

As Tall As Lions



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hat's with all the new indie rock bands? They are popping up around every street corner and magazine cover. Just as soon as the world gets tired of it, bands like As Tall As Lions put forth a strong effort to make the difference. The group visited Austin this summer for one night of persuasive musical bliss, and we were without doubt, convinced.

The guys opened their show with "Ghost of York," and with the first taste of Daniel Nigro's rich vocal cords, the mixed crowd was wholly engaged. The tune is particularly striking and generates lots of emotion, taking flight on its Coldplay-like orchestral choruses. As their set continued, I noticed more of Dan's vocal similarities to Chris Martin and to Circa Survive's Anthony Green.

The band continued their

presentation with songs such as "Be Here Now," "Maybe I'm Just Tired," and "Milk and Honey," all notable tunes. The New York-based group's show puts out a sense of tenderness without coming off as brittle, modest emo kids. The guys proceeded to rock their way into our hearts, and the last half of their set, mostly with songs from their newest, self-titled release. "Song for Luma" was an honorable mention for me. It unwraps gently, and then builds upon moody guitar chords, aligned with a rhythmic drum beat. Tension accumulated to a hot-tempered bridge and finished with a serene dismount from multi-instrumentalist Rob Parr on keys. The song was like sex, and in some cases, better.

Immediately following was an awfully warm rendition of "Stab City." This tune was delivered

as a sultry, jazzy number with mesmerizing bass lines and very theatrical lyrics and backing vocals. The bass really embraced me in this song, holding my hand, and making the entire tune a success. Bass player Julio Tavarez had dance moves like you wouldn't believe. Would you like a shake with those fries? As Tall As Lions ended their set with the crowd favorite, "Love Love Love," a beautiful song with radiant choir-like vocals and a oversized chorus reminiscent of a Flaming Lips tune. Being a bit over the top is necessary when describing love, don't you think? This band's elegant air makes for credible albums that come to life onstage.