

The highlights of Shaq's Bass All-Stars Nashville

By Destiny Mizell

Shaquielle O'Neal — known in the EDM scene as DJ Diesel — brought an entourage of five other artists to make the Nashville Skydeck quake with bass and beam with lasers.

Shaq's Bass All-Stars Nashville attracted electronic music lovers and basketball fans like moths to a flame. Joined by Kho Pilot, Vexus, Celo, Virtual Riot and Levity, the evening promised thrashing and killer beat drops.

As expected, Diesel's set dominated the show. Read on for Diesel's performance highlights — this time not from a basketball court.

Wait, Shaq DJs?

O'Neal's career playing festivals ignited in 2015 at TomorrowWorld, which led to Lollapalooza and more. DJing isn't foreign to him, though; Diesel dabbled with turntables as a teenager and performed at nightclubs after he retired from the NBA. Not to mention, the four-academic-degree-holding Basketball Hall of Famer had a successful rap career in the mid-to-late 90s, collaborating with Michael Jackson, Jay-Z and The Notorious B.I.G. However, he didn't release his debut EDM album "Gorilla Warfare" until 2023.

People watching

With Diesel being a figure in the limelight for three decades and a diverse lineup, Shaq's Bass All-Stars packed Gen X, Millennials and Gen Z together like sardines. The pit evolved into a tornado of neon colors, glitter and funky patterns while many of those on the outskirts rocked salt and pepper. Regardless of age, heads banged, fists slammed into the air and attendees didn't push through the crowd, they danced.

The former and current ravers came to one understanding: Witnessing Diesel beat a too-small-for-his-cranium cowboy hat on his thigh to Paramore's "Misery Business" wasn't on their 2024 Bingo cards, but the spectacle proved worth admiring.

Pizza, anyone?

Leaning against the barricade rail, a man danced with a Papa John's Shaq-a-roni pizza box for hours until Diesel took the stage; Fear not, Diesel's face still got boosted into the air with every fist pump during his set. The limited-edition box depicted a drawing of

Diesel smiling with a slice. Once Diesel noticed the unconventional poster, he couldn't contain his chuckle and made sure to voice his respect to the crowd. His team later made sure to post the pizza-box-dancing fan on his Instagram story.

Tanner Adell's surprise appearance

At the end of O'Neal's set, he made sure to give the Nashville audience their flowers for showing their support and crafting a mosh pit worthy of his approval. Blaring Queen's "We Are The Champions" with the mic turned towards the crowd, O'Neal welcomed Tanner Adell to the center of the stage. The Nashville-based "Buckle Bunny" singer danced alongside O'Neal, her white cowboy hat complementing his tan one, and the audience roared over the duo.