FEATURES

Twenty Øne Piløts rocks the Fox

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At first glance, the lineup-up of artists for the Blurryface Tour may seem like an oddly fitting array of musical acts, in which the infectious tunes of Echosmith are haphazardly wedged between the schizophrenic pop duo Twenty Øne Piløts, who headline the tour, and the Bay Area’s own indie rock band Finish Ticket. However, a deeper look reveals why the Blurryface Tour sold out Oct. 17 and 18 at the Fox Theater in Oakland.

Fans of Twenty Øne Piløts proudly tout the moniker of “skeleton clique.” Lead singer Tyler Joseph said on social media, “We are such a relatively small group of people, and whether we grow, shrink or stay the same, I love that about us. A good friend and respected journalist said to me, ‘It’s the only non-exclusive clique I’ve ever seen.’” This premise of inclusivity encompasses the acts chosen to open up the Blurryface tour well.

The Skeleton Clique arrived garbed as full-on TOP doublegangers, sporting red beanies, black shirts and floral kimonos, aside from band merch. While in a line that wound around the Fox for hours, they taught one another the intricate secret handshake from the “Stressed Out” music video. Teen girls bulk bought lollipops and tacos from nearby stores and willingly shared with complete strangers while they were waiting.

In all my experiences of going to small-venue shows and the random festival or two, I have never seen such a dedicated fan base as the Clique. They look out for one another and are deeply bound through their shared love of Twenty Øne Piløts.

Twenty Øne Piløts started their set with the lead track “Heavydirtysoul” off their latest album “Blurryface,” just as they did when they headlined the festival stage at Live 105’s BFD show back in June. However, the open-air summertime show is leaps and bounds different from the overall production value and fan engagement I saw showcased on Oct. 18. Joseph and TOP drummer Josh Dun are known to have detachable stages where each of them can stand on top of the general admission pit while continuing to perform. This feat was done seamlessly throughout the majority of the songs, including the aptly titled “Holding On To You,” when it was played at BFD. There was a deafening noise as Dun drummed atop the balcony and yanked his mask off while the audience erupted into cheers. Joseph then took a moment to let down any rock star facade by smiling and pointing at a skeleton Clique devotee before launching into the song’s chorus.

Four smoke cannons blasted off and showered the Clique in red-and-white confetti to conclude the encore track “Trees.” The duo closed out another powerful concert with the words, “We are Twenty Øne Piløts and so are you.”

On Monday, Twenty Øne Piløts released dates for their upcoming Emotional Roadshow tour, which kicks off in May and includes a stop at the Greek Theatre in Berkeley. Tickets go on sale Friday.

For more Blurryface tour coverage, check out Instagram user six.twen- tytwo

WE ARE SUCH A RELATIVELY SMALL GROUP OF PEOPLE, AND WHETHER WE GROW, SHRINK OR STAY THE SAME, I LOVE THAT ABOUT US - TYLER JOSEPH

Top, left to right: Echosmith, Twenty Øne Piløts and Finish Ticket perform at the Fox Theater in Oakland on Oct. 18. The sold-out concert was part of Twenty Øne Piløts’ Blurryface tour. Above-left: The crowd cheers Echosmith’s set. Above-right: A masked Twenty Øne Piløts drummer Josh Dun plays at the concert.