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Concert Review: Tim Barry w/ Cory Branan and Des Ark at the Knitting Factory

Touring the Northeast in a van with broken air conditioning during a massive heat wave wasn't exactly what tour-mates Tim Barry, Cory Branan and Des Ark had in mind. But, despite the sweaty commuting, the trio of artists were calm, cool and smiling by the time they were ready to hit the stage at Brooklyn's Knitting Factory. Perhaps it was due to employing the temporary remedy Branan dubbed "Ice Baby", which entails passing around a bag of ice and hugging it like a baby until you're cooled off. Or perhaps it was the fact that the venue thankfully had the a/c blasting all night. But most likely, their good mood was at least partially due to the friendly faces of the New Yorkers waiting to see them play their fantastic [music](#).

Opening the show with haunting guitar work and soulful vocals was [Des Ark](#)'s singer/songwriter Aimée Argote. The North Carolina native's style of playing barefoot was an unusual sight at first, but once she explained it was a necessity to help her deftly navigate her guitar pedals while sitting in her chair, all was understood. She mentioned that her feet have received so much attention that she made sure to get a proper pedicure before tour so as to not offend

any of the front row.

Following Des Ark was singer [Cory Branan](#), who was last in town as part of the increasingly popular Revival Tour (read my review of the Bowery Ballroom double-header [here](#) and their Philly date [here](#)). He brilliantly weaves words together with a deep Southern accent while skillfully working his way up and down the fretboard, alternating between delicate and aggressive moves. Though he places some of the songs on his setlist under the category of "Sad Bastard Music", Branan also played fun songs that got the crowd tapping their feet; the charming "A Girl Named Go" and "The Prettiest Waitress in Memphis" among them. The Mississippi native already had a few fans in the crowd, who shouted out requests that he gladly played. One fulfilled request, "Muhammad Ali", hadn't been played in years according to Branan. With lines like "You're gonna fall for me so fast and hard, I'll leave your shadow still standing", I think it's time that song made a comeback!

When [Tim Barry](#) (also a Revival alum) took the stage, any stragglers that had been watching the show from the back bar quickly filed in to the stage area to watch their punk rock hero. Also on acoustic guitar, Barry gave a passionate performance of his songs, which covered topics ranging from simply trying to get through the day, to a soldier's struggle to deal with the events he experienced while serving in Iraq. Barry talked with candor, even when he interrupted his own biggest singalong, "Avoiding Catatonic Surrender", to request that the house put on some dance music to send the crowd off in Party Mode. The audience giggled, then shouted suggestions for what to play, hoping for a bit of Jackson

5ive or the like. In case you were wondering, the choice of the night ended up being Lady Gaga's "Poker Face", which played over the loud speaker to synchronized flashing stage lights as people got one final dance in before heading back out into the heat.

Click [here](#) to see my photos from the show.

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