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Concert Review: Frank Turner at the Wonder Bar in Asbury Park

[Frank Turner](#) is definitely one of the hardest working men in music right now. The Winchester, UK native's day is not about playing a set and retiring to the bus until bedtime. On show nights, he's often found at his own merch booth, selling t-shirts and conversing with his fans after playing his set. When he's not busy getting to know his supporters, he's updating his website's blog, networking with his followers online, editing video tour diaries, doing press or writing songs about topics ranging from an alternative take on religion to Gene Simmons' lothario ways.



*Frank Turner at Wonder Bar**Lorraine Schwartz**Lorraine Schwartz*

Thankfully, all of his efforts seem to be paying off. He's won a base of hardcore American fans who are snapping up tickets quicker than ever to his shows, sometimes selling out venues within an afternoon. Such was the case with his show at Asbury Park's Wonder Bar on Sunday evening, which sold out only a few hours after going on sale.

Last night's Jersey show was the last of a string of dates across America that included opening slots with Social Distortion and the Dropkick Murphys (my review [here](#)), along with some of his own headline shows thrown in for good measure. While touring with those two legendary bands is enough to inspire a celebration, succesful completion of this past week's travels alone would be cause enough for anyone to rejoice.

Beginning with successive shows in Long Island and Brooklyn on Sunday and Monday respectively, Turner took a mid-week detour to Texas to play Austin's SXSW Festival, then returned to the Dropkick Murphys tour to play Massachusetts over the weekend (including a St. Patrick's Day double-header in Lowell on Saturday). Surely after an immensely busy week involving a zig-zag commute, Turner

could not wait to play for his own loving crowd waiting for him in Asbury Park on the final night of the tour. As he said, "Asbury's the first place in America that started to feel like home for me. This feels like a London show for me and I don't say that lightly, so cheers."

The home-away-from-homecoming was an all out singalong, featuring songs spanning Turner's solo career, which began with 2007's "Sleep Is For The Week." Backed by The Sleeping Souls, Frank sang while fans shouted along to songs like "The Real Damage", "If Ever I Stray", "Photosynthesis", "Try This At Home", "Long Live The Queen", "I Knew Prufrock Before He Got Famous", "The Road" and "I Still Believe." Turner also played a mini-solo set while his bandmates took a break, including "Heartless Bastard Motherf***er" at a fan's fervent request, and "Worse Things Happen At Sea", which he sang after downing a fan-provided shot. The only time the crowd members weren't singing in unison was when Turner performed new songs "Tattoos", "Wherefore Art Thou, Gene Simmons" and "Four Simple Words." A highlight of the set was his enchanting version of local hero Bruce Springsteen's "Thunder Road." As you might expect, the entire Wonder Bar sang along to the Bruce cover as if the man himself was there singing it.

Turner is headed back to England where he will play Wembley Arena in April, but did say on stage that he'd be back in the US this Fall, specifically mentioning he'd return to Asbury Park. No dates have been announced, but you can follow Frank on Twitter at [@fthc](#) or check out his site for news.

Check out my photos from the Wonder Bar show [here](#), with additional ad-free photos [here](#). Follow me on Twitter at [@ConcertExaminer!](#)