

SWIMWEAR DEPARTMENT

Short Bio

Swimwear Department is serious about having fun. The Houston, Texas dance-punk plays tunes about only two topics: Swimming pools and shopping malls. Frontman, Matt Graham, rouses crowds to take part in improvised line-dances and sing-alongs. The band is Graham plus Ned Gayle (bass), Jeremy Grisbee (keys) and Jack Gordon (drums). Together, the quartet exudes party power reminiscent of Electric Six, The Presidents of the United States of America, and The B-52s. One journalist called the Swimwear Department "refreshingly frivolous and fun proof that you can take subject matter that on the surface level may seem a bit silly and provide emotionally satisfying and even profound experiences."

Long Bio

Swimwear Department is a dance-punk band from Houston, Texas. All their songs are about swimming pools, shopping malls, and sometimes both.

In summer 2017, Ned Gayle challenged Matt Graham to create a band based on a band name. "It was kind of a dare, just something fun, like a writing prompt. Neither of us expected anything to come of it."

Three years later, Swimwear Department continues to gain momentum. The band is known for its frenetic live shows. They bring the party energy of Electric Six, The B-52s and The Go-Gos. There are sing-along gang shouts and all-in line dances.

"I wanted to make people dance," says Graham, "I wanted every song to have at least one part where everybody gets to sing. I wanted it to be fun, but uh, I never imagined it would be this fun."

Matt Jensen of *Divide and Conquer* calls Swimwear Department "...a refreshingly frivolous and fun brand of garage/surf rock...proof that you can take subject matter that on the surface level may seem a bit silly and provide emotionally satisfying and even profound experiences."

"I stay true to the whole malls and pools thing, but I can't help write about what's going on inside me. I think people get weirded out sometimes. Our songs are about malls and pools, but they're also about identity and change. We try to be really serious in what we say about our sort of silly topics. Somebody told me that's what campiness is all about, but I don't know."

One stand-out element of the Swimwear Department's sound is Ned Gayle's over-driven bass guitar. Gayle often pulls double duty, alternating between throwback soul basslines and licks usually reserved for a lead guitarist.

In its first three years, the band has been featured on the [NPR All Songs Considered Blog](#) and has performed at Bowie Elvis Fest, UTOPIA Fest and River Revival Festival.

Swimwear Department is Ned Gayle (bass), Jack Gordon (Drums), Matt Graham (vocals), and Jeremy Grisbee (keys).

Check out swimweardepartment.band for sights, sounds, shows and shopping!