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Concert review: Lucero at Terminal 5 w/Titus Andronicus & The Menzingers

[Lucero](#) singer Ben Nichols expressed to the crowd at Terminal 5 on Friday night that for him, the 3,000-capacity venue seemed "big and scary", but the band (singer/guitarist Nichols, bassist John C. Stubblefield, keys/accordion player Rick Steff, guitarist Brian Venable, drummer Roy Berry, and horns section Jim Spake and Scott Thompson) sure didn't seem like they were intimidated. Tearing through a 20+ song setlist that spanned the band's 14 year career, they played for the New York City crowd without any signs of fear.

The crowd seemed on the calmer side compared to the drunken revelry seen at the holiday Brooklyn Bowl shows the band has played in [2011](#) and [2012](#), but that didn't take away from the proud accomplishment of being successful enough to be booked at Terminal 5 in the first place. Just two years ago, the guys were playing Mercury Lounge, which is probably about the size of the T5 stage alone.

Even though this audience was subdued in comparison to those New Years Eve pre-gaming fans at Brooklyn Bowl, a small contingent of diehards on the big floor crowd still came alive for fast

paced crowd-pleasers "Bikeriders", "Tears Don't Matter Much" and "All Sewn Up." A mini mosh pit broke out (which saw tattoo artist Oliver Peck [join in](#) on the fun), causing the front row to brace themselves against the barricade until things slowed down with one of Lucero's gorgeous slower numbers, for example "Hey Darlin' Do You Gamble." The place almost completely quieted down as Nichols and Steff played "The War", a touching tribute to Nichols' Grandfather and suitable song choice as the country headed into Veterans Day weekend. Nichols also took the time to dedicate "Fistful of Tears" to [Josh Burdette](#), a fixture at DC's 9:30 Club who recently left many friends in the [music](#) community behind when he tragically passed away in September of this year.

Opening the show were Philadelphia's [The Menzingers](#), who entertained the early birds with a lively set just before up-and-coming New Yorkers (by way of New Jersey) [Titus Andronicus](#), began their homecoming set with "A More Perfect Union" and ended with a tribute to Lou Reed, playing an excellent cover of "Sister Ray." Check out my clip [here](#).

Lucero will be playing Toad's Place in New Haven with Titus Andronicus on November 12th and will hit Ithaca's The Haunt on Wednesday the 13th, followed by Harrisburg, PA's Federal Taphouse on the 14th. They'll be returning in the Spring with The Dropkick Murphys after touring the Southwest. Check out their tour dates [here](#).

To check out photos from Friday night, click [here](#). You can follow me on Twitter at [@ConcertExaminer!](#)