



# The Judah explosion

Judah Bauer (far right) with his Jon Spencer Blues Explosion bandmates, Russel Simins (left) and Jon Spencer (center).

PHOTO BY MICHAEL LAVINE

*As a founding member of the Jon Spencer Blues Explosion, Judah Bauer knows how to deliver a punch*

BY SUE ZALOKAR  
STAFF WRITER

When The Jon Spencer Blues Explosion formed in New York City in the early '90s, it was like they threw a bomb in the middle of the indie-rock and blues-punk scene — a non-lethal bomb with no bass. The combination of a cacophony of distorted guitars of Jon Spencer and Judah Bauer, the driving, syncopated beats of Russell Simins and the eerie sounds of the Theremin set the stage for a band that would forever be emblazoned in the minds and hearts of an audience that would follow them on their 20 year journey.

Make no mistake, were it not for the pioneering of these three visionaries, the road to fame might have been more rocky for the bands that would follow their lead:

Sleater-Kinney, The White Stripes and The Black Keys to name a few.

I spoke with Explosion lead guitarist and NYC resident Judah Bauer just hours before landfall of Hurricane Sandy. Bauer, seemingly unphased by the impending devastation that was barreling toward the East Coast, tidied his West Side apartment while we talked about — among other topics — the band's latest studio album, "Meat and Bone."

The Jon Spencer Blues Explosion will hit in Portland on Nov. 12 with an appearance at the Doug Fir. Sandy be damned.

**Sue Zalokar:** *Where are you?*

**Judah Bauer:** I'm on the West Side I

was out last night and it was completely deserted. Everything closed at six except for the people that wanted to see the spectacle. Some stuff has been blown over. It looks like the cops are out right now. Maybe they are shutting down a tunnel or something. I don't know. It sure seems like nothing is gonna happen, but who knows? It will all change in the next six hours.

**S.Z.:** *Are you aware of any services in place for the homeless population in NYC?*

**J.B.:** Yeah. There are like 70 shelters set up in the city. And there is free transportation. The city seems to be well

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