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Concert Review: Tim Barry at Asbury Lanes

Friday night, singer [Tim Barry](#) took the stage at the historic [Asbury Lanes](#) in Asbury Park, NJ to celebrate the release of his latest album, "[40 Miler](#)." Armed with an acoustic guitar (backed by musicians Josh Small, Andrew Ali and Julie Karr who played opening sets), Barry played his brand of folk-country to a room full of people who were mostly born around the time Barry's career started with his band [Avail](#) in the late 80's. He garnered the youthful following gigging with the likes of The Gaslight Anthem and The Revival Tour, winning immediate fan loyalty with his passionate performances and down-to-Earth personality.



*Tim Barry at Asbury Lanes**Lorraine Schwartz**Lorraine Schwartz*

Barry's style is to sing every word as if his life depended on making you understand the importance of what he is trying to tell you. His lyrics are sincere, uncensored thoughts, at times verging on flat out dark. But, that's bound to happen when you're exploring the good and bad of your daily existence. "I'm not afraid to admit all the idiocy and hypocrisy in my entire life", he said Friday night, encouraging people to have a sense of humor about their own personal idiosyncrasies.

Truly enjoying being at one with the crowd, Barry ventured off the stage to the middle of the floor to perform a few times. Early into the set, he waved in the timid front row, who were keeping their distance from the performer, to come closer to him. The stage is set up amongst actual bowling lanes, so crowd members had to move in carefully as they surrounded the singer and his band, trying not to trip on equipment cables or bowling balls resting in the gutter at the foot of the wooden platform.

Throughout the show, Barry thanked his supporters for coming out on that beautiful April night and they were clearly happy he came by to play the small venue. The crowd sent beer up to the stage as

they sang all of his words back to him with enthusiasm, provoking Barry to bring up a few of the loudest kids to sing along with him right into the microphone. "Avoiding Catatonic Surrender", with lyrics referencing nearby East Brunswick and the Garden State, is a song near and dear to the Jersey kids and the group singalong brought the house down. After the performance was over, Barry partied with his crew and fans to the Jackson Five and Stevie Wonder tunes, raising a toast to another great show.

To see my photos from the show click [here](#) (additional shots [here](#)).

Check out [Tim Barry](#) at his official [site](#), [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#). You can follow me at Twitter at [@ConcertExaminer!](#)