

Contact Paul Kean
paul@thebats.co.nz
ph:0064.3.981.4828
cell:0064.27.2261336



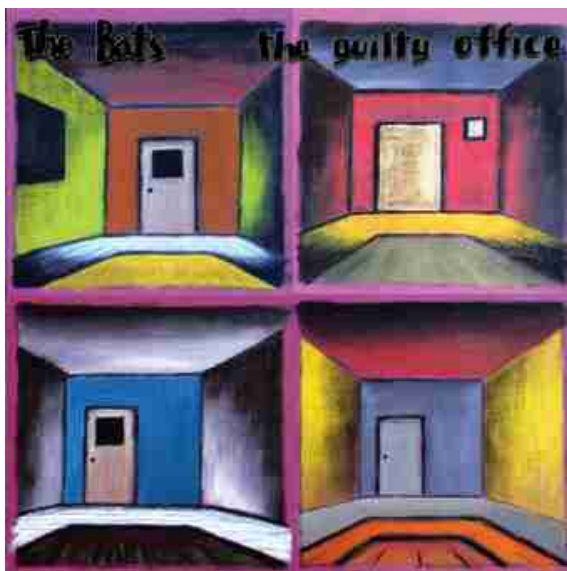
www.thebats.co.nz
www.myspace.com/thebatsnz
www.myspace.com/minisnap
www.myspace.com/pocketmusicnz

introducing

The Guilty Office

A FINE NEW ALBUM

available soon on Little Teddy, Parasol, Yes Boy Ice-cream and Kning



The Bats return to Orientation. Virtually every year between 1986 and 1996 The Bats toured the orientation circuit headlining in packed Uni halls around New Zealand between tours to USA, Europe and Australia. The band are very pleased to be back and sharing the stage with Mint Chicks and Liam Finn in the UCSA Ballroom for Thursday 26th Feb 2009.



A new Bats album, "The Guilty Office", was released in New Zealand by Arch Hill Recordings on 1st December 2008. Declared CD of the week in Groove Guide in January. The Bats take you to some dark places with this, their 7th full length album, but lift you up again to the bright shining light of love and laughter - "Wassling round the apple trees again" and "Searching for Sattelites in the Wanaka skies". USA/European release due March 2009.



"Castle Lights", the 2nd digital single off the album is a 3 minute joyride through a surreal shadowy landscape. Get swept along by a classic Bats dance beat with whirling guitars, strings, harps and uplifting choruses.



John Campbell selects The Bats new CD in his Top 5 for 2008

The Bats - The Guilty Office

John says: "Twenty-six years after they were formed, to make music as fresh and joyful as this is almost miraculous. Everything I want music to be. And Kaye Woodward is one of the two sexiest women in music."



In Australia a release for The Guilty Office has been confirmed through **Speak n Spell**. **Bats classic, North By North** features as theme music to the Australian series **The Hollowmen**.



A tour is in the planning stages for UK and Europe in May/June 2009

The Bats New Album

The Bats have garnered glowing reviews for their new album, *The Guilty Office*, which was originally recorded in spring 2007 at John Kelcher's purpose-built National Grid Studio in Heathcote Valley, Christchurch. The acoustics of the studio, designed as a pentagon with a high ceiling of 5 triangular panels, were perfect for capturing a rich warm Bats sound. Embellishments on the album include strings from guest musician, Alan Starrett, lead viola player with the **Southern Sinfonia** (Alan occasionally plays live with The Bats) and Harp from Katrina Thomson.



A quick guide to The Bats

Early in the 1980s, Robert Scott was playing with **the Clean** and sharing a flat in Christchurch (NZ) with Kaye Woodward. Robert taught Kaye some of his songs and also played with Paul Kean (**Toy Love** bassist) in **Thanks To Llamas**. The 3 got together to play at parties as **The Percy Taiwan Band** then expanded to include Malcolm Grant (from Bill Dieren's **Bilders** and **The World**) on drums. With this line-up they decided on the name **The Bats** and played their 1st gig at the Empire in Dunedin on New Years Eve 1982. 26 years later, the same line-up is still going strong, recorded their 7th album and planning their 6th international tour for 2009.

A few Bats career highlights

- 2005/06 - over 200 USA radio stations added tracks from "The Bats at the National Grid" to their playlists - featured on many top 20s and made it to No. 1 on 2 CMJ Radio Charts.
- Toured USA in 2006 (their 5th visit) including a sold out show at SXSW Music Festival in Austin, Texas.
- Toured to UK/Europe 4 times as well as hundreds of gigs throughout Australia and NZ.
- "Fear of God", The Bats 4th album, spent 3 months on the French top 50 charts.
- Toured 14 dates in USA with Radiohead in 1993.
- Achieved NME Single of the Week for "Made Up In Blue", the 1st Flying Nun UK release.
- "Daddy's Highway" featured with a glowing review on the cover of Billboard Mag.
- No. 6 on CMJ Top 100 charts in USA with their 5th album, "Silverbeet".

www.thebats.co.nz

Check out the official website for lots of info, videos and stories or contact the band directly.

Album Releases



Daddy's Highway 1987



The Law Of Things 1989



Completely Bats 1990



Fear Of God 1991



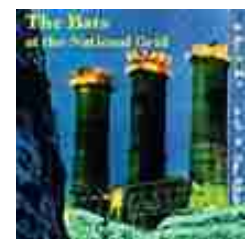
Silverbeet 1993



Couchmaster 1996



1000's of Tiny Luminous Spheres 2000



National Grid 2006

Live review

When the Bats get their teeth into it, it can range anywhere from light, diaphanous guitar based psychedelica to rousing, bittersweet hymns for the hard pressed parishioners of a brutal machine age, from melancholy chorales for the disenfranchised to electric sea shanties full of foreboding, from up beat amplified folk music for belligerent morris dancers to light "progressive rock" (with maybe some of the artiness, but definitely none of the pretensions which that label usually implies) and the full range was on display tonight.

(From a live Sydney gig review by **John McPharlin**)

GROOVE GUIDE ALBUM OF THE WEEK January 2009

THE BATS The Guilty Office

New Zealand should thank god for The Bats. Since the early '80s they've been serenading us with their sweet and innocent pop melodies and keeping us in a pseudo-indie trance. The Guilty Office is the seventh studio album from The Bats and another unassuming gem. It's a beautiful follow up to The National Grid and doesn't deviate from their well-worn and much-loved formula of strings, catchy lyrics, lazy summer vocals, twinkling guitars and seriously good songwriting. Single, 'Crimson Enemy' encapsulates all of this and more. If The Bats wanted to kill you with one of their tunes, I'm sure they could. But they never do. It's painful enough that they keep their song pop-format short. They could over indulge, but they don't. When I hear 'Afternoon In Bed' or 'The Rays' I never want those songs to end. Well done The Bats!
Rhys Morgan

The Guilty Office - The Bats Under The Radar Review: 25th November 2008

It's The Bats, one of the last true strongholds for the NZ indie sound first gathered up through the Flying Nun stable. This album is a sparkling little gem filled with instant tunes and light songs that seem to seep into the mind. It's very welcoming.

This is some of The Bats' finest work, with each song turning back on itself and re-offing a new example of an underlining theme. This is what experience can do for a band; knowing when to leave gaps and not fill things up with overboard sounds.

If this album falls on enough ears through the worlds indie circuit it will be a big hit.

8.3 /10

METRO February 2009

"... profound joy and sadness and the richness of everyday experience hide behind ordinary lives everywhere and The Bats capture that resonance better than ever on The Guilty Office. A recording of 12 unpretentious miniatures beautifully captured and thankfully bereft of the jangle of old..."

Gary Steel

The Orchard is, simply, one of the greatest pop songs Robert Scott has ever written. - Blog space.

The Bats - The Guilty Office - By Brock Thiessen

It's hard to go wrong with the Bats. For more than two decades, this New Zealand foursome have been a stunning model of consistency, with their albums serving as prime examples of that much-loved kiwi pop jangle. And The Guilty Office is no exception. Following up on 2005's excellent At the National Grid, the group's seventh album proper finds Bats principal/Clean bassist Robert Scott leading the group through a set of low-key, yet moving, heart-on-sleeve pop songs. And like last time out, the Bats push forward a cleaner, more acoustic-leaning sound, in many ways picking back up and expanding on the straight-ahead, hit-you-in-the-gut approach of the group's seminal 1987 debut, Daddy's Highway. At times, the record's a bit more downbeat than usual — perhaps highlighted best in The Guilty Office's standout, put-on-repeat title track — and there's more use of orchestral devices such as strings and harp. There aren't any big surprises but there aren't any disappointments either, just the Bats sounding as great as ever. (Arch Hill)

Interview with Robert Scott and Guilty Office review <http://www.lumiere.net.nz/reader/item/1980>



Paul Kean – Malcolm Grant - Kaye Woodward – Robert Scott

