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Concert Review: Rise Against at Terminal 5

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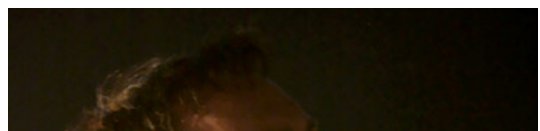


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Rise Against at Terminal 5 with Four Year Strong and Bad Religion

Lorraine Schwartz

Before [Rise Against](#) took the stage on Friday night at [Terminal 5](#), they already had the crowd in the palm of their raised fists. After very loud, very well received sets by openers Four Year Strong and legends Bad Religion, the crowd was primed and ready for action, chanting "[RISE AGAINST!](#)" the moment the lights went down before the Chicago foursome actually even appeared.



*Lorraine Schwartz*

Jumpstarting the show with the driving intro music to "Chamber the Cartridge", vocalist Tim McIlrath lead the crowd into a repetitious militant battle cry of "RISE!" just before he and bandmates Zach Blair (guitar), Joe Principe (bass) and Brandon Barnes (drums), tore into the main body of the fast and furious song. Immediately the floor crowd broke out into waves of crowdsurfers and general chaos ensued as the balconies of [Terminal 5](#) looked over the mosh pits from above. Anyone who has seen Rise Against perform before knows that this is just the order of the day at one of their shows. The punk rock scene is not known for its tame crowds, and Friday night's show was no exception.

Rise Against is out promoting their latest album "[Endgame](#)", which entered the Billboard charts at #2, showing critics who keep trying to push the idea that "rock is dead" that they have no idea what they're talking about. With "Endgame", the band continues to tackle serious subject matter, telling stories for the people whose voices need to be heard. For example, "Help Is On The Way" is told through the eyes of a family waiting for promises to be kept by the powers that be after their lives were torn apart by Hurricane Katrina. "Make It Stop (September's Children)" is a plea to stop shaming the gay population into suicide, while "Architects" and "Satellite" talk about the idea of taking charge of your life instead of sticking to the plans made for you by everyone else.

All four songs, along with previous hits like "The Good Left Undone", "Re-Education (Through Labor)", "Prayer of the Refugee", and "Audience of One", were part of Friday night's setlist. As is now tradition for Rise Against shows in NYC, Lou Koller was in the house and joined them onstage for "Built To Last", a song by Koller's NYC-based band Sick Of It All. Also in the audience were members of the Iraq Veterans Against the War (IVAW) organization, to whom the band dedicated "Hero of War", which is about a soldier who enters the military with optimism but leaves with disturbing memories of a harsh reality he

wasn't expecting. Showing the lighter side of Rise Against, McIlrath played "Swing Life Away" acoustically as the crowd held up their cell phones to record the moment while they sang along to the sweet [lyrics](#). Finishing out the entire set with fan favorite "Give It All", McIlrath dedicated the song to New York City for giving the band so much.

Check out my photos from the show [here](#). Follow me on Twitter at [@concertexaminer](#).

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