

last night was mad trill.

In the midst of all the stressors that accompany young adulthood, a group of young professionals and college friends reunite for a night in Chicago. The group consists of an M.D., two CEO's, an artist, a digital media marketer, a clinical psychologist, a boat tour-guide, and an undergraduate student. Though their day to day lives are drastically different, they come together with the common goal of blowing off steam. These photos capture some of the therapeutic moments throughout a night in the Windy City, and, more importantly, portray the lives of millennials: a group of young men and women who chase fun on weekends to distract themselves from the uncertainties that young adulthood during the new millenium may bring to them during the week.

Photos and captions by Jeoffrey Arrington



Two college friends enjoy a giant soft pretzel and steins of Bavarian lager as they gear up for an eventful night. Tom (left), a first-year resident M.D. at Mt. Sinai Hospital in New York City, and Frank, founder and CEO of Restin Chairs in Washington, DC, retreated from their busy professional lives for a weekend of relaxation in the Windy City. Their first destination would be the Great Chicago Fire Festival. Tom, relying on his medical prowess, made sure to fill up on food, in preparation for what he claimed would be an “epic night”.



A crowd of onlookers (left) gathers on the stairs of the Chicago Riverwalk in anticipation of seeing the first ever annual Great Chicago Fire Festival downtown; the silhouette (above) of the crowd in front of a spectacular display of fireworks lighting up the night sky. The city spent over \$2M in collaboration with Redmoon Theater and After School Matters to provide a variety of spectacles to commemorate the Great Chicago Fire.



Different views of the GCFF's main spectacle, a floating set fashioned after some of the city's 19th century cityscape, show the progression as it burned atop the river. Despite some setbacks due to the inclement weather leading up to the event, the 30,000 plus crowd still cheered on as the flames engulfed the spectacle.



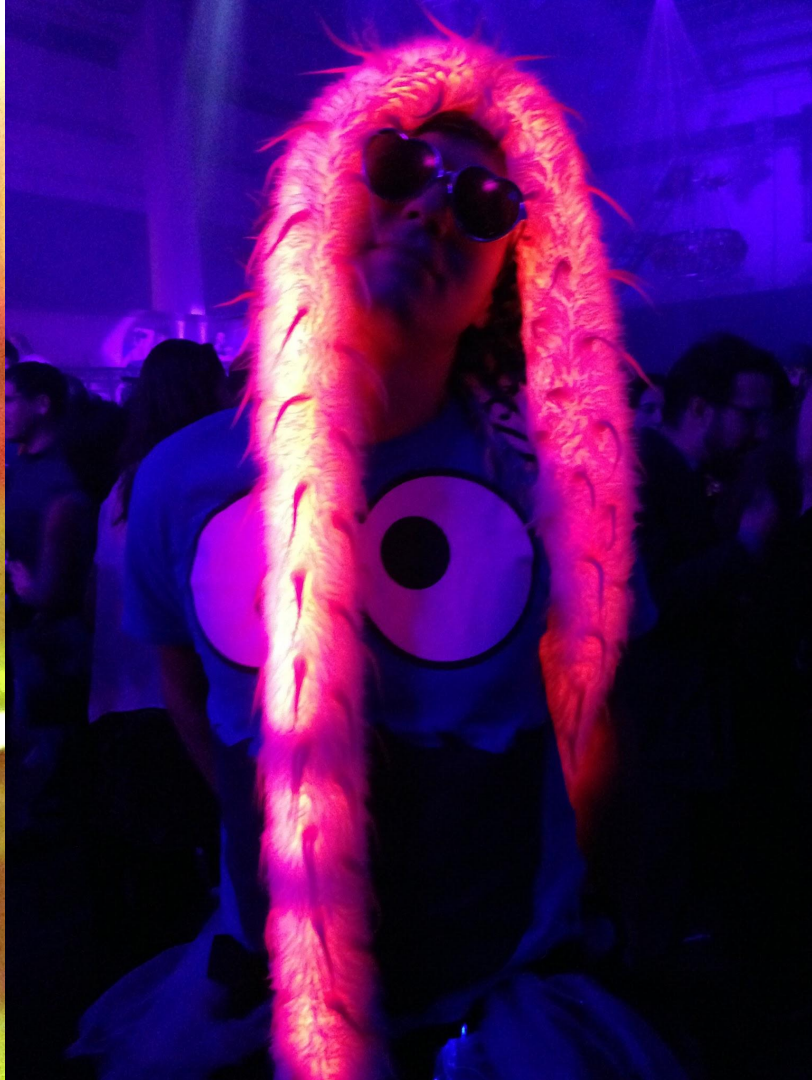
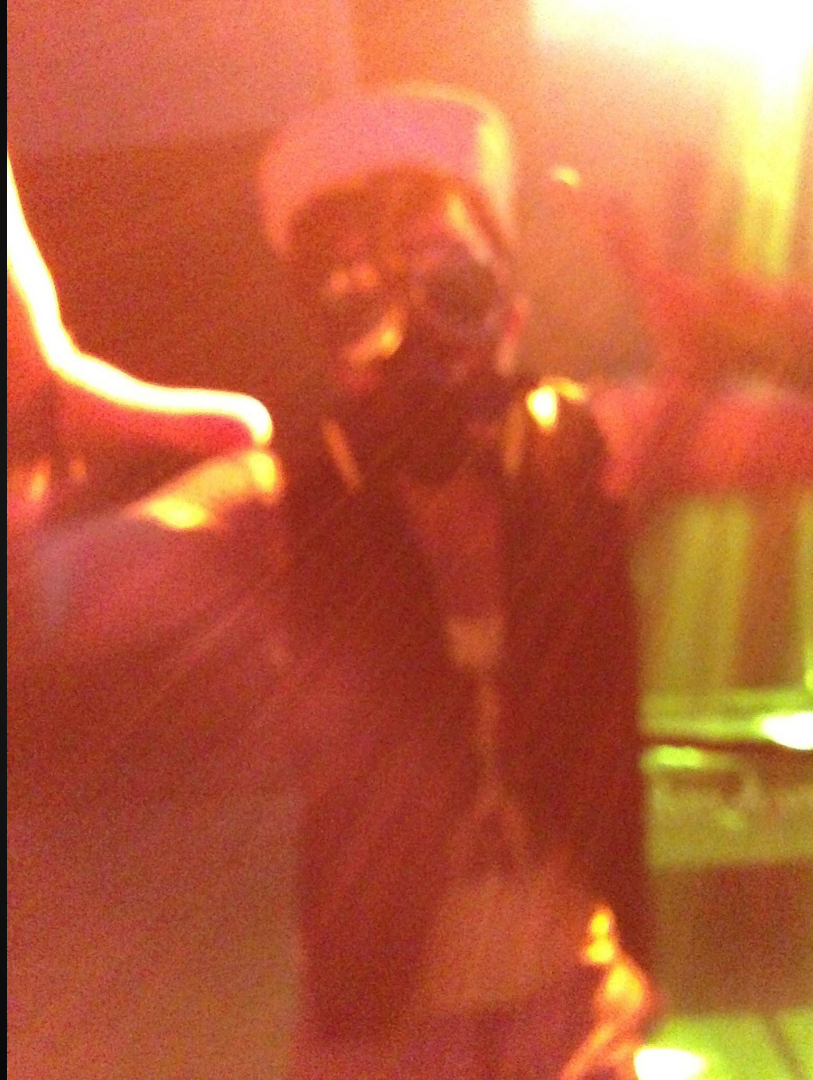
Redmoon Theater hosted *Afterburn*, a rave immediately following the festival in their Pilsen neighborhood warehouse. Here lights are seen illuminating the stage where EDM DJ Goldroom performed for an electrified crowd. Goldroom's mellow sounding electronic dance music was the perfect medium for the group to let loose and forget about the workweek to which they would all too soon have to return.



Friends Ellie, Maggie and Nora (L to R) enjoy drinks and dance to the music of Goldroom. Following a stressful week full of long hours, and an even more stressful event as one of the artists involved in creating the spectacles for the festival, Ellie (left) finds solace in finally being able to blow off some steam and enjoy an evening with some close friends; a very brief break for Redmoon artists who returned to work the next morning to prepare for another upcoming spectacle.



Redmoon's "fire organ" bursts out flames in rhythmic fashion, mimicking the sounds played by Goldroom. In the spirit of the festival which came before it, *Afterburn* featured a variety of Redmoon's spectacles and machinery for the enhancement of the DJ's performance. For most of the group who had never been exposed to spectacle theater, the fire organ provided memorable sensations- both visual and tactile. "I've never seen anything like this. It's fucking cool!" exclaimed Maggie, a Virginia resident who is transitioning into owning and operating her family's daycare business. She appeared to be thoroughly satisfied with the way her night was going during her first visit to Chicago.





Their night took an interesting turn when a new acquaintance invited the group to his apartment following *Afterburn* and initially provided the incorrect address. Here they pose in the back of a CPD “paddy wagon”, in between swigs of a shared bottle of whiskey. An officer noticed the rather large group wandering in a “not-so-safe” neighborhood (as the officer put it), and called in a backup van to transport them to the correct location, unaware that they group was travelling, well-equipped, to a party. They would have been well advised to simply conceal the alcohol for the duration of their short trip, but spending a weekend even just a little on the edge makes returning to the real world bearable enough. In the song *Pound Cake* by rapper and singer Drake, Jay-Z’ s verse expounds a series of metaphors with which he illuminates the importance of making money. At the end he provides us with the climactic epilogue:

last night was mad trill/ I’m fresh out of advil, Jesus grab the wheel