



[KDHX Blog](#)

Independent music plays here.

## Concert review: Bryan Greenberg proves that music isn't an act at the Old Rock House, Saturday, December 18



[facebook.com/bryangreenbergfb](https://facebook.com/bryangreenbergfb)

When I hear the phrase “actor turned musician” used to describe an artist I tend to cringe. St. Louis native [Bryan Greenberg](#) showed us that he is best described as an actor *and* a musician with his set at the Old Rock House Saturday night.

Opening the show was [John Boy's Courage](#), the vehicle of Todd Sarvies, a singer and songwriter you may recognize from his second place finish in the MTV P. Diddy's Starmaker. The band put on a technically flawless performance, but the set seemed to lack the energy that usually flows between the performers and the crowd. Whether it was because the band was missing a member (bassist Mike Dyer was in school in Boston and unable to attend the performance) or the audience was just not connecting with them, there seemed to be something missing from an otherwise excellent performance.

The highlight of the set for me was the closing tune, which started shortly after drummer Taylor Smith had an equipment malfunction and continued on, playing the first half of the song without a functioning bass pedal. Smith and Sarvies seemed to find the spark that had been missing earlier in the evening and finished off their set with a bang. I have the feeling that my complaints would disappear if I were to see them perform in a

different setting with a more reactive crowd.

Bryan Greenberg, an actor best known for his roles in *One Tree Hill* and *How to Make It in America*, decided to finish his 13-week tour in St. Louis, which has been his home since the age of 12. He managed to end it in style with a high-energy show that blurred the lines between rock, folk, blues and funk. Greenberg and his backing band ran through a large portion of the tunes from the upcoming release *We Don't Have Forever*, a batch from 2007's *Waiting for Now*, and even a cover of the Elliot Smith tune "Twilight." Their entire set was explosive, the band switching from straight pop to ballad to all-out rock & roll and back again without missing a beat.

Watching the band interact with each other was a great pleasure. They all seemed to be familiar enough with the tunes and with each other that they could just sit back and enjoy themselves, which was obvious by the smiles that never left their faces. There were a few spots in the evening when the band drowned out the vocals, but I believe this was an issue with the sound levels in the venue.

Greenberg stated during the show that when asked whether he would give up acting or performing music if forced to pick one over the other, he would be unable to choose since he loves both equally. That fact is evident in the quality of the songs he has written. They stand on their own while giving nods to similar musicians, such as John Mayer and Jakob Dylan.

Greenberg and company decided to forego the traditional encore song, instead they headed down into the lounge area to have a meet and greet with fans who donated canned goods or cash to the St. Louis Area Foodbank. With his help, the Foodbank was able to collect enough to provide over 1,000 meals to those in need in the St. Louis area. With his guitar in hand and band at his side, one thing I am definitely sure of is that Bryan Greenberg was not playing the part of a musician tonight. There were no actors on that stage. There were four musicians giving everyone in attendance a pure rock & roll experience.

Posted by [Matt Champion](#) | December 19, 2010 | [Concerts](#) | [Comment](#)

## Comments

### Leave a Reply

Name (required)

Email Address(required)

Website