway camp of your dreams rather than an animal in the wilderness fighting for survival.

Entering Kutshers' lobby on Friday night was like walking into the **Hyatt scene** from another classic musical film, "Almost Famous." Those who were lucky enough to snag a room at Kutshers for the weekend were checking in, while shuttled-in attendees from other local hotels and single day ATP'ers filled the lobby and roamed the hotel, fascinated with its still in-tact mid-century decor. Friends convened in the central meeting place to figure out what area of the fest they were headed to next, as those in no particular hurry kicked back on the sofas, swigging a beer and strumming their guitar.

Thoughtfully curated by the folks at ATP with the help of filmmaker **Jim Jarmusch**, and musician Syd Butler of **Les Savy Fav**, ATP NY attracted a wide range of guests from teenager to middle-ager. Friday's lineup was put together by the ATP project "**Don't Look Back**", which arranges for artists to perform one of their classic albums in track order as their setlist. This year saw **The Scientists** perform "Blood Red River", **Mudhoney** perform "Superfuzz Bigmuff Plus Early Singles", **Iggy & The Stooges** performing "Raw Power", and **Sleep** performing "Holy Mountain" in the gloriously retro Stardust Room, an amphitheater-style showroom enclosed by walls painted with speckles of white stars.

If the band playing wasn't your scene, you could head over to the Comedy Stage, curated by Butler (Jarmusch picked Sunday's lineup), where comedians Heather Lawless, Matt McCarthy, Hannibal Buress and Todd Barry were ready to entertain you. Films presented by the Criterion Collection, including the Monkees tripped out movie "**Head**", were playing in the theater. Or, you could take a breather by the lake while imagining Johnny **practicing lifts** with Baby, enjoy a cocktail at the Deep End Lounge which overlooks the indoor pool, check out the art gallery featuring work by Tim Biskup & Eric White, partake in a Book Club to discuss a selection of work (pre-listed online so guests could come prepared), play some cards in the Game Room, hit up the mini video arcade, or grab a bite to eat at the food court.

One of the best things about the festival is the communal vibe. Like-minded music fans mingled with celebrities who also made the trip up to the small town for the one-of-a-kind event. ATP guest speaker/performer/curator Thurston Moore and wife Kim Gordon of Sonic Youth checked out Iggy & The Stooges from sidestage while legendary photographer Bob Gruen shot the set from the crowd. Mastodon's Brent Hinds caught Sleep from the sound board. Later Hinds was spotted hanging out with Sleep's guitarist Matt Pike at the Deep End

as performer Todd Barry socialized nearby. Saturday afternoon, [Brooklyn Vegan](#)'s Twitter reported a fan encountering the Breeders playing an acoustic warmup set in the lobby. There were no boundaries here between artist and fan, and the entertainers seemed to enjoy this as much as the fans who paid to see them. It was a giant backstage party and everyone was invited.

Watching Iggy & the Stooges prove that they can still kill it live was just one of the many highlights of the evening. I originally attended just to check out the musical offerings, but stayed til the wee hours strolling around the grounds to see what there is to be seen. Whether it was watching a liquored up lone metalhead join the post-midnight dance contest, enjoying a 2am giant basket of spicy chicken tenders, listening to randoms play the piano in the lounge, or getting a small taste of how Kutshers must have been in its heyday, there was so much more to ATP NY than just the concerts in the Stardust Room. As someone whose attitude is on the fence about festivals (due to the negativity mentioned in the second paragraph), I was not ready for the level of enjoyment I ended up experiencing.

[Iggy and the Stooges clip of "Raw Power" from Day 1 of ATP NY 2010](#)

[Iggy and the Stooges clip of "Your Pretty Face is Going to Hell" from Day 1 of ATP NY 2010](#)

[Stagedivers during Sleep on Day 1 of ATP NY 2010](#)



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