

Music

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Top live show

Indigo Girls



Photograph: Matt Odom

Highline Ballroom; Wed 15

In the lump-in-throat-inducing "Fleet of Hope," from Indigo Girls' latest and 11th studio release, *Poseidon and the Bitter Bug*, Emily Saliers likens herself to a fisherman at daybreak: "We will have caught on to something by the end of the day / But mostly we'll think about the one that got away."

This analogy captures the backward-glancing *Poseidon*, delivered, understandably, by a folk-pop duo that has been writing, performing and speaking truth to power for more than two decades—and that is now independent after being dropped by major label Hollywood in 2007. Saliers and her musical partner, Amy Ray, opted to go indie instead of being under another corporate thumb. It is both something of a "folk you," and also a testimony to their endurance, that *Poseidon* does not betray their now-mythic sound, however much it has been parodied as earnest lesbian folk-rock: Saliers's husky soprano challenged by Ray's deeper grainy timbre in braided harmony; gorgeous melodies and lyrics heaving with thought. The latest songs are about midlife morass, wrecked relationships and the spitting bitterness that comes with forsaking a dream. If your girlfriend dubbed their debut for you in college, say, replete with cover art featuring swirling psychedelic flowers drawn in crayon, you will be at this show: To let Indigo Girls into your heart is a lifelong commitment. And like old friends, they will indulge you, and sing "Closer to Fine."—*Karen Iris Tucker*