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## Concert Review: Dave Hause at Mercury Lounge

The first time I saw [Dave Hause](#) play was when he opened for Brian Fallon at the Bowery Ballroom in early 2010 (my review here). At that time I was not familiar with his music at all, but he put on such a great performance, singing catchy songs with an amazingly clear powerful voice, that I became a fan immediately. His song "Melanin" stayed in my head for days afterwards and is still a favorite now.



*Dave Hause at Mercury Lounge*

*Lorraine Schwartz*

*Lorraine Schwartz*

The lyrics tell of getting through the final days of winter by looking ahead to the springtime sun. On that cold January night that I saw him play, I needed to hear something inspiring and that song did just the trick. Finally, after months of personal scheduling conflicts and waiting out his European stint with the 2011 Revival Tour (with Brian Fallon, Chuck Ragan and Dan Andriano), I was able to see him perform again last night when he played the Mercury Lounge.

After opening sets by Laura Stevinson and Cory Branam, Hause took the stage with his Empty Bottles Band around 10:30. Joking he

was concerned the Sunday night crowd got home in time to get some sleep before the Monday work day, Hause kept it a tight set. Playing for about an hour, the setlist drew mainly from his latest CD "[Resolutions](#)". "Time Will Tell", "C'Mon Kid", "Years From Now" and "Meet Me At The Lanes" all made the cut as well as my beloved "[Melanin](#)", which I look forward to listening to repeatedly as I soldier through this year's winter.

Having only previously seen him play solo with just a guitar and mic, naturally the full band provided a whole new musical experience. One song that really benefitted live from the additional instruments was "Prague (Revive Me)." The drums were so sharp and booming that it caught me off guard. Besides his own tunes, Hause also covered Tom Petty's "Listen To Your Heart" and did a brilliant version of his hero Joe Strummer's "Coma Girl".

In between songs Dave spoke to the crowd, thanking them for choosing to be there even though the much anticipated season finale of HBO's "Boardwalk Empire" was airing on their televisions at home. One fan immediately responded by thanking him for writing the music itself. The best audience member exchange of the night was when he confronted a roaming photographer who thought nothing of resting her sizable equipment bag (which Hause dubbed her "light rock concert survival kit") on the stage at his feet while she texted as he sang right above her. When he asked who she was texting, she smiled and said "Absolutely nobody", to which he replied "That was a pretty long text to 'nobody'." It was a satisfying moment, as her actions were impossible to ignore!

Dave's tour continues until just before Christmas, but unfortunately he's done with the immediate NYC area for now. However, if you're reading this from your homes in Ohio, Illinois, Missouri, Arkansas and Tennessee, you will be happy to know he'll be hitting your town soon. Visit Dave's official site for [tour dates](#).

To see my photos from the Mercury Lounge show, click [here](#).

Follow Dave on Twitter at [@housedave](#) and me at [@concertexaminer](#).