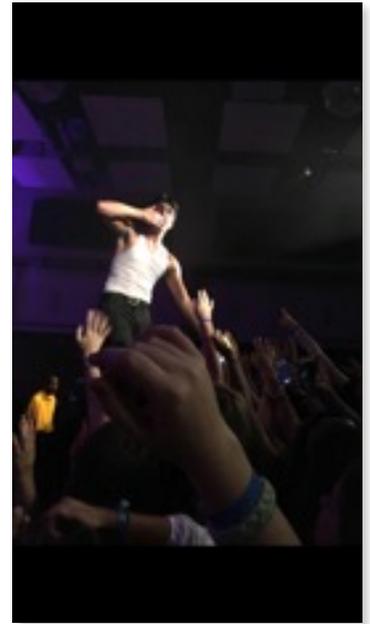


Bad Suns Takes Music to Another Level at Rutgers' Fall Kickoff Show

The four member band treats old fans and newcomers to a night of dancing, singing, and pure entertainment.



Singer and Guitarist, Christo Bowman, hops on top of barricade, trusting the fans to hold him up. [Read my review of this Rocking Show.](#)

By Brianna Bornstein

At the Livingston Student Center, the “venue” for the night in the heart of Rutgers’ Livingston Campus, a great number of Rutgers students spent over an hour waiting outside the doors. Flown in from California, Bad Suns were not going to leave New Jersey without making their mark.

It was a night full of singing and screaming that made the room feel like a full blown venue. At only 23 years old, Christo Bowman, has mastered his capturing of the crowd with his outlandish dance moves and outstanding vocals. He has the presence of a young Mick Jagger, strutting and shredding all over the stage and the fans. The band Bad Suns formed in 2012 and with only two albums to their name, they have made strides in the music industry with their 2013 single “Cardiac Arrest” climbing to #14 on the US Alternative Songs chart.

The long term band, which began when the members were only 18 years old, took the stage after the New Brunswick band Wishwell, a five piece alternative rock band warmed up the crowd with an electric cover of Nirvana’s “Heart-Shaped Box” and

their originals off their “Reasons” EP. Lead Singer Kenny Validate set the lively tone for the night, letting his long curly locks down during one of the band’s songs.

After the delay during which Bad Suns dealt with some sound checking difficulties, the lights finally went down. Over the crowd’s cheers, the band made their way onto the stage, one at a time. The hypnotic music and lights were dimmed to reveal the band in their minimalistic black and white attire. Here, at the start of the night, we were introduced to the cool, millennial, carefree sense that Bad Suns displayed. They start off the night with their single “Heartbreaker” off their 2016 debut album “Disappear Here”, followed by “Daft Pretty Boys” and “Swimming in the Moonlight”. There was something magnetic about their performance that had fans close together, reaching for the stage. Still in the beginning of their performance, the band took it back in time with their original song “Dancing On Quicksand” from their first album. It seemed as though most students were more familiar with songs from their first album than the latter.

By the middle of the set, the crowd had loosened up and so did the band. Everyone was jumping to the beat, while Christo Bowman was dancing like his feet had gone off on their own adventure. The band did not do any covers, a bold move for a band that is not very well-known, performing in new territory.



The Band ended the show with their biggest hit “Cardiac Arrest” which was insanely powerful, as one could feel the energy overflowing in the cramped student center room. The band may as well have been playing for a stadium full of people. I can see this band’s fandom escalating greatly in size in the next year. The band looked pleased as they had successfully left their mark on the

University where many people had never heard of them. Flying out to perform one show isn't typical but Bad Suns certainly appreciated every single fan that came out to their performance that night.