

Subject: Pollstar Live! 2023 Sets Attendance Record

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From: Pollstar

To: Samantha Le



POLLSTAR LIVE! 2023 SETS ATTENDANCE RECORD

34TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE WAS LARGEST GATHERING OF LIVE ENTERTAINMENT PROFESSIONALS IN THE WORLD

Winners at Pollstar Awards Include Harry Styles, Def Leppard/Mötley Crüe, Post Malone, Lizzo, Billie Eilish, Chris Stapleton, Bad Bunny, Dave Chappelle & More

Los Angeles, CA (February 27, 2023) – [Pollstar Live!](#), the world’s largest gathering of live entertainment professionals, once again broke its previous attendance record with the just-wrapped 34th annual conference held on Tues., Feb. 21 through Thurs., Feb. 23, at the Beverly Hilton in Los Angeles. The flagship event week for *Pollstar* magazine, the leading trade for the global live entertainment industry, Pollstar Live! offered three days of compelling discussions led by artists and visionaries in the live entertainment business including **Irving Azoff**, **Garth Brooks**, CAA’s **Jenna Adler** and **Marlene Tsuchii**, MSGE’s **James Dolan**, **Doug E. Fresh**, Wasserman’s **Sam Hunt**, Live Nation’s **Omar Al-joulani** and **Geni Lincoln**, **Big Daddy Kane**, **Los Tigres Del Norte**, **Ben Lovett** of Mumford & Sons, **DJ Quik**, UTA’s **David Zedeck**, among many others.

Pollstar Live! commenced with [Production Live!](#), a full day dedicated to production and transportation in live events. **Ray Waddell**, president of Media & Conferences for Oak View Group (*Pollstar*’s parent company), launched the conference with his [opening comments](#) on the current state and promising future of the business. The day continued with a summit on the most relevant topics around the challenges and opportunities facing the professionals who “make the magic happen” including a riveting Q&A with “Camp Counselor” **David Fishof** and “Supermensch” **Shep Gordon** (read more [here](#)) and numerous panels. Click [here](#) to read a Production Live! recap at [Pollstar.com](#).

Wednesday morning began with a welcome address from Chairman and CEO of Oak View Group, **Tim Leiweke** who stated, “This will be the largest conference in the history of Pollstar, but more importantly, the largest conference in the music business.” Leiweke continued, “This is what we dreamed of, having a place and a time that our industry can come together and talk about not only what’s working but what are our issues, what are our problems, and how we can solve them.” Read more [here](#).

Later that morning was the most anticipated keynote of the conference, “Ticketing Real Talk:

Reforms, Resolutions and Risks.” **Irving Azoff** led a panel including **Garth Brooks**, Executive Chairman and CEO of Madison Square Garden Entertainment Corp. (MSGE) **James Dolan**, and former Assistant Attorney General for the United States Department of Justice Antitrust Division **Makan Delrahim** on the hottest topic in sports and live events today: ticketing. Out-of-control scalping, demand, affordability for fans, and more were discussed at the must-see panel. Read Irving Azoff’s opening remarks [here](#) and watch the entire discussion [here](#).

In the afternoon, “Throw Your Hands In The Air: 50 Years of Live Hip-Hop” offered attendees a one-of-a-kind keynote conversation with several of the key figures who played critical roles in the genre’s development including hip-hop legends **Doug E. Fresh**, **DJ Quik**, **Big Daddy Kane**, along with lauded promoters **Lionel Bea** and **Darryl Brooks**, and moderator **Geoff Walker**. Read more about the panel [here](#).

Additional enlightening panels and Rainmaker sessions included a conversation between Mumford & Sons’ **Ben Lovett** and club owner **Brian Teasley**, a discussion with **Symba** and Live Nation Urban’s **Brandon Pankey** (see [here](#)), plus “[What’s Going On In Ticketing?](#),” “[We’re Baaaack! Aren’t We?](#),” “[Big In Peoria: The Boutique Boom & The Power Of Secondary Market Festivals](#),” and more.

That evening, comedian/actress/author **Anjelah Reyes-Johnson** hosted the [34th Annual Pollstar Awards](#), which honor and recognize the most successful artists, executives, venues, events, and companies in the thriving global live entertainment business. At the show, **Eagles** received the Pollstar Milestone Award in recognition of more than 50 years as a band with **Don Henley** accepting the award on behalf of the group. **Harry Styles**’ “Love on Tour” was one of the night’s big winners for “Major Tour of the Year” with other Tour of the Year winners including **Def Leppard/Mötley Crüe** (rock), **Post Malone** (hip-hop), **Lizzo** (R&B), **Billie Eilish** (pop), **Chris Stapleton** (country), and **Bad Bunny** (Latin). **Dave Chappelle** took home “Comedy Tour of the Year” and received some of the biggest laughs of the evening. The awards also honored festivals; venues and venue executives; talent buyers; promoters; agents and agencies; talent and tour managers; sound, transport, and catering companies; and more. **Dave Grohl** was on hand to present the “Personal Manager of the Year” award to his manager of 30-plus years, **John Silva** of Silva Artist Management. Click [here](#) to read more about the Awards.

The conference continued Thursday and included a pair of exciting Rainmaker sessions and more. The first was with **Los Tigres Del Norte**, a legendary group whose career spans more than six decades. The panel was a conference milestone as it was the first time a Mexican band was featured as a Rainmaker and discussed the trajectory of their career, as well as the past and current challenges Latin artists face (read more [here](#)). The final Rainmaker session was a discussion featuring artist **Vic Mensa** which covered his multi-faceted career as much as it captured his cultural and social awareness, and good sense of humor (see more [here](#)).

The day continued with additional panels including, “Is It a Residency, a Sit-down, a Multiple or a Stand? Whatever, It’s a Trend,” “Sustainability in Live Events: No More Excuses,” “Hello, I Love You – Fostering Community Around Artists & Events,” “Knowing When to Pull the Plug or Sweat it Out,” and wrapped with the highly anticipated “Agents Live!” roundtable sessions.

For a full recap of the conference, visit the editorial hub at news.pollstar.com

ABOUT POLLSTAR:

Since its founding in 1981, *Pollstar*, The Voice of Live, has been the premier trade publication

dedicated to covering the worldwide concert industry. *Pollstar* data is the leading resource for the touring industry encompassing box office numbers, routing, and directories. *Pollstar* produces a weekly magazine, publishes daily content to *Pollstar.com* and its "Daily Pulse" e-newsletter, and executes the world's largest gathering of live music industry professionals - Pollstar Live. Follow *Pollstar* on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), and [LinkedIn](#).

ABOUT OAK VIEW GROUP (OVG):

Oak View Group (OVG) is a global sports and entertainment company founded by Tim Leiweke and Irving Azoff in 2015. OVG is focused on being a positive disruption to business as usual in the sports, live entertainment, and hospitality industries and currently has eight divisions across five global offices (Los Angeles, New York, London, Philadelphia, and Toronto). OVG oversees the operations of Climate Pledge Arena at Seattle Center; UBS Arena in Belmont Park, NY; Moody Center in Austin, TX; Acrisure Arena in Greater Palm Springs, CA; as well as arena development projects for Co-op Live in Manchester, UK; and projects for Anhembi Arena in São Paulo, Brazil; CFG Bank Arena in Baltimore, MD; FirstOntario Centre Arena in Hamilton, ON; a new arena and entertainment district in Las Vegas, NV; and a new arena in Cardiff, Wales. More information at [OakViewGroup.com](#), and follow OVG on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), and [LinkedIn](#).

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Ray Waddell and executive editor Andy Gensler are available for interviews.

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