

Reaction to Justin Bieber Coachella Performance

4.13.26 - Konrad Cafe



No lie I had zero intentions of watching this performance when I first saw people talking about it on twitter but I guess my will just slowly eroded as I kept getting barraged with clips from the concert until I was like fuck it I'll watch it and I fw Biebs anyway so I knew at the very least I'd enjoy the music. So yeah I watched it last night in bed on youtube and had opinions and thoughts on it and thought what better place to share them then here. Here we are. Also last thing I saw a post that showed the prices for shit at Coachella and what the fuck. It's like \$40 for a slice of pizza. I'm not even gassing it. Like what are we doing????

Set Design

First things first I just wanted to show love to the set design cause I thought it was absolutely elite. Props to camera crew to cause they do a great job capturing the setting and getting the angles right ([Show the angles right flight meme #viral #shorts - YouTube](#)) when bro was performing. The lighting, the graphics / mood of the screen beyond Biebs as he was performing was also elite and that partnered with the stage set up itself made the vibe very Harkonnen hideout on Dune / Space Odyssey 2001 vibes. As a sci-fi nerd I thought this was supremely sick and was an instance of minimalism in design working and being dope as fuck as opposed to sucking the life out of the room and making everything look miserable. The way it coincided with the lighting as well / how they used the lighting to enhance the bowl-like stage shape was tip top. Loved it and fit the Swag / Skylark brand era for Biebs perfectly.

Setlist

I absolutely loved Swag (I and II) so I thought the start to the show was incredible and was absolutely geeked to hear all those songs live. Made me realize that if Biebs announced a world tour I would immediately grossly overpay for a good ticket. I've said this in prior posts but the fact he did no backtracking and sang his real vocals (for all of his new songs) was so tough and

the production team ATE DOWN with the acoustics / sonically because it sounded so good and let his talent really shine. Bro has such a beautiful voice. This beginning part of the concert where he performed all these songs off of the Swag shit was such a good reminder of how many BANGERS were on both of those albums. I haven't listened to Speed Demon since that album came out but hearing it in the performance last night I listened to it at least 5 times already today while cleaning my room and riding the bus. I love he gave air time to the slower tunes as well when he brought out those two guitarists. Things you do and Glory Voice Memo are two of my favorite songs on the album and the fact he gave time to basically every good song on that album to me was so tough and I enjoyed it greatly for the songs I already love and it made me appreciate the ones I may have overlooked. I even enjoyed the performance of "Stay" and that song used to make me want to rip my fucking ears off when it used to come on the radio in 2022 or whenever tf that came out. The power of live performance.

I saw people saying shit like "Using the computer and youtubing music is so lazy" or "he just sat there and half assed it," or even "Addison Rae and Sabrina Carpenter put on such showmanship in their choreo and pizazz in their performances Bieber embarrassed himself compared to them." I will address these in reverse order. First of all, he is Justin Bieber. Do not even compare him to tik tok women of the moment "sabrina carpenter" or "addison rae" (purposeful non-capitalization of their names to emphasize disrespect). Respectfully, I would rather watch Justin Bieber wipe his ass and hum "beauty and a beat" on the toilet than watch Sabrina Carpenter do her disgusting grovel to the male gaze and pass it off as "empowerment" or "feminism." I'm getting a bit carried away here but you get the point. As for the complaints / lazy accusations he got I disagree wholeheartedly. TO BE CLEAR: This is not just me being a Bieber homer I'm a fan fs but not a full on glazer to the point where I'll just gargle biebs nuts no matter what he does if the show was boring or shit I would just say that. I wanted to establish that rq.

I thought the act / concept of him going down memory lane on Youtube was super dope for multiple reasons. The first reason is how integral Justin Bieber was in my generation's upbringing and his cultural impact. Justin Bieber was blowing up as Youtube was still fully blowing up. Justin Bieber was taking off right when goofy ass memes like "Deez Nuts" and "OMG it's a double rainbow across the sky" were invading every aspect of pop culture and you couldn't walk down the street without hearing a vocal stim of someone saying one of these memes. This, to me, is why I found the whole youtube approach so dope cuz he didn't just look up his old songs but also his old covers on youtube (which at the time were like hella viral in a way that shit simply doesn't go viral on Youtube anymore) as well as the classic meme/vids of deez nuts and shit cause in a way TO ME at least all of that stuff is super beiber coded or at least associated with the feeling that era of life gave me *when Biebs was coming up* if that makes sense. Holy fucking run on sentence I challenge you to go back and try to read that in one breath lmao. If you can't it may be time to put down that vape, hit the stairmaster and work on your cardio/lung health. But to me the era of Youtube virality and shitty memes aligns perfectly with

Bieber's ascension and to me made the feeling of nostalgia much more powerful when watching this powermance which I happen to think is a sick artistic decision.

The second reason I found the whole youtube / memory lane angle cool was because of how it was able to demonstrate the growth our guy Biebs has gone through and all the bullshit he has *made* it through. This dude was thrust into the public eye, under INTENSE scrutiny since he was literally 15 years old and hasn't had a beat of privacy or a sliver of any form of childhood or peaceful opportunity to grow up like a normal human being since. To see him work through all these eras, all the way to the beginning of him just singing on his couch before the fame hoping to get noticed to me was super cool and honestly kinda emotional. I don't want to sound parasocial but like I obviously don't actually *know* Justin Bieber at all but I almost feel like I have grown up with him in how young he was when he started to him now being a grown ass man and he was in the public eye / releasing music the whole time along the way. I genuinely felt happiness for bro that he is still here standing after dealing with all the bullshit he has had to deal with whether it be exploitation by the music industry, press / paparazzi, drug addiction, the list could really go on and on. To me it's a sick victory lap to headline Coachella (literally being the biggest act) by just taking a digital trip through your past with your fanbase in the crowd taking it all in. Absolute cinema to me and you cannot tell me otherwise. Miss me with that "lazy" narrative people are trying to push around the performance.

Also a smaller point but I thought something that was super cool/moving was how when Biebs was rewatching his old clips covering other songs on youtube trying to blow up as a teenager he remembered was able to completely mimic every run / vocal inflection he had hit as a kid like almost 20 years ago. It was so cool to me cause in that moment I really took in wow this is the same person but at the same time a ocmpeltely different person because of the wild journey / obstacles they had to live through. You don't have to be a child popstar to relate to that at all; that is a universal human experience.

Guests

I'm so glad Biebs gave Mk.gee his flowers, both as a big fan of his music and because it was so clear how much influence he had on Swag so I loved that Biebs gave him his flowers. Also does bro have a face? I swear I have never seen that guy's face. It's always just a mat of hair hanging there. He could genuinely look like Voldemort and I would have no idea.

Dijon smoked it as expected, bro is him. I will say I was kinda sick because all these artists who were on Swag were coming out and I REALLY thought Bieber was gonna bring out Gunna to do Way it Is and I love that song / Gunna is the goat but ig bro's schedule didn't line up or something.

It was so fire he brought Wizkid and Tems out. I fucking love Tems. Respectfully though, we coulda gone without Bieber performing his verse on that song. If there was ever a verse on a song that felt like colonization / out of place it's my guy Biebs verse in essence. It's his concert though so I get it lol.

ALL IN ALL AMAZING CONCERT. BIEBS YOU THE GOAT

