

Jonas Brothers burn up Chicago



The Jonas Brothers rock out to "Cake By The Ocean" at their most recent Chicago performance on Sept. 20. Photo by **Ashley Boak**

By **Ashley Boak**,
Head Photo Editor

On May 1, 2019 I learned that the Jonas Brothers were coming to Chicago on their Happiness Begins tour, and I knew I had to go. I loved the Jonas Brothers so much as a kid that I had a toothbrush to their song "Hold On". Let me tell you, 17-year-old Ashley lived out six-year old Ashley's dreams at the Jonas Brothers concert on Friday, Sept. 20.

After spending \$130 on a single ticket, I was hopeful that my money would be put to good use.

The first opening act

left me a little worrisome. Jordan McGraw, the son of Dr. Phil, was the first of two opening acts, where he performed six total songs. Overall, his performance was filled with background music that was way too loud, which left my ears ringing before the Jonas Brothers even came out.

The only good part of McGraw's performance was when he performed a song from his very first concert-- Blink 182's "What's My Age Again?" I enjoyed this part of his performance the most because it brought me back to my very first concert and it was also a way for him to connect with the fans.

After McGraw's roaring background music left the stage, the final opening act came out, which was Bebe Rexha. Her 30-minute performance left me a little less worrisome that my ticket was a waste of my money.

Even though I'm not the biggest Rexha fan, I still found her performance enjoyable. Rexha was very personal with her audience and involved with the crowd. Her balance of upbeat music and crowd interaction left me hopeful for what was coming next.

What happened was well worth my money. When the three brothers descended onto the stage,

coming in on a platform brought down from the ceiling, I knew that I was going to be in for the best night of my life.

The first song on their setlist was "Roller Coaster," which I feel was the best song for the brothers to start with. The chorus of the song states, "It was fun when we were young and now we're older" which matches the brothers perfectly. It has been over six years since the brothers last played together on stage, and they have definitely grown up.

The brothers went on to then play some older songs such as "S.O.S." and "Fly With Me" along with a mix of new songs off their "Happiness Begins" album such as "Used To Be" and "Only Human." Personally, I loved hearing the older music again because it brought me back to the days that I would sing Jonas Brothers in the car while going to kindergarten every day.

Just when I thought the concert couldn't get better, it did. The only thing that could have made it better is if I was in the pit to see Nick, my favorite brother.

One thing that I absolutely loved about the concert was when they would play old music videos while the brothers performed older songs such as "Lovebug" or "Burnin' Up". Throughout the concert, videos of three young actors that resembled the brothers as children would

come on, which I thought was really cool and a special way for the brothers to remind us of who they were when their music career started.

At one point during the concert, the video that came on the screen made me cry. Kevin was shown in the video with his two daughters, Alena and Valentina, as they were walking through a forest to meet the younger Kevin. Once he met the younger Kevin, he walked with him over to a piano in the forest so he could teach him how to play just like when he was younger. Once he sat down at the piano in the video, Kevin came out on stage sitting at a piano, which lead the brothers into some of their final ending songs.

Overall, I feel that the concert was also the perfect length of time. The brothers played about 21 songs, which while it may seem like a lot, but it blended perfectly together. The entire United Center was filled with screaming Jonas Brothers fans of all ages, which created a perfect environment for the brothers. To say that I was hit by a "Lovebug" while at the concert is an understatement. I was "Burnin' Up" with excitement and emotions, which would leave me giving the overall concert a 10/10. Jonas Brothers, I was a "Sucker" for your concert, and I wish that I could "Hold On" to that night forever.

NFR: Lana Del Rey's redemption

By **Kate Riley**,
Online Features Editor

Lana Del Rey, informally known as the "queen of alternative," has recently awoken from her slumber in order to release her latest album "Norman F***** Rockwell."

As an avid Twitter user, I can't help but notice that the amount of buzz for her newest album has exponentially surpassed that of her last two albums. Del Rey has reemerged as the talk of everyone's Twitter feed, just as she was back in 2014.

I think the most pivotal moment of my middle school career was when I dressed up as Del Rey for "Dress like your hero!" day.

Dressed to the nines in my flower crown and black combat boots, I openly stated that Del Rey was a great role model (I conveniently forgot to mention

that 80% of her songs were about sex and drugs). Although not everyone has had the same experience, I think we all start to hear the soundtrack of "Born to Die" when we think about those horrible, prepubescent years.

Within seconds of listening to NFR, it felt like the old Del Rey was back, with all the character from her earlier albums but with a more mature sound.

Del Rey's early albums were perfect for the middle school version of myself; her "sad girl" vibe was something I connected with like many other teens going through their emo phase. Her albums following, however, were riddled with features and seemed to lack cohesive concepts.

Until NFR, Del Rey and I seemed to be going down different paths in life, yet with this album, we managed to find each other

again. The album is filled with cinematic ballads that encapsulate old-Hollywood tragedy; for example, "The Next Best American Record" Del Rey draws inspiration from American life, but instead of focusing on the glamour that she had before, she focuses on her living reality.

This album seems to be the most personal from Del Rey. She left behind aesthetics to carefully create an album that sang of real experiences, human wreckage and modern romance. Del Rey has grown from alt-pop hits of a romanticized American past to ballads signing of the contemporary hardships of her reality.

The lead single "Norman f***** Rockwell," opens with an orchestra that perfectly sets up the grandeur of the album. It felt like I was transported to some pivotal moment in a classic



While NFR is a newer sound for Lana, it ends up staying true to her original "Summertime Sads" vibe with its easy-flowing orchestral backing.

Photo by **Kate Riley**

1950's film where I wave to my lover on a dock as he leaves for the Navy. Many instrumental solos are featured on the song that act as highlights of America's musical past.

One standout track, "Venice B***h" includes everything from a Spanish guitar to 80's synthesizers in the nine-minute adventure of a song. Del Rey

seems to take a step back on vocals in an effort to showcase the wide variety of music that represents Venice, California.

With the number of songs you can scream in the car with friends, "Norman F***** Rockwell" solidified itself as a defining album in Del Rey's discography; especially one that put her back on top.