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Hickoids

Live at Padres (Marfa, TX)

This is a review of *Viva Big Bend - Day 4: Padre's on Sunday*, July 29, 2012.

"I think this is the loudest band in the entire festival," commented one audience member, who was on her fourth straight day of helping run the inaugural *Viva Big Bend* music festival and industry conference. Indeed, that was the case. Most of the 50+ artists booked that weekend ran more along the lines of singer/songwriter, Americana, or venturing into the realm of pleasant, organic country, rock, and bluegrass. But the Hickoids were a special case...as they tend to be.

The crowd at *Padres* had just been treated to a sweet, endearing set by *Matt the Electrician*, who was joined onstage by *Scrappy Jud Newcomb*. Matt ended with an audience request, a delightful narrative called "Angela" about his reluctant but surprisingly helpful experience at a Walmart auto service center. Transitioning from that to the Hickoids could not have been more of a shock.

While the Hickoids put on an admittedly "safe" set by their standards, *their* "safe" is another band's "utterly debaucherous." They were loud, to be certain, but lead singer *Jeff "Smitty" Smith* remained relatively sweat-free and fully clothed further into the set than usual. The audience even seemed cautiously optimistic that the Hickoids were merely a louder version of some of the rockabilly bands they'd seen earlier in the fest.



Rice Moorehead & Davy Jones
*Wouldn't *you* trust these fellows?*

accurately...*altered its state*. By the end of the show, the crowded room was comprised of entirely different people—younger, drunker, and a bit more Hickoids-appreciative—than those who had watched Matt and Scrappy Jud.

The Hickoid's show was spot-on. Though more conservative in their presentation than usual, the Hickoids always put on a boisterous show that's musically tight and infused with the essence of sex, drugs, and rock 'n' roll. Onstage the Hickoids emit a humble-yet-cocky confidence, almost an indifference to what's around them. They seem cock-sure that they are the most compelling band on any given bill (and few would argue otherwise). On a night when they were sandwiched between Matt's amiable songwriting and Texas Tycoons' adult contemporary cover tunes, the Hickoids ruled the roost by virtue of default. And as the next-to-last band of a 4-day festival, the Hickoids left Marfa and the Viva Big Bend festival with a unique, loud, and poignant musical taste in their gaping, wide-open mouths.

10.18.2012 - *Wiley Koeppe*



[Hickoids Artist Page](#)

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