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Artist to Know: Culture Killers

BY **CANDACE NICHOLSON** FOR LA2DAY.COM 28 OCT 2008



Culture Killers. A name like that doesn't exactly conjure up images of sunshine and rainbows. And I'll bet good money that a group of self-effacing **rockers** who are always ready with a hug and a smile is the last thing that comes to mind. Like most of the masses, I've been brainwashed to associate **crazy antics and nasty attitudes** with the edgy glamour of Rock music.

What happened to the angst-ridden, self-absorbed bad-boy behavior often reported in the world of Rock? If the band doesn't act like **jackasses**, how will you know if they're truly artistes? Apparently, you can tell by listening to their music.

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Sure, bass player **John Tokes** may strike up a conversation with you out of nowhere like he's known you for years, and front man **David George** seems to have enough friends to stand side-by-side holding hands from here to Kansas City, but does that open and friendly demeanor betray a Hard Rock sound? Absolutely not.

Culture Killers doesn't hesitate to creating passionate, thought-provoking lyrics and mature, complex instrumentation without the prima donna crown. As a matter of fact, they even make it look easy.

And Culture Killers fans are no stranger to the softer side of the band's heavy Pop sound. A phoenix born from the ashes of much-loved indie Rock staple Moaning Lisa in the fall of 2006, Culture Killers mixes the sweet, yet **powerful sensibilities of Folk**

in the fall of 2006, Culture Killers mixes the sweet, yet **powerful sensibilities of Folk** with the hard driving rhythms of Rock. The band delivers a virtuosic sound that easily transitions from the sensitive, haunting flourishes associated with the likes of Soundgarden and the Foo Fighters to the raw, primal spontaneity that would make the Guns n Roses and Aerosmith of yesteryear stand-up and take notice.



Although George insists his song lyrics are inspired more by the lives of everyone around him than his own, particularly his friendships with guys than his relationships with women, you can't help but search for double meaning in the lyrics of "Something Missing." Building on an intoxicatingly intimate composition, "Let Me Drive" has a trance-like effect that easily feels both sexy and disturbing at the same time. The fearless rhythms of "Gone Hollywood" help shine a light on the transformation of friends who've succumbed to the red-carpet attitude and Tinseltown mentality that

friends who've succumbed to the red-carpet attitude and Tinseltown mentality that often seems to come hand-in-hand with success and fame in L.A. A fitting indictment from a band that doesn't shy away from their appreciation of popular music and doesn't hesitate to talk to fans for hours on end.

That's not to say that Culture Killers are strangers to success and fame themselves. The band inspires fervor and loyalty virtually unseen outside of TRL. Fresh off a brief stint at Las Vegas' revamped Fremont Street Experience, the band played to a crowd of thousands, and plans are in the works to return in time for New Years' Eve. Earlier this year, horror film fans were also treated to the infectious and deceptively unapologetic "Gasoline" in Michael R. Morris' *Fear House*. Officially signed with Delvue Records, the band is eager to tour and get back out on the road performing for crowds outside the Los Angeles area.

THE DETAILS: Culture Killers

www.culturekillers.com

Story by Candace Nicholson.