

The New York Times

ArtsBeat

Culture News and Views



March 20, 2009, 3:52 pm

SXSW: Five Bands, And Fans As Nice As Pie

By [David Carr](#)

**SXSW
2009**

P.O.S. at the Rhymesayers tent: A big-hearted rapper with skills, but no attitude to match, P.O.S., a Minneapolis guy, blew through an amp thanks to freaky guitar work against a wash of beats and feedback. He shared the mic, and the glory, with several people he brought up on stage, and pulled the crowd in close. A former member of a punk band, he sampled some of the work, and his rhymes spilled out in irresistible cascades. He has the word “optimist” tattooed on his knuckles and he name-checked a guy named Obama in a chorus and handed out some advice: “Stand up for yourselves, you worthless ...” He laughed and smiled all the way through the packed show, a booming affair in this obscure corner of the bar district, and declaimed: “In us we trust, no rush for bucks.”