

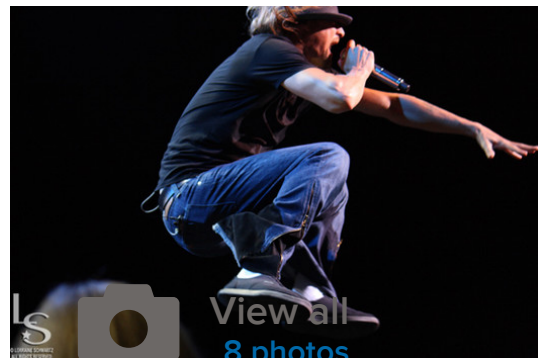
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# Concert review: Kid Rock at Bethel Woods

**August 18, 2011**

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When [Kid Rock](#) helped kick down the doors of rap-rock in the late '90s, the world was a different place. Clinton was still in office, most people were employed, the internet was still fairly young and the Y2K fear dominated headlines. Back then [Kid Rock](#) was an artist with a whole lot to prove. Straddling the line between hip-hop, country and rock n' roll, he threw a lot of people for a loop, including this Examiner. How do you categorize someone who can play side-by-side with Aerosmith, Run DMC, Sheryl Crow, Hank Williams, Jr. and even [nail](#) Creedence Clearwater Revival's "Fortunate Son" as if it's his own? The answer is, you don't. You just stand up and rock out to the sounds of the different genres colliding while stage pyro goes off. This is exactly what the people of the Hudson Valley did last night at [Bethel Woods Performing Arts Center](#).



Kid Rock mid-flight at Bethel Woods in Bethel, NY

*Lorraine Schwartz*



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[Bethel Woods](#) was the site of the **original** Woodstock concert that took place in 1969. Wednesday night was the anniversary of Day 3 of that festival. Coincidentally, Kid Rock made his mark on Day 3 of the **Woodstock '99** fest (in Rome, NY). That day went down in history as the spark that ignited the primal **behavior** that later ensued at the festival's end, but also as a day where Kid Rock **showed** the masses just how great of a live performer he really is (remember, that was before YouTube existed, so getting your act on television was a major score). Before that show, a lot of people thought: "Who does this guy think he is? He walks around town throwing this pimp **image** in my face and expects me to take him seriously?! Come on!" But once he walked out on that stage, discarded his pimp gear and was just a dude rocking out full force, minds were changed. Over a decade later, fans are still coming out in droves to see the man play.

Through the years, Kid Rock's sound has changed, but only for the better. While he still writes quintessential party anthems like "**So Hott**" that are found on strip bar playlists across the nation, he's also become known for writing moving music such as "**Times Like These**" off his CD "Born Free." In 1999, Rock saw a huge hit with "Only God Knows Why", a basic country-tinged rock song utilizing Auto-Tune. Last night's more mature, all out country-revamp of the song (which featured Rock's opener, Alabama native Jamey Johnson on vocals) helped emphasize the sentiment of the lyrics even more and was clearly how the song was meant to be played. It was definitely a highlight of the evening.

Surely another highlight, for at least a few of the men in the crowd, was when Kid brought out the most famous element of his shows aside from the massive pyro displays- his stripper pole dancers. Two girls sporting stiletto heels, cutoff jean shorts and bikini tops joined Kid and his 10-piece Twisted Brown Trucker Band on stage to give the evening just the right amount of sleaze fans have come to expect at a Kid Rock show. Another mainstay of Rock's performance that took place last night, was a segment mid-set in which Kid played

just about every instrument on stage to show his skills. If you're looking for a DJ who can scratch while lighting up or pouring a shot of Jim Beam, Rock is your man.

The way Rock full-body headbangs and maintains his partier image, you probably wouldn't know the man just turned 40 years old. But he seems to be celebrating and owning this fact rather than shying away from it. Following a video recorded for his Detroit birthday bash earlier in the year that featured comedic well wishes from Conan O'Brien, Jimmy Kimmel and Jon Stewart, Rock launched into "Forty" (NSFW [link](#)), a song about hitting the milestone age with a sense of humor.

After asking the crowd if they still believe we "live in the greatest country in the world" and receiving a hearty affirming cheer before launching show finale "Born Free", it was clear that although the times have changed, and Rock along with it, one thing has remained constant: the USA is still a proud nation, and Rock is still an American Badass.

Check out photo highlights from the show [here](#), and additional concert shots from the evening [here](#). A video clip of Kid Rock and Jamey Johnson singing "Only God Knows Why" can be found [here](#).

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**Lorraine Schwartz**  
NY concert Examiner

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