

YOUNG MAMMALS

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AWARD-WINNING HOUSTON BAND UNVEILS NEW NAME, ANNOUNCES SXSW SHOW

Having started as The Dimes while in high school and after winning three Houston Press Music Award categories, the Houston band of four has revealed a new moniker before their first show at the 2008 South by Southwest music showcase. After months of deliberation, the newly christened **Young Mammals** will debut the name at Austin's annual musical festival.

Recipients of Best New Act, Best Indie Rock and Song of the Year awards and nominee for Local Act of the Year at The Houston Press' 2007 Music Awards, Young Mammals are scheduled for the "Houston Press Presents" SXSW Showcase at The Tap Room at Six on Thursday, March 13.

The band will play their classic, Dimes-era tracks and perform some of their most recent material that they are currently recording with producer /engineer Steve Christensen of SugarHill Studios fame. Young Mammals hope to release their first full-length album by the end of the year. Visit www.myspace.com/youngmammals for news, live show updates and more.

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Biography



Photo by Mark Armes.

Like any good story of biblical proportions, **Young Mammals**' origins begin with brothers: The Sanchez's. Front man Carlos Sanchez and bassist Jose Sanchez would share their mutual appreciation of the musical with neighbor and drummer Iram Guerrero while living in the suburban sprawl of West Houston.

In 2004, Carlos would meet guitarist Cley Miller in a world geography class freshman year. Soon after, the four coalesced during their formative freshman and sophomore years of high school into Young Mammals.

The young men began by rocking the usual battles of the bands and local gigs, subtly revealing some of their more obvious influences (Talking Heads, Pixies, Television, Beatles, Beach Boys), while keeping some of them to themselves (The Zombies, Neutral Milk Hotel, Taj Mahal, Nick Drake).

Taking their brand of intensely youthful (and sometimes sexy) indie rock pop to the streets, Young Mammals began recording a handful of tracks in the studio in 2006.

Armed with their self-titled EP, the band garnered local and statewide attention, having been nominated for four 2007 Houston Press Music Awards (Best Indie Act, Best New Act, Best Song for "Delilah" and Best Local Artist) and winning three. "Delilah" was also named as San Antonio "Music For Listeners" radio show's "Song of the Week."

Currently working with Houston's Sugarhill Studios on their first LP, Young Mammals continue to play with an impressive roster of indie rock acts, including: Tapes 'n' Tapes, Ratatat, French Kicks, Dios (Malos), Vixtrot, Dr. Dog, Matt & Kim and others.

PRESS

Good show, Houston bands

Post in HandStamp blog (Houston Chronicle) - July 30, 2007

http://blogs.chron.com/handstamp/archives/2007/07/houston_press_p.html

I've heard a lot about **the Dimes**. Who knows what has kept me away, it's not for lack of recommendations. I suppose it has been the arrogance of the recommendations, people so sure that I need to see this band that they're willing to bet I'm an idiot because I haven't written about them yet. Yeah, that's a turn-off.

But damn! I'm an idiot for sure. The Dimes filled every foot of the cavernous Verizon Wireless Theater -- made even more so with an audience of dozens -- with its tight, indie-pop and youthful enthusiasm. Drummer Iram Guerrero's fierce talent took my breath away. The guys are unabashedly dorky, guitarist Cley Miller spazzes out while playing, singer Carlos Sanchez smiles

when he sings, no one is wearing flashy clothes and the hair is all wiry, un-glamorous curls. I loved them.

And then Sanchez provided the best moment of the evening: he mentioned the other, earlier performers on the stage -- Mighty Orq and the Handsomes. An audience member yelled, "the Handsomes suck!" Sanchez, with the sweet disposition that everyone has told me about said with a gentle smile, "no they don't. They're a good band. Everyone's entitled to their own opinion." An indie band saying something nice about a party band? What a rare moment of scene unity.

It couldn't have been a better ending to my night.

Last Night: Nightfly Goes to the Music Awards

Post in HouStoned Rocks! blog (Houston Press) - August 2, 2007

http://blogs.houstonpress.com/rocks/2007/08/last_night_nightfly_goes_to_th.php

I don't have any hipster cred anyway, so I'll let this be blunt as it is: I'd never seen **The Dimes** perform. The contrarian in me wanted badly to be unimpressed, given the hype, but I was floored. The Dimes posses that particular brand of give-a-damn that permeates every on-stage movement;

cut the sound and you'd lose very little in the way of recognizing their kinetic wont. They aren't old, burned or surly enough to be Mission of Burma, but those cats have grit, and -- with any luck -- they lack an understanding of why it is that they kick ass. A terrifying burden, indeed.

Riding Shotgun With the Little Ones [excerpt]

Interview with Little Ones from Big Yawn blog - Sept. 29, 2006

<http://www.bigyawn.net/columns/ridingshotgun/9-29-06LittleOnes.php>

Q. Are there any bands you've played with that you'd like to tour with again? And/or bands that you have yet to tour with that you'd like to?

A. There is a band out of Houston that opened

up the show called **the Dimes**. They were so fun. Maybe our paths will cross again. One band we would love to tour with would be the Flaming Lips.

Teen Bands [excerpt]

Article in Houston Press - July 26, 2007

<http://www.houstonpress.com/2007-07-26/news/teen-bands/full>

It's almost midnight, and guitarist Cley Miller looks over at guitarist and bassist Carlos and Jose Sanchez as they start their set. They're at Emo's, a 6th Street bar in Austin packed tonight with fans of indie heavyweights Sound Team. For Miller and his three pals, who make up **The Dimes**, opening for Sound Team is vindication of their three-year battle to be taken seriously.

Their crime, the sticking point to The Dimes' dream of success? Their age. The poppy Houston-based rockers started out as teen-agers and some still are — Miller, Jose Sanchez and drummer Iram Guerrero are all 19; Carlos Sanchez just turned 20.

As often as teen bands make it big in the movies, it only rarely happens in real life. Teen musicians who want to get out of the basement or garage — even if they have talent — aren't favored by club owners who already have more than enough trouble with their regular "adult" bands.

And yet. Tonight at Emo's, the crowd is actually listening and even dancing. No one knows who The Dimes are, but they like their sound. For a young rock band, it doesn't get much better than this, at least not in Texas.

Determination and dumb luck in equal measure got them onstage tonight.

"How we got that show was basically following Sound Team around Texas," says Miller. He and the other members of The Dimes started talking to Sound Team and mentioned they played in a band. A few days later, Sound Team called and asked if they were interested in opening for Sound Team's

CD release show at Emo's.

"Me and Carlos [his brother] freaked out, like, 'Oh my God, we're playing at Emo's? With Sound Team?'" says bassist Jose Sanchez.

The band had tried to play Emo's about a year and a half before and were met with little more than "Don't call us, we'll call you." They gave the booking guy a press kit, "but we think he just threw it in the trash," Guerrero says.

It was just as much the band's fault as it was the club's, Miller acknowledges. "It was a really naive thing to do; we were kind of, like, the dumb ones."

Even after the band played other shows and did well, the age factor still held them back. Guerrero says the booker at the Proletariat on Richmond loved their performance. "But she was like, 'No, you guys are way too young; I don't want to get in trouble,'" says Guerrero. "At that time we were all 16. We were all still really young."

Booking shows in Houston and Austin stayed tough. "People were like, 'Oh, young kids? No way,'" Guerrero says. Jose Sanchez agrees. "They would be like, you're in high school, you're too young."

Three years later, the band is still pretty young in relation to the Houston music scene, but nobody seems to mind. The band is nominated for four 2007 Houston Press Music Awards — Best New Act, Best Indie Rock, Local Musician of the Year and Song of the Year ("Delilah") — and they aren't the only youngsters that have recently pushed into the spotlight[...]

The Dimes

002 Magazine - October 2006

"They play raw and loose, with complex songs built around fire and ice dynamics of restrained verses, exploding choruses and linear bridges

between the verses of their songs that give them life from start to finish."