

SPOTLIGHT

like church, only better



extra life

by Elisabeth McGuirk

The coolest thing about **Extra Life**, the experimental Brooklyn-based group led by guitarist/composer Charlie Looker, is the juxtaposition between Looker's ultra-clear voice and conversational lyrics—"This girl heard how New York works, she knows my name and where I apparently stand, she's got an eye out for who gets

crushed by who"—and the drama of the arrangements, especially in his angry, theatrical guitar. He doesn't sing the lyrics; he intones them, like an especially gifted and intense cantor. Extra Life's new record, *Made Flesh*, comes out in March. You can experience them live, and you should, **Feb. 20** at **Death By Audio**, 9 p.m., \$8, all ages. myspace.com/extralifetheband.

hands off my rock 'n' roll



tsi

by Andrew Magnotta

Not many bands do the "rock 'n' roll" thing anymore. Countless subgenres like hard rock, pop rock, prog, blues rock, rock metal or, the less popular, rock lobster make the blanket term appear to be the exclusive realm of middle-aged bar bands playing Stones

covers. That's what is so energizing about NYC's **TSI**, a band who has revived the term with an original, fast-paced, radio-unfriendly, balls-to-the-wall style. They'll be celebrating the release of their new album, *Hanging By A Thread*, **Feb. 22** at **Santos Party House** in **NYC**. myspace.com/tsiband.

keeping it classic

by Megan DiGuilio

Bringing back classic New York hardcore is **Killing Time**. Combining drop D chugs and many gang vocal chants, the band is getting ready to release their new album, *Three Steps*. The band offers a mix of hardcore and punk music, which gives off an energy that makes

you feel like you are in a garage or at basement show seeing your favorite band. They offer a refreshing break from the scenester, over produced hardcore being made by younger bands today. After going on three hiatuses, **Killing Time** is back touring and releasing their new record at Brooklyn's **Knitting Factory** on **Feb. 27**. Tickets are \$12. killingtimenyhc.com.

killing time

tuareg nomad rebel blues



tinariwen

PHOTO BY THOMAS DOHN

by Andrew Magnotta

Formed in 1979, **Tinariwen** did not record their first album until 2001. Having faced incredible hardship all their lives, the core of the eight-piece group stayed together playing as often as they could, even through the dangers of civil war and revolution in and around their homeland in the West African

nation of Mali. Their sound; inspired by the vast, beautiful and melancholy Sahara Desert where their latest album, 2009's *Imidiwan*, was recorded is reminiscent of early American folk and blues with distinct African strains. They will be playing the **Highline Ballroom** in **NYC** on **Feb. 18**. \$25 adv \$30 dos. myspace.com/tinariwen.

full scale metal

by Ani Cutt

If you are finding yourself in dire need to headbang or push grown men around, then make your way to **Dingbatz** in Clifton, NJ, to throw down with **Full Scale Riot** on **Feb. 20**. There will be plenty of metal guitar solos and hardcore chant vocals, but in 2010 the guys say they are making things even heavier. Whether this means more metal, more

hardcore, more breakdowns or more blast beats, you can't find out unless you're there! dingbatznj.com. myspace.com/fullscaleriotsquad.

full scale riot

brother color



bluebrain

by Ani Cutt

Coming from the same gene pool makes it a bit easier to agree on certain aspects of life, such as the type of music to play. **Bluebrain** is the duo of the Holladay brothers out of D.C. who just came out with

their entirely original electronic-pop full-length, *Soft Power*. They used to use aliases such as The Epochs to remix the music of artists like Ra Ra Riot, but now perform their own music. They will be at NYC's **Pianos** on **Feb. 22**. Bluebra.in.