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Concert Review: Day 1 of Bamboozle 2011

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This weekend 100+ bands, a handful of comedians, and even a few wrestlers, came to entertain the music fans of the Tri-State Area this weekend at the annual **Bamboozle Festival**, which took over the Meadowlands sports complex from April 29th to May 1st.



New Found Glory at Bamboozle 2011 Lorraine Schwartz





Lorraine Schwartz

There were so many acts it was impossible to catch every one that was scheduled each day, so concert goers had to pick and choose wisely. Sometimes that meant bailing mid-set to sprint across the grounds to see the next band on their list. After hours of running back and forth, the truly exhausted fans took a seat on the giant ferris wheel to relax and take in the festival scenery or sprawled out on the asphalt to re-energize or huddle together to protect themselves against the cold evening breeze. With so much entertainment going on at any given moment, boredom was not an option at Bamboozle.

Friday's lineup saw R&B superstars Boyz II Men draw a huge crowd at the Temple of Boozle stage, renamed the "Prom Stage" for Day 1 of Bamboozle. Belting out their hits and sounding as good as ever, Wanya, Shawn and Nate (Mike is no longer a member) really brought it home with "I'll Make Love To You", as Wanya passed out roses to the ladies who were screaming just as loud as they did in 1994 when the song was #1 on the Billboard charts for 14 weeks. They also did an unannounced short set at the Jolly Green stage just before hip hop star Wiz Khalifa went on an hour and a half later.

A portion of Friday's lineup participated in the "Hoodwinked" theme, which is when a Bamboozle band switches into cover band mode for the night and plays their favorite band's songs. Among them, New Found Glory covered the Ramones with the one and only Marky Ramone on drums, and Thrice covered Hot Water Music (including a stellar "Trusty Chords"). Later in the night, the all boy Lady Gaga cover band Rad Bromance sent the last of Friday's night's crowd out to their cars with a smile.

Check out my video and slideshow from Day 1 of Bamboozle 2011. To view a clip of 30 Seconds To Mars from Day 1, click here.

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