

Encore Magazine Presents Rock 'n' Roll Memories:

Gaslight Street updates our Southern-rock reminiscences

By: Shane Arthur - May 27th, 2009

MEMORY MAKERS: The music of Gaslight Street evokes the same kind of emotion-infused Southern rock many of us grew up with.

For many of us who grew up here in the South, classic rock has been a constant and welcome accompaniment to our lives. Any given song playing on 103.7 The Bone is bound to bring memories with its sound. Whenever "Thunderstruck" starts playing, I always recall a time when I was 8 years old, a mischievous grin on my best friend's face as the two of us vandalized some old rotting tugboat, bobbing our heads to the screech of AC/DC.

If I hear The Cars' "Just What I Needed," I am reminded of high-school math class and a pretty girl's smile. I never fail to wince at the drum beat of "War Pigs" because it's a painful reminder that we shouldn't rock too hard while driving. Heck, I'm of the belief that tapping my foot to Steve Miller's "The Joker" while eating rib-eye steaks somehow makes them taste better.

The enhancement of sense and memory, whether good or bad, is what rock is all about for those of us who grew up listening to it. Sometimes it's not the vocals, drums or guitars that matter, or even the song itself—it's the feeling that goes along with it that makes it meaningful.

One such band that evokes precisely that kind of feeling is Gaslight Street, an up-and-coming South-Carolina band coming to play at Kefi on the 29th. Gaslight Street's songs are instantly likeable and somehow always familiar even after one listen. Mostly consisting of a mix of Southern rock and blues, Gaslight Street cuts a rolling groove listeners may easily slip into without realization.

They demonstrate a great deal of versatility from song to song, bouncing between genres and emotions; it is within this variety that Gaslight Street seems to find its own identity. The band's smoky-smooth guitar rhythms and distinctly Southern lyrics slide in nicely beside the music of our past. Their sounds come ready-made for memory-making and all the feelings that come with it.

While the band's touring schedule kept us from an interview, they do happily display their critics' articles at www.myspace.com/gaslightstreet, and the praise seems to be piling high. The band's debut album, *Blue Skies For Fools*, has been noted for its old-school sound and avoidance of "studio gimmickry." The low pace of songs "Need My Rest" and "Constantly Runnin'" are sure to please the beer-sipping

crowd, while harder fare like “98 Blues” and “Black and Blue Saliva” will catch the attention of listeners like myself who, ahem, want some grit in their rock.

Gaslight Street indicated they focus heavily on the cohesiveness between band members, an aspect which seems to have come together when they buckled down to make the album. Such interpersonal connection lends itself well to improvisation, and, if the album is any indication, the skills of the band members should make for an entertaining show.

We each have our share of memories that are waiting for the right song to trigger them. Gaslight Street may be unfamiliar, but that doesn't mean they don't carry with their music the oddly familiar feeling of times passed.