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Concert Review: My Chemical Romance and The Gaslight Anthem at Yule Rock

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My Chemical Romance at Roseland Ballroom 12/3/10

Lorraine Schwartz

When the lineup for 101.9 WRXP: **Yule Rock**'s December 3rd show was first announced, many music fans were left scratching their heads. **My Chemical Romance** and **The Gaslight Anthem**? What's next, **Kings of Leon** headlining with **Avenged Sevenfold**? After Friday night, never say never.

Though **The Gaslight Anthem**'s soul/punk-influenced rock music is an unlikely pairing with **My Chemical Romance**'s alt-glam headbanger tunes, the two groups actually do have something in common. Both bands, along with the openers Fifteen Fleeting, all hail from New Jersey. So to someone somewhere, this bill made total sense and they made it happen. This proved to be a smart move though, as the show completely sold out.

After waiting in a staggeringly long line that wrapped around the cold surrounding blocks, fans embraced the warmth as they walked into **Roseland Ballroom**, greeted by a quaint Christmas tree and tinsel snowflakes decorating the ballroom floor's railings. As the

crowd slowly trickled in, Hoboken's **Fifteen Fleeting** played a short set and were quickly followed by The Gaslight Anthem.

TGA's set lasted about an hour, opening with "The Spirit of Jazz." This was a significantly shorter set than their fans are used to, as they normally play much longer at their headlining gigs. Even with the limited time they were given as openers at this show, they were able to play a nice mix of singles and fan favorites including "American Slang", "Boxer", "The '59 Sound", "We Came To Dance", "Great Expectations", "Even Cowgirls Get the Blues" and "Boomboxes and Dictionaries." Though their diehard showing was a bit smaller than MCR's teenage shriekers, the crowd still gave them a very warm reception, which hopefully indicates that they won some new fans that night.

Next up was My Chemical Romance. This is the first time the band has played New York since 2008 when they headlined Madison Square Garden, and these kids were very ready for their return. The rumor was that a few members of the front row had waited in line for over 24 hours. Not even the hard concrete or the cold night could keep these rabid fans from staking their rightful spot in front of their heroes.

Introducing My Chemical Romance was the one and only **Dr. Death Defying** (civilian name: Steve, Righ? of Mindless Self Indulgence) who intro'd the band with his "Look Alive Sunshine" bit from MCR's latest CD "**Danger Days: The True Lives Of The Fabulous Killjoys**." As the already eardrum-shattering screams rose to another level of hysteria, MCR launched into "Na Na Na...", the first track off the CD. Showing the crowd they weren't about to ignore their earlier material, they played "Thank You For The Venom" off "Three Cheers for Sweet Revenge" next. The set went a little over an hour and a half, and featured songs from the last three hugely successful CDs by the group including "SING", "Teenagers", "The Only Hope For Me Is You", "DESTROYA", "Cancer", "The Ghost of You", "Planetary (GO!)", "I'm Not Okay (I Promise)" and "Welcome to the Black Parade."

MCR's flash is so opposite of The Gaslight Anthem's back-to-basics style that it was like visiting two different worlds in one night. The Gaslight Anthem sing lyrics **like** "I lay a kiss upon this stone/toss it upside your window by the roof" while My Chemical Romance **sings** "Right now they're building a coffin your size/Mama we're all full of lies." But even though a few purists were put off by the coupling and didn't attend, the ticket sales and crowd response clearly showed that the two bands did indeed share some fans who all shared the common bond that is the love of loud rock and roll.

SUGGESTED LINKS

- **My Chemical Romance streams "Danger Days..." and announces local tour dates**
- **Concert Review: The Gaslight Anthem at Irving Plaza**



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