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Fame takes a back seat

Band puts music and camaraderie before all elseBy **David Lindquist**
Posted: January 2, 2009

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The members of Red Light Driver don't care about being the next big thing.

They may have gunned for fame as members of bygone bands such as Lunar Event and Pop Lolita, but today they make music as its own reward. That's the story behind the title of Red Light Driver's debut album, "... And Now We Can Be Ourselves."

ADVERTISEMENT "People try so hard to fit into some niche and milk it for all it's worth," guitarist Jonathan Harmon says. "We've been doing this long enough that we've done enough pandering to people. It's just not worth it."

"Really, the most important thing is the music and the friendship," adds vocalist-guitarist Derek Osgood. "I think if you get those things down, you'll have a better chance of doing something better."

Harmon, Osgood, bass player Mike Contreras and drummer Drew Reed made their relaxed and unfiltered album with Paul Mahern at the producer's home studio.

"It was actually amazingly easy going into the studio this time," Reed says. "I think, most of the songs, we'd go through one or two takes and we'd be done."

The quartet celebrated its CD release Dec. 13 at Radio Radio, and will perform tonight at the Melody Inn.

It's a cohesive album, inspired by friends in the music community, a rendezvous at an airport, and fresh starts for time-tested musicians.

"You'd be surprised how much we don't argue," Osgood says. "Our interests are so much the same that we're all on the same page."

Call Star reporter David Lindquist at (317) 444-6404.



Red Light Driver -- (from left) Derek Osgood, Jonathan Harmon, Mike Contreras and Drew Reed -- will perform tonight at the Melody Inn. - Photo provided by MFT Records

RELATED INFORMATION

Red Light Driver w/ 8-Bit Revival, the Banderas

» **When:** 9 p.m. tonight.

» **Where:** Melody Inn, 3826 N. Illinois St.

» **Tickets:** \$5. For more information, call (317) 923-4707.

Red Light Driver's new album, "... And Now We Can Be Ourselves," hit No. 6 on pop music critic Dave Lindquist's list of the Top Local Recordings of '08.

The top 5:

- » 1. Grampall Jookabox, "Ropechain."
- » 2. The Reverend Peyton's Big Damn Band, "The Whole Fam Damnily."
- » 3. Margot & the Nuclear So and So's, "Animal."
- » 4. Action Strasse, "American Gas Jive."
- » 5. Loretta, "Message Received, Not Understood."

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