



Band: Illicitizen

Musical Idioms: Indie Rock, Electronic, Soul

In between bands, **Eric Cavanaugh** started Illicitizen as a solo experimental project. After some initial success he fleshed out the ranks with a programmed rhythm section and bassist **Maria Zaccaro**. Zaccaro's use of the bass as both a rhythm and melody machine cements the thoughtful lyrical content with steely support. The two moved forward writing fifteen songs for their first album they released June 4, 2010. This music moves to the space beyond the post-punk and R&B that inspired the two to start playing music. The duo started playing live shows in October of 2007. Over this time they have played 175 shows in the Eastern US and have now started regularly booking in New York City. They have been steadfast in that every song should sound different and provide some diminishment of tired genre identifications. The pair embark on "Feathers and Wax" their 2nd recording, this time with [Mike Caffrey](#) ([Monster Island Studios](#)) at the production helm.

Band Hometown: Charlotte, NC USA

Band Members:

Eric Cavanaugh - Vocal, guitar, programming, synth, harmonica.

Maria Zaccaro - Bass guitar; programming.

Latest Self-Release: "Illicitizen" CD SGE005 (available online at iTunes, Amazon, and other fine stores in physical media June 4, 2010). Locally it is available at [Lunchbox Records](#) in Charlotte, NC.

Influences: Talking Heads, James Jamerson, Brian Eno, MoTown, David Bowie, Frank Sinatra, Roxy Music, Patti Smith, Stax, Ivo Watts-Russell, Bugs Bunny, Pylon...

Radio: UK

97.2 FM Brighton 106.6 FM Bradford

USA

WEND 106.5 FM Charlotte NC

WUSC 90.5 FM Columbia SC

WRFS 102.1 FM Savannah GA

WCOM 103.5 FM Carrboro NC

WLRZ 99.3 FM Hickory NC

WQFS 90.9 FM Greensboro NC

WWCU 90.5 FM Cullowhee NC

SCAD Radio Savannah, GA

BearCast (Univ of) Cincinnati,

OH

Television: WCCB TV-18 Charlotte NC

Live Venues: ([Complete list to 1/25/2012](#))

• **Charlotte, NC**

- Tremont Music Hall
- Visulite Theater
- Snug Harbor
- The Evening Muse
- Amos' Southend
- Milestone Club
- Double Door Inn
- Jackson's Java
- PreVue Music Hall

- SK Net Café
- Irish Cue
- The Keg & Cue
- Common Market
- Jeff's Bucket Shop
- Smokey Joe's
- Salvador Deli

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- **Others in the Carolinas**
 - Chapel Hill, NC - The Cave
 - Raleigh, NC - Champions Music Hall, Slim's Downtown
 - Durham, NC - The MarVell Center
 - Spartanburg, SC - Ground Zero
 - Fayetteville, NC - The Rock Shop
 - Wilmington, NC - The Soapbox Lounge, The Juggling Gypsy
 - Winston-Salem, NC - Elliott's Revue
 - Greensboro, NC - Somewhere Else Tavern
 - Charleston, SC - The Mill
 - Myrtle Beach, SC - Fresh Brewed Coffee House
 - Sylva, NC - Guadalupe Café
 - Mill Spring, NC - Ultimate Basement
 - Greenville, SC - R3V3RB
 - Columbia, SC - Café Strudel
 - N Augusta, SC - The Highlander
 - Rock Hill, SC - The Money
 - Murfreesboro, NC - Zakk's Coffeeshouse
- **Other East Coast**
 - NYC, NY - Hank's Saloon, The Delancey, Otto's Shrunken Head, The National Underground, The Production Lounge
 - Brooklyn, NY - Trash Bar, Goodbye Blue Monday, Pine Box Rock Shop, Tommy's Tavern
 - Queens, NY - Terraza 7 Train Café
 - Binghamton, NY - Cyber Café West
 - Sayreville, NJ - Player's Rock Lounge
 - Chicago, IL - The Elbo Room
 - Danbury, CT - City Ale House
 - St Louis, MO - Fubar
 - Columbus, OH - Bernie's Distillery
 - Cincinnati, OH - Blue Rock Tavern
 - Memphis, TN - The Buccaneer
 - Greenbrier, TN - Loudhouse
 - Atlanta, GA - Smith's Olde Bar, WonderRoot
 - Washington DC - The Asylum
 - Chesapeake, VA - Winston's Café
 - Athens, GA - Terrapin Brewery
 - Savannah, GA - The Wormhole
 - Richmond, VA - The Czar, The Triple



Reviews

[Illicitizen – October 28, 2011 Live Review](#)

Live Limelight

Stan Says:

Illicitizen has a great sound that isn't heard often anymore. Very much a new wave sound yet not in a bad way. I say that because I almost feel like I'm insulting them by calling them a "new wave" band, as they're so much more than that. Initially I did hear a distinct Talking Heads sound, with Elvis Costello thrown in and some Joe Jackson (minus the piano). Illicitizen consists of two members, Maria Zaccaro and Eric Cavanaugh. Maria plays bass and has programmed the sequencer (and so much more) and is responsible for a large portion of their sound. Eric plays guitar and sings, which is why the rest of their sound relies on him. A great look all around as well as a great sound...The bass playing is fantastic, keeping the songs going yet great with Maria playing octaves and driving along runs. Eric's guitar solos are sharp and melodic. Maria doesn't smile, it's part of the attitude though and the stage presence, which all works toward the great sound that they have...([more](#))

This band is not just a retro show, they've got their own sound and are really an enjoyable show to see as well as hear. I look forward to hearing anything they've recorded as well as seeing them perform again. If you like your early 80's New Wave with a modern twist, this is definitely the band for you. I happen to love that people are still into that sound!

Jodi Says:

Eric Cavanaugh and Maria Zaccaro are what comprises Illicitizen. Maria plays bass mostly though I believe she did help program the machine that does drum beats and other random stuff for them. Eric does the vocals and guitar work. Their sound is definitely a pop/folk/indie sound that reminds me of the Talking Heads, crossed with Elvis Costello. Later in the set, I also heard what reminded me of They Might Be Giants, and also for just a moment Eric reminded me of the lead singer for Crash Test Dummies.

I was very impressed with the intricate bass lines that Maria threw all over the place. She had a song or two that reminded me of the Red Hot Chilli Peppers bass lines, and she definitely holds her own during the song creating a very fine underlying mesh of sound for Eric to work with. Eric does a few "talky" songs, which are not high on my list of things I enjoy in a song. They are minimal though, as most of the time he's singing and he has a very good vocal range. Later in the evening, they covered "Psychokiller" by the Talking Heads, further emphasizing that similar sound... ([more](#))

[The Illiest of Citizens](#) Interview

33 Magazine (NC)

By Correspondent: John Winn Fri, Apr 01, 2011

Illicitizen, Driven, and Drunk and Disorderly play Somewhere Else.

Greensboro may have been more sedate than usual the evening of March 12, but as the street hummed with traffic, one tavern nearly throbbbed with the sound of ear-splitting bass.



[Illicitizen - Illicitizen](#) CD Review

The Pop Stalinist

Charlotte, North Carolina's Illicitizen are Eric C...

Charlotte, North Carolina's Illicitizen are Eric Cavanaugh and Maria Zaccaro and their first release, self-titled, is an eclectic mix of fluent blues guitar playing and soft, rhythmic synths and programming to back it up. The two-piece have combined their musical skills expertly to create this great first album, a real testament to their hard work and tireless effort.

[A HOMEGROWN ACT WORTH WATCHING](#) Live Preview

Local Flavor (by Courtney Devores CLT/Charlotte Observer 6/4/2010)

Illicitizen:

WHO: Quirky and original male/female...

Illicitizen:

WHO: Quirky and original male/female indie-rock duo of Eric Cavanaugh and Maria Zaccaro that forgoes the popular guitar/drums configuration of most mixed-gender pairings in favor of guitar, bass and vocals against programmed rhythm tracks.

[CD review: Illicitizen](#) - S/T

Creative Loafing Charlotte 6/1/2010 CD Review

(By Jeff Hahne)

The Deal: Charlotte's Illicitizen independently releases its debut, self-titled CD on June 4. The Good: It's not easy to try and categorize the music of Illicitizen – hints of '80s rock, dark mod, indie rock, blues, punk, folk – combined with the fact no two songs sound the same musically. "Detached" reminded me of the tone of "Hurdy Gurdy Man" – though I couldn't decide if it was closer to Donovan or Butthole Surfers interpretation. The music retains a stripped-down, garage feeling to it, without sounding cheap or "high school." "New New One" had the vibe of a song from the 1950s with some punk riffs thrown over the top of it. "Two Eggs Any Style" uses a bit of a reggae groove in it.

[Illicitizen](#) Live Preview

Charlotte Creative Loafing

Illicitizen - Bands that meld together lots of styles of music are usually either A) lauded, more often than not if they're a younger band, and thus "reveling in their influences" or B) vilified, for not mastering a particular style. Illicitizen's Eric Cavanaugh, a Charlotte music scene veteran (The Blots, the vastly-underrated-at-the-time Frocky Jack) suggests a third paradigm: an open-minded bandleader who enjoys throwing his phonetical fishbasket into the sea and making dinner with whatever happens to come up.

[Illicitizen](#) Homeless Benefit Preview

Creative Loafing (Charlotte) Music Menu TUESDAY, NOV. 20

ILLICITIZEN A Two piece featuring guitarist/singer Eric Cavanaugh (ex-The Blots) and bassist Maria Zaccaro, Illicitizen's demos for their upcoming full-length include promising touchstones from throughout the punk/post-punk era: the Jam's spiky beats, the Clash's agit-prop, early Elvis Costello snark, etc.

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[Illicitizen](#) 2007 Demos Review
Mog.Com

Illicitizen has posted up a latest demo that's well worth a listen. I played it 3 times in a row, and it got better every time. It's hard to fit their music into a category and this song, "Monstr0", has all the passion of the classic 60's Folk protest song, beefed up, with an element of Indie pop sensibility that draws my attention to The Verve's 90's Britpop.



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