

# LAWEEKLY

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LOCAL ARTISTS CHLOE X HALLE, KITTENS,  
THE REGRETTES AND THE MARIAS PREPARE TO  
REP THE CITY AT COACHELLA

# COACHELLA L.A.

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**T**he Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival turns 20 next year. That's two decades of putting personal bylines to one side for a weekend of diabolical performances, of trying to find the best off-site parties, of forgetting about sleep, of a surprisingly (for a music festival) wonderful selection of sets, of magnificent art to admire and, of course, of countless stunning musical artists and groups to try to negotiate. Yeah, nothing says "festival" like the perennial day-plan. If you only catch 10 minutes

**By BRETT CALLWOOD**  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY STAR FOREMAN

of that DJ, you might be able to see the last bit of that awe-some local band you saw at the Echoplex that one time. Stay at the back and run, and you might be able to see all of the headline bands on every stage. The whole thing must be plotted with extreme care.

Coachella, of course, has nationwide appeal, but for those of us on the West Coast, it's the festival of choice. A relatively short drive into the desert, and a gloriously chaotic nirvana awaits. Partly as a result, for the L.A. bands and artists who make the grade and are awarded with a spot on the bill, it's a particularly big deal. And this year. **(18)**

STYLIST: DEVON NUZZER • CHLOE X HALLE: MAKEUP BY KODO NISHIMURA  
THE REGRETTES: MAKEUP BY PINKU, HAIR BY JUSTIN JACKSON • LOCATION: DYSTOPIAN STUDIOS AT BIG ART LABS

The Regrettes





**Talking of big years**, the last 12 months have been enormous for local indie rockers The Regrettes. The venues and, as a direct result, the crowds have gotten bigger, while the reaction from said crowds has become enthusiastic to the point of screaming.

"It's a weird thing being a musician onstage and having the power we have at the age we have," says bassist Sage Charvis. "I've never understood what it meant when celebrities were confused why they had the fanbase they had and why people treated them the way that they did. I'm starting to understand it more and more as the months go by and as we get more popular. People really do treat you as if you can do no wrong because you're putting yourself out there. It makes you want to try harder, and be a better person for those people."

The Regrettes' set at Coachella is going to be fascinating. On one hand, they've never been more popular. On the other, there aren't many other bands like them on the bill. The challenge suits them, though: They're built for the live

environment, and frontwoman Lydia Night doesn't like to plan anything at all beforehand, which keeps them on their toes.

"We just want it to feel like a party," Night says. "We want everyone to have an incredible night, to get out of their comfort zone and dance. Just have fun. People come to a show and just say they had a fucking fun night, that's enough. That's what we want."

Yeah, they're ready. After all, they've cut their teeth in L.A. dives and DIY rooms before hitting these heights.

"When we first started playing shows, we were playing a lot of small DIY venues like The Smell and this thing called Smash Club that my friend Izzy runs," Night says. "A bunch of bands and a bunch of arts. It's a little collective she does, and it's so cool because there are so many of those in L.A. right now. These shows filled with kids going fucking nuts. We love that."

It's not all been rainbows and gumdrops, though. There was a show in Belgium, opening for SWMRS, that turned into a fucking nightmare.

"Our drummer Maxx [Morando] is allergic to all nuts," Night says. "We made sure a million times that there was nothing in the catering that he couldn't eat. I guess they were really wrong and didn't know what they put in their food. We stopped after three songs and had to rush off the stage. An ambulance came and he got ushered out. It was amazing. The three songs got slower and slower as he had the reaction, and the audience was very confused."

The band members have all been to Coachella as attendees, but this will be their first time performing. It's a big deal

for all of them.

"Growing up in L.A. it's a huge deal for a music festival, because it's the one everyone goes to," says guitarist Genessa Gariano. "I've heard about it since I was a kid and my older siblings were going without me. Since I started going, it was so exciting."