Who: The Weeknd
Who: Arcade Fire
Who: Florence + The Machine

THE WEEKEND

Okay, you might not know his actual name, but Tesfaye, better known as The Weeknd, is bound to close Life Is Beautiful's first night with a set of bangers, including tracks from his March EP, My Dear Melancholy. Since debuting with his 2011 mixtape, The Weeknd has become one of the biggest names in sexy, '80s- and '90s-inspired R&B, and even though he's a Vegas side a club. Lastly, if you're a fan of supermodel Bella Hadid, keep your eyes peeled all weekend. Rumor has it the star-studded couple is back together.

ARCADE FIRE

Arts Week is defined by the sound of the early aughts with 2004 debut album Funeral. Since then, The Weeknd's sound has grown not one but the biggest names in indie rock (it won Album of the Year for The Suburbs at the 2011 Grammys) while shifting toward a more electronic sound, beginning with 2013's Reflektor and continuing on last year's Everything Now. Few hit 2017's Wednesday. Boy say as one of the year's best Vegas concerts; don't miss out this time around.

FLORENCE + THE MACHINE

Lead singer Florence Welch has a voice that can stand alongside today's best, but unlike her contemporaries there's looking at you. Welch's indie-folk distinguished by atmospheric piano, an earworm hook, lush arrangements and elevating guitar.

SOFT TUKKER

When: Sunday, 9:45 p.m., Fremont Stage.
HQ: New York City.

This alt-pop act is distinguished by atmospherics, vocals, and a souful edge that elevates the group above the accessible indie hip. Their noisy yet driving sound incorporates everything from baroque textures and orchestral vocals, an arrhythmic bass, and soaring guitar.
**BLOOD ORANGE BRINGS HIS THOUGHTFUL—AND THOUGHT-PROVOKING MUSIC—DOWNTOWN**

**BY LESLIE VENTURA**

O  Much has been written about singer and producer Dev Hynes, who performs under the moniker Blood Orange. His music has been praised for its boundary-pushing nature, with productions often described as being ahead of their time.血橙色 Blood Orange sharpened his writing skills as a member of the band Chromeo and later released his debut solo album *My Boys*. He released his third solo album, *Negro Swan*, in 2018, which received critical acclaim for its thoughtful and introspective lyrics.

In this exclusive interview, Dev Hynes speaks about the importance of being vulnerable and how he draws from his own life experiences to create his music. He also touches on his new album, *Catharsis*, due out on September 21.

On stage, Dev Hynes speaks about the importance of being vulnerable and how he draws from his own life experiences to create his music. He also touches on his new album, *Catharsis*, due out on September 21.

You’re a singer, but you also write and produce your own music. How do you approach the creative process? Dev Hynes: I approach the creative process in a variety of ways. Sometimes, I’ll sit down with a piano and play something that inspires me. Other times, I’ll let a beat guide me. I try to let my emotions guide me as much as possible, rather than forcing a specific aesthetic or message.

How do you translate your music to the stage? Dev Hynes: I think about how I want my music to feel live. I consider the energy I want to create and the mood I want to set. I try to create a space where the audience can fully immerse themselves in the experience.

What would you like people to take from your music? Dev Hynes: I hope people will feel a sense of catharsis when they listen to my music. I want them to feel like they’re not alone in their struggles and that there’s hope even in the darkest moments.

**URBAN GEMS**

**THERE’S MUCH FOR FANS OF R&B AND HIP-HOP TO DISCOVER THIS WEEKEND**

**BY ZOELE MAHARAJ**

This year’s Life Is Beautiful is stacked with hip-hop and R&B talent. And while we’re excited for The Weeknd, N.E.R.D., Travis Scott and others top-billed acts, there are tons of lesser-known gems on the lineup that are equally worth your time. Here are five of our favorites.

**GOLDLINK**

The D.C. rapper has one of the bounciest, most charming flows. If you only know him from “Craw,” last year’s slow-burning summer jam that earned the then-unknown a Grammy nod, you’re not alone. But he’s not just cool-girl kicks. Because once “Dance On Me” or “Meditate” drop, they’re getting grazed.

**RAVVI LAXA**

Only 19, the Chicago rapper bathroom love. He likely won’t deliver the most energetic set, but it tasteful with simple, gospel-rooted songs of unrequited love. He doesn’t do the slimy R&B that’s trending. Instead, he keeps it cool-guy kicks. Because once “Dance On Me” or “Meditate” drop, they’re getting grazed.

**RAVVI LAXA**

The young Florida rapper’s hail-of-bullet delivery would make pushpox hip-hop heads trip over their walkers in astonishment. At 23, he has already amassed a catalog of menacing speaker-shatterers like “Twit” and “Room.” Prepare to have your face melted off.
Her hosting of the White House Correspondents’ dinner resulted in one of 2018’s most controversial televised moments. Given the kind of salacious year we’ve had so far, that’s saying a lot. Michelle Wolf left no stone unturned, nor any politician unscathed during her remarks; she was so wittily cutting that her comments about the president, not to mention Sarah Huckabee Sanders’ eye shadow, sent Trump and Fox news’ commentators into a full meltdown for several days.

“Of course, Trump isn’t here, if you haven’t noticed,” Wolf said at the opening of her monologue. “I would drag him here myself, but it turns out the president of the United States is the one pussy you’re not allowed to grab.”

Before the evening was over, she’d taken all of Washington to task. “I have no agenda; I’m not trying to get anything accomplished,” she said. “So everyone that’s here from Congress, you should feel right at home.” She called Trump racist, misogynist, incompetent and impotent, and suggested that Kellyanne Conway should get stuck under a tree. Not many comedians can claim to have upended a century-old tradition, but Wolf can.

Still, bringing down the Correspondents’ dinner and pissing off every white person in Washington isn’t all for which Wolf should be known. The comedian’s HBO special, Nice Lady, is equally raw and hilarious, like when she talks about men’s obliviousness to menstruation: “Every day at some point during your day you talk to a woman who has her period, and you don’t know it because she says things to you like, ‘I’m good, how are you?’ when all she wants to do is lay down on the ground and fart.” And her talk show, The Break, was one of the funnier things Netflix put forth this year, despite the streaming service’s decision to cancel it without a second season.

That isn’t likely to hold back the resilient Wolf. Before she became a breakout comic, Wolf appeared on Late Night With Seth Meyers (where she later became a writer) and on The Daily Show With Trevor Noah, where she honed her chops as a contributor. It’s a path that has led Wolf to become an A-list talent. Where she goes from here is anyone’s guess; she’s got the momentum to do pretty much anything she wants. That’s what makes her Life Is Beautiful inclusion so exciting—like in that room full of politicians and journalists, there’s no telling where Wolf will take us next.
FOOD FOR THOUGHT

LIFE’S CULINARY ADVENTURES AWAİT

You come for the music, but you leave talking just as much about the food. It’s been Life Is Beautiful’s not-so-secret weapon since the beginning, and this year’s culinary lineup looks like it could be LIFE’s best yet.

Culinary event organizer Lee Flint, who already has Whiskey in the Wilderness and Marker on his work resume, has always been a part of the LIFE food and beverage team, but this is his first year running the show. He came in with a clear strategy: “No. 1 was focusing on the local community and working with the local talent and making it more accessible to restaurants that may not have been able to participate in the past.”

That means utilizing some of the Valley’s best chefs to curate programs throughout the festival. Justin Kingsley Hall of the Kitchen at Atomic (and Flint’s Whiskey in the Wilderness partner) will be cooking proteins over an open fire a la Francis Mallman. Joining him in the general-admission food area will be local culinary stars including Brian Howard of Sparrow & Wolf, Harper’s Boyd Illian, Emanuel Khouri from the Taddy Shop and Good Pia’s Vincent Boteo, who will be building a pizza oven on a truck.

Other Las Vegas favorites, including District One and the Black Sheep can also be found in the GA footprint, while VIP ticket holders can enjoy the grilling skills of Gina Marinelii of La Strega, Garrett Coleman of Masso Osteria and Tama Morris of Echo & Rig at daily pop-ups. – Jason Harris

GET DOWN AT THE FOREST HOUSE ART CAR

Fint Burning Man, then Electric Daisy Carnival. Repurposed, DJ commandeering vehicles have become a bona fide musical complement at our larger festivals—and count Life Is Beautiful in that list. For the second year in a row, the Forest House Art Car will be rolling through the GA footprint with its crew of local talent curating live electronic music sets of thousands of LIFEs, a daily DJ (live-with Garrett of Masso Osteria, LA DJ Monday), Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, and the best staffing on Sunday. Most of the talent has been announced, with performances from包括 Well, The Heights, the weekly stand-up, and a surprise guest performer each night. Any cell phones wishing to get their down on, just look for the glowing trees. – Mike Prevatt

WALKING TOUR

STRATEGIZE YOUR ITINERARY WITH THESE STAGEHOPPING ETAS

The last thing you’re thinking of when circling your preferred acts in your festival performer grid is how long it will take you to get from one stage to the other. By the time you schlep over from the Downtown Stage (where the headliners perform) to the Bacardi Stage (across from Atomic Liquors), you may have missed two numbers.

Minimize your FOMO and maximize your musical intake with these estimated walking times between stages.

– Mike Prevatt

DOWNTOWN TO HUNTRIDGE: 3 MINUTES
DOWNTOWN TO FREMONT: 6 MINUTES
DOWNTOWN TO BACARDI: 8 MINUTES
HUNTRIDGE TO FREMONT: 6 MINUTES
HUNTRIDGE TO BACARDI: 7 MINUTES
FREMONT TO BACARDI: 2 MINUTES
Life Is Beautiful is a meeting of street, lowbrow and playa art that’s pretty much without peer. It’s not the craziest idea to visit the festival just to see the art, and this year there’s more of it than ever.

Begin, as always, with the murals and large-scale installations. Once again, Charlotte Denton of the Juxtapoz collective has assembled a terrific international crew to paint up our Downtown walls: France’s André Saraiva, Lithuania’s Egle Zvirblyte, Spain’s Sebastián Velasco, Romania’s Lakwena from the U.K., and the U.S.’s own Aware and Retna. Portugal’s Bordalo II—creator of the metal meerkat sculptures at 8th and Fremont Streets—will take over the entire Art Motel space with a piece called “Wild Wild Waste,” his biggest to date. If you’re impatient for the 2019 opening of the AREA 15 art and entertainment complex, fear not; they’re sending “Shogyo Mujo,” a 12-foot-tall skull sculpted by Joshua Harker and projection-mapped by BARTKRESA, to keep you company. Tyler Paqua is building a robot for the feet; Playmodes Studio is creating a light vortex in an alley; Christopher Schardt is delivering a giant LED installation; and a quartet of technicians will finally answer the question, “What would happen if you lit a Skee-Ball lane on fire?”

Meanwhile, over at the Western Hotel, Crime on Canvas—a massive, must-see pop surrealist group show, curated by Jay Nailor and MiShell Modern of Palm Springs’ M Modern Gallery—brings another stealthy line of headliners: works by Mark Ryden, Tara McPherson, Brandon Boyd, Paul Frank, Gary Baseman, Norman Reedus—yes, that Norman Reedus—and others. Plus, some of the artists themselves are scheduled to show up; keep looking in at the Western from time to time if you’d like a nice surprise. That’s not half-bad advice for the festival at large: Keep searching for all the visual gifts LIB has tucked away. -Geoff Carter