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Nickel Creek draws on latest record at Indy show

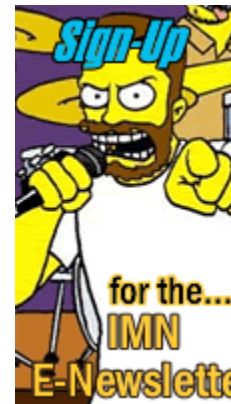
Story by *Jeannie Hayes* - Photos by *Stephen Cohen* -

10/23 @ Murat Egyptian Room

Nickel Creek came to Indianapolis with grace, energy, and a desire to present not only a live version of their third CD, "Why Should the Fire Die?" but also to play great songs from their previous releases.

They didn't waste any time doing either as they took the Egyptian Room stage with a very supportive audience at their feet. "When In Rome" started the evening off, receiving enthusiastic applause that never ceased throughout the night. The song proved that this young band's ability to harmonize, as displayed on their records, also works live.

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Nickel Creek's Chris Thile

The very charismatic mandolin player Chris Thile was personable with the crowd, giving acknowledgement to the Indianapolis Colts for winning their seventh game in a row. The band in general was very interactive between songs. The group expressed their utter shock at the size of the rather diverse, family friendly audience before playing "Ode To A Butterfly," off their self-titled CD. The song proved to be a good time with a kick-ass fiddle jam full of down-home fun.

The four musicians, the three members of Nickel Creek and Mark Schatz on bass, played off each other with great ease. Sara Watkins, however, stole the show during the band's performance of "Anthony" off their new album. All three gentlemen gathered around the talented fiddle player conveying the feeling of attending an old-time southern fair. The only thing topping that moment was their rendition of "Toxic." I actually clapped for that song after hearing their version.



Nickel Creek's Sara Watkins

As the show progressed, Thile presented "Stumptown," a song conceived while on lots of coffee. Here's to consuming caffeine! "Scotch & Chocolate" closed the night proving that the energy of this band goes all the way to the end.

Nickel Creek stepped off the stage just for a short time before jumping right back on to create their own rendition of "Up On Cripple Creek" by The Band. Sara warned the audience of the madness that was their interpretation of the beloved classic, and invited all of us to sing along. "Why Should the Fire Die?" was the final song and it delivered a very intimate farewell. A song that was recorded around one mic was performed just as such. It seemed as though all were holding their breath until the end of such a great experience.



Nickel Creek's Chris Watkins

-- Jeannie Hayes --

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