



"A thundering herd of Bull City heavies, Tooth's bludgeon is brisk and its vocals are vicious. Another notch in the increasingly proud belt of Southern metal, Tooth jabs eardrums like amplified jackhammers."

— Grayson Currin, *Independent Weekly*

"With its debut — best described as badass — Tooth digs into the legacy of Southern metal and hardcore, creating a searing sound akin to a burn from a deep-fryer, and ultimately the band creates its own brand of down-tuned, hell-bent monster."

— Bryan Reed, *Diversions (The Daily Tar Heel)*



Photo by Sam Roberts



Tooth / The Claw

1. Suicide Myth
2. Middle West
3. Better Living (Through Arson)

Release date: Sept. 11, 2009

Churchkey Records release #CKR005

Tooth is:

J-Me Guptill (vocals), Rich James (guitar), Ben Wilson (guitar), Ryland Fishel (bass), Noah Kessler (drums)

Friends since they met in the local mid-90s punk community, Durham natives Rich James, Ben Wilson, Ryland Fishel, Noah Kessler, and J-Me Guptill joined forces as **Tooth** in August 2006, after Rich returned from art school in Savannah, GA.

The band members' varied influences and tastes steer them away from the tedium of any particular metal sub-genre. They've described their sound with contradictory phrases like "stoner-thrash metal", and "death and roll".

In their years together, Tooth has become a room-filling favorite in the Raleigh underground hardcore scene, been voted the "best band in Durham County" by the readers of the *Independent Weekly*, and have played sold-out shows with such heavyweights as Baroness, Kylesa, Torche, and Annihilation Time.

Balancing a crowded live schedule with day jobs at gas stations and pizza parlors, the band found time to record its debut EP, *Animality*, with the renowned Jay Matheson at The Jam Room in Columbia, SC.

Their follow-up release, half of a split 12" EP with The Claw (Philadelphia) was recorded by NC legend Jerry Kee in 2008.