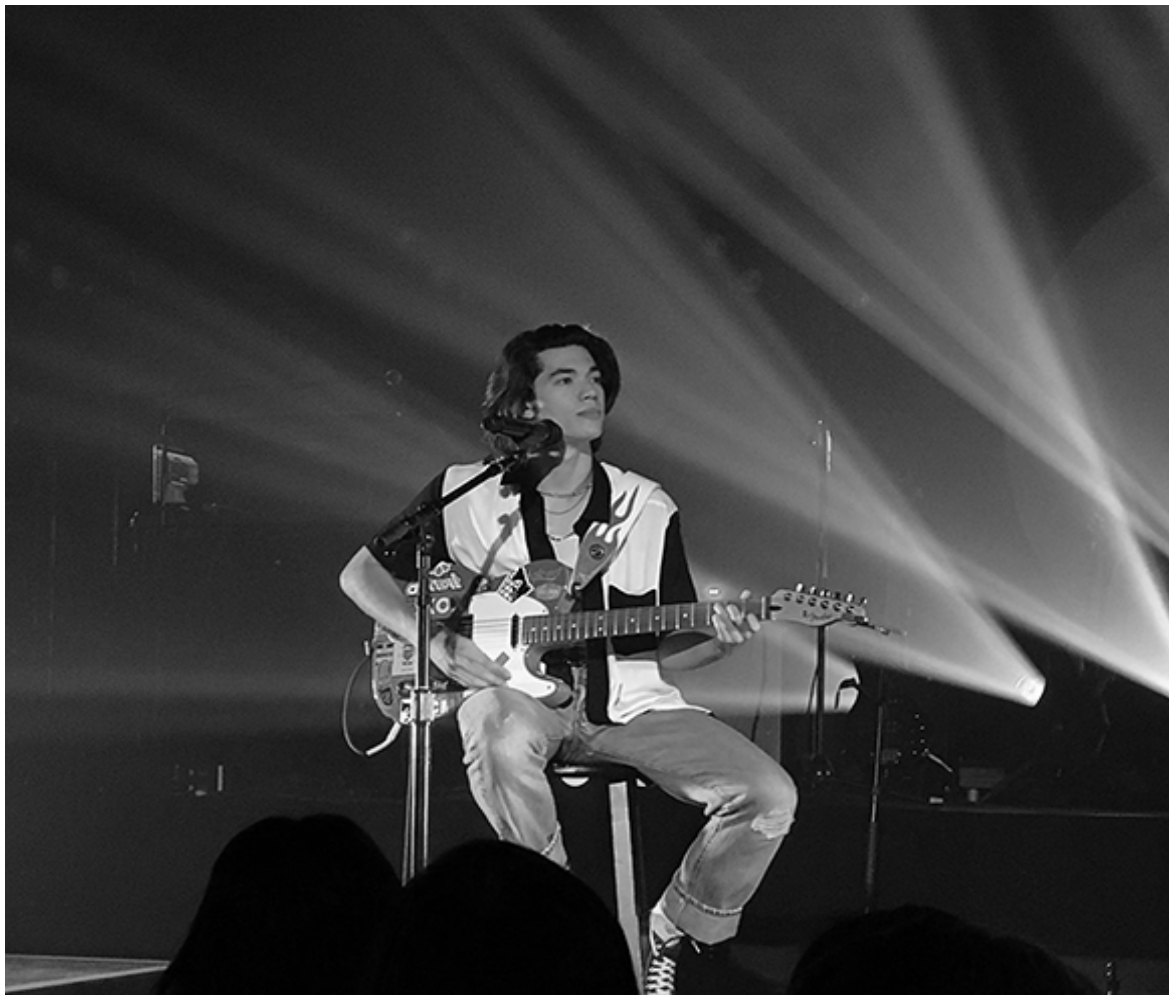


Camping out for concerts 101



Camping out for an entire day to see Conan Gray in November with Conan's talent and style is really worth it.

Photo by **Izzy Johnsen**By **Izzy Johnsen**,
Copy Editor

You have been waiting all week for this exact moment. Presale tickets go on sale in two minutes, and you have been patiently waiting in Ticketmaster's browser with your verified fan code. Your stomach does back flips, and you get the feeling in the back of your throat like you're going to throw up.

You NEED these tickets. As the clock starts the countdown, your palms begin to sweat, and your thumbs anxiously twiddle at the base of your phone. There's no way that you couldn't even get these tickets, right?

5.4.3.2.1.

You immediately type in the code that has been sitting in your inbox for weeks. As the tickets load onto your screen, you buy the closest tickets you can—floor seats. You race to the checkout knowing that once you successfully type in your credit card number you'll finally be able to breathe again.

Finally, you get the confirmation e-mail congratulating you on your purchase, hyping you up for your show that is later this week. Now you must face the harsh reality that you're going to a concert during hell—October in the Midwest. The worst part of it all?

You need to camp out to get front row.

There are certain things

you need to know and understand before embarking on the journey that is camping outside an arena in the middle of Chicago and especially if you'll stay the whole night. There are a couple of Do's and Don'ts you definitely need to know.

If you're planning on sleeping outside then you need to get a tent; sleeping on the ground with some blankets may seem like the cheaper route, but it's not safe. You will want to be as warm as possible when the weather drops to the low 30s in the middle of the night. You're here to have a good time, not to be cold and miserable.

Along with staying warm, you should invest several dollars in buying hand and foot warmers at your local CVS. These might seem pointless, but they really do help when you can no longer feel your limbs or you're on the brink of hypothermia. They're a little piece of heaven when you're trapped in the piercing cold wind of the city.

Make sure you have food. If you're trying to not pass out when your favorite artist comes on stage, you should make sure you're eating food periodically throughout the day. Nutrients and eating are important and if you're not giving your body what it needs you're not going to feel good.

Try to make friends with your camp out neighbors

because if you need any help they're going to be your only support system for the next couple hours. If you need to go to the bathroom or get some food, the other person can hold your place in line so that no one tries to steal your spot or tell you to get to the back of the line when you return.

Don't do anything alone. No matter how sure of yourself you are. Your safety is the most important thing in the world, and going to a concert, by yourself could be potentially very dangerous. Try to have a concert buddy or make a new friend so you won't be standing alone in a dark alley.

Concerts are a transcending experience that can take you out of reality and into a world of bliss and excitement. The only thing that could ruin the daze of good music and vibes is being stuck in the back not being able to see anything. Camping out is crucial for you to get to be face to face with your favorite musician.

You've successfully made it to the concert, the ticket in your palm that is plastered in sweat. As they scan your ticket you run to the stage with the shine of the sweet silver barricade within sight. You reach out your hand and let the cool metal bar melt away all your worries as you smile at your friend next to you.

Congratulations, you made it.

Hozier rocks Chicago

By **Kate Riley**,
Online Features Editor

One of my defining personality traits is my love for the Irish blues singer Hozier. I previously saw him in June and immediately looked for more tour dates nearby, but there was radio silence until late June. I looked on my phone and saw he was coming to the Chicago Theater for his "Wasteland Baby" tour, and I immediately purchased tickets with no thought to my very dry bank account.

Luckily enough, I was able to snag tickets for the sold-out Sunday night performance. When I walked in, there was the big number of 30-year-olds surrounding me; I guess we all shared the same love for indie-blues music. The moment he came onstage, everyone looked at each other questioning if they should stand up, I think I encouraged the adults around me to move with my obvious enthusiasm.

The opening song, "Would That I," perfectly encapsulates his sound for those who were unfamiliar with his music. The song is an adequate blend of intimate folk and rock-inspired choruses. Soon enough, the entire theater was on their feet, chanting his words back to him.

Throughout the night he played songs ranging from a powerhouse performance of "Nina Cried Power" to the upbeat "Someone New." Although the tour was for his latest album "Wasteland Baby," he rarely stuck to his new releas-

es and instead showcased his entire discography.

My favorite part of the show was when he played two unreleased songs, "The Love Of" and "Jackboot Jump." He went on to explain the inspiration for "Jackboot Jump," came from news coverage of protests as activism is a very common theme in many of his songs. It was a familiar concept with a completely new take with its very apparent rock-feel.

To culminate his 18-song set, Hozier played his hit song, "Take Me to Church." Everyone in the audience, from spouses who tagged along to 17-year-old superfans like myself, screamed all the familiar lyrics. I swear anyone who was walking past the theater might have thought they were passing a Sunday mass with the intensity of which the chorus of "Amens."

After a brief encore, Hozier reappeared to finish the night out strong, and sad, with two fan favorites, "Cherry Wine" and "Work Song." After the high-intensity set that had previously occurred, I was ready to finish the night feeling melancholy in the sense I was sad the night was over, but these last two songs were beyond beautiful.

As he sang the words "When my time comes around/ lay me gently in the cold dark earth/ No grave can hold my body down, I'll crawl home to her," I could only think about how lucky I was to experience such a memorable and moving concert.



Hozier played two sold-out nights at the Chicago Theater, Nov. 3 and 4.

Photo by **Kate Riley**