

ENCORE

A black and white photograph of a woman with long hair singing into a microphone, and a man wearing a blue fedora and a checkered shirt holding a guitar.

ALMOST FAMOUS

Appeared on national television

Performed all over the country

CORN-FED COMEDY

*What's funny,
Who's funny,
How can be funny*

A CHANGE OF SCENERY

*Behind the curtain,
Ready for next scene*

Almost famous

They've appeared on national television and performed all over the country, but these Hoosier musicians are all about staying humble and true to their roots.



The Entertainers



The inside of The Vogue nightclub in Indianapolis is dark and humming with activity. People peer down from the balconies, and surround the stage, chatting and sipping beer. Stage lights cast a golden glow on the sea of waiting faces. A long, loud howl erupts from the crowd of 500 announcing Houndmouth's arrival.

The New Albany band dives right into their set hammering out bouncing chords and riffs. Katie swivels on her tip-toes and leans over the organ, long brown hair falling in her face. Zak and Matt face each other and smile, shuffling their feet to the music. The audience moves along, bobbing their heads. By the end of the show they'll be cupping their hands and yelling for an encore.



Mallory Lemieux, a friend of the Shane's from college, drove eleven hours from Brooklyn to Indianapolis to watch Houndmouth perform. Luke Denton, who went to high school with Zak in Clarksville, crosses his fingers as he says he thinks they are "one song away" from a huge break. The bandmates poke fun at each other and give shout-outs to family members who have come to support them on the

road. They play through most of their debut album, "From the Hills Below the City" and surprise the audience with tracks like the Beatles' "Carry that Weight." At one point, Katie takes up the drums, Shane plays lead guitar and Zak bangs on the organ. During one of Matt's knock-kneed and bluesy guitar solos, he jumps onto Shane's kit, balancing precariously on the bass drum while Zak shakes his head and smiles. Fans chime in with the harmonies during "Hey Rose" and cheer for the band's new material. After coming back on-stage for an encore, the show ends with the openers, the Wheeler Brothers, and Houndmouth sharing microphones for a joyful rendition of Bob Dylan's "I Shall Be Released."

Family, friends and curious new fans greet the band after the show. People flock to the merchandise table to pick up albums, posters and t-shirts. A man taps Matt on the shoulder. "Can I get your Herbie Hancock?" He obliges and searches for a Sharpie. The band will mingle with the crowd for a few more hours as the line at the merchandise table dwindles down. Though they're exhausted, tomorrow they're off to Chicago to do it all over again. It's just another day in the life of Houndmouth.

Back in their hometown of New Albany, it's easy to lose your sense of time. Rolling down Main Street is a journey of aesthetic contradiction. Tucked between exhausted brick buildings and mom-and-pop stores is renovated real estate like the shining new natatorium. Hopeful entrepreneurs watch their ventures sink or float in this Ohio River Valley town, but an assortment of boutiques and new restaurants suggest a sense of revival.

At the New Albanian Pizzeria and Public House, the guys are smiling and sipping beer at a table in the center of the restaurant. Evidently, they aren't tired of each other even after traveling in a six-seater van during their fall tour. Clad in flannel shirts and blue jeans, they avoid ordering the Houndmouth beer on tap – a bit too pretentious for them. Matt brags about the Starsky and Hutch t-shirt he scored at a thrift store across the river. The gamblin' and law-breaking outlaws in their songs feel far away.

Talking music is on everyone's mind, but first thing's first. "I hope we're putting all this on the band tab," says Zak throwing a joking glance at their manager, Chris Thomas. He gives an approving nod. But wait, aren't these rock-stars? They had "made it," right? "I mean, I still get ramen noodles at the grocery," admits Shane. And they're not quite sure what "making it" means to them anyway.



Katie Toupin:
- Organ
- Age: 24
- Favorite song on the album: Palmyra
- Cannot live without this on the road: My own hair dryer.



Zak Appleby:
- Bass
- Age: 28
- Favorite song on the album: Halfway to Hardinsburg
- Cannot live without this on the road: Clean underwear.



Matt Meyers:- Guitar
- Age: 25
- Favorite song on the album: Palmyra, maybe
- Cannot live without this on the road: "I wouldn't believe in anything if it wasn't for my lucky astrology mood watch." -Steve Martin



Shane Cody:
- Drums
- Age: 26
- Favorite song on the album: Halfway to Hardinsburg
- Cannot live without this on the road: "Reddit(website) tied 50/50 with Jason, our tour manager