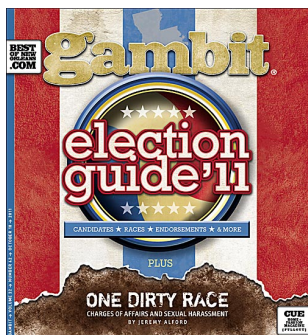


The Creole String Beans CD release at Mid-City Lanes Rock 'N' Bowl

There could be no better tip-off to what kind of local flavor the Creole String Beans offer on their new album *Shrimp Boots & Vintage Suits* than the opening snippet from Mr. Okra, chanting the sales call he broadcasts while driving his produce truck through local neighborhoods: "I have apples and bananas, I have Creole String Beans..." From there on, the album is a fresh harvest of the String Beans' guitar-and-saxophone throwback swamp rock and R&B. Filled with local veterans including Rob Savoy and Derek Huston, the band has become a fixture at local festivals covering classic New Orleans R&B, but this album is heavy on original tunes. Tracks name check odd local landmarks and customs, including "Funky Spillway" celebrating the Bonnet Carre Spillway, "St. Gabriel," named for the Louisiana Correctional Institute for Women at St. Gabriel, and the title track identifying a particular sense of fashion style in the band's anthemic party track. There's also a fun cover of the Allen Toussaint/Ernie K-Doe hit "Here Come the Girls" and a ramble through "Louisiana Fairytale." Tickets \$12. — *Will Coviello*



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