

There's a reason why folks like artists that cut against the grain. In any artistic pursuit, it still holds true. Paint on canvas, the silver screen, theatre, and certainly music. James Dean for example, the so often misunderstood bad boy, there's a reason why he is a film legend.

He did things different. Among the Webster's Dictionary definitions of the word heathen,

"One who is regarded as irreligious, uncivilized, or unenlightened". I think that fits The Band Of Heathens quite well as a chosen the moniker and why it fits. In spite of the norm, as a band, play it like they feel it. Grit and smoke included. It rings true as real, because it is, not contrived, not planned to be slick. Not done to fit the usual standard of things.

Now while I can't verify a true bad boy persona or choice of religious belief on behalf of any of the member of the band, I can verify that they have in my opinion put out the best debut record in my recent memory and had the big brass marbles to do it live. Man I wish more bands would do live records. There was a time back way before I was getting touches of gray, when I'd buy the record only to be disappointed with the live show later. That time passed for me some years ago. I've since bought and been very disappointed with the studio version of many a band that I loved live. Too much gear and too much money and truth be told too much over thinking has a way of stripping the dirty out of it, the grounds are gone from the bottom of the coffee cup, the chicken fried steak comes without gravy, it's just not the same. There's a no smoking sign everywhere you look. There's just too many folks out there deciding for us what music's value is. Too many people that think slick beats real with no concept of just how truly slick "real" is in the scheme of things. I like mine raw and these guys deliver with musical talent in leaps and bounds without forgetting that music should stir something in you if it's done right. There is definitely a reason why they took Best New Band at the Austin Music Awards for 2006-2007 and placed second in the following categories: Band Of The Year, Album Of The Year, Best Record Producer for Mark Addison, as well as Song Of The Year for "Bumblebee". That's for a debut record, a live record at that. Think these so called Heathens may be on to something here?

The Band Of Heathens debut *Live From Momo's* is a great collection of tunes that is guitar driven and piano driven and just down right energy driven. Fun and funky, bluesy and soulful and a few other things all wrapped into it as well. The honest to goodness truth in my opinion on why they are seeing the success they are is due to the fact that there is no weak link in this bands musicianship. The line up, just for the record books. Colin Brooks (guitar, dobro, lap steel and vocals) has been know to share the stage with Toni Price, Ruthie Foster, Hal Ketchum and Will Sexton, as well as fronting his own band. Ed Jurdi (guitar, keys, harmonica, vocals) as a solo artist, he has performed in 23 states, sharing the stage with acts as diverse as Trey Anastasio, Willie Nelson, NRBQ, and Lucy Kaplansky. When not performing under his own umbrella, Ed has toured with the mighty Dreadnaught, completing a month-long 2003 U.S. tour in which the band debuted a miniature Stonehenge as its fourth member. Away from the road, Ed is an in-demand session player working with Queen Latifah, Dave Gerard (Truffle), and Jenny Fujita (Columbia Records), as well as scoring the theme song for the WB show "Young Voices." Gordi Quist (guitar, harmonica, vocals) hails from the historically fertile folk grounds of Houston and it shows, he won the Kerrville New Folk award in 2006, spends most days traveling the earth in a car or van, sometimes solo, sometimes with a four piece band, and sometimes with the Band of Heathens. Seth Whitney (bass and vocals) you may know him from his work with George Devore and Brian Keane outside playing with Heathens and the other members in their individual projects or in



# THE BAND OF HEATHENS



his Myspace description of himself "I'm just a guy with one shoe untied..." gotta dig the bassist sense of humor. Last but not least John Chipman (drums, percussion) you may know him as the beat behind The Resentments and John Dee Graham to name a couple folks he's worked with. One could easily call this a "super group" and not be far off track.

The record has no particular track that stands out for me, have to say it, I dig the whole thing track by track. A great listen cover to cover with great renditions of a traditional tune "Ain't No More Cane and homage to one of my favorite song writers of all time Tom Waits "Anywhere I Lay My Head". Their own tunes are as strong or stronger. It is live and feels live but thanks to Eldridge Goins on the live recording mix it all comes through, dead solid what a live record should be. Clear as a bell, killer work in my opinion, hats off to Eldridge and Mark Addison.



by: Brad Springs

From what I understand the follow up record is due early 2008 with Patty Griffin and Ray Wylie Hubbard lending a hand. The live show schedule should be a fair indication of where they are headed. Catch em' when you can and while you can. They're the sugar in your black coffee.

Become a fellow heathen....by visiting [www.bandofheathens.com](http://www.bandofheathens.com). Get your live music on, or I won't like you anymore.

**BS**

Catch The Band of Heathens @ one of these upcoming dates in September:

- 1st **Whitewater Amphitheater** - New Braunfels, TX
- 2<sup>nd</sup> **Captain Arghs** - Lake Conroe, TX
- 5<sup>th</sup> **Momo's** - Austin, TX
- 7th **Sam's Burger Joint** - San Antonio, TX

- 8th **Railroad Blues** - Alpine, TX
- 12th **Momo's** - Austin, TX
- 14th **Riley's Tavern** - San Marcos, TX
- 15th **Private Event** - Conroe, TX
- 19th **Momo's** - Austin, TX
- 21st **Gruene Hall** - Gruene, TX
- 22nd **Montgomery Wine Festival** - Montgomery, TX
- 22nd **House Concert** - San Antonio, TX
- 26th **Momo's** - Austin, TX
- 28th **Rolling Oaks** - San Antonio, TX
- 29th **Gardens by Moonlight** - San Antonio, TX
- 29th **Hanovers** - Pflugerville, TX
- 30th **Bayfest Texas Festival** - Corpus Christi, TX



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