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Concert Review: 30 Seconds to Mars at Oakdale Theatre

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30 Seconds to Mars and fans during "Kings & Queens" at Oakdale Theatre

Lorraine Schwartz

Making the transition from actor to musician (or vice versa) isn't always an easy task. Those who attempt such a feat hope to have equal success in both realms. However, some stars, no matter how major, are just not that lucky (or talented). For example, though Madonna can sell out arenas around the world performing her pop hits, those same fans aren't quite as willing to spend their dollars on her at the local movie house. Not everyone reaches a respectable level of success in both categories like artists such as [Jamie Foxx](#), [Will Smith](#), [Jennifer Lopez](#), [Eminem](#), or most recently [Zooey Deschanel](#).

Thankfully for [Jared Leto](#), he is in the company of the latter examples. Besides wisely chosen [roles](#) in movies such as "American Psycho", "Fight Club", and "Requiem For a Dream", he has also achieved major acceptance amongst music fans with his band [30 Seconds To Mars](#). Nowadays the band isn't perceived so much as Leto's side project, but instead as a legit rock band that people listen to for reasons other than having a schoolgirl crush on Leto. Selling out shows, regular rotation on MTV, big radio hits and massive fan loyalty have all helped the band stay relevant and popular.

Saturday night the band found themselves at **Oakdale Theatre** in Wallingford, CT, playing to rabid fans who filled the house from the floor pit to the 300 level balcony. Kicking off with "**A Beautiful Lie**", Leto (defiantly wearing his **infamous** black and white poncho), along with guitarist Tomo Milocevic and brother Shannon Leto fiercely attacking his drums stageside (as opposed to the normal back centerstage position) the band displayed a high energy that never waned as the evening went on. The setlist was heavy on songs from their latest CD, "**This is War**", including songs such as "Closer to the Edge", "Night of the Hunter", "Kings and Queens", "Vox Populi", "100 Suns", and an **acoustic** rendition of "Hurricane" that had a more haunting yet softer feel than the recorded version used for their controversial **video** for the song. The band also worked in previous hits "From Yesterday" (acoustic), "Attack" and "The Kill."

As the frontman for **30 Seconds To Mars**, Leto proves to be charismatic and very capable. Connecting with the crowd as he patrolled both sides of the stage, he often beckoned them to get as close as possible to him and his bandmates, even if it meant raising concern amongst the scattered parents in the pit who had accompanied their child to the show. At times he even addressed crowd members individually, informing one fan: "I've got my eye on you, Mr. Social Distortion t-shirt" as he intermittently pointed a large flashlight on his fans to remind them that he will most certainly see them if they do not let go and have fun. Judging from the earsplitting screamed response he received when he asked how everyone was doing, he didn't have anything to worry about. For the show's finale, the band hand-picked the craziest of the crazy audience members to dance on the stage for "Kings & Queens", giving fans a night to remember.

For video clips and photos from the show, click [here](#).



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