

Anna's Bonnaroo Top 10
Amusement Editor
For Amusement
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Every summer, a 700-acre farm in quaint Manchester, TN, is transformed into the fantastical awesome wonderland that is Bonnaroo Music Festival. With 9 years of history, Bonnaroo has become the east coast's preeminent music fest and every artist from California to Narnia wants a coveted spot on the platinum line-up.

Growing in diversity with each year, Bonnaroo's schedule includes music to please everyone's palette, from bluegrass to metal to funk to latin, the festival's patrons get a taste of everything.

The festival also hosts stand-up comedy, and this year's comedy line-up hosted acts like Conan O'Brien, Margaret Cho, Aziz Ansari, Greg Giraldo, Bo Burnham and more.

As if music and comedy aren't enough (if this is the case, you're a greedy bastard), there are also vendors selling everything from kilts to glass-blown dildos (Crazy Dildo Saturday is my new favorite holiday).

With all this awesomeness going on, it's impossible to catch everything the Roo has to offer. There's only one of me, and with Bonnaroo's nine stages and 100+ artists, the one of me feels pretty limited. Not to say I missed out: I firmly believed I was able to hit up some of Bonnaroo 2010's best, which include ...

1. Water Stations: Not a band. Just stations with purified water that you could get FOR FREE and fill up all day, as many times as you like. In the blistering hot and suffocating humidity, water stations come in as my number one.

2. Imelda May: This Dublin starlet favors rockabilly music, but her sound is a combination of blues, rock and roll, and even soul. When asked why rockabilly, May said, "Why not? It's great music, and it really influenced all the kinds of music we have today. Why not play the music that inspired so many?" The rockabilly heartbeat of her music allows her to add some nostalgia, but she keeps it contemporary, giving it her own character.

3. Dropkick Murphys: Can you tell I like the Irish? DKM is an infusion of rock, Irish folk and pure party that guarantees a good time at any show they play. Scruffy Wallace of DKM explains their music is just a party waiting to happen. "We also try to bring a positive energy to the crowd and hope that in turn they share that positive energy. We're fired up." Fired up indeed. The DKM show at Bonnaroo was a crowded sauna of pure party, with hundreds of deodorant-challenged individuals crammed together in a mindless frenzy of intense musical rioting. Got to love it.

4. Regina Spektor: I have the biggest girl crush on Regina Spektor. Her indie music style can't be matched or recreated. While listening to her music you will think two things. First, "what the hell is she talking about?" And second, what you think when you start to realize the meaning behind her poetics, "oh my god, that is so true! IT'S LIKE SHE KNOWS EVERYTHING I THINK AND THEN PUTS IT IN A SONG." Spektor is one of the most talented artists in today's industry, mixing her insight and genius with her talent to create something that is solely Regina. Add to that a bubbly personality that comes through onstage and you understand why I have a girl crush.

5. Carolina Chocolate Drops: I've never been one for bluegrass. I grew up in the city and didn't know until recently that a mandolin and banjo were different instruments. So when I stopped in to hear Carolina Chocolate Drops, I was shocked to find that my "stopping in" turned into a 45-minute hypnotic trance. The NUMBER-member band blew me away,

6. Devil Makes Three: A west coast folk band with some southern bluegrass charm (see a trend with the bluegrass?), Devil Makes Three's first year at Bonnaroo was a success. Their intimate afternoon concert furthered my newfound love of bluegrass (I'm not kidding, I'm going to marry a hillbilly. Maybe an Old Prospector if I'm lucky) while at the same time showcased that it takes an intense amount of talent to play folk music. I mean...shit. Pete Bernhard, frontman for Devil Makes Three, is excited to be sharing their down-home sound with the east coast. "We're more of a west coast band. This is our first east coast festival and we're excited to be here." I'm excited you're here, too. And by excited I mean SEXcited. Bring on that bluegrass.

7. The Postelles: This New York-based pop-punk quartet's sound is what I would equivocate to an American Beatles. Not a single person in their crowd was static—toe-tapping, hip-shaking, head-nodding, arm-swinging ... You name an awkward white person dance and it was happening. "That's what we look for in our shows—for the audience to have a good time. We love what we're doing and we hope that they love it, too," says David Dargahi, The Postelles' lead guitarist. Their catchy songs set them apart from other pop-rock bands in Bonnaroo's line-up—I enjoyed their show more than OK Go and Tokyo Police Club combined. Not only is their music great (new album hits stores July 27, so ch-ch-ch-check it out), but they have a great energy.

8. Frank Turner: The curly-headed Englishman might look like another insightful acoustic guitarist, but his angsty lyrics are more honest, down-to-earth and relatable than the lyrical metaphors you find with other solo male musicians, i.e. Gavin Degraw (what is the chariot supposed to represent? Are you singing to an actual chariot?) or John Mayer (is there really lightning striking your chest? You should get that check out). I caught Frank during a guerilla show—an unplanned set he played in the Wheat Thins-sponsored tent—and he played with just as much energy and passion as you would see on a main stage.

9. Julia Nunes: YouTube sensation Julia Nunes graced Bonnaroo's stages multiple times throughout the festival, a bonus for anyone who appreciates good music. Which is pretty much everyone. Though she pulled out the guitar during her set, she is best known for her ukulele skills. "I saw the ukulele in a music store, thought it looked funny so I picked it up, taught myself how to play, and fell in love," says Nunes of meeting her musical soulmate. For me though it isn't the ukulele that sets Nunes apart—although that doesn't it. Lyrically, I feel like she is the one to beat. Although gothic at times, Nunes' lyrics transcend literal to metaphorical effortlessly, and I love that.

10. Jesus: Yes. Jesus was at Bonnaroo. And no, I wasn't high, because I know that's what you're thinking. He was there, in His white robe and crimson sash and sandals and He had a Vera Bradley umbrella to protect His holy skin from the satanic sun.



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