



Photos by Jarrett Skov / Student Publications

## Concert

### John Mayer and Owl City

**PERFORMER:** John Mayer,  
Owl City

**LOCATION:** Aaron's  
Amphitheatre at Lakewood

**DATE:** Sept. 8, 2010

### OUR TAKE: <<<<<

**By Chris Ernst**  
Staff Writer

The hundreds denied entrance to John Mayer's impromptu concert at Eddie's Attic in Decatur, which was announced via Twitter only a few hours beforehand, had a second chance to see the Atlanta-based singer-songwriter perform. On the night of Wednesday, Sept. 8, John Mayer headlined Aaron's Amphitheatre at Lakewood with Owl City opening the show.

During the Owl City opening, tardy concertgoers, who made up about 90 percent of the final audience, continued to file

into the seats and spread their blankets on the lawn. The venue was open air with a covered section immediately in front of the stage. Several large fans cooled the thousands under the roof, moving the heat, humidity and body odor around.

It was a warm evening as the sun started to set when Owl City took the stage promptly at 7 p.m. Seemingly meant for the night with panels of stripes made of screens and stage lights, Owl City did not make much impact while fighting the sun for dominant illumination. By the end of the set, the sun had dimmed, and the full effect of the intricate dance of lights brought the audience's attention to the performers onstage.

It still seems odd that an electronica music "project" would accompany a singer-songwriter who dabbles in rap and blues. The semblance of a band that is really just one person is the opposite of a man who is accompanied by a band. As odd as it may seem, there were plenty of fans of both,

and the easily digested pop both musical acts offer ultimately can speak to fans of the other.

Adam Young of Owl City played guitar and sang for the duration of his set. He did not have much to say and did not connect with the audience. The marathon of songs was not necessarily exhausting, but it was rather dull.

The only saving graces were the visualizations, which played only intermittently, and Adam Young's youthful, persistent energy. Owl City finished with the well-known "Fireflies," exciting the crowd with something familiar.

Overall, there was plenty of energy onstage and true fans of Owl City likely wanted exponentially more from the show.

After a short intermission, the lights suddenly extinguished and a discerning eye could make out figures filing onto stage. The screams were deafening and louder than those for Owl City. Without any introduction or preamble, John Mayer launched

full-volume into his music.

Dressed simply in cargo pants and a solid grey t-shirt, Mayer jammed. Although suffering from a back injury, Mayer was still able to excite the assembly. Considered a "singer-songwriter," Mayer is foremost a guitar player.

His string plucking and fingers strumming is truly great, and he does not try to hide it either. Nearly every song was longer than the album version because Mayer would improvise a section in the middle of the song, sometimes for minutes at a time.

Mayer would work his magical hands and cast a spell without words. These interludes were the best part of the show.

Although not originally from Atlanta, Mayer moved here to start his music career. He played local venues around town, including Eddie's Attic, before he gained international attention. It was obvious that Mayer enjoyed being back in Atlanta; he said as much. His enjoyment was also obvious when interacting with

the audience, which he did frequently.

Mayer performed a number of songs, both singles and album tracks. None of the songs were too obscure; there were always a number of fans singing along.

Although the show was "John Mayer," he introduced his band and gave them all time to show off a little. During the improvised instrumental interludes, Mayer would play along with a ukulele or guitar with a band member playing a sax, another guitar or drums.

After the last song, the unsatiated clapped their hands, stamped their feet and shouted for more. Mayer and his band did come out for a one-song encore, much to the delight of the spectators.

Although Mayer is not much of a showman, his sheer skill and kooky wit keep the audience interested and entertained. The show probably ended too soon for some, but it's always best to leave a party while having fun, something Mayer clearly knows.



# Shwayze entertains, Lil' Jon disappoints crowd

## Concert

### Social Studies Tour

**PERFORMER:** Lil Jon, Shwayze, Kelley James

**LOCATION:** Parking Lot W21

**DATE:** September 2, 2010

**OUR TAKE:** <<<<<<

**By Kumar Thangudu**  
Contributing Writer

Kelley James, Shwayze and Lil' Jon rolled through Tech last Thursday, Sept. 2 for a free concert in the Howey Physics parking lot sponsored by Muscle Milk and Oakley.

It was organized by the Student Center Programs Council (SCPC). Many students heard of the concert only hours before it began. The day of the concert, Muscle Milk aggressively advertised the event by giving away free t-shirts and Muscle Milk drinks.

At quarter intervals throughout the concert, Muscle Milk was still giving away drinks up until the end of the concert.

"[My committee and I] worked directly with Muscle Milk and Oakley to bring the tour to campus.... [SCPC is] all about bringing events to campus," said Scott Gamble, SCPC concerts committee chair and fourth-year ME major.

"That's one of the problems that's always faced students... we do our best to get out as many students as possible, but it comes to a point where we can put it on

Facebook, we can put it on flyers, we can have banners, posters, but if students aren't paying attention to the advertisement we do, we can't put it in their face anymore," Gamble said in response to comments that the event wasn't well publicized.

The night opened up with Kelley James, an acoustic artist with a flair for freestyle rapping spontaneously during his performances.

"People always ask me what are my favorite cities and Atlanta's always on the top of the list. For me...I've always been influenced by hip hop....I really respect the scene," James said.

It's clear that James, arguably the least known among the three part act, has developed a burgeoning fan base at Tech. After the concert, James played a packed late night session at fraternity Phi Delta Theta.

Next up was Shwayze, a west coast hip-hop acoustic group made up of Aaron Smith ("Shwayze"- rapper) and Cisco Adler (producer, musician and songwriter).

The group had the crowd jumping with shirt throwing, sweat filled, feel-the-bass, stage jumping antics and the duo was rapping on top of eclectically gathered music samplings. Shwayze commented on the nature of the industry by talking about his recently released free mixtape.

"As musicians, we're constantly making music, but because of the labels and all these things sometimes it takes a long time for the music to get out. Sometimes we



Photo by Josh Sandler (left), Joey Cerone (right) / Student Publications

**Shwayze (left) and Lil' Jon (right) entertain the students last Thursday night behind the Physics building. The free concert was sponsored by Muscle Milk and Oakley. It was organized by the SCPC.**

just put out the music for free, and I'm sure that pisses them off, but that's what we do at the end of the day, we want the kids to have the music, especially the college kids [or] Georgia Tech or anywhere. We know a lot of kids download the music for free so instead of trying to fight it, we give it to them for free, so they can come to the show and sing along with us," Shwayze said.

Shwayze stuck it to the man and put his money where his mouth was, releasing another free

mixtape entitled *Love Stoned* under his name Aaron Smith four days later on Tuesday, Sept. 7.

Last up was Lil' Jon, the Atlanta based producer, rapper and DJ. Unfortunately, this finale proved to be bittersweet. Many Tech students came in droves to see Lil' Jon's performance, but it ended up being just a few minutes of hearing him DJ. It was clear that the audience was disappointed as many began pouring out of the concert soon after.

It's safe to say that Lil' Jon is

a highly talented studio producer, but a lackluster live performer. Ben Townsend, first-year ARCH major, said "It was kind of a lame DJ set, I expected more."

Perpetually a producer and entrepreneur, he owns businesses including CRUNK!!! energy drink, Little Jonathon Winery, his own line of Oakley sunglasses and a Smyrna recording studio. Asked what's next, Lil Jon replied "Just doing these records, working hard on the album, blowing the album up, I'm all over the world DJ'ing."

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# Action-packed *Machete* lacks cohesive storyline

**FILM**
***Machete***
**GENRE:** Action

**STARRING:** Danny Trejo, Robert De Niro, Jessica Alba

**DIRECTOR:** Ethan Maniquis, Robert Rodriguez

**RATING:** R

**RELEASE DATE:** Sept. 3, 2010

**OUR TAKE:** ◀◀◀◀◀

 By Robert Solomon  
Staff Writer

It is somewhat jarring to see the modern world invade Robert Rodriguez's *Machete*, as steeped as it is in the conventions of '70s exploitation cinema.

This, of course, is to be expected, as the original appearance of Danny Trejo's vigilante was in a faux-trailer attached to the beginning of the Rodriguez/Tarantino double feature *Grindhouse*.

It was the perfect appetizer to the film, a pitch-perfect trailer, largely due to our imagination filling in the gaps between outlandish scenes.

With the feature-length *Machete* being dropped into the burial ground of Labor Day weekend, one is skeptical from the very beginning if Rodriguez can fill in the trailer's gaps and create an enjoyable flick.

This skepticism is rewarded by the final result, as ultimately Rodriguez essentially creates a feature-length trailer, cramming



Image courtesy of Twentieth Century Fox Film Corporation

it with scenes that are meant to match the insanity of the original trailer. Rather than being exhilarating, it is merely fatiguing.

Even in the most ridiculous action movies, there is often some down time. Movies such as *Shoot 'Em Up* that attempt a relentless pace usually fail because the audience has no opportunity to anticipate what is about to happen. Without anticipation, there is no satisfaction.

Nowhere is this more apparent than in the plethora of action scenes where *Machete* cuts

through peon henchmen with an assortment of blades. Much like the violence in last year's *Ninja Assassin*, the blades cut too quickly, severing limbs and body parts before the viewer is even aware of what has happened.

In the right hands, this technique can increase the impact of the violence, but in this case it has the opposite effect.

Furthermore, Rodriguez seems to be enamored with the filmic cut, which consists of moving the camera's gaze from one subject to the next as quickly as possible.

This was apparent from his first feature (*El Mariachi*), but at the time Rodriguez was limited by the quantity of his footage and the editing methods available to him. With digital cameras and computers, there is no longer either limitation, and the resulting product suffers. Hardly a single moment in the film registers in the mind's eye before a cut.

Thankfully, some of the actors play their parts with a slow burn that is more fitting with the material. Of particular highlight is Jeff Fahey, the villain of the original trailer, who hisses his lines with angry malice while retaining his cool.

It is too bad that his performance is overwhelmed by the sheer number of actors in this short tale, as Rodriguez has become enamored with the idea of casting famous actors in even the smallest of parts. As such, there are no fewer than three main villains, as well as four heroes, all of whom are given equal screen time.

This approach is clearly influenced by Tarantino, but where Tarantino succeeds is through making his characters memorable with subtle gestures, not large sweeping ones. Tarantino's directorial hand disappears at these crucial moments, while Rodriguez has no such restraint.

In fact, this film has no restraint at all, which would be fine if there were only a small handful of characters to keep track of, rather than two fistfuls.

The saving grace of the film is the brief moments that effectively

satirize the ludicrous rhetoric that has surrounded recent political battles over illegal immigration. The overblown campaign ads within the film for Robert De Niro's Texas State Senator would have seemed ridiculous only a few years ago, but no longer. This uncomfortable friction with reality is where a lot of the power of these films lies, but *Machete* is content to use it as window dressing for the carnage instead of integrating it into the narrative.

It is a wasted opportunity, for one can have an awesome action movie with a social message. Even if one disagrees with the politics, it makes for a more visceral and entertaining film. It grounds the outlandish action in a more fully realized reality, which makes the action all the more exciting.

Perhaps it is the digital camera that helps to undermine this. The camera's artificiality is highlighted not by the images they capture, but in the gritty flourishes that Rodriguez applies such as faux film scratches. These tricks work about as well as the distressed clothing items one might buy at the mall.

Sadly, *Machete* suffers the same fate. While this movie might make for a diverting afternoon on cable, there is little to recommend that can't be found in more entertaining and authentic forms elsewhere. It is a pale facsimile of the promise evoked by the original trailer featured in *Grindhouse*. In fact, I'd recommend merely watching that trailer again and calling it a day.

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# Passionate Dragon\*Con attendees flood Atlanta

## Events

### Dragon\*Con

**PERFORMER:** Fans

**LOCATION:** Hilton Atlanta, Hyatt Regency Atlanta, Marriott Marquis Atlanta, Sheraton Atlanta Hotel

**DATE:** Sept. 3 - 6, 2010

**OUR TAKE:** <<<<<

**By Andrew Ho**  
Contributing Writer

The Labor Day weekend traditionally gives people time to spend with family at home, partying with friends or just relaxing and enjoying the long weekend. However, another sort of tradition brings people flocking from all over the country and globe to Atlanta in the form of Dragon\*Con. This year, Dragon\*Con celebrated its 24th year of unrestrained fandom and passion for pop culture.

For those who have not heard of Dragon\*Con before, it is the world's largest multimedia and pop culture convention that is aimed at possibly every form of entertainment and genre that one can think of.

Fans of science fiction, fantasy literature, movies, music, art, comics and more can find a set of events to attend to meet special guests or mingle with other attendees who share common interests. This year alone it attracted about 40,000 fans, dealers, exhibitors, artists and guests. Founded in 1987 as part of a humble local gaming and sci-fi group, Dragon\*Con has grown to cover the space of five hotels in bustling downtown Atlanta.

Even with this amount of space, local hotels were filled to capacity, while restaurants and

vendors were tasked with serving the hordes of attendees.

One change from previous years in Dragon\*Con is that waiting lines for events only start an hour before the event opens, but even then there were queues stretching as far as several city blocks for some of the more popular panels and guest appearances.

Some key events at Dragon\*Con included the Dragon\*Con Parade on Saturday morning, with a section of Peachtree Street blocked off to allow legions of storm troopers, wizards and dragons to go on display before crowds of attendees and three world record attempts at gathering the largest number of Star Trek, superhero and steam punk costumers in one place. Charity events such as the blood drive with Life South and Charity Auction for the Lupus Foundation of America were also present and raised some much needed blood donations and funds for their cause.

Numerous costume contests, fan panels, autograph sessions and workshops gave attendees an opportunity to share their skills, passions and interests with guests and other attendees.

Among the 400-odd guests in attendance at Dragon\*Con this year, were various actors, writers, musicians, artists and performers.

Notably present this year was much of the voice cast from the hit sci-fi comedy *Futurama*, including Billy West (Phillip J. Fry, Dr. Farnsworth, Dr. Zoidberg), John DiMaggio (Bender) and Phil LaMarr (Hermes Conrad). Maurice LaMarche (Morbo, Kif Kroker, Lrr) was unable to attend due to illness, though he plans to come to Dragon\*Con next year with hopefully more of the cast in tow.

Billy West is a veteran voice



Photos courtesy of Jabulani Barber / Student Publications

actor in animated shows, having begun his long career in the late '80s with starring roles in *Doug* and *Ren & Stimpy*, two of the first Nickelodeon animated series. John DiMaggio started his career somewhat later around 1994 and is best known for his role as Bender from *Futurama*.

Voice actor Billy West was in awe of the amount of people that showed up.

"There's a sea of people here and I love it... What are the odds that, over the years, people would line up just to hear you talking? I mean, I still can't figure it out. It's surreal to me," West said.

Some particularly notable guests in attendance included

Stan Lee, creator of characters such as Spiderman, the X-Men and Iron Man.

The voice actors for Fry and Bender on *Futurama*, Brandon Routh, who played Superman/Clark Kent in *Superman Returns* and Summer Glau, starring actress in *Terminator: The Sarah Connor Chronicles* participated in several of the panels throughout the conference.

Actors from other popular TV series and movies such as the *Harry Potter* movies, *Star Trek*, *Eureka*, *Heroes* and *Aqua Teen Hunger Force* were also greeted with packed crowds of fans.

Voice actor John DiMaggio reveled in this chaotic atmosphere.

"Cons are great... you always see something new at cons. It's basically a tide of super-dorks, and nerds and geeks and dweebs," DiMaggio said.

Browncoats, Trekkies, otakus and more endured the crowds, lines and weather to attend the four-day festival of everything geeky. Dragon\*Con is likely to grow even more as it reaches its 25th year in 2011.

As an event that is entirely planned, run and supported by fans rather than commercial interests and media outlets, Dragon\*Con is a long-standing part of Atlanta's identity as a cultural center and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future.



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By Robert Zimmerman  
United Features Syndicate

ACROSS

- 1. Hoax
- 5. Double-ripper
- 9. Rascal
- 14. Colewort
- 18. Bring onboard
- 19. Gold, of old
- 21. Electroshock weapon
- 22. -- Fyodorovich Stravinsky
- 23. City in India
- 24. Kind of wave
- 25. Pimpinella
- 26. Lunar plain
- 27. Start of a quip by Steven Wright: 4 wds.
- 31. Equine animal
- 32. Middling
- 33. Era upon era
- 34. Pre-Raphaelite, e.g.
- 36. Adult
- 38. Sequoias
- 43. Mutilates
- 44. Rudd and Simon

DOWN

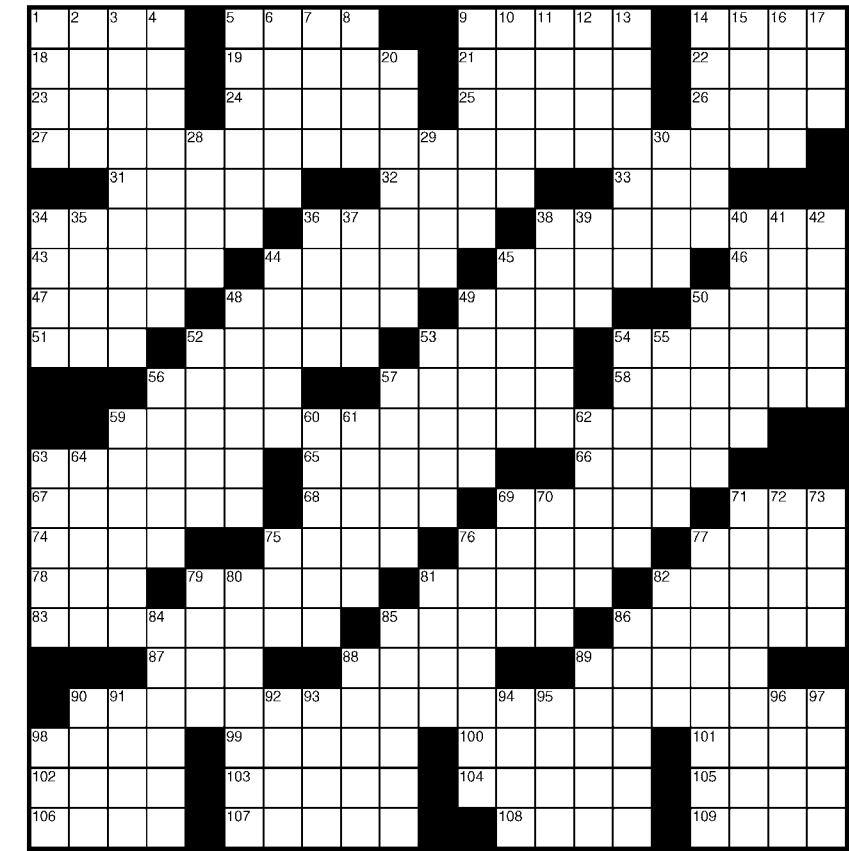
- 1. "Pygmalion" playwright
- 2. Lofty
- 3. Eye-catching
- 4. Intervening period
- 5. Scented bag
- 6. Enticed
- 7. Blore or Ambler
- 8. Russian parliament
- 9. After Lenin
- 10. Wicker craftsman
- 11. Seemingly: 2 wds.
- 12. Tableland

- 45. Her face launched a thousand ships
- 46. Wham!
- 47. Sea eagle
- 48. Toy-piano sound
- 49. Container
- 50. Coastal phenomenon
- 51. Jade's cousin
- 52. Outraged
- 53. Shankar or Zacharias
- 54. Part 2 of quip
- 56. Substantive
- 57. Pierced
- 58. Individually
- 59. Part 3 of quip: 3 wds.
- 63. Immature insects
- 65. Forming a line of rotation
- 66. Cheats
- 67. Part 4 of quip
- 68. Animal sound
- 69. Birds, bees, etc.
- 71. Sawbones: abbr.
- 74. Guests at a reunion
- 75. Auditorium
- 76. Is without
- 77. Herr's mate

- 13. Antedate
- 14. Robe
- 15. Chinese gelatin
- 16. Parrot
- 17. Word in a palindrome
- 20. The gents
- 28. Hardy heroine
- 29. Black birds
- 30. Bean or boom
- 34. Word of agreement
- 35. -- avis
- 36. Way of walking
- 37. Finnish poem

- 78. Compass point
- 79. Catkin
- 81. Noise color
- 82. Prop for the King of Pop
- 83. Aromatic
- 85. Pen
- 86. Posted an angry online message
- 87. Limb
- 88. Yoked animals
- 89. Vole cousin
- 90. End of the quip: 4 wds.
- 98. Female servant
- 99. Dial and muscle
- 100. Henri- -- -Benoit Matisse
- 101. Festive
- 102. Jot
- 103. Deliver a speech
- 104. Ceremonies
- 105. Orenburg's river
- 106. Horse's gait
- 107. Of one's birth
- 108. Sleep
- 109. Wall Street acronym

- 38. Inhere
- 39. BPOE member
- 40. Thought
- 41. Twelve: prefix
- 42. Malmo native
- 44. Two-dimensional shape
- 45. Place of refuge
- 48. Trimmed
- 49. Holiday songs
- 50. Musical groups
- 52. Hawkeye
- 53. Blue blood
- 54. Truncheons
- 55. "Once -- -- midnight



- dreary ..."
- 56. -- ordo seclorum
- 57. Cooking surface
- 59. Hummed
- 60. Void of thought
- 61. Glorify
- 62. Bony plate
- 63. Pointer's light
- 64. Originated
- 69. -- accompli
- 70. Stake
- 71. Caravan animal

- 72. Glowing review
- 73. Took legal action
- 75. Biddy
- 76. Cry weakly
- 77. Accessory for a paparazzo
- 79. Microbrews
- 80. Measure of blasting power
- 81. Sandwich cousin
- 82. Oversupply
- 84. Something passe: 2 wds.
- 85. Double-crosser

- 86. Weald
- 88. Greek letter
- 89. Air and square
- 90. -- vincit omnia
- 91. Cold War era org.
- 92. Ibsen heroine
- 93. Fly
- 94. Giant in Norse myth
- 95. Mouthful
- 96. Woe is me!
- 97. Lock brand
- 98. Island in a stream

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A	G	R	A		C	R	I	M	E		A	N	I	S	E		M	A	R	E	
W	H	E	N	T	H	E	C	A	N	D	L	E	F	A	C	T	O	R	Y		
		S	T	E	E	D			F	A	I	R			E	O	N				
A	R	T	I	S	T		G	R	O	W	N		R	E	D	W	O	O	D	S	
M	A	I	M	S		P	A	U	L	S		H	E	L	E	N		P	O	W	
E	R	N	E		P	L	I	N	K		C	A	S	K			T	I	D	E	
N	A	G		I	R	A	T	E		R	A	V	I		B	U	R	N	E	D	
			N	O	U	N			G	O	R	E	D		A	P	I	E	C	E	
		D	O	W	N	E	V	E	R	Y	O	N	E	S	T	O	O	D			
L	A	R	V	A	E		A	X	I	A	L			C	O	N	S				
A	R	O	U	N	D		C	A	L		F	A	U	N	A		D	R	S		
S	O	N	S			H	A	L		W	A	N	T	S		F	R	A	U		
E	S	E		A	M	E	N	T		W	H	I	T	E		G	L	O	V	E	
R	E	D	O	L	E	N	T		W	R	I	T	E		F	L	A	M	E	D	
			L	E	G			T	E	A	M			M	O	U	S	E			
		A	N	D	S	A	N	G	H	A	P	P	Y	B	I	R	T	H	D	A	Y
A	M	A	H		T	O	N	E	S		E	M	I	L	E		G	A	L	A	
I	O	T	A		O	R	A	T	E		R	I	T	E	S		U	R	A	L	
T	R	O	T		N	A	T	A	L			R	E	S	T		N	Y	S	E	

7:12

AH, ANOTHER WEEK OF SCHOOL BEGINS... MIGHT AS WELL TRY TO MAKE THE MOST OF IT!

MEANWHILE...

YOU'RE CRAMPIN' MY STYLE, EKERT

TARGET SIGHTED... WHAT'S THE COMMAND?

YOU'RE WELCOME!

FIRE WHEN READY! GO! GO! GO!!

TO BE EXPLOSIVELY CONTINUED!

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