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Xfinity Live! Center is the Place in Philadelphia to See Summer Concerts Like the

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Gin Blossoms and Nine Days

 Jann Simmons  July 21, 2014  Around Town, ENTERTAINMENT, Home Banner, Latest News



Even if the Eagles, Flyers, Phillies, or 76-ers aren't in town, there's still reason to hop the Broad Street Line and take it to the last (AT&T) stop that offers access to the sports arenas and, most importantly, to Xfinity Live! Center.

On game-less nights, the complex—with its six bars/restaurants/lounges—offers concerts and other activities to entertain Philadelphians. “Our outdoor sound stage comfortably holds a standing-room-only crowd of 1,500,” Nadine Enders, Director of Marketing at Xfinity Live! said. “We sell the concert tickets online ahead of the event for \$10. Tickets are \$20 at the door. It makes a perfect affordable summer night in Philadelphia where people can come and listen to great music, sip cocktails, and dine at one of our restaurants.”

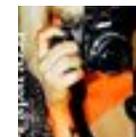
Besides the indoor hotspots, concert-goers can purchase drinks from beer girls stationed at various spots or at the temporary walk-up bar housed in the outdoor area.



PMZ is Philadelphia's Paparazzi Magazine. PMZ Magazine consist of Philadelphia stories, articles, and events written by Philadelphia Paparazzi Photographers. Invite or Hire PMZ and their Philadelphia Paparazzi to come to your event for an exciting evening of photographs, interviews, and a written story.



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On Saturday, July 19, 2014, Nine Days—John Hampson (vocals, guitar), Brian Desveaux (vocals, guitar), Jeremy Dean (keyboards), Nick Dimichino (bass guitar, backing vocals), Vincent Tattanelli (drums, percussion)—took the stage at 8:15 pm. Nine Days is best known for their hit song “Absolutely (Story of a Girl)” from *The Madding Crowd* CD. Their newest album *Something Out of Nothing*, released October 2013, has a more country sound, a folksy Americana feel.



Before the Gin Blossoms took the stage, fans mingled in Xfinity Live!’s Broad Street Bullies Pub, Live! VIP Lounge, NBC Sports Arena, PBR Bar & Grill, Spectrum Grill, and Victory Beer Hall, dining, drinking, dancing, and riding the mechanical bull at PBR. In the Live! VIP Lounge, Chris the bartender served his specialty cocktails: Mango Mojito, Eastside Martini, Simo Daiquiri.

The Simo Daiquiri is unique. Rather than a frozen concoction, it is a finely crafted and layered drink that Chris mixes in a shaker with shaved iced and then pours into a martini glass. “This drink is my nod to the 40s,” Chris says, dressed in his vested suit complete with suspenders and accented with a tie. He strokes his beard and adds, “I like to research and craft different drinks. My boss encourages me to do that, so I take three or four months to perfect a recipe. Now these are on the menu here.”



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Xfinity Live! Center

Translation: the *only* place in Philly to find these drinks is at Xfinity Live! Center when Chris is behind the bar. "If you think this is busy, you should see it on game days. I'm amazed how packed it gets. It's wall-to-wall Philly fans." He leans on his tattooed arms and looks over the crowd waiting to hear the Gin Blossoms.

Robin Wilson (lead vocals), Scotty Johnson (lead guitar), Jesse Valenzuela (rhythm guitar), Bill Leen (bass guitar), and Scott Hessel (drums/percussion) were relaxed prior to taking the Xfinity Live! stage. They warmly shook hands and smiled for photos with their fans, a group of twenty who had special back-stage access passes they won from 95.7 BEN FM.



When the lights came up, the 1,500 fans crowded the stage and sang along. Wilson, rattling a tambourine (which he later handed to a fan), played close to the crowd, slapping hi-fives and singing face-to-face with devotees. There was not a silent voice during "Hey, Jealousy" (from *New Miserable Experience*) and "Follow You Down" (from *Congratulations. . .I'm Sorry*). After the nearly 90-minute show, he and his bandmates retired to the Live! VIP Lounge where lucky fans chatted and sipped cocktails with them.

The Xfinity Live! Center is the perfect venue for a concert. In contrast to locations that hold upwards of 20,000, the small crowd allows access to the band and gives attendees that front-row feeling. Because it is standing-room



is the Place in Philadelphia to See Summer Concerts Like the Gin Blossoms and Nine Days

July 21, 2014



Philadelphia's Bastille Day Festival at Eastern State Penitentiary in Fairmount with the Bearded Ladies

July 21, 2014



Be Spooked in Philadelphia on Grim Philly's Riverboat Cruise With Joe Wojie Aboard the Patriot

July 19, 2014



only, people move back-and-forth at will, and no one seems to mind the slight bumping that occurs as people switch places for a turn at the front.

For a full schedule of events at Xfinity Live! Center, visit www.xfinitylive.com/home.

Staff Writer: **Jann Simmons**

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