Sign In or Sign Up



HOME THINGS TO DO FOOD & DRINKS MUSIC ADVOCATE/WKLY BEST OF WCCT-TV/CW BLOGS DEALS CONTESTS Where to go Restaurants Bars What to do Music Events Art Events | Theater Events Etc. Events

Home > Blog

The Archers of Loaf Onscreen Tonight (Tuesday, Oct. 2) at Cafe Nine, Thanks to Gorman Bechard



The Archers of Loaf reunion in North Carolina last year, as caught for the feature-length documentary What Did You Expect? by Gorman Bechard, screening 9 p.m. Oct. 2 at Cafe Nine in New Haven. (October 2, 2012)

By Christopher Arnott

10:56 a.m. EDT, October 2, 2012

Around 15 years ago, Gorman Bechard tried to interest the New Haven Advocate in a series he was writing about "the best bands you never heard." That phrase was already becoming trite, and as the paper's Arts Editor at the time I told him so. But I was keen to have him write about one of his favorite bands, Archers of Loaf. Gorman had posted a list of "the best songs you've never heard" on his website, and two of them were by Archers of Loaf.

If you knew Gorman Bechard, there was no way you weren't going to hear Archers of Loaf. He placed their songs (and those of the band's leader Eric Bachmann) in his films, helped them get gigs in the New Haven area and went to see them at the drop of a hat.

In the late '90s, the local opportunity was a show at the Tune Inn (now a parking lot, on Center Street between Church and Orange streets). I was there early to see opening act Sense Field, a band I frankly liked better than Archers of Loaf. Sense Field was one of the bands successfully making the hardcore emo genre palatable for wider rock audiences. They were also from California, and hadn't hit the East Coast much.

Sometime after Sense Field's set, Gorman and his Archers of Loaf pals waltzed into the Tune Inn, fresh from a pizza dinner (presumably at Gorman's favorite haunt, Modern). It wasn't long before it was the band's turn to play. This they did, with minimal set-up time and a reckless spontaneity. This was a time when a lot of bands—Sense Field included—felt they had a lot to prove. Even if they were wailing and screaming and pounding their heads, you felt a formalism, a thesis, behind what they were doing.

Not so Archers of Loaf. They felt genuine, and urgent, meant to be a band. They had some of the same impulses as Sense Field, but from a different part of the country Chapel Hill, North Carolina, which in the mid-'90s was one of several cities vying for the title of "the next Seattle") and a different part of the brain. They somehow stood apart from the burgeoning emo movement of Sunny Day Real Estate, etc., though they did some of the same quiet-to-loud, reflective-to-



Most Viewed Stories

- 1. Advocate Interview: Jacob Bannon of
- 2. The 15 Funniest Will Ferrell Quotes
- 3. 10 Crazy Food Challenges
- 12 Awesome Quotes From "Breaking Bad" 4.
- 5. The 15 Best Tyler Durden Quotes
- 6. The 10 Best Samuel L. Jackson Movie Quotes
- 7. The 10 Best Beatles Songs with John Lennon on Lead Vocals
- 8. Living Laser's Nostalgic, Frills-Free Hardcore Tears It Up at Club INT on Oct. 12
- 9. Ear Might: Meet Babytown Frolics: "Twinkle Daddies" Who Revive Old-School Emo
- 10. Photos: OctoBARfest

Recent News



The Racial-Profiling Scandal In East Haven Is Unresolved, While Officials Try POLICE to Install Reforms

Updated: Oct 09, 2012



Trouble at the Casinos Could Result in \$100 Million Less For the State Updated: Oct 09, 2012



McMahon's Pit-Bull Campaign Manager, Media Mismanagement and the WWF Attitude



Malloy: Don't Worry About Fracking, 'Cause We Got No Gas To Frack in

Updated: Oct 05, 2012

Updated: Oct 08, 2012



Doping Up Your Dog Is NOT A Good

Updated: Oct 04, 2012

riotous things.

I still wasn't completely won over—I actually LIKE a level of **preparedness** and philosophy in my music—but I remember being impressed. Where other bands throbbed, the Archers of Loaf stabbed. Where others were rounded, they were angular. Where others cruised, they tailgated. Yet the intensity was inwardly driven. They were concentrating on themselves, not on the panic around them.

I know I spent much of Archers of Loaf's set watching Gorman watch the band, wondering what he was feeling. I'm often more fascinated by people's passions than I am by the things they're being passionate about. How did this Archers of Loaf show compare with others? Where were they hoping to go with a sound that seemed to favor introspection and solitude rather than the communal catharsis sought by so many bands?

Now, over a dozen years, a slew of albums and EPs and **singles**, a 1998 break-up and 2011 reunion later, we all can see Archers of Loaf through the eyes of one of their most devoted fans, Gorman Bechard. The filmmaker, flush with praise from his well-received documentary about The Replacements, Color Me Obsessed, filmed the surprise Archers of Loaf reunion gig at The Cat's Cradle club in Carrboro, North Carolina.

The results, What Did You Expect?—The Archers of Loaf Live at Cat's Cradle—screens tonight at 9 p.m. at Café Nine, 250 State Street, New Haven. (Admission is \$5.) The club has now been the location for screenings of three or four separate Gorman Bechard flicks. Unlike Bechard's Replacements doc, which feature no performance footage whatsoever, What Did You Expect? is predominantly a concert film, with interviews tacked on at the end.

The Facebook site for the documentary is **here**. A DVD version of What Did You Expect?, featuring tons of extras, will be released in November in tandem with the DVD of the Color Me Obsessed. A solitary viewing experience may in fact suit the Archers of Loaf well, but that's no reason to miss a rare chance to commune with fellow fans over concert footage of a band which, thanks to Gorman Bechard, you've heard.

Copyright © 2012, WTXX-TV

WWWWW

Comments

0

48

0

Tweet 8





\$1.3 million in state money approved for Infinity Hall project in Hartford *Updated: Oct 03, 2012*



Maple Syrup Production in Connecticut Could Face Problems Related to Global Warming

Updated: Oct 03, 2012



Feds Have Pulled the Plug on Restoring Salmon to Connecticut River, But That Hasn't Stopped This State's Salmon Stocking Updated: Oct 02, 2012



Get Ready For a Tsunami of Attack Ads as the Election Approaches Updated: Oct 02, 2012

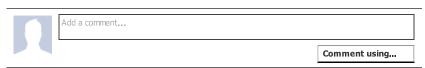


Lawsuits Involving TicketNetwork Still Ongoing

Updated: Oct 02, 2012



Post Your Comment Below



Facebook social plugin



HOME THINGS TO DO FOOD & DRINK MUSIC ADVOCATES/WKLY BEST OF CT 2011 WCCT-TV/CW BLOGS DEALS CONTESTS

Privacy Policy | Terms of Service | Advertise on CT.com | Career Opportunities & Internships

A Tribune Broadcasting website