



Presskit 

2008

## Biography

Junior Eats Alone is a new band with a rich past. With their old name 'Id' they managed to impress both fans and critics by releasing several promising demo's throughout the years.

Playing live shows, JEA has made a name for itself in the dutch music scene. They made it to the semi-finals of the 'Grolsch Great Prize' in 2006, played their songs live on the

### CD-Review *In Too Deep Live XS*, february 2004

"Nothing but praise and admiration for the recently recorded cd *In Too Deep* - such quality! Wonderful sincere songs with a rare uniqueness."

air of such radiostations as: 3fm and Radio West, and won numerous regional pop-competitions. JEA supported international acts on stage such as Damien Rice and Steve Wynn and the famous dutch Van Dik Hout, playing in Venues with the likes of Paradiso, Melkweg, LVC and Paard.

The band is often compared to Calexico and Radiohead and

even Dave Matthews Band. The press applauded Junior with comments such as: "original guitarpop full of melody with a light symphonic edge" (OOR Magazine), "wonderful sincere songs with a rare uniqueness - such quality!" (Live XS) and "a warm bath filled with melancholy" (Leidsch Dagblad).

In a completely renewed lineup including a full brass-section and a pianist, Junior has been working hard on his 'new sound'.

"Call it guitarpop full of melancholy, call it jazzy campfire songs or even call it catchy rock: I don't care. People say you can't be original anymore, but I feel there's plenty left for us to discover. Contrast is always present in our music: It's a lot of everything really. From huge compositions to

tiny songs: It's all there. Maybe the term to best describe our music is: 'subdued exuberance', although I really don't know what that means".

Since 2004, JEA has gathered a suitcase full of beautiful songs written and recorded in their own studio in Leiden. Sensitive lyrics, catchy melodies and multiple layers are what characterize them. Ron: "I always try to write songs that aren't about me. After two lines it usually turns out its autobiographical again."

The objective of the band is clear: to play as much as they can and to make beautiful records. "JEA is my medicin and my oxygen. The guys in the band can be my best friends or my worst enemies at times. Did I mention the word 'contrast' already? Hahaha".

## The band

<b>Ron Verton:</b>	vocals, acoustic guitar, electric guitar
<b>Rob Verbakel:</b>	electric guitar
<b>Alex Brittijn:</b>	bassguitar
<b>Michiel van Poelgeest:</b>	keys, percussion, vocals
<b>Robert Bakker:</b>	saxes, percussion
<b>Henri de Mooij:</b>	trumpet, percussion, vocals
<b>Daniel Follman:</b>	trombone, percussion
<b>Bas Ernst:</b>	drums, percussion, samples

## Reviews

### **3Voor12 Report of Bodog Battle on Saturday 17-11-07 in Melkweg (Amsterdam)**

“Warm jazzy rock and guitar-pop stirred by the brass-section, keys and percussion, and amplified by the almost soul-like sound of singer Ronnie Verton. Honest and beautiful music: no wonder this band allready was a support act for Damien Rice and Steve Wynn.”

### **Musicfrom.nl report of the final of 'Popterras' on Friday 03-09-07 (Vlaardingen)**

“Junior Eats Alone is really too big for this competition. The jury rapport of the semi-final allready stated that 'JEA did everything right - except for that maybe the stage was too small'. In the final on August 31st, this clearly was not the case as the band felt right at home on the main stage in Oranjepark. JEA beat the competition by a landslide”.

### **Bodog report of Bodog Battle on Wednesday 26-09-07 in Winston Kingdom (Amsterdam)**

“First to the stage, the crowd was treated to an incredible eight-piece jazz pop band called Junior Eats Alone. With impeccable musicianship, amazing balance between the so many instruments, and an incredible vocalist, these guys were absolutely amazing.”

### **Interview in Leidsch Dagblad, by Eliza Coolsma, Tuesday 12-02-08 (Leiden)**

“The kind of music Junior Eats Alone makes may be undefinable, the songs they play do have a lot of character. Ronnie Verton's lyrics are often filled with melancholy, but they're not dark or grim. He usually bases the songs on his own life experience, thus giving them an instant nostalgic value. “Sometimes I can really enjoy a sad feeling. Using simple words and

## Shows

### **Venues:**

Paradiso, Melkweg, Winston Kingdom (Amsterdam) - Paardcafé, de Paap (Den Haag) - Vega (Kopenhagen) - LVC (Leiden)

### **Support Acts:**

Damien Rice - Steve Wynn - Van Dik Hout

### **Festivals:**

Wantijpop - Zomerterras



sentences, I then try to convert that feeling into a lyric. It's that subdued exuberance again: we're great at making little songs.

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