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Concert Review: Catalpa NYC at Randall's Island

This weekend the first ever [Catalpa Festival](#) took place on Randall's Island. Though there were moments of rain on both Saturday and Sunday, that didn't stop concertgoers from showing up to party with an eclectic lineup that included headliners The Black Keys, Snoop Dogg (performing his classic album "Doggystyle"), as well as TV On The Radio, Matt & Kim, A\$AP Rocky, Matisyahu, Umphrey's McGee, Cold War Kids and Girl Talk.



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Along with live music, there was also an outdoor silent disco where attendees slip on a pair of headphones and simultaneously listen to a DJ spinning tunes for their dancing pleasure. It was actually sort of a humorous sight to see; people standing around almost bored, when suddenly a smile appears on their face, they raise their hands and randomly begin to jump around.

White tents housing artwork and various goods for sale lined the main concourse of the field, alongside vendors offering a wide variety of food to choose from, ranging from decadent cupcakes from Crumb's Bakery and fried Oreos, to healthier fare like Greek salad and fruit smoothies. A bar serving craft beer was also located closer to the main stage. Sat in the middle of all of this was Got2B's makeshift hair salon, titled "Church of Rock", where the adventurous trusted on-site hairdressers to give them a rocker-style hairdo.

For a first time event, crowd turnout was pretty good. Sunday moreso than Saturday, but the sketchy weather most likely was responsible for deterring people from making the trek on Day 1, as there were major thunderstorms in the surrounding metropolitan area all afternoon. Judging by the number of cars in the parking lot vs. the amount of foot traffic heading out to the Queens pedestrian bridge and shuttle buses back into Manhattan, there were definitely more City folk than out-of-town commuters. Having some experience dealing with festival transportation, though the parking

fee of \$30 per day (\$50 if you purchased a parking pass in advance) was a bit pricy, it was nice to be able to park right outside the festival entrance as opposed to dealing with far away shuttles as was the case with Bamboozle (my review [here](#)).

An overall good time, hopefully New York City will once again get to experience the Catalpa Festival next year. Check out my photos from the show [here](#), with additional shots from the show [here](#). Follow me on Twitter at [@ConcertExaminer!](#)