



FRONT PAGE	POLITICS	BUSINESS	MEDIA	ENTERTAINMENT	COMEDY	SPORTS	STYLE	WORLD	GREEN	FOOD	TRAVEL	TECH	
LIVING	HEALTH	DIVORCE	ARTS	BOOKS	RELIGION	IMPACT	EDUCATION	COLLEGE	NY	LA	CHICAGO	DENVER	BLOGS



Michael Giltz

Freelance writer and raconteur
Posted: March 3, 2010 05:55 PM

- BIO
- Get Email Alerts
- Become a Fan
- Bloggers' Index

Exclusive: Midlake On "The Courage Of Others"

What's Your Reaction:



- Inspiring
- Funny
- Hot
- Scary
- Outrageous
- Amazing
- Weird
- Crazy

Read More: [Bert Jansch](#) , [Denton](#) , [Eric Pulido](#) , [Fairport Convention](#) , [Midlake](#) , [Pop Music](#) , [Rock Music](#) , [Spin](#) , [Texas](#) , [The Courage Of Others](#) , [The Trials Of Van Occupanther](#) , [Entertainment News](#)

2	9 views	0	0
share	tweet	email	comment

Midlake burst into prominence in 2006 with *The Trials Of Van Occupanther*, one of the most acclaimed albums of the decade (and #21 on my list of [the 100 Best CDs Of The 2000s](#)).

But no one will accuse them of striking while the iron is hot. The bandmembers went back to their day jobs, built a recording studio in their hometown of Denton, Texas, immersed themselves in British folk-rock by the likes of Fairport Convention and Pentangle and

have finally emerged almost four years after their last CD with *The Courage Of Others*, a quieter, moodier and genuinely beautiful album. Oh, and they're doing again something rock bands tend to do: performing live. And not a moment too soon.

"We didn't play a live show from October of 2007 until this tour," admits guitarist Eric Pulido, who joined Midlake right before they recorded their first EP. "It's kind of strange to say you're in a band but you haven't played a show in two years."

ADVERTISEMENT

MOST POPULAR ON HUFFPOST

- More Dead Birds, Fish Found Across The World**
Comments (2,634)
- WATCH: Demi Moore In A Teeny Bikini**
Comments (400)
- Elizabeth Edwards' Will Revealed**
Comments (573)
- Lindsay Garvey iPhone Alarm Glitch: How It Cost Me My Job**
Comments (909)
- Intestinal Parasites May Be Causing Your Energy Slump**
Comments (131)
- Rudeness Is A Neurotoxin**
Comments (33)
- WATCH: Ashton & Natalie Get Naked, Have Sex In New Movie**
Comments (196)
- Two House Republicans Violate Constitution With Voting Blunder**
Comments (8,852)

BECK IN TROUBLE?
Dropped From New York Radio Station, TV Ratings



Tonight, they're in Los Angeles and the band is on the road through June, hitting their hometown on March 13, Austin (for SXSW, where they initially broke out) on March 18 and New York City April 7-8. Last time on tour they were almost surrounded on stage by keyboards to capture the Seventies AM radio vibe of *Van Occupanther*. Now they've added a few musicians, freeing up everyone to rock out, though ironically it's for an album that features dashes of flute and a pastoral sound.

"We feel very Lynyrd Skynyrd on stage with seven guys and four guitarists," says Pulido. "It's great not to be playing a keyboard with one hand and a tambourine with the other.

"We definitely want to get a little heavier live. We've been pretty soft. When we play a festival in Europe and the last act has been really heavy or dance and then we come out with a flute, well..." he laughs.

But that haunting sound has proven bewitching. From the scene-setting opener "Acts Of Man" to the uncertainty of "The Courage Of Others" to the promise of (some) redemption on "In The Ground," it grows richer with each listen. ([Hear some tracks on MySpace right now.](#)) As a result, fans have crafted loving mash-ups, like this mix of "Acts Of Man" with footage from the brilliant silent film classic *Sunrise*.

NPR highlighted the album and called it "a gentle masterwork." Spin says, "these new old-sounding songs gradually burrow into your consciousness." Overseas -- where Pentangle, Bert Jansch and the like are household names -- the praise has been broader. Mojo and Uncut and Q have all praised it, with Q saying the band had "taken another great step forward" with an album that is "quietly epic."

But Pulido rejects the idea that they "get it" in the UK more easily than in the US.

"I wouldn't say it's a geographical sort of thing," says Pulido. "The reviews have been all over the place everywhere."

After the instantaneous and almost overwhelming praise for *Van Occupanther*, it's got to be hard to see some not pay the attention to the band's new work that their previous raves should have guaranteed. All Midlake wants is for people to live with *The Courage Of Others* for a while.

"The album's a grower," says Pulido, who runs an organic coffee company in Denton but insists it's more of a hobby than a going concern. "You know people in the media have stacks of CDs and only so much time and they play the first track and think, 'OK, that's what they're doing.' And maybe they've had a bad day or they ate something. And you think, 'Really? Just one track? We just spent two years working on



Fall

Comments (5,615)

DON'T MISS HUFFPOST BLOGGERS

◀ 1 of 5 ▶



Sen. Jon Tester

[Tester Pushes to Reform Senate Rules With Greater Transparency, Efficiency](#)



Steve Ballmer

[My Keynote Address at the 2011 International Consumer Electronics Show](#)

HOT TRENDS

camille grammer jennifer
connelly baby
bump jersey shore
raven symone weight
loss rebecca budig

People.com



Camille Grammer: Kelsey Made Me Do Real Housewives

[READ MORE ▶](#)



Rihanna to Launch Her First Fragrance

[READ MORE ▶](#)



POLL: Take Sides in Jersey Shore's Explosive First Feud

[READ MORE ▶](#)

[More Celebrity News at People.com](#)

PopEater



Beastie Boy Beats Cancer



John Legend Parties With Pauly D, 'Precious'

this.' We just want people to give it a listen."

That's happening in concert where they've been to Europe (hitting London's Shepherd's Bush venue among others) and now back in the US. Pre-show rituals include watching concert videos by Fairport Convention (of course) and Iron Maiden (!). And savoring what they've accomplished. They've engineered their lives so they can make the music they want and share it without any outside expectations or debt to force them into creative or business decisions they would regret.

"We want to be in the moment and know, hey, we're with our friends and we made some music and here we are in Shepherd's Bush, this beautiful space, playing for 2000 people and we get to see the world," says Pulido. "We want to appreciate that."

They want to appreciate it and do it again. Soon.

"We definitely want to record the next album faster," says Pulido. "We want to have less down time. We want to record and be out there. I like touring! I like being in a band."

And maybe by the time the new album appears, people will have caught up with their last one.

Thanks for reading. *Visit Michael Giltz at his website and his daily blog. Download his podcast of celebrity interviews and his weekly music radio show at Popsurfing and enjoy the weekly pop culture podcast he co-hosts at Showbiz Sandbox. Both available for free on iTunes. Link to him on Netflix and gain access to thousands of ratings and reviews.*

Follow Michael Giltz on Twitter: www.twitter.com/michaelgiltz

Related News On Huffington Post:

SXSW 2010 Live Sunday Interactive Keynote: Valerie Casey

Casey, founder and Executive Director of the Designers Accord, works with organizations all over the world to create positive social and environmental impact. She has...



#SXSW : The Best Panels, People and Moments from 2010 (VIDEO, POLL)

#SXSW 2010 has some of the hottest speakers and thinkers in the tech world presenting this weekend in Austin. We'll be updating this page with...

More in Entertainment...

Camille Grammer's
Porn Past Comes
Back To...

Taylor Swift & Jake
Gyllenhaal Break
Up:...

Pregnant Natalie
Portman Shows
Growing Baby
Bump...

Raven-Symone
Shows Off Dramatic
Weight Loss,
Talks...

Comments

0

Pending Comments

0

[View FAQ](#)

Comments are closed for this entry

[View All](#)

Recency | Popularity



**John Edwards Proposes to
Mistress Already?**

[More Celebrity News at Popeater.com](#)

TOP VIDEO PICKS

1 of 9



**Paltrow Dishes on Cruise
Kiss**



**Raven Symone's Huge
Weight Loss**



**Jessica Szohr's Sobe Strip
Down**

MOST DISCUSSED RIGHT NOW



**Camille Grammer's Porn
Past Comes Back To
Haunt Her**

558 Comments



**Seth Rogen: I'm Not
Getting A Prenup**

42 Comments



HOT ON FACEBOOK



**Most Anticipated Indie
Albums of 2011
(SLIDESHOW)**

8 Comments



**Beastie Boys Rapper
Beats Cancer**

32 Comments



HOT ON TWITTER



**Which Stars Will Play The
Lead Roles In 'The Three
Stooges' Remake?**

66 Comments



**'Knocked Up' Sequel
Coming?**

18 Comments

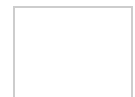
HUFFPOST'S BIG NEWS PAGES



Celebrity Body



Gulf Oil Spill



Soccer

Celebrity Skin	Howard Dean	Sex
Airlines	Video	MSNBC

MORE BIG NEWS PAGES »

FOLLOW HUFFINGTON POST

SEARCH

FRONT PAGE	POLITICS	BUSINESS	MEDIA	ENTERTAINMENT	COMEDY	SPORTS	STYLE	WORLD	GREEN	FOOD	TRAVEL	TECH	
LIVING	HEALTH	DIVORCE	ARTS	BOOKS	RELIGION	IMPACT	EDUCATION	COLLEGE	NY	LA	CHICAGO	DENVER	BLOGS

[Advertise](#) | [Log In](#) | [Make HuffPost your Home Page](#) | [RSS](#) | [Careers](#) | [FAQ](#) | [Contact Us](#)

[User Agreement](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Comment Policy](#) | [About Us](#) | [Powered by Movable Type](#)

Copyright © 2011 TheHuffingtonPost.com, Inc. | "The Huffington Post" is a registered trademark of TheHuffingtonPost.com, Inc. All rights reserved.