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## Concert recap: Rise Against at the Stone Pony

It was hard for [Rise Against](#)'s lead singer Tim McIlrath to believe that this was the first time they were playing the legendary Stone Pony in Asbury Park, NJ. But here they were, finally, rocking the Summerstage in 2015. The band was excited to be there, as McIlrath mentioned he already felt close ties to the area despite the lack of Shore gigs in their past, having toured with local heroes The Gaslight Anthem and Bouncing Souls. McIlrath was so taken with the beauty and charm of the Asbury Park boardwalk that he openly teased the absent Pete Steinkopf (of Bouncing Souls) about being unable to make the show due to vacation plans, saying he felt they were already in a great vacation spot.

Rise Against is currently on tour supporting their most recent release, 2014's *The Black Market*. Originally, they were to come through the Tri-State area as part of The Hunting Party Tour with Linkin Park back in the cold winter month of January. Unfortunately, the tour came to an abrupt end after the third date of the show when Linkin Park's singer Chester Bennington injured his ankle severely enough that they had to cancel all remaining dates. But of course, on this warm Summer night in July, the band proved to be worth the wait, this time bringing [Letlive](#) and [Killswitch Engage](#) with

them.

Having first seen Rise Against when they opened for My Chemical Romance back in 2007, I can tell you that their stage show still has as much passion and high energy as it did back then. Fans still come out in droves, ready and willing to scream along and crowd surf from the first to final notes every time. And boy was there crowd surfing at this show! McIlrath even took a moment to praise the front row for taking a beating with smiles on their faces, putting up with piles of people unintentionally kicking their heads as security helped them over the barricade and back to the ground.

The setlist was comprised mostly of earlier songs, seeing only two songs off the recent record ("The Great Die-Off" and "I Don't Want to Be Here Anymore"). "Make It Stop (September's Children)", "Help Is On The Way" and "Satellite" off of Endgame made the cut while "Black Masks & Gasoline" (off of Revolutions Per Minute) seems to have made a substantial comeback into the set for the first time in years. Standby favorites like "The Good Left Undone", "Give It All", "Prayer of the Refugee" and "Re-Education (Through Labor)" were also played as well as a guaranteed show highlight every time, "Swing Life Away". Lou Koller of NYC's legendary punk band Sick Of It All came out to perform "Built To Last" as he has been known to when Rise Against comes through NY/NJ. For their encore, McIlrath joked they were taking a big chance playing "Dancing For Rain" at an outdoor show like the Pony, given up to that point the weather had been beautiful. A storm cloud loomed in the distance, but thankfully it stayed away and let Rise Against finish out a great set with "Savior."

Check out my photos from the show [here](#)!

To find out when Rise Against will be coming to your area, go to their [official site](#).

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