



Wet Hot Chicago Summer: Lollapalooza 2009

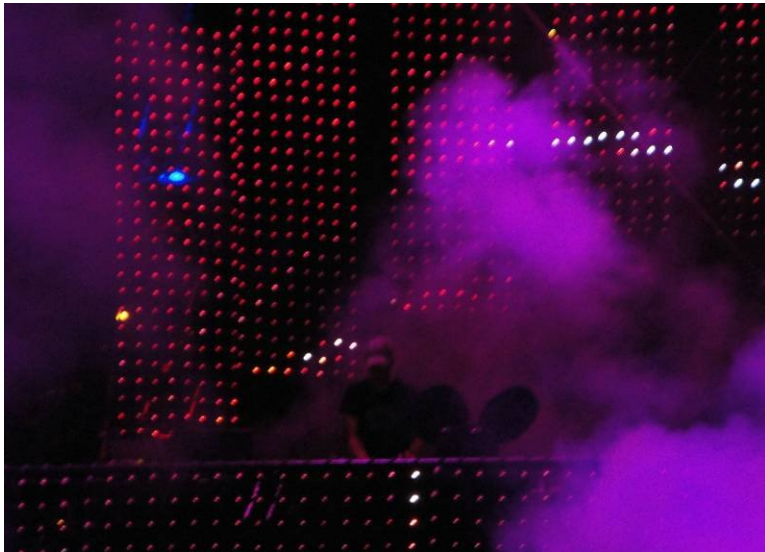
Lollapalooza once again kicked off in Grant Park. Boasting a line-up that accommodates just about any music fan who could fight the masses and get to the appropriate stage was in for a treat.

With 2 main stages and 6 side stages there was constantly something for everyone, even kids. Kidzapalooza featured artists who sought to entertain the young guests.

With far more bands than one could possibly hope to see guests were encouraged to build their own schedule online in order to manage their time more effectively. The musicians were kept to a military-like schedule, starting and stopping exactly when they were scheduled to.

After deciding on which bands had to be missed guests could do nothing but hope the weather would cooperate – which it did not.

In a true “rain or shine” style, Hey Champ was the first band to play the Chicago 2016 Stage. The white pants might not have been the best choice for lead singer Saam Hagshenas but they still had everyone dancing through the storm with their electro-pop, indie infused style. Hagshenas claimed that Chicago is in to dance parties more than most other cities and with local music like theirs it is easy to see why.



Deadmau5 lights up Perry's Stage. Picture courtesy of Annie Jeffry.

Perry's stage, the only stage that had music constantly playing, was a little more than a spot for a DJ to stand with light boards behind them. It was the perfect stage to feature different DJs from around the globe, including Deadmau5, Bassnectar, The Glitch Mob, MSTRKRFT, and many more. It was easy to see how so many people could spend their entire day there.

Later on Friday Sound Tribe Sector 9 reaffirmed Hey Champ's claim that Chicago loves dance parties when they played a set that any true STS9

fan would love. With songs like Shock Doctrine and EHM the old fans were just as happy as the new fans that their latest CD Peaceblaster drew in.

Just as STS9 came to a close, the world renowned band Crystal Castles kept things going at an adjacent stage. The two piece band hailing from Toronto, Ontario showed us that even our neighbors to the north appreciate the experimental electronic style that is beginning to overwhelm the Chicago music scene.

If you weren't completely out of steam by 8:15 then you were staking a claim at one of the two main stages and getting ready for the headliners of the night. The Kings of Leon, a family band from Nashville Tennessee, rocked out the Budweiser Stage with hit singles such as "Sex on Fire" and "Knocked Up." If you were in the mood for some throwback music, Depeche Mode, the English electro band from 1980, closed out the Chicago 2016 stage, just as the rain came to an end.

Saturday and Sunday brought the heat. With a heat index of 105° peoples' umbrellas now served a different purpose. Mother Nature's cruel manner truly tested the guests of Grant Park, and they passed.

Coheed and Cambria, the neo hair band from Nyack, NY was an explosive change from Friday's dace party motif. Keeping the grunge rock fans happy, Rise Against played the same stage shortly after.

Animal Collective, an experimental rock band based in New York City boast a style that even loyal fans have a hard time defining. Their noise-pop, garage style has been perfected over the years and has brought success to their record label, Paw Tracks. Before their main set some of the members, most notably Geologist, played a DJ set at Perry's stage which gave their fans a good idea of what inspires them to make such unique music.

Due to Adam Yauch's unforeseen surgery The Beastie Boys' had to cancel, allowing Karen O of the Yeah Yeah Yeahs to headline the Budweiser Stage. Though the concern for MCA and the future of the Beastie Boys was prominent many were excited about the change of plans.

Possibly one of the most anticipated headliners, Tool, brought hundreds of fans who found their way into Grant Park solely for their psychedelically infused heavy metal show. Aside from great music and a stellar light show, Tool displays somewhat morbid videos to accompany such hits as "Schism" and "Ænema."

"Scary good," said Annie Jeffry, after seeing Tool for her first time.

As if it couldn't get any hotter, Sunday's heat wave blew over Grant Park and virtually cooked the thousands of fans there. Though they were scorched, eager fans awaited such bands as Ra Ra Riot, Davy Knowles and Back Door Slam and the Kaiser Chiefs to name a few.

Vampire Weekend, known for such hits as "A-Punk" and "Oxford Comma" from their self titled CD, played a set that had everyone around jumping to the beat. Their happy, poppy, indie-rock sound is just what the worn down masses needed to reenergize after a long weekend which wasn't even over yet.

Relatively new on the scene, Passion Pit, played shortly after. In a story usually reserved for the silver screen, lead singer Michael Angelakos produced EP Chunk of Change alone for his girlfriend for a

Valentine's Day gift. After she heard it, it was easy to convince him to start a band that would later tour the states and be voted Best New Act in The Boston Phoenix's Best Music Poll.

As they always tend to, The Cold War Kids played a stellar set just as the temperature started to wane. This unstoppable indie-rock band came bursting onto the scene with their first single "Hang Me Out to Dry" from their debut LP *Robbers and Cowards* in 2006.

Lollapalooza ended with two more highly anticipated headliners: Jane's Addiction and The Killers. Perhaps one of the harder decisions of the weekend, many fans decided to split their time between the two and make the dash across Grant Park.



Chicago's skyline from the 2016 Stage. Courtesy of Annie Jeffrey.

Though Mother Nature threw the best of what she had at the masses for three days straight, people were still buzzing hours after the final shows commenced and would head to one of the many after parties which were all over the city. These actions sum up the attitude toward music in Chicago, never stopping no matter what. Perhaps that is why it was decided that Lollapalooza would stop touring years ago and only occur in the heart of one of the most progressive music cities in the world; Chicago.