Beat: Music

Coachella 2022

Billie Eilish Youngest Headliner

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USPA NEWS - It took three years for music to return to Indio's Empire Polo Club, but Covid seemed to be an afterthought this past weekend as fans flocked to each Coachella stage, mostly unmasked. The fest's 2022 edition served as an exciting three-day celebration of live music's resurgence, with Harry Styles, Billie Eilish, and Swedish House Mafia alongside the Weeknd topping the bill.

History was made throughout the weekend, as Eilish became the youngest headliner in history, and Pabllo Vittar the first drag queen to perform. Meanwhile 2NE1 fans were treated to a surprise reunion of the South Korean girl group. Latinos said presente at the festival with more than 15 acts all weekend, including stellar performances by Brazillian queen Anitta, regional Mexicano sensation Grupo Firme, reggaeton royalty Karol G, and Sinaloense legends Banda MS.

The festival also served as the perfect forum for guest appearances, with Styles bringing out Shania Twain and Eilish welcoming Damon Albarn of Gorillaz and Blur and De La Soul's Posdnous during their headlining sets. Also, Becky G, Tiësto, Diplo, Khalid, Ruel, Justin Bieber, and Snoop Dogg turned up at different points throughout the weekend.

Billie Eilish closed out Saturday's festivities with a performance for the people, as she sang most of her Happier Than Ever tracks on the catwalk and among the crowd. Joined by Damon Albarn and Posdnous, the Gen Z hero broadened her audience and proved that she can conquer literally any crowd. Her set was laced with sweet moments with her brother and bandmate Finneas, as the two performed several acoustic tracks together. "As a kid growing up in L.A., Coachella was a dream place to perform at," Finneas told Rolling Stone over the weekend.

The sounds of both banda Sinaloense and dembow shone bright on the Coachella stage, as top Latino acts across genres, such as Grupo Firme, Karol G, Banda MS, and Anitta, took the stage. "We're here to show off our roots," Grupo Firme's Eduin Caz told Rolling Stone before their prime-time performance on Friday. On other stages, indie Latinos Omar Apollo, Cuco, and Jean Dawson brought their magic. Drag queen Pabllo Vittar thrilled on the Gobi stage. Nathy Peluso and Nicki Nicole represented reggaeton, and Natanael Cano brought the corridos tumbados.

Megan Thee Stallion gave a headline-worthy performance for her Coachella debut, rolling out an impossible-not-to-dance-to set featuring an impressive lineup of viral hits, including "Body," "WAP," "Thot Shit," "Savage," and "Hot Girl Summer." She also debuted a new diss track aimed at an ex, and she didn't hold back. It isn't immediately clear who inspired the song, but fans have already speculated it may be Tory Lanez.

Harry Styles hasn't lost a step, with his Coachella headlining debut coming just months after the U.S. leg of his acclaimed Love on Tour run. He debuted two beautiful new tracks from upcoming album Harry's House: the melodic "Boyfriends" and the funky "Late Night Talking." He also brought out country-pop legend Shania Twain to duet on her hits "Man! I Feel Like a Woman!" and "You're Still the One," lauding her influence on him in between. "This lady taught me to sing," Styles said of Twain. "She also taught me that men are trash." Styles was his typical playful self. "We've got 12 minutes …," he said with a pause about 40 minutes into his set, eliciting groans from the crowd. "Of dancing," he continued. "I may be quick at some things but this is not one of them."

Despite only being bumped up to headliner status a little more than a week ago, Swedish House Mafia, the EDM supergroup of DJs Axwell, Steve Angello, and Sebastian Ingrosso, gave the most intricate visual performance of the weekend. Like much of Coachella's comeback itself, the trio's set was a celebration marking their return after a decade of inactivity.

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