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Art-House Punk

Concert review: "Can I Say II" at Cinema Paradiso.

By [Alex Rendon](#)

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Last Sunday marked the second installment of longtime local promoter [Mark Pollack's](#) "Can I Say Sunday" series at Cinema Paradiso in Fort Lauderdale. Conceived as a vinyl record swap, music-movie screening, and show, the event again came together brilliantly in the inviting surroundings of this former Methodist church.

The evening started tamely enough, as vinyl collectors hunted down records on the theater's patio before heading inside to check out the documentary *The House of the Rising Punk*. The one-hour film chronicles the high holy days of late '70s, CBGB-era New York punk — and it wet viewers' whistles for the local live acts to follow.

[Pompano Beach](#) trio [Tongues of Heartworm](#) kicked off the show. And although an art house is an unlikely setting for spastic punk rock, you couldn't beat the theater seating for comfort. Drummer [Fausto Figueredo](#) vigorously pounded out beats and guitarist [Rick Ambrose](#) snarled into the microphone on the rollicking bilingual number "Minute Woman." "Worst Hangover Ever" sounded sharp and fast in a [Minor Threat](#) sense but was perhaps the antithesis of anything in that aforementioned D.C. straight-edge group's entire oeuvre. A disemboweling cover of the [Jesus Lizard's](#) "Seasick" shook us a bit from our cozy cushions as bassist/lead vocalist Stephen "Wolfie" [Johnson](#) reached deep inside his larynx for gargling vocals.

Up next in front of the screen was [Anchorman](#), a once-heralded local punk band recently reunited. Back at the turn of the millennium, [Anchorman](#) was on the short list of [South Florida](#) bands set to break it big, in the footsteps of [New Found Glory](#) and [Against All Authority](#). Unfortunately, things never panned out for the quartet. Two of the three — guitarist/lead vocalist [John Owens](#) and drummer [Darryl Bonebrake](#) — still play out as [Band Number 12](#), and every now and then, the two get together with original [Anchorman](#) bassist [Charlie Gleek](#) to jam.

They began their set with "Proximity," featuring Owens' hoarse sneers. Owens, who was donning a slim mustache that made him look like a pudgy [Brandon Flowers](#), has the kind of voice that can easily transition from gruff to smooth. This range suited him well on "Drinking Song," in which he also played a slick guitar fret slide bridge. Gleek took over lead vocals on the trio's cover of the [Descendents'](#) tune "Coolidge," which began with a battalion's worth of snare drums.

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