

## Creative Loafing Atlanta

SPECIAL SECTIONS » MUSIC ISSUE

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### *We Fun*: Lights, camera, reaction

Atlanta's rock identity set in stone by *We Fun* filmmakers

by Chad Radford

Jessica "Juggz" Reed perched at the front of the stage at the Earl on Saturday, April 5, to give one "final" performance of the infamous trick she likes to call "Pussy Flambé."



Juggz is the vocalist for Atlanta's punk-metal trio Mourdella. But she's better-known for the exotic stunt in which she inserts a container of lighter fluid into her nether regions and shoots out a dazzling flame. She's retiring the trick, she says, as a matter of personal safety. That's reason enough to stop, but there's a deeper motivation behind her decision.

The final act was staged at the release party for Mourdella's debut CD, *This Kill is Mine*. People packed in for the symbolic (and literal) passing of the torch. Reed's mission was to legitimize herself as an artist — to rise above performing her sideshow trick. But sometimes a reputation is hard to shake.

Reed's predicament is a familiar one in Atlanta's underground rock scene, where gaining legitimacy after a history of raunchy stunts has proven to be a major hurdle. Her dilemma mirrors that of the Black Lips, who've attempted to distance themselves from the notoriety they gained performing equally crude antics.

Atlanta has long strived to cultivate its own musical identity, rather than be seen as a waiting room for New York or L.A. And over the last few years, the city has fostered a scene distinctive enough to attract the attention of Nashville filmmakers Matthew Robison and Christopher Dortch. The two are creating a documentary about the city's underground rock scene, titled *We Fun: Atlanta, GA Inside/Out*. While the film could legitimize things, the initial online clips show the city's bands up to their old bad habits.

#### Legacy of Debauchery

The bad behavior can be traced back to the summer of 2001, when several rowdy

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*We Fun* filmmakers shoot the scene at the Earl.

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