# ARTS

*"If the rain comes, they run and hide their heads, they might as well be dead."*
**"RAIN"** BY THE BEATLES

# Fans swarm Toad's Place for surprise Foo Fighters concert

BY MADISON AGUILAR AND ADRIAN TURKEDJIEV
CONTRIBUTING REPORTERS

"What's up, Toad's?" was a question — accentuated with an expletive — that no one would have expected to hear from Dave Grohl before Monday.

That afternoon, the Foo Fighters announced they would perform a pop-up show at Toad's Place, on the heels of a Sunday pop-up show in Washington, D.C. The announcement that one of the best-known rock bands, which has won 15 Grammy Awards and sold out stadiums around the world, was playing a 1,000-person venue drew hundreds of fans within hours.

Tickets were sold in person at Toad's Place, starting at 4 p.m. on Monday. Hundreds of people gathered in line to buy them for $30 each, winding around Yale's Humanities Quadrangle and Ezra Stiles and Morse Colleges before 5 p.m.

Doors for the concert opened at 6 p.m. Tuesday, after some fans camped out in front of the venue overnight in hopes of getting as close to the stage as possible.

Michael and Suzy Redgate were among the fans who stood in line for two and a half hours on Monday when ticket sales were announced. Michael Redgate said he heard about the surprise show from a friend's Facebook post.

It prompted him to drive from Trumbull, Connecticut, to wait in line for the tickets. Michael was ecstatic over the "old-school" ticket system — reminiscent of the 1980s, "when you used to sleep out for tickets," he said.

Redgate said he preferred in-person ticketing to online sales. "It's the bots, it's the computers — they trick the system and they're all scalpers trying to resell tickets," he said.

Ed Dingus, the manager of Toad's Place, said the Foo Fighters wanted to prioritize a small show for the "real fans." Dingus explained that he knew about the show for about three weeks but kept it under wraps, even from Toad's employees, who did not find out about the performance until Saturday.

Even fans without tickets were determined to see the band perform on Tuesday.

University of New Haven students Nick Paradise and Nate Swercewski waited in line without tickets. When asked about their game plan, Paradise said, "The plan is we don't have a plan and we're going to figure it out at the front door."

Swercewski added: "Who else is stupid enough to wait in line without a ticket, besides us?"

In fact, there were many others with the exact same plan.

Among those hoping for a lucky ticket was 55-year-old Joanne Lamstein. Lamstein and her friends zealously followed the series of teasers the Foo Fighters had posted throughout the week and deduced that the surprise concert would be at Toad's. They traveled from New York with the small hope they would buy tickets.

Her six friends were able to secure tickets on Monday. Lamstein, who arrived a bit later than her group, was unable to secure a ticket. She camped out at Toad's overnight.

"It's a great opportunity to let younger people who don't have the means come and meet a new band," Lamstein said, "to bring rock and roll back."

For the original generation of Foo Fighters fans who were around for the band's creation, the vintage experience of box office ticketing and camping out for the best view was a blast from the past. For the newer generation of listeners, there was a sense of inherited nostalgia that the Foo Fighters show revitalized.

Lamstein held a poster that said "Be my hero, let me be your +1," with the hope of finding someone with an extra ticket. However, with the minutes inching closer towards showtime, her luck seemed to be running out.

Around 7:45 p.m., a Toad's Place worker came out with unmarked blue wristbands and proceeded to hand them to a few people he appeared to have handpicked — among them Lamstein, Swercewski and Paradise.

The Toad's worker suggested the wristbands would likely get them in. After waiting anxiously, all three made it just as the show was about to start.

The band performed a set lasting roughly two and a half hours. The setlist featured several fan favorites, including their "Everlong," "The Pretender" and "Best of You," as well as early hits such as "Stacked Actors" and "Along + Easy Target."

It was the Foo Fighters' 1,573rd show, according to merchandise made specially for this performance.

Toad's Place opened in 1975.

*Contact* **MADISON AGUILAR** *at madison.aguilar@yale.edu and* **ADRIAN TURKEDJIEV** *at adrian.turkedjiev@yale.edu.*



MADISON AGUILAR, CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

The Tuesday night performance by the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame band attracted fans from across state lines..




# Trumbull revives darkroom, launches film photography class

BY NORAH McPARTLAND
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

Trumbull College recently renovated its once-dormant darkroom, and is now offering a darkroom photography class for students interested in using the space.

The ideas for the photography class and refurbishment of the darkroom were conceptualized by Samuel Ostrove '25 and Amartya De ART '22. The pair met at Yale's Center for Collaborative Arts and Media towards the end of Ostrove's first year at Yale College and De's final year at the School of Art.

"We're both kind of gearheads," Ostrove said. "He got me into a place where I wanted to try my hand at medium format film."

Ostrove used to send all his film to an offsite lab before he realized there was a darkroom in Trumbull, his residential college.

"I started asking around, first to our operation manager Deborah Bellmore, and then to our Head of College Fahmeed Hyder," he said.

Ostrove was informed that although the darkroom had basic equipment, it was out of use and needed renovation.

Trumbull College funded the renovation of the darkroom, which now has three enlargers — devices used to produce large photographic prints from film negatives — instead of one. It also has new equipment and infrastructure, including tables and a sink tray for rinsing the film.

De, an associate fellow of Trumbull College, now instructs the darkroom photography class. Students will learn the technical basics of analog camera operations, film development and darkroom printing. They will have access to roughly a year's supply of film at no cost and will be able to use the darkroom through the spring semester.

"We had facilities come and work on the lights and redirect our whole water system," Bellmore said. "Amartya and I just really put our heads together to determine what was needed to make this as cutting edge as we can. And I think that's what we accomplished, I really do."

According to Bellmore, "the thought of this happening has been almost a couple years" in the making, adding that Hyder was "really, really responsive" to students' interest in the darkroom.

"We're the only college that has this darkroom, and it was really his goal to bring it back to life and to bring somebody like Amartya in," Bellmore said.

The first project conducted in the rehabilitated darkroom was a series of photos Ostrove took of the Trumbull dining hall staff. According to Ostrove, the dining hall project was helpful in garnering the interest of other students.

"We started building up the goodwill around this space. At the end of the day, these spaces at Yale function on the goodwill of administrators and students," Ostrove said. "Once that goodwill is present, they function off of the dedication of people like Amartya."

The darkroom class takes place on Saturday afternoons and is capped at 15 students. Currently, there are 11 confirmed students, along with a darkroom aide, Elio Wentzel '27. The first class was held on Saturday, and they will continue until Nov. 16.

"I have been really into film photography since high school. When I saw this class and I thought that I would finally have the opportunity to use this Trumbull darkroom and actually print my photos, I was like, I need this, immediately," Uma Sukhu '28, a student in Trumbull, said.

Sukhu also said she's looking forward to having "the ability to make my own prints completely independently."

Yana Jayampathy '26 said she hopes the class will help her to "actually think about things that I'm shooting with more precision or technique."

Trumbull College is located at 241 Elm St.

*Contact* **NORAH McPARTLAND** *at norah.mcpartland@yale.edu.*



COURTESY OF AMARTYA DE

After renovating its darkroom in response to increased student interest in the facility, the college offered a class to teach analog camera operations, film development and darkroom printing.