



Booking Contact:
Daniel Padgett
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Bio

On their debut album, Chicago's Outlaw Family Band draws from the sources that move them most, such as early 20th century narrative ballads, bluegrass instrumentation, and the raw, instinctive guitar leads of Neil Young to create the unique murder ballads and lovers' laments of our new century. Rocking at one moment and meshing four part harmonies with fiddle and banjo at the next, the record moves from style to style without losing what is at the core of the band - a dedication to stories well told through powerful lyrics and bent strings.

For years the Family followed a familiar Midwestern trajectory, honing their craft with regular gigs at home during long winters and touring during summers. But the Family differs from other bands in that their struggles of youth, borne of a dogged determination and a little luck, has resulted in a record that accurately documents their footsteps in the paths of muses like Neil Young, Woody Guthrie, and Willie Nelson. These men gave the Family courage to make music that is honest, personal and true to their history. Years in front of audiences taught this band that their greatest asset wasn't an intricate solo or perfect time, but was instead the mood generated by *these* six people playing at *this* moment: an ineffable thing, a certain liveness, the elusive "feel".

OUTLAW FAMILY BAND	
Chicago, IL	
James Weigel guitars, vocals	Ryan Hinshaw fiddle, harmonica, vocals
Daniel Padgett bass, vocals	Ben Wright banjo, vocals
Justin Gillam guitars, vocals	Mark Corsolini drums, vocals
Brian Koehler pedal steel	

Preparation for recording included much thought and practice, but as soon as Jay Bennett and Dan Dietrich placed the microphones, the band played together as they had so many times before - live and in the moment. More rigid methods of recording likely would have precluded even putting a song like "The Drifter" to tape. The band had only played it twice before and never with their new drummer. But there was a little time left at the studio, so why not give it a whirl? After a couple of practice takes, a happy Family had their closing track. You can hear their amazement in the audio as the record ends. The freshness of the track captures the essence of the narrator, a man who's realized that he's been at the end of his rope for far too long and it's time to start pulling some cord in. Sure, the Family takes great pride in its musicianship, but their heroes would never trade the right feel for "studio perfection", and they aren't about to do so either.

The Family applied the same organic process to their artwork. Out of the many artists under consideration, they believed the multi-talented Jon Langford would have the most to say about their songs. But when it came time to provide him with guidance, they simply handed Langford a few rough tracks, told him the record was about some dead folks and grievous loss, and let him paint. His simultaneously silly and dead-serious Vegas cowboys strike the balance of humor, old New World dread, and fascination with American inertia that only the Outlaw Family Band can capture.





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Press

"Chicago's Outlaw Family Band are a wiry six-piece band whose sound is a merger of old-timey instrumentation, twangy lo-fi Southern rock and loose, back porch folk, all graced with Young-ian (read Neil) philosophies. The tracks on their self-titled full-length debut were captured fresh, much as they perform them, live and in the moment."

— *MilesOfMusic.com*

"This rootsy Chicago band knows how to get epic and atmospheric without sacrificing its rough edges."

— *Des Moines Register* (Des Moines, IA)

"A folk-rock/country-grass group from Chicago, the Outlaw Family Band works banjo against electric guitar and drives the rhythm on its just released self-titled debut album. The record comes from Slackjaw and was recorded by former Wilco guitarist/multi-instrumentalist Jay Bennett at his Pieholden Suite Sound Studio. That pedigree ought to be enough, but the nine-song disc delivers regardless of who produced it, with balladry, instrumentals and some serious rock'n'roll attitude underlying everything."

— *Lincoln Journal Star* (Lincoln, NE)

"The debut album from this Chicago based six piece is a curious combination of Neil Young type grunge guitar mixed with bluegrass banjo and fiddle...The singing and playing are of a high standard throughout, and the lyrical content, although revealing a predilection for some rather macabre subject matter, is always interesting, and has clearly been strongly influenced by the American folk ballad tradition. Well worth a listen."

— *Americana-UK.com*

"...(one) of Chicago's best roots rock bands."

— *Chicago Sun-Times* (Chicago, IL)

"From the bluesy 'The Drifter' to the rockin' country of 'Queen of Desire,' these cleverly-crafted nine originals are sure to please the alt-country sect."

— *Cityview* (Des Moines, IA)

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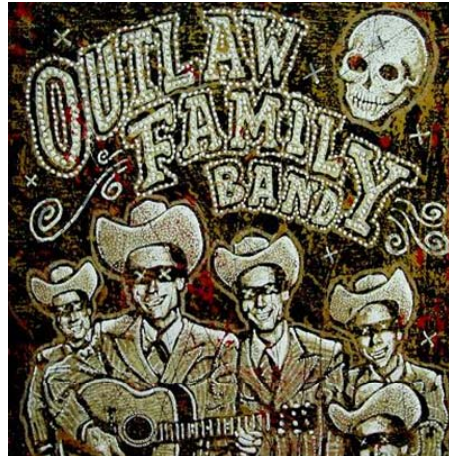
Album Facts

Outlaw Family Band:

James Weigel - Guitars and Vocals
Daniel Padgett - Bass and Vocals
Justin Gillam - Guitars and Vocals
Ryan Hinshaw - Fiddle and Vocals
Ben Wright - Banjo and Vocals
Mark Corsolini - Drums and Vocals

Tracks:

1. Queen Of Desire (J. Weigel)
2. Birchmont Hotel (J. Weigel)
3. Caroline (J. Weigel)
4. Ravenswood Getaway (Part 1) (B. Wright)
5. Light Of My Back Door (D. Padgett)
6. Waste Of Time (J. Weigel)
7. WWII (B. Foley)
8. When I'm Gone (J. Weigel)
9. The Drifter (J. Weigel)



Production Notes:

Tracks 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9 ASCAP. Track 7 Blaze Foley Music (BMI).

Jay Bennett plays organ and piano on track 9. JP Nowak plays drums on tracks 3 and 6.

Tracks 3, 6, 8, 9 engineered by Jay Bennett at Pieholden Suite in Chicago, Ill.
Tracks 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 engineered by Dan Dietrich at Wall To Wall in Chicago, Ill.

Mixed by Jay Bennett and Outlaw Family Band.
Mastered by Dan Dietrich.
Produced by Jay Bennett and Outlaw Family Band.

Original cover art by Jon Langford.
Photography by Jenn Liming.
Layout and design by Elizabeth Smith.

Label:

Slackjaw Records
David Wilson
cowboydave@slackjawrecords.com
www.slackjawrecords.com

Distribution:

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Venues

Outlaw Family Band has toured extensively, playing stages throughout the Midwest and Southeast, including:

Metro (Chicago, IL)	The Trap (Nashville, TN)
Double Door (Chicago, IL)	Stillwater Saloon (Nashville, TN)
Hideout (Chicago, IL)	40 Watt (Athens, GA)
Schuba's (Chicago, IL)	Tasty World (Athens, GA)
Fitzgerald's (Chicago, IL)	Star Bar (Atlanta, GA)
Abbey Pub (Chicago, IL)	The Hummingbird (Macon, GA)
Martyrs' (Chicago, IL)	The Nick (Birmingham, AL)
Stagger Inn (Edwardsville, IL)	400 Bar (Minneapolis, MN)
Underground City Tavern (Springfield, IL)	Lee's Liquor Lounge (Minneapolis, MN)
Walnut Tap (Des Moines, IA)	Turf Club (St. Paul, MN)
Hairy Mary's (Des Moines, IA)	Local 506 (Chapel Hill, NC)
Vaudeville Mews (Des Moines, IA)	Cumberland's (Charleston, SC)
People's (Ames, IA)	Off Broadway (St. Louis, MO)
The Mill (Iowa City, IA)	Frederick's (St. Louis, MO)
Cactus Club (Milwaukee, WI)	Way Out Club (St. Louis, MO)
Stone's Throw (Eau Claire, WI)	Record Bar (Kansas City, MO)
Cunningham's (Kearney, NE)	
Zoo Bar (Lincoln, NE)	
Knickerbocker's (Lincoln, NE)	

Sharing the stage

Outlaw Family Band has had the pleasure of sharing the stage with artists such as:

Billy Joe Shaver	Robbie Fulks
Wayne "The Train" Hancock	Local H
Rex Hobart & The Misery Boys	Unknown Hinson
The Nadas	Justin Earle
Michael McDermott	Old No. 8
FortyTwenty	Steepwater Band
JT and The Clouds	Ol' Yeller
The Giraffes	

