

[AXS ENTERTAINMENT](#) / [ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT](#) / [MUSIC](#)See also: [frank turner](#), [the knitting factory](#), [concert review](#)

Concert Review: Frank Turner at The Knitting Factory

April 29, 2011

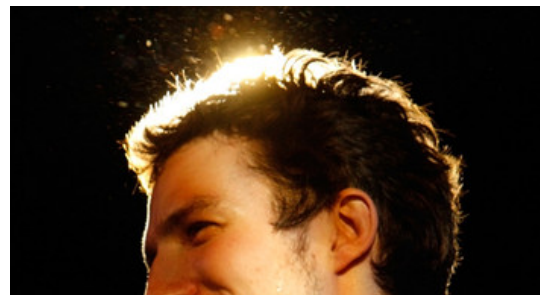
2:53 PM MST

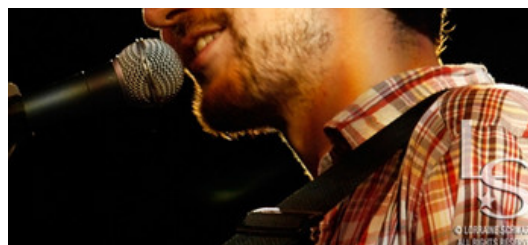
Based on last night's sold out show at the Brooklyn Knitting Factory, winning over American fans seems to have been no problem for the UK's [Frank Turner](#). After seeing Turner for the first time when he opened for The Gaslight Anthem last year at The Stone Pony (review [here](#)), this Examiner was certainly impressed. Though I was there to see The Gaslight Anthem, a British friend's high praise of Turner got me to that night's show early to see what the man can do. Charming the Jersey audience with his wit and down-to-Earth personality, Turner soon had the Gaslight fans [singing along](#) to his own infectious tunes.



Frank Turner at The Knitting Factory,
Brooklyn, NY

Lorraine Schwartz



*Lorraine Schwartz*

Though that show required a bit of singalong prompting (as an opener sometimes has to do if he's unfamiliar to the main act's fans), last night's show attendance and crowd enthusiasm proved his opening slots on US tours such as The Gaslight Anthem and Social Distortion (this past Fall) made a lasting impression. This time the crowd automatically shouted all his lyrics right back to him without direction.

Armed with just a guitar, a microphone, and a can of his beloved Pabst Blue Ribbon, Turner sang from the bottom of his punk rock heart with total passion behind every word. Whether he was singing about the disappointment of a promising hookup turned utterly boring ("I Really Don't Care What You Did On Your Gap Year"), to the anxiety of a musician ("I Knew Prufrock Before He Was Famous"), to the pain of heartbreak ("Worse Things Happen At Sea"), to the joy of rock and roll music ("I Still Believe"), every word was backed by genuine emotion. Although the show is acoustic, which to some might suggest it's going to be a quiet soothing evening with a storyteller, his show is far from all that. Monstrous singalongs, laughs, dancing, and even a group air-harmonica session are all part of a Turner evening.

Last night's set included new songs "I Am Disappeared", "Peggy Sang The Blues", as well as older tunes, "The Real Damage", "Substitute", "Try This At Home", and a cover of his former band A Million Dead's "Smiling At Strangers on Trains." Not the only cover of the evening, Turner also broke out his lovely version of Bruce Springsteen's "Thunder Road", giving it an unexpected softer, more sensitive feel than the original. But perhaps the most compelling, dramatic moment of the evening was his haunting a capella performance of "English Curse", a tale of what will happen to you should you mess with an English man and his land. An archived stream of the show is available [here](#).

If you want to catch [Frank Turner](#) live, he'll be playing the Zumiez Stage at this weekend's [Bamboozle Festival](#) in East Rutherford, NJ on Saturday, April 30th at 6pm. Otherwise, look for Frank to return with his band this September. Visit his [website](#) or follow him on [Twitter](#)

for more information and news on his upcoming release "England Keep My Bones" due out June 7th.



Lorraine Schwartz
NY concert Examiner

© 2006-2015 AXS Digital Group LLC d/b/a Examiner.com