

# PIT COMPANION

## Concert Photography Starter Guide

Your first show in the pit, made simple: the settings, the gear, the etiquette, and a prep checklist you can actually use.

**One-time purchase. No subscription, ever.**

A SCENE IN THE DARK app | Created by Michael Caswell

# Start here.

## YOUR FIRST-SHOW STARTING POINT

SHUTTER	APERTURE	ISO
<b>1/250</b>	<b>f/2.8</b>	<b>Auto</b>

Dial that in, then adjust to taste. The notes below explain why each one matters.

**1**

### Shoot manual, or shutter-priority with Auto ISO

Stage light swings wildly from song to song. Locking your own settings keeps your exposure steady when the lighting will not sit still.

**2**

### Start near 1/250, f/2.8, Auto ISO

1/250s freezes most stage movement. Open the aperture for light and subject separation. Let ISO float with a ceiling, say 12800, so you never miss a moment chasing a dial.

**3**

### Fast glass beats a big zoom

An f/2.8-or-faster lens is worth more in the pit than extra reach. A 24-70 f/2.8 or a fast prime will cover most rooms you walk into.

## In the pit.

4

### **Back-button focus, continuous AF**

Separate focus from the shutter so a backlit singer does not drag your focus off. Set continuous AF and track the eyes.

5

### **Always shoot RAW**

Coloured light, especially deep red, wrecks JPEGs. RAW gives you room to rescue white balance and exposure afterward.

6

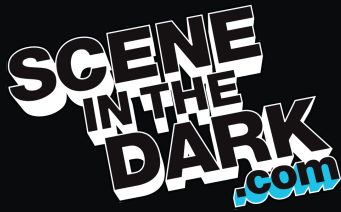
### **Mind the three-song rule**

Most pits give photographers the first three songs, no flash. Get one safe shot early, then spend the rest chasing the moments.

7

### **Etiquette gets you invited back**

No flash. Do not block fans or other shooters. Crouch when you can. Respect security and the artist, and the room stays open to you.



Pit Companion

# Your pre-show checklist.

This is the default checklist built into Pit Companion. Run it before you leave, and walk into the room knowing nothing is missing. In the app you can reorder it, add your own items, and tap each one off.

TONIGHT **The Last Dinner Party - Commodore Ballroom**

Memory cards formatted

Main battery charged

Spare batteries packed

Sensor and front elements clean

Settings pre-dialed

Photo pass confirmed

Earplugs

**All checked = READY TO SHOOT**

Pit Companion drops tonight's show into your log so you can dial in your settings after the set.

# SCENE IN THE DARK .com

## PIT COMPANION

The settings log built for the pit

- + Log every show, per camera and lens
- + Filter by venue to see how you shoot each room
- + Prep checklists and a community of photographers
- + Import settings straight from a photo's EXIF



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