

# Sea Of Red

## Reviews

Sea of Red has enough diversified musical offerings to keep even the worst A.D.D. case entertained. They kicked the show off with a "stomp on the floor, spit in the wind" rocker; then dropped a funk bomb of groovalicious flava. I thought the set list developed very logically with ebb and flow arranged for the best interest of the audience. What is particularly interesting about Sea of Red is the way the band members allow individual writing styles to surface. Without knowing for sure, it seems that the two guitar/keyboard guys and the bass player are the primary songwriters of the group. Each have their own vibe that weaves in and out of the sonic amalgamation: Brad, the bass player, has a prog / surf punk / alternative presence, Justin (guitar / keys guy #1) has an "intellarock" fusion influence and J's (guitar / keys guy #2) stage presence is simply all out rock-n-roll splendor. Their drummer Sean has some serious stamina. One of Sea Of Red's songs has him frantically pummeling the living poop out of his kit for a really long, long time. It's cool to watch someone really ring themselves out like that for the sake of good music. I had a great time and would recommend this band to anyone looking for something beyond the "joe average cover band" scene. Things of special note: Justin Nabors' lead guitar tone was thick like mad cow gravy all night.

### **Nate White**

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Well they didn't spit up blood. They didn't need to. They didn't need to blast their amps to 11, Their intensity didn't need to be forced. They didn't have perfect well-groomed hair and their sound lacked well-groomed brand identification. They failed to hide behind comfortable trends – no, instead they were out there just dishing it out like a season of atmospheres and if you were scratching your head trying to figure it out you should have been out there dancing instead. First off, these guys are not afraid of melody – even their drummer managed it – I'm not kidding – at one point the drums were putting it out like a guitar would somehow. I wish I could explain it better. The two guys playing guitar (when they are not playing keyboards) have very distinct styles whereby an architecture of sound is created. Its not just two guys muscling up a riff to make it stronger. The same definitely goes for the bass lines. Sea of Red seems to approach their sound from a variety of angles and then manages to work together so it fits tightly and logically. The result is that while they might offer up a creepy song or a surf song or a 70's style hard rocker, it still all flows back to the original inspiration of music as celebration and exploration. One minute in one part of the song it might have a Nick Cave or Joy Division/Smashing Pumpkins sound and the next it's got a bit of Alex Chilton/Big Star/Arthur Lee/Memphis soul and yet at no point do I feel like the fellas are yankin my chain or being slick about it. It's more a matter of where a voyage on a Sea of Red takes you. No they don't need to stuff their crotches with pickles or breathe fire or shove drum sticks in weird places. Did I mention they sing harmonies...

### **Eric Bohle**

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