



Presents...

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Live Music Slams Local Venues

Piebald, Element 101, Recover, and the Success Story

On Friday night, November 16, in a secluded alley in Richmond, indie-rockers, punks, and other music fans were filtering into a humble club called Alley Katz. A local band, The Success Story, kicked off the great evening with a short set and then yielded the stage to Recover, a melodic-hardcore band from Austin, Texas. They are one of the newest additions to the record label known as Fueled by Ramen. The band is composed of two guitarists (both of whom sing), a bassist, and a drummer. As soon as they took the stage the crowd could tell the band was going to rock. Aside from the inter-song banter, explosive energy came out between heavy distorted guitar riffs, crazy rhythms, and vocals that bounced from screaming and then back to singing. Recover played a packed set with several crowd favorites. One song which boasts the line "It's game time" had a humorous story behind it of one band member getting into a fight with someone who quickly said that before joining the fray. Next up was Element 101, a female fronted rock band with punk influences abounding. The people eagerly gathered to witness the performance of this band for the first time in Richmond, Virginia, coming all the way from New Jersey. The first song quickly involved the audience as the lead singer pointed to kids who were singing along. Most of the songs they played, with a few exceptions, were off of their new CD *Stew Girl*. Element 101 is on Tooth and Nail which is a predominantly Christian record label. It wasn't preachy though (don't be scared). Most of the songs were about her life, growing up, and of course relationships. Their set was truly an enjoyable experience in rock. Finally came the greatly anticipated performance of Piebald. The group is an

emo/rock contingent with down to earth lyrics and heartfelt stories. They have a similar sound to locals River City High. Most of the crowd was there to see them specifically and the numbers increased noticeably. From their first number to their last they fixated their audience and engaged them at every moment. Their most popular song, "Grace Kelly with Wings," came out in the middle of their set. Everybody loved it and even substituted vocals for one of the guitar parts. Piebald continued to rock through their set, pausing occasionally for a few laughs. They debuted a few songs that are going to appear on their upcoming album *We Are The Only Friends That We Have* and gave out a couple of CD samplers. They ended their set with a surprise encore that topped off the night. Rock and roll hit Richmond big that night with these four great bands.

Panic Strikes Towson

Atlanta's rock n' roll powerhouse, Widespread Panic, hit Towson University in Towson, MD like a title-wave on Wednesday, November 14th. First-time show-goers and long-time Panic fans alike poured into the Towson Center, the school's sports complex and gymnasium, filled with grand expectations and bubbling with pre-show excitement. Widespread took the stage and opened up the performance with a driving "Holden Oversoul," an old favorite still cherished by fans. The melodic groove segued nicely into "Stop-Go," which contained an emotional "Body & Soul Rap" by guitarist John Bell. Other first set highlights included a thunderous "Pigeons" into "Surprise Valley" and a smoking "Aunt Avis" into "Action Man." The set concluded with J.B.'s thought provoking plea with society in the Panic classic "Makes Sense To Me." After a long yet refreshing setbreak, the band returned to the stage to treat the crowd to only the third-ever performance of "Bayou Lena," which they also performed prior to the show for those fans lucky enough to arrive early. The hopping tune, "Big Woolly Mammoth," from their recent album *Don't Tell the Band*, began a long seamless musical journey as it flowed into "Use Me," a Funky Meters tune that was an obvious treat to anyone in attendance. The jamming continued into "One Arm Steve" and transitioned smoothly into the classic "Love Tractor," in which the band left the stage at its conclusion and Domingo "Sunny" Ortiz, the band's percussionist, took over. The incredible

The Post Modern Piano Man Visits the Canal Club

A large crowd, including many University of Richmond students returning from Thanksgiving break, filled the Canal Club in Shockoe Bottom on Sunday, November 25 to see an incredible performance by Ben Folds. Folds, the former leader of the three-pieced band, Ben Folds Five, was in town for his recent tour following the release of his new solo album, *Rockin' The Suburbs*. Now touring with three college buddies, he dazzled the audience, playing the piano with the speed and energy of a man possessed. At various times throughout the course of the show Folds energized the audience by slamming his stool on the keys of the piano, while maintaining a very musical sound. Another crowd pleaser came when he led the band in an improvisational outburst inspired by a member of the audience's shouting "Rock my face off!!!" Following his hour long set consisting of songs from his new release, Folds returned to the stage by himself to perform an encore of six Ben Folds Five songs on the piano by himself. The concert ended with the rest of the band returning to perform another single from "The Five" titled "Song for the Dumped." Despite early doubts from critics that Folds would not be able to hold his own in a solo career, the show was more than enough to convince anyone that with his musical genius and ability to interact with the crowd, he is clearly a force to be reckoned with as the post modern piano man.

Cuban-influenced drum solo lasted roughly ten to twelve minutes before bass player Dave Schools joined Sunny and drummer Todd Nance for a lengthy bass and drum jam. The second set finished with a solid "Junior" into "North," in which lead guitarist Michael Houser exchanged tremendous solos with keyboardist Jo-Jo Hermann, leaving the crowd with their tongues hanging out of their mouths begging for an encore. Panic returned to the stage and performed a beautiful rendition of "Old Joe," (also from *Don't Tell the Band*) which Richmond fans may remember from J.B.'s solo show at Brown's Island back in September. The slow, emotional song slowly began to meld into a familiar rock rhythm as the band moved into the Guess Who's "No Sugar Tonight/New Mother Nature." This incredible rendition obviously satisfied the crowd and left them anxious for future Widespread shows to come.

Top 10 Spins of the Week (as reported to College Music Journal)

1. The Strokes - Is This It
2. Hey Mercedes - Hey Mercedes EP
3. Ben Folds - Rockin' The Suburbs
4. Avalanches - Since I Left You
5. Oysterhead - The Grand Pecking Order
6. John Mayer - Room for Squares
7. Radiohead - I Might Be Wrong
8. Dismemberment Plan - Change
9. Fugazi - The Argument
10. Tori Amos - Strange Little Girls