



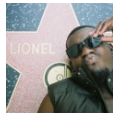
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By Lionel Boyce



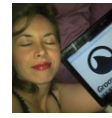
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Odd Future Protest at Pitchfork Festival

By LA Weekly Mon., Jul. 18 2011 at 8:02 AM

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Ashley Koenen

Article by Tal Rosenberg

"I dedicate this to every person that doesn't like me or Odd Future, or any protesters or any organization that doesn't like me," Tyler The Creator said just before his collective closed out their set yesterday at the 2011 Pitchfork Music Festival.

West Coast Sound told you last month about a planned demonstration against the group here, protesting their lyrics, which deal in rape, murder, and other capital offenses. But I didn't see any picketers. Instead, I saw a number of tents dedicated to domestic violence and LGBT violence groups, and found two young women handing out cardboard fans to attendees.

This made sense, considering it was extremely hot - 93 degrees - and humid. The fans were actually mini-placards, signs that read "COOL IT! DON'T BE A FAN OF VIOLENCE" on the front and listed the nine or so co-sponsoring organizations on the back. (Some fans of the collective crossed out the messages and wrote "SWAG" and "WOLF GANG" instead.)

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I talked with Yesenia Maldonado, the director of programs at Between Friends, a nonprofit agency focused on ending domestic violence. She and Mary Reese, a volunteer for Rape Victim Advocates, were at the front entrance of the festival handing out the fans. Maldonado said their purpose was to "create awareness of domestic violence and LGBT violence, in direct opposition to today's music."

She added that she was inspired by an article written by critic Jim DeRogatis about the festival, [most likely this one](#), "Pitchfork & Odd Future: Endorsing rape or showcasing art?" in which he opens by citing Eminem's headlining at Lollapalooza and quips, "this summer is potentially a banner season for lyrics full of hateful fantasies about raping and murdering women echoing through Chicago's parks."

Still, Maldonado and others declined to be specifically protesting Odd Future, noting that they had also distributed fans at Counting Crows and Dave Matthews Band concerts.

Kristin Claes, the communications manager of the Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation, was firmer in decrying Odd Future's content. "We wanted there to be a counterpart to the violent lyrics," she said. She also noted that Pitchfork - for whom, full disclosure, I'm a contributor -- had provided their booth and donated money for extra fans. The media had blown their "protest" way out of proportion, she claimed.



Ashley Koenen

When Odd Future took the stage at 3:30, the heat was unbearable, and the crowd was packed with sweaty teenagers -- of surprisingly balanced gender. In fact, plenty of girls rapped along with their lyrics. After MellowHype (aka Hodgy Beats and Left Brain) came out to their track "64," a hobbled Tyler emerged, his leg cast in neon plaster.

"Big props to the domestic violence group that's here today," he said. "We hope you're listening. This song's for you."

Then he launched into MellowHype's "I Got A Gun (You Better Run)."

He was equally animated for the rest of the performance. Sitting on a stool, wearing a Playboy bunny cap and a tie-dye t-shirt with a peace sign on it, he closed out his performance by saying: "To all the people who do like Odd Future: Go crazy."

Then the crowd rapped along with nearly every word of "Pigeons" "Radicals," particularly the chorus: "Kill people, burn shit, fuck school." Tyler proceeded to jettison his stool into the crowd.

This protest - or non-protest - would probably not have been a big deal at all, had Tyler not made a big deal of it. But it seemed like a savvy move, nonetheless. Backed by screaming fans, he placed his antagonists in the minority, as if trying to shame them. The message seemed to be: Any person who hates Odd Future will be subjected to the jeering mass of exclusion.

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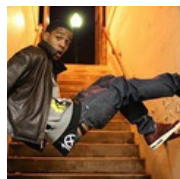
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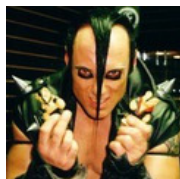
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Spencer Kent 1 month ago

FYI: They ended with "Radicals" not "Pigeons." "Radicals" is off Goblin and has the chorus "Kill People Burn Shit Fuck School"

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West Coast Sound 1 month ago

Fixed, thanks.

Like Reply



Jacob 1 month ago

Also, it should be noted that Odd Future brought the advocacy groups cupcakes before their performance.

West Coast Sound liked this Like Reply



NotBecauseYouCan 1 month ago

As talented as he is, maybe Tyler the Pretty Boy should spend some time in jail where his ass can be raped on a daily basis. Since he likes to talk about doing it so much, maybe he should be on the receiving end and see how it feels, literally. After all, he's so tough, (because you know, all real tough guys talk about victimizing women as a means to make a buck) I'm sure he could take it up the ass with no lube and I'm sure all the gang bangers in the joint could also make good use of his smart mouth. Savvy?

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