

Less phones and more living in the moment



@mister_pretty_pictures via Twenty20

If you're like me, you love concerts. Watching your favorite musicians perform is a euphoric experience. As technology has advanced, we can share our experiences with our friends through social media. Even musicians have a Snapchat that they post videos of their live performances. At concerts, I record my favorite songs, and yes, I will admit I am one of those people who tends to post too many Snapchats during the concert.

I recently attended a Red Hot Chili Peppers show, and the guy next to me had an issue with me recording the concert. He told me that it was okay to record the concert but asked I keep it to a limit.

I wasn't sure if to consider his concerns, and the fact that I was recording during the show made his experience less pleasing. At the same time, I want to record my favorite songs, and this guy has no choice but to deal with it. I ended recording less of the concert and paid more attention to the band. In the end, the guy thanked me for that.

What are the limitations when it comes to recording or even enjoying a concert? It got me thinking does technology interfere with the concert-going experience. The purpose of going to a show is to enjoy the environment and great vibes.

Last year I went to see Lupe Fiasco in San Francisco. I got there early and got the opportunity to be front row. I was ecstatic to see one of my favorite rap artists live for the first time. The show started, and he began to rap and put on a show, and suddenly he stops the show.

I was confused and he said, "put your phones away." This is the first concert I was part of where the artist told his fans to enjoy his music and not record. I kept the recording limited from that point on because he called out about five people he saw on their phones.

I appreciated Lupe doing this because it allowed me to enjoy his craft fully and not be focused on my phone. I understand the artist's viewpoint. You are at the concert to see them entertain you, and their purpose is to put on a show for you and not your phone. The goal of concerts is to let loose, dance and sing along to the music. We tend to get lost in putting every little thing on social media and lose the essence of enjoying the moment.

These two incidents did change my viewpoint when it comes to recording during concerts. It personally does not bug me when other people record during shows. I understand you want to keep the memories. My point is to keep the posting to social media to a limit. Consider the hard work the artist puts into their performance, and they want to see your face and not your phone. Don't forget to live in the moment and bask in the live performance.