

THE TOUHCATS

OUR STORY

VOTED **BEST ROOTS ACT**
2008 PORTLAND PHOENIX BEST MUSIC POLL

Joe Nelson sings, plays his National guitar and dislikes 3-pronged forks. Colin Gulley plays the banjo, the mandolin, and can bowl over 200. Jake Greenlaw is the drummer; his kit includes a suitcase and a rumpled piece of copper. He sings sweet harmonies and breaks fourteen brushes per show. He is also a big fan of Hall and Oats and green tea. The Toughcats hail from the island of North Haven, 12 miles off the coast of Maine, (population 350).

Piñata, the Toughcats' first official album, was recorded in Waterman's Community Center on the island in January, 2006. The band recorded and mixed the album and posted a few tracks on their Myspace page. Kramer (renowned producer and former Butthole Surfer) heard the tracks, loved them, and offered to master the album. It was completed in July 2006, and the band has been selling them (from a suitcase, of course) ever since.

The Toughcats tour New England regularly. They have also made multiple national tours playing music and film festivals, theaters, bars, boats, and fields, and everything in between. They have shared the bill with bands such as Kathy Mattea, Hot Buttered Rum, The Mammals, Tony Trischka, Noam Pikelnny, The Rowan Brothers, Sam Bush, The Avett Brothers, The Red Stick Ramblers, and many more. They have been featured on NPR's All Songs Considered, and their music has been used on NPR's All Things Considered. They have performed and recorded multiple film sound tracks, and also performed in *Milkman The Ballet*, a special live performance of Deerhoof's *Milk Man*, which was attended by the band itself and garnered international attention from Pitchfork, Billboard, and music lovers alike. (And, apparently, fans of 3rd grade ballet.)

The Toughcats play a mean live show. They take the stage and reel off a blistering string of short tunes that leave you breathless. Then they launch into a slow, sweet one, like "Thunderbird" that gives you just a second to catch your breath. Before you know it, that slow, sweet song gets quicker and hotter, and they're back to their breakneck pace again. Jake Greenlaw's feverish drumming and palpable energy draw justified comparisons to Animal. Joe Nelson, along with his driving rhythm guitar and effortless leads, has a voice that's equal parts Tom Waits and Beck. And Colin Gulley is equally clever on banjo or mandolin, polishing it all to a bluegrass sheen.

But you have to see it.

THE TOUHCATS PO BOX 364, NORTH HAVEN, ME 04853
PHONE: 207-776-8433, EMAIL: GULLEY@TOUHCATS.COM
WWW.TOUHCATS.COM

