

Written by Poppy Beresford, Freelance Critic and Reporter

Contact via [poppy.beresford@outlook.com](mailto:poppy.beresford@outlook.com) for inquiries, article posts available on [Substack](#) & [B247](#)

# “An innate desire to never stop reinventing

**Big Thief, O2 Academy Brixton  
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Casually rooted and firmly reinventive, Big Thief took to the O2 academy stage with an unabridged set of incredible reinvention of catalogue new and old. This band is the definition of connection, through lyricism, stage persona and a deep understanding of music to be dynamic and ever growing.

From their subtle beginnings as a Brooklyn based indie 4-piece, they have taken like a bird to flight in their rise to musical fame without ever looking back. Big Thief are seekers of oxymoronic work: subtle yet demanding lyrics, childish puns alongside dark themes, thrashing guitars accompanying acoustic fingerpicking, illustrious in name but never steering from the everyday of dogs, cattails, friends and family. This is what is so impressionable, Adrienne Lenker's beautifully subtle words ring true to audiences across the globe, harnessing the atmosphere of sitting with friends beside a campfire within performances to thousands such as The Park stage, Glastonbury. This pairs iconically with Buck Meeks country twang on vocals and James Krivchenia's instinctually wild drumming capabilities.



Yet what shocked me, whilst excitedly waiting to hear the first comforting chords of their classic *Simulation Swarm*, or the viscerally shoe-gaze inspired beginnings of their most recent album *Double Infinity* – something else entirely came over the crowd with much more impact.



Of course, it's no lie that Big Thief invent, twist and shift with every album, with every song in fact. They fuse a genre-bending sound above that of pop, rock, folk, country and punk which is, in no other words, the “Big Thief Sound”. But this performance went one step beyond. Easing the crowd in with a bittersweet, almost gospel sound of an unreleased track alongside Dylan Meek, immediately pricked my ears in anticipation. Yet what followed was a set of completely cutting edge songs – both unreleased, from their debut 2016 *Masterpiece* and everything in between. It felt as if the band had independently re-evaluated their sound and came together not as a singular entity, but separate artists in search of something new and exciting. Although less driving than the coherence we have heard previously, this instead came with a palpable sense of power – they knew what the audience were expecting, and offered something from a completely different menu on a golden platter.

5 minute guitar solos certainly felt more in tune with this glam-rock sense of indulgence than Big Thief's more well-known subtle bridges and changes within songs – a trait I didn't particularly enjoy. Yet the ability for this band to completely flip songs on their head was impressive to a room full to bursting with fans who know every song inside and out. What was most shocking was the low ballad of Adrienne Lenker's solo song *Real Love* transformed into a much more uptempo, full orchestrated affair. Yet, they still held the audience in the palm of their hand, as the quiet mumbling of *Anything* echoed across the crowd of 4000+.

What Big Thief's new tour certainly demonstrates is an innate desire to never stop reinventing, showcasing these creatives desire to forge new roots in their ever-growing back catalogue of songs. Surprising and inspiring, Big Thief are not here to stagnate in any way, shape or form.