

SOUND OPINIONS

-Local small town DJ gets discombobulated in the big city-

BY CHRIS BURK
Contributing Writer

It was somewhere between bailing out of a moving vehicle and stumbling out of the Midland Theatre half-deaf that I figured out Kansas City, Missouri, could be a great place to live should I ever actually graduate from college.

My accountant Philly and I journeyed to the western star of this great state, Kansas City, to celebrate the end of a long week. The “Summer Is Forever II” tour was making a stop and, having missed one of the headlining acts last summer in Omaha, Nebraska, I was thrilled when my good friend alumna Anna Selle texted to tell me she had an extra ticket so all three of us could go.

Punk rock’s favorite couple, Nathan Williams of Wavves and Bethany Cosentino of Best Coast, fronted the two headliners, and breakout group Cherry Glazerr was slated to open at the beautiful Midland Theatre, a venue I had never visited. Two mysteries for the price of one ticket — figuring out how to get to the Midland and figuring out who would headline the evening, because Wavves and Best Coast had been trading the job back and forth throughout the tour.

Being used to going to shows at the Aquadome this semester, I was shocked at the size and sound of the Midland. It has the same aesthetic appeal of a classic theater, such as the Pageant in St. Louis, but is twice the size with a multi-tiered general admission floor. The sound, in comparison to the Pageant, was much louder.

Cherry Glazerr opened the evening with a half-hour set that went by as briskly as the pace of its music. My accountant and I agreed lead singer Clementine Creevy could pass for a new-aged Joan Jett. That comparison might be faulty, however — the rasp in her voice could have been because she had bronchitis, which she announced at the concert. While being a punk band fueled by the speed of its music, progressive, droning breakdowns also dominated the enjoyable set of a band I had previously never listened to.

The best of the two mysteries was solved when Williams appeared on stage, covered in leather and looking grubby and unkempt. Wavves started into an hour-long set that covered the entirety of the band’s catalog, including a melancholy, ethereal take on “No Life For Me,” the title track of its 2015 LP with Cloud Nothings, which I bought yet another copy of after the show. The energy of the band’s show could be described with the caricature backdrop for the tour — a fantasy wrestling poster, with Cosentino dressed as WWE wrestler the Undertaker in his early-career garb, versus Williams as The Ultimate Warrior, clad in lime green and yellow body paint. The incredulity of a very specific part of my childhood mixed with a significant part of my adult life set a tone of fun that was apparent in Wavves, as was the enjoyment of getting to open instead of close the headlining bands.



Submitted by Anna Selle
Musicians Bethany Cosentino and Joe Bautista perform at the Midland Theater as part of the “Summer Is Forever II” tour. Bautista is a touring member of Wavves, which is made up of Cosentino and Bobb Bruno.

Cosentino strode across the stage for Best Coast, which was the headliner, with the same motivation as myself earlier in the evening when I jumped from my accountant’s moving Ford Explorer as we inched through Power & Light District traffic. As it would turn out, none of the parking garages in the large entertainment district of the city accepted cards, and because the general flow of the area was slowed to a crawl, I was able to run a block up the street to a market and buy two packs of bubble gum to get cash back at the register and make it back to the car.

Cosentino was not parked in the slightest, as Best Coast ripped into a loud and clean set. Having seen the band play last summer with Bully in St. Louis, I was stunned at the difference in sound. Perhaps it was the echo-y Midland that worked in favor of the arena rock-inspired cuts from the band’s most recent album, “California Nights.” Nevertheless, the dreamy beach rockers were in full form. Lead guitarist Bobb Bruno

did nothing less than shred, reminiscent of Dinosaur Jr.’s J Mascis in sound and hair.

The night was a supreme success, because using live music as a way to rendezvous with good friends is a great way to forget the week that preceded the night on the town. The bright Power & Light District, while unfortunately filled with bro country fans attempting to see Blake Shelton at the Sprint Center, was a nice change of scenery to sleepyheaded Kirksville.

Send your complaints to burk992@gmail.com. As always, turbocharge your day with “THE WARMUP LAP” from 7-9 a.m. every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, and make sure to tune into “LOUD & OBNOXIOUS,” from 10 p.m. to midnight every Saturday on 88.7 The Edge. This past week we featured local recording artist STEVIE NEL live in studio — you can catch a recording of that, and the rest of this semester’s live shows, at soundcloud.com/ktrm-kirksville.

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