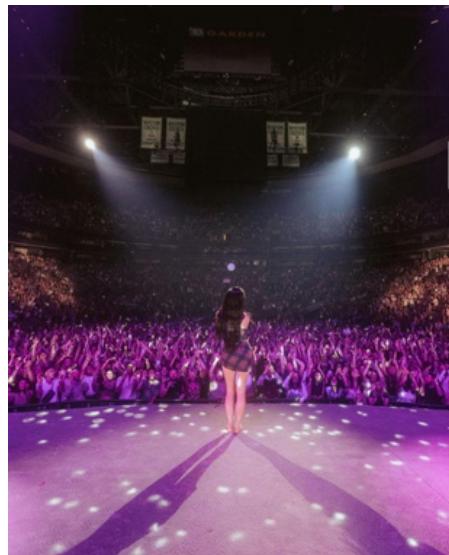


THE MAGIC OF KACEY MUSGRAVES

The singer-songwriter's Deeper Well World Tour is the ultimate celebration of cowboy boots and folky sad girl anthems (and I wish I was still there).



A full house for night two of Musgraves' highly anticipated tour. Photo by Jasmine Safaeian.

"Tonight we'll uncover just how deep your well *really* is," declared Kacey Musgraves at the start of her September 7th concert at Boston's cavernous sports and spectacle venue, TD Garden. The performance marked the end of her two-day stint in Massachusetts, which was only the second stop on the North American leg of the Deeper Well World Tour following the release of her sixth studio album. Despite the newness of it all, her delivery was nothing short of seamless. In what was both therapy and a disco dance party, Musgraves' amalgamation of folky country tunes, playful covers, beautiful stage sets, and shameless vulnerability led me and nearly 20,000 others to a state of joy and introspection.

Her opener, indie-rock musician Father John Misty, told the crowd that Musgraves' team revealed to him that her voice requires no pre-show warm ups or rituals to sound as wonderful as it does. "She's just that good," he asserted with a wry grin. Never having heard her sing live before, I was expecting something at least a smidge choppier than the smooth, angelic vocals that define her recorded music—the difference is typical of many of the artists that I've seen in person. To my surprise, Musgraves' voice was like it had been plucked straight from her album, yet was somehow more authentically Kacey than any intimate session at Electric Lady Studios—the album's birthplace—could account for. Some may suggest lip syncing as an explanation for her pristine sound, but I'm certain that no such thing occurred. Musgraves' pure talent dazzled the crowd, and as Father John Misty declared, she was simply *that* good. From the first line in her opening song "Cardinal," I was hooked and never wanted to be let go: "I saw the sign or an omen on the branches, in the morning."

Kacey Musgraves - Cardinal (Official Music Video)



Quality visuals and set design commanded my attention throughout the show. At the center of the stage rested a small mound whose dynamic screen transformed it into everything from the moon to a rotating globe to a grassy hill for Musgraves to perform on—following the first song, she levitated horizontally off of said mound. A wide screen behind the stage displayed the occasional live video of the singer along with lyric-synced visuals (like the phrase “giddy up” appearing during a sparkly-disco-ball-accompanied production of “High Horse”). Halfway through the show, she made her way to a mossy circular stage near the back of the arena fit for her and another opener, bluegrass-meets-folk-rock group Nickel Creek, to generate a roar from the audience with a cover of SZA’s “Kill Bill.” They sat in rickety chairs that Musgraves says she found while antiquing. According to her, the purchase of the vintage seats sparked a quarrel with an old lady who also wished to be their owner. Hanging above the new setting was a glowing saturn—a nod to the first line of the touring album’s single “Deeper Well:” “my saturn has returned.”

Musgraves’ gig showed no need for elaborate dance routines or flashy outfit changes. She wore one plaid mini dress and often appeared without shoes. The show’s easy going manner invited us to revel in her lyricism and vocal capabilities as she spread the magic of the country folk-infused, made-for-frolicking music of *Deeper Well*. The album’s themes of growth and vulnerability coupled with her honesty and free-spirited nature were what made her concert so remarkable. There were moments when I found myself crying, laughing, belting out one of her whimsical tunes, and hoping it would never end. At this stage in her career, Musgraves is in full bloom and nowhere near wilting.