Guster, Dennen softly rock the house

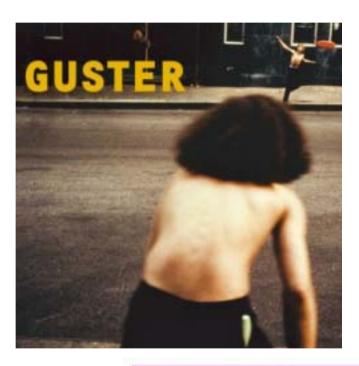
by Aaron Palmer Editor In Chief

Acousto-rockers Guster performed Friday night to a nearly full crowd.

"I was nervous because last time there was no one here," stated frontman Ryan. It's a surprise that this band still graces small venues. Due to lack of advertising this talented pop group goes unnoticed by many.

Unlike larger named acts of the same genre such as O.A.R., these guys have relied mostly on word of mouth to get their sound across. The humorous banter between the members livened up the show and ended spectacularly with a cover of the Cheers theme song.

The drummer of the quartet has a unique method for playing, which added another interesting visual. Only having recently added a small set to the stage, the drummer keeps his more often used standing hand drum set. Fully equipped with snare, bass and cymbals, the bongos have never sounded so loud.



An earlier surprise caught my attention as well. Brett Dennen's opening act drew my ear immediately upon entrance. The singer looked no older than twenty and sported an outfit fitting to a Vietnam vet. His sound was similar to Paul Simon with a very mature voice for such a young face. He looked just as confident as his music.

Frequently sticking his tongue out while getting into a song, he seemed to be enjoying the gig just as much as the crowd. Rarely can such popsounding acts hold true to their sound live, but Guster has held their career for a number of albums now for just that reason. It also wouldn't surprise me to hear Dennen's name in the near future.

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