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Concert review: 2014 Shindig Festival feat. Rise Against and Jane's Addiction

This past Saturday, Baltimore's Carroll Park was the site of the second Shindig Festival. The all-day affair featured rock bands influenced by varied styles including Alternative, Metal, Punk, Ska and Folk. Thankfully the turnout was as impressive as last year, which hopefully means a bright future for this festival, as it seems to be the only true major rock fest in the Baltimore area.

The day was long and hot, but because the acts on the bill were all impressive and high energy, it was easy to ignore your discomfort. And though overall the bill could be classified as "Rock", each band brought something unique to the table. Larry And His Flask may have a banjo and trombone player on stage, but they are not your typical Revival band. Stand-up bassist Jeshua Marshall rocks out harder on stage than most thrash-metal band members. The Mahones' set featured back-breaking stage moves; Lucero brought Southern swagger to their drinking tunes; in the tradition of Little Richard and Jerry Lee Lewis, J. Roddy Walston and The Business features a piano center stage; Fishbone quite literally brought their ska-funk to the crowd as singer Angelo Moore sang while crowdsurfing; Gogol Bordello's set was gypsy-like chaos; Clutch brought some funk to their metal while Halestorm's Lzzy belted out

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high notes in high heels and leather to wailing guitars; Rise Against encouraged circle pits to form; Jane's Addiction brought their trippy love vibe and suspension artists to finish out the beautiful Autumn evening.

Aside from the music featured, various vendors provided typical festival food with a twist. Along with funnel cakes, corn dogs, and burgers, food took a local turn with Crab Pretzels, Old Bay-style chicken wings. Also on hand were sweet and savory pie offerings from Dangerously Delicious Pies of Baltimore, which featured the "Baltimore Bomb" pie: "loaded with Berger Cookies (a local specialty) that melt down and swirl into a sweet, vanilla chess filling."

Hopefully next year sees the return of one of the more promising Northeastern rock festivals! Check out my photos of the day here.

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