

STITCHED SOUND

Issue #21



LIFE ON REPEAT

Culprit, We Are! The New Year, Burn The Charts, Safety Word Orange, and more!

I've Been Here Once Before

Let me start this off by saying “I’m sorry, I’m sorry!” The program that I use to create these issues “pooped” out on me right before I had to leave for vacation, which resulted in this issue being a bit late. I’m so sorry!

The month of June has been crazy, and that may be an understatement. I think that most of you who are in school can agree with me, that is if school continues into June for you. I can say that I have successfully made it through the school year though!

But anyway, this issue is filled with a ton of reviews, some very interesting interviews, and I really hope that you enjoy it! It’s definitely one that we’ve worked pretty hard on and I am really proud of all the work that we’ve done!

Stitched Sound is an online magazine that brings you the latest news about upcoming and distinguished bands. We do this through interviews, journalism, reviews, updates, and photography. Keeping the mood light and fun is something we love to do. Whether it's through an intriguing interview, simple update, or complete issue, we strive to bring you news and updates about the fast growing music scene today.

Cynthia Lam

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Interview with Founder Jamie Tworkowski

TO WRITE LOVE ON HER ARMS

When you first started TWLOHA what were you planning to accomplish?

I was just trying to help my friend Renee get through treatment. I wrote a story about the five days leading up to her entering treatment.

That story was called "To Write Love on Her Arms" and the surprising response to that story led to TWLOHA becoming a non-profit organization. Because of that surprising initial response, it was easy to believe that we had the opportunity to talk about these issues and help people on a bigger scale.

Looking back at the past five years, would you say that you are proud of everything that has been accomplished?

Yes I'm proud and I'm also very aware that TWLOHA is something much bigger than me. It's our staff and interns and it's people all over the world who consider themselves part of our community. I've met people that have told me that TWLOHA saved their life or it encouraged them to finally get help. Those things are certainly the heart of the matter.

If you had to describe TWLOHA and your vision in three words to someone, what would it be, and why would you choose these three words?

"Hope is real." Hope changes everything. Hope is a reason to stay alive. It's the belief that things can change, that things can get better.

I'm sure that you get quite a lot of messages all the time from kids battling depression, addiction, self injury, and suicide. How do you find a way to get back to all of them?

At first it was just me but now there's a whole team that responds. Our interns go through training and then they spend about half of each day at the office responding to messages. To me, it will always be the heart of what we do. And we continue to respond to each message that comes in, because each one represents a different story, a different life that matters infinitely.

Can you tell us about how TWLOHA was formed?

My friend Renee was struggling with drug addiction, depression and self-injury. She was denied entry into a treatment center in Orlando and spent the next five days with my friends and I. I wrote a story about our time together and posted the story as a blog on MySpace in February 2006. Then as an attempt to raise money for her treatment, I started printing and selling "To Write Love on Her Arms" t-shirts. Friends in bands started wearing the shirts and so their fans found their way to the MySpace page. People wrote in asking for help and how to help their friends. That's where everything started.

What is an inspiring story where To Write Love On Your Arms has helped someone?

We hear stories of someone that was close to suicide and they end up on our website, or they have a conversation sparked by one of

our t-shirts, and they choose to stay alive. Those are the stories that keep us going. Those are the stories that make it all worth it.

What foundations was TWLOHA born on?

TWLOHA exists to let people know they're not alone in their struggles, that people need and deserve other people - that we were made to be loved and made to be known. And that professional help (treatment, counselling, etc) can change and save lives.

The internet is a huge tool for organizations. Have you ever encountered a situation where the use of internet has been a hazard or there being a negative side to it?

Sure. We've certainly seen the best of the internet in terms of people using it to find and spread our mission and message. But the other side of that is the internet is also a place where people say ugly things and recycle rumours.

Where do you hope to see yourself in a few years forward?

I hope that TWLOHA continues to be creative in offering hope and help and encouragement to people. As for me personally, hopefully I'll be doing what I'm doing now but I also want to be writing books and i'd like to have a family by then.

Is there anything else you'd like to add?

You're not alone. And you matter very much. If you're struggling, please talk to someone. Talk to a friend or talk to a counsellor.

BEHIND THE LENS with ASHLEY OSBORN

Interview by Bianca Delicata

I understand that you shot your first wedding last week. Did you feel any pressure or nervousness?

Surprisingly, not at all! I was really excited! I had posted an ad on craigslist (haha), and the couple and I met up and they were this really down to earth and relaxed hippie couple. They weren't even going to have a photographer, so it was last minute. They just like my live photos and wanted me to be creative. So I had free will to kind of just be myself. It was much fun!

When did your interest in photography settle in? What was your first camera?

I guess it sort of happened junior year of high school. I was obsessed with cameras and I was also going to shows. I used to be barricade a lot and I wanted to take good pictures. I sort of had this idea of always wanting to capture my favorite moments at the shows of the people who inspired me, you know? So I got more serious and I wanted a Canon Rebel XS. It was really small and I could just start figuring things out! It was perfect. I kind of miss that camera. A lot!

Do you plan on taking photography as a full-time job in the future?

I'm not too sure yet. I'm going to school for Public Relations because I want to get into booking press and working with artists, management and labels. Like damage control as well when things go wrong in the industry. I love that kind of stuff! But I want to always at least do it on the side. If I could make it full-time, that would be amazing. But as of now, I haven't gotten to that point where I feel like I'm close enough to even think about it.

Which one item of equipment would you say is the most important to you?

I would have to say my Canon EOS 7D body. Is it kind of weird that I think of it as my other brain? We work so well together. I feel like I have my perfect match and it hasn't let me down even a bit since I've had it! I'm lame. Your camera body is it's brain, you guys have to be on the same wavelength. Your lenses are it's glasses.

I believe you are attending three Warped Tour dates this year, yes? How long have you been shooting concerts?

I shot my first show officially a little over a year ago! I was terrified and I did a terrible job! It was Cute Is What We Aim For. Which was just an awesome day because Shaant has been one of my influences since about freshman year of high school, and to see him up on stage again was just an incredible feeling.

Thanks Ashley! Is there anything else you'd like to say to our readers?

Aww, thank you! I guess the thing I want to say is that it is so important to always dream. Find inspiration and never let go of it. Never let anybody tell you to not dream. I never would have thought that in such a short time I would come as far as I have, and I still have miles and miles of space to achieve ahead of me. Someday I want to tour, and do promos. I want my pictures in magazines. You have a short life, and I think dreaming is 50% of achieving any goal you have, the other 50% is hard work, NEVER letting people get in the way, and dedication. Also, in this process, let people in. Don't hold back. Because for me personally, without the supporters I have, I'd be nothing. They are the reason I am able to do what I do. Just keep dreaming and never give up.



Do you think that a person must possess talent to capture emotion and expression in a picture?

I don't think it is possessing a talent as much as it is possessing the motivation. I think one important thing I've learned in this crazy world of photography is that anybody can grab a camera and click a button, but it takes somebody with motivation to WANT to capture those moments. The moments that define a show or a person... or sometimes even both. It's a passion I have when I go to shows, you know? I want to stand out of the group with the photos I take and I always want to take photos that are emotional. A picture that somebody will stop and look at when they see. You just have to be motivated and have that kind of mind-set.

I absolutely adore the photos of Sierra Kusterbeck you had taken last year at Warped Tour! How was the experience to shoot VersaEmerge, one of your biggest influences?

Ah, thank you so much! It was kind of this unbelievable feeling. Warped 2010 last year was the first time I had seen them since October 2009, and all of this stuff had happened since then. I was so proud of them and it was, ah, it was just unexplainable and honorable. It was also my first time shooting warped so it was terrifying!

Which do you prefer--film cameras or digital?

I love the look of film! I really do. But I guess I haven't quite delved into it very much yet, and I have a lot of respect for film photographers. I have to say digital! I like that I can have my images right there to see after I take them, and get them uploaded and done fast! I'm always so anxious after I shoot!





Being a band for such a short amount of time, you've created quite a lot of attention and loyal fans. How does this sudden gush of success make you feel?

Tronik: We work hard for what we believe in.

Matriarch: If you are doing something real and innovative people will feel the difference.

Where do you draw inspirations for songs?

Tronik: Quantum Parallels

Matriarch: Usually from depression, anger, injustice or sometimes plain cheeky parodies of today's politics.

You gave your fans/listeners the opportunity to receive a free download of Order Through Chaos or buy it. Was there any specific reason behind this? What made you want to give away your debut EP for free?

Tronik: The one they can purchase has been signed by us. There are only a specific number made. The music is what will test our loyalty to our fans and vice versa.

Landon: We wanted people to have it as a gift. We hoped that they would share it with friends and KM would grow in an organic way.

Aside from music, what are some other hobbies you have?

Tronik: Racing, wingsuit flying, soccer, and basketball.

Matriarch: Wire wrapping, fostering animals, yoga, and kickboxing.

Do you intend on recording a follow-up full length now that Order Through Chaos?

Tronik: When it comes naturally to do a full length project we will know.

Matriarch: For now we want to keep giving our fans as much content as possible through visual and audio art.

What is your personal favourite song off the EP and why?

Tronik: "Monotone". The fans really like it at live shows and usually end up singing along.

Matriarch: "Violence" because it's so cathartic in the chorus. Every time I perform it, it's like a huge release.

Are you happy with the response that you got from the OTC EP?

Yes. We are so grateful for our fans.

Is it difficult to be a band in Los Angeles, where so many people are trying to "make it"?

Tronik: If you're meant to do something it'll happen.

Matriarch: We only compete with ourselves

Thanks for the opportunity! Is there anything in particular that you'd like to say to our readers?

Tronik: Let us know what you think!

Matriarch: Get your free download at KillMatriarch.com and thanks for the opportunity to connect.

Interview by Bianca Delicata

THE DECOUR

Interview with Chandler
Interview by Bianca Delicata

How was the recording/writing process for the It's Been Awhile EP? Was the writing aspect of the record collaborative?

We set out to make this EP we wanted to do something completely different from our first EP Something Meaningful. We wanted to make this EP as organic as possible. The writing process mostly comes from Drew's amazing ability to write a catchy hook. I help him out a little with writing so it is somewhat of a team effort.

What advice would you give to kids who want to start a band?

First and Foremost we want to encourage any one to follow what you are called to do. Live your passion. Starting a band is one of the best and hardest choices me and drew ever decided to make. This past two years have been incredibly tough but so rewarding. The only advice I have for starting a band is to make your music with integrity, work hard, and do not go around hating on other bands. The music industry is full of bitter musicians who love to try and beat down other bands with negativity.

Was the response from fans on IBA anything of what you expected?

Honestly I have been blown away with how well everyone has accepted IBA. You are always going to have your friends who will buy

anything you put out. It was a risk for us to show stem away from our pop rock roots and have a more indie/ acoustic feel. Being featured on purevolume is always a good tool also for getting exposure. Overall the response has been great.

What was the first instrument that you learned to play? What made you want to learn that instrument?

I started playing guitar about three years ago. Drew had always played music but really never put his self out there as a songwriter. I encouraged him to show people his gift and well he taught me how to play guitar. Drew showed me what a life with music was like and I have never looked back.

What distinguishes your band from others on the scene today?

I would say the thing that separates us most is our faith. We want to show people the same grace and love that us been shown to us through Christ. Our goal with our music is to reach people who would never step foot in a church. Someone who comes out to a bar on a Friday night to see a band and maybe we can introduce those people to something bigger than this world, than all the hard work with the music was worth it.

Do you plan to release a full-length to follow up IBA?

As long as we are breathing we will be making music haha.

If you could get rid of one thing that people do at shows what would it be and why?

Talking during peoples sets. It is SO annoying. If you wanted to go talk somewhere go to something else. You have people pouring their passions out on a stage and you are talking about a picture on facebook.

What is your favourite song that you've written? Why is this?

By far Widows Walk and Lost Your Heart. These songs just show something so much more than this life, They are stories of hope and redemption. I think if people really listen to the lyrics of those two songs you can see what our hearts are for people. The best music is when people put their souls on a piece of paper for the world to see. I think in those two songs we did our best to accomplish that.

Does The Decour have an summer/fall tour plans?

Right now we are planning on doing a hometown show in the fall. Other than that we are writing and planning on working a possible music video. We will be back on the road soon though!





Interview by Sarah Lozano
Photo by Holly Jo

BURN THE CHARTS

How did the band start?

The band started with just Robbie (drums) and Brandon (keys). Rainer (bassist) joined next and informed Kyle (guitar) he shortly joined after. Nick (guitar) joined a few weeks after and our final member was Matt (vocals) who complete what we believe not only to be an amazing line but a close new family.

Did you guys ever experiment with different styles?

Nick, Kyle, Rainer, and Matt, all originally come from a heavy background performing hardcore music. Robbie and Brandon both are new to the band scene and originally perform on a high school drum line.

What artist/bands have you influenced by the most?

Kyle: My main inspiration is the band City in Colour. I love his rhythm and the way he flows from chord to chord.

Brandon: The band Attack Attack. They inspired me to want to play keys.

Robbie: Woe, Is Me. I love the drum style, every beat stands out and that's true talent.

Nick: Everything. What ever I listen to gives me more and more drive to make music.

Rainer: Whitechapel. After meeting them at our first show and seeing how down to earth they are, it makes me want to play music for the rest of my life.

Matt: Stray From The Path and Whitechapel. Both bands have amazing vocalists and it honestly gives me the drive to go as far as I can and be whoever I want to be.

What do you think separates Burn the Charts from other post-hardcore bands?

We think we have awesome energy that most post hardcore bands don't have. Not only do we bring great music to the table but we also bring lyrics that everyone can relate to and either see how far they've come through life, what they can get out of life, and that they can get through the hard times and be whoever they dream they can be. We won't let anyone tell and anyone any different,

What's a normal Burn the Charts show like?

Hopefully it's as fun for the fans as it is for us. It's a great feeling to see other people enjoy something you made.

What's the local music scene like in Kingston, New York?

It's all mostly hardcore bands. So we hope Burn the Charts is a breath of fresh air to people that want a change.

Where are a few of your favourite places to play?

Matt: My favourite place was in Springfield, MA. The sound was great as well as the crowd and the huge stage.

Kyle: Northern Lights in Albany, New York. Awesome sound there.

Nick: Eleanor Rigby's. The environment was so relaxed and awesome.

Brandon: The Loft in Poughkeepsie, New York. I love the scene.

Robbie: The Loft in Poughkeepsie, New York. It was the first place I ever played and it's a great memory.

Rainer: The Chance in Poughkeepsie, New York. I love the stage and the crowd.

Are there any places you dream of playing?

Matt: Warped tour would be so sick.

Robbie: Warped Tour would be merry.

Kyle: Warped Tour would be groovy.

Nick: If I played Warped Tour it would be clutch.

Rainer: Warped Tour deff.

Brandon: Warped Tour sounds delicious.

What do you see the band doing in the next few years?

Well hopefully we will be signed playing for hundreds and hundreds of people and touring. We love what we do and couldn't imagine doing anything else with anyone else.

Forgetting what we'll see from Burn the Charts in the next few years, what will be seeing from you guys pretty soon?

A lot! We have awesome new songs with great lyrics and deep meaning. We're hitting the studio really soon so make sure everyone keeps an eye out because we intend to "burn the charts on our way to the top!"

Interview with Mutt Interview by Bianca Delicata

GOOD BOY BADMINTON

You guys formed in Indonesia, am I correct? What made you want to experiment in an indie-rock band?

Yes we were formed in Bandung (city) in Indonesia. I, Nanu and Sein grew up as 90's teenagers. I specifically started listening to rock music when I was in Junior High. I was so into Foo Fighters, Silverchair, Pavement, the Breeders, Weezer, R.E.M., Pixies and lots of other 90's bands. I used to be a super alternative rock geek dude at that time, and when I was in High School I got introduced to punk rock & pop punk by a former band mate, he was giving me bands like: Lag Wagon, Blink 182, Sendal Jepit (Indonesia), Rocket Rockers (Indonesia) and NOFX. And I wasn't so into Punk somehow. But I liked the music, I used to listen to Sex Pistols songs so many times. Then in 2k I found some new genre called emo, and it was a quite good time for me, I started to browse around the net. I started listening to the Get Up Kids, Fugazi, the Anniversary, Sunny Day Real Estate, Desaparecidos, Head Automatica, Motion City Soundtrack etc. I was "in love" with that moment and just called myself an emo kid (until now). Then I started to make my own band and met these guys and they like the music that I wrote but they didn't agree with me to call our music as an emo band. So yeah if we're talking about "what's your" music genre it will be a never ending story. So I think that we're making independent rock music, because every members has different kinds of music influence and when we're making songs together, the mixing of our different taste of music results in indie rock music!

Are there any local bands in West Java Indonesia that have inspired you?

Yes these are the bands: (old) Dewa 19, (old) Netral, Sendal Jepit, Rocket Rockers, Jolly Jumper, Jingga. Check them out!

You released your first full length, *Going Out*, in March 2010. Can you tell us a little about this album?

This is my very first full album ever, I didn't expect that the band would ever get signed by a record label, even though it's an indie record label, tour around Java Island, and there are people who are willing to spend their money to buy our CD and merchandise! I was a total newbie to this. Different from the rest of the band, like Nanu who was in a band called CloseHead, already had his 1st full album and Sein that had been working with a lots of major label Indonesian bands, he was a bass technician of a famous major label band called Seurieux. So "Going Out" album was dedicated to my first experience of the "new world" to me. This album has also gotten me more friends from all around Indonesia and even the world!

Is there a song on the album that is very meaningful to you? What is it about?

This song called "I Cross My Heart, I Bled My Nose For This Scene" is quite meaningful to me. The song is about how much I fell in love with Indonesia's (especially Bandung) cutting edge scene. See, we live in a wrecked country because of the corrupted government, causing the economic crisis in this country but it's not stopping the kids to do everything to keep moving! This means every aspects of "cutting edge" itself such as music, magazine, event organizing and all Indonesian "Cutting Edge" scene.

Have you begun writing for another full-length or a first EP?

Well we've just released our 1st EP called Hello World on March 2011 which is limited to only 250 pcs (with serial number from 001-250) and it was a D.I.Y. EP so we did everything by ourself. It contains 5 tracks and 1 hidden track. 2 songs written in Bahasa Indonesia and the rest written in English. Just check out our social networking site like Facebook, Purevolume, Myspace we posted the posters there. We don't

sell it offline just through e-mail & hand phone text messaging.

As a musician have you ever had a run-in with "writers block"? How do you overcome it?

Well yeah of course, everyone does. Whenever it happens I just go around the city by riding my scooter by myself or travel out of town, just be a complete stranger by going to places where nobody will recognize me. So far this has worked out fine.

Are there any plans for another album in 2011?

Yes we have started to record the new songs for a full album in the end of August. Hope it will be released later this year!

Where do you expect to see Good Boy Badminton within a year or so?

Well we expect the band will tour around Indonesia 1st on the next year, after the 2nd full album is released. And on the next, next years ahead we hope that some record label from abroad especially from America or Japan would be interested to sign us and release our international version of 2nd full album in their country. So we can go tour around the world maybe, someday, soon.

Thanks for the opportunity! Is there anything else you'd like to say?

If you guys like our music, be sure to get the updates of the band & the upcoming album in 2011. Because we're planning to make an international version of our 2nd full album (all songs will be written in English) and we're going to post it on the website real soon like in August or September 2011! So yeah, we're hoping that we can get a tour around the world to meet new friends! :D

JAY DALLEY

Interview by Bianca Delicata



Your next album is expected to release by summer 2011. Have you begun recording yet?

I have started recording, I currently have 2 songs which are almost complete and another 5 which I've laid guitar down for, however I've been in talks with some studios this week, normally I do all my recording at home but after talking to these studios I've decided I'm going to a couple of different studios to record this new EP, which means I now have to re-record the tracks I've already recorded, This may end up to me pushing the release date back by a month or two but it will definitely be worth it. With my last CD "In Memory" the recording was really rushed, I literally busted out all the songs on that CD in under a week, After having discussions I've been having this week I've realized that this new CD deserves a lot more than that and I'm going to work on it until it's perfect, I'm not going to rush it, the songs on this new record are some of the best songs I've ever written and I want to make sure they are the best they can be

Do you ever aim for a specific genre or age group while writing music? Why or why not?

Honestly, I've never really thought about age groups, it's just something that has never really come into my mind. When it comes to genre I like to think I'm acoustic with a bit of pop, I'm down for trying pretty much anything with my music as long as I don't fall into the "Commercial" category I think I'll be happy haha.

How are you determined to make it big in 2011?

By doing whatever I can to get my music out there. The biggest problem being an unsigned artist is getting your music out to people. When I release this new record I just want as many people as humanly possible to hear it, I'm not asking everyone to like it, you can't please everyone, I'd just like people to give my music a chance.

Is there a message that you are trying to send through music? What is it?

Not really a message, more of a connection. When I was 12, my sister tragically passed away, it was instant, one day she was here and everything was normal, the next day she didn't wake up, I never got to say goodbye and music was my way to release everything I was feeling, I've never been one to talk about my feelings direct in conversation, but with music it's so much easier, I can put everything into a song and say everything I want to say. I'm not really trying to send a message, I'm trying to connect with you, everyone goes through hard times in life and if my music could ever help anyone the way music helped me, even just one person, then it's all worth it. I guess if I had to sum it up as a message the message would be "You're not the only person feeling what your feeling, other people, including myself, have gone through what you're going through, You're not alone, together we will get through this."

When and where did you play your first show? What were the thoughts going through your mind before you went onstage?

My first show was at the Barfly in Birmingham, I was actually really lucky to get on the bill, it was supporting one of my favourite Birmingham bands. I remember being so nervous, to the point I felt physically sick, there was only 50 or so people in the crowd but I felt like everyone was watching my every move and that they'd be picking all my faults.

If you were to pick any song off In Memory and create a music video, which one would it be? What would the video be about?

I'd probably record a music video for "A Conversation With An Angel" when I was writing the record that was my favourite track. The song is actually meant to be a conversation between two people, I pictured it as a husband and wife who have been in love their whole lives. The song is about the woman passing away but before she does they have this conversation and she's telling him about how much she doesn't want to leave and how she never knew happiness before she met him. I guess the music video would reflect this in some way, but I've never really thought about it in detail.

What's your favourite instrument that you own? How long have you had it for?

I actually only own my acoustic guitar. But it was given to me by my mom and is just over 10 years old now, it's in terrible condition haha, it has all scratches all over the body, I think it only cost about £100 haha, but I wouldn't trade it for anything, every song I've ever wrote has been written on this guitar.

Is there anything you would like to say to our readers?

Thank you! to everyone! if you haven't heard my music before please give it a chance and take a listen at <http://purevolume.com/jaydalley> if you like the stuff thats up now, I promise you will love the new record! I value every single one of you guys and I love talking to you all so feel free to drop me a message or tweet me @jaydalley :



Interview by Cynthia Lam

THE ORPHAN THE POET

Type to enter text

Growing up, did music have a big part in your life?

Absolutely. Music has always been important to my family. I've been very fortunate to have people in my life that supported me pursuing music.

What was the first instrument that you picked up and learned, and what was the first song that you learned how to play?

I actually got into music at a fairly young age, but I had a few miss-starts. The first instrument I tried was the piano when I was 9. It was a short-lived venture—I never practiced and ended quitting within a few months. To this day, I still kick myself for not sticking with it. However, it did make me realize that I hate how music is traditionally taught. After joining the school band for a year and hating that even more than piano, I eventually asked my parents for a guitar when I was 11 and have loved it ever since. I think the first song I learned was Glycerine by Bush.

Being from Southern Ohio, were there any local bands who have influenced you musically?

We've been very blessed to have a family of bands that are not only stellar musicians, but some the most down-to-earth and supportive individuals you'll ever meet. Our brothers in This Love and Wolves At The Gate have been a constant inspiration to us.

What was the music scene like in the area while you were growing up, and even now?

Growing up, a "music scene" was pretty non-existent. However, the scene we're a part of now is great! There are a lot of people who like to complain it, but typically those are the individuals who hate working for anything. As long as a band is willing to work for themselves and be creative, Ohio is great place to be.

You released a new EP recently. How would you describe it in one word?

Progression. I think that not only describes the EP as a response to our last EP, but our approach to music in general. We try to write good music with indifference to trends or convention.

If you were to tell fans who have never heard of The Orphan, The Poet to listen, what would you say?

I'd say we're a band that likes to play loud guitars, sing with pretty vocals, and write smart songs. And if you like our music, we'll do your homework for you.

Have you ever had any embarrassing moments on stage?

Though this didn't happen to me personally, our bassist, Jake, took a little tumble during one of our recent shows. I'm not really sure what led to it, but all I know is that I looked over and Jake was lying on the floor. He was a real champ about it and simply laughed it off which was good, because I was definitely laughing myself.

Do you have any pre-show rituals that you do? Or things to do to get you pumped up?

I usually like to take a short walk while I do my vocal warmups. Coincidentally, this always seems to happen around the same the rest of the guys are setting up all our gear. Oops, haha.

Who are your favourite bands or artists to play a show with?

This Love & Wolves At The Gate.

What are your thoughts about autotune?

I think that like every other production tool, it has its place. I think autotune is a great for refining an already great performance. However, when it is used as a crutch to side-step taking the time to actually capture the performance, that's where it falls out of favor with me.

How do you feel about illegally downloading music?

Personally, I do not take part in illegal downloading. However, I do not see it as solely detrimental. I think file sharing has been a way for music to spread to new listeners, as well as a way for fans to side-step paying for music. So there are definitely positive and negative aspects to it.

Is there anything else that I missed that you'd like to add?

We have a lot of exciting thing in the works so everyone should definitely keep in touch on Facebook and Twitter!

SAFETY WORD ORANGE

Interview by Cynthia Lam

What makes Safety Word Orange different from other bands who you would be compared to?

Most pop-rock bands are called generic and have cliché lyrics, but we definitely try our best to go beyond that. All of our songs have meaning and depth to them and aren't written with the hope of them catching on to bring fame or success. If you have meaningful lyrics in this genre you're already one step ahead of everyone else.

In the past three years the band has definitely grown. Did you ever expect to be where you are now when the band first started?

When Safety Word Orange first started James and I were playing as an acoustic three piece band in LA. There was no way to expect or predict all of the changes that we've gone through since then. I'm really proud of how far we've come along since then and now it's just a matter of keeping that momentum going to see how far we can take this band.

What goals or accomplishments did you have set when the band first started? Have you achieved any of them yet?

I don't think there were really any goals set when Safety Word Orange started. We just had some songs that we wanted to record and it all took off from there. I don't think it was until we moved back to Virginia that we really started to take off and have certain expectations. Next step for us though is to record a full length.

You released a new EP called Acceptance on June 14th. Are you happy with the feedback that you've gotten so far?

The feedback has been great so far! We're really proud of this EP, so we just want to have as many people hear it as possible.

What is your favorite song off the EP and what is it about?

Personally my favorite song is Breathe. It has some of the best lyrics on the record and great melodies. It's about getting older, but still seizing the day and doing everything you can to make the best of yourself. Plus I love playing that song live and having the crowd jump around with us.

Were there any challenges that you faced while writing this EP?

Definitely! We came back from a tour in November right before we were supposed to go into the studio and our van died, which put us in a real tough place financially. Our singer also was really sick while recording this EP and was going through a tough time. Somehow though we managed to pull together and come out of their with some of our best work yet.

Why did you title the EP "Acceptance"? Is there a concept behind the EP?

While we were in the studio we were talking about what the message of this EP was and what it meant to us. Even though this is only 4 tracks, we still were able to touch on a lot of issues like personal problems, internal conflicts, drug use, relationships and struggles of this band. All of them seem negative at first, but this EP offers hope and shows that even in times of struggle there's a light at the end of the tunnel. It's basically saying change the things you can to better yourself and accept the things you can't.

What is the craziest thing that you've done while playing a show?

We've had some pretty interesting things happen on stage before, but the craziest thing I've done was jumping off the stage into the crowd at warped tour last summer. The gap between the barrier and the stage was further than I had expected and I was a bit nervous I would have been caught

by the crowd! But everything worked out fine and I think that ended up being one of our best shows to this day

Do you have any memorable shows? What made them so great?

Our record release show in our hometown, Richmond, VA, was amazing! It was the first time we played our entire EP and the response was great. Our fans have always been amazing and it's great to see them out in the crowd singing along with all of the old songs and jumping around to the new stuff at the same time.

What should fans expect at a Safety Word Orange show?

No matter what size venue, how big (or small) the crowd is we always try putting on the best show we possibly can. Getting the crowd involved is a big thing for us since we really feed off the energy from everyone else.

Do you have any plans for the future?

Well we're always writing new songs and would love to record a full length in the future, but until then we're continuing to tour and share our music with as many people as possible. We'll be out on the road during August and September touring the east coast with The Boy and His Machine.

Is there anything else you'd like to add?

Just a big thank you to all of our fans, friends and family for always supporting this band! We've been through a lot in these past three years and even though it hasn't been easy, you guys make it worth it!





Interview by Bianca Delicata

BLACK WATER

How big of a part did music have in your life as you were growing up?

Music played a huge role in our lives as musicians. Big influences were our parents that introduced us to classic rock and from there other genres, especially the blues.

If you could go back in time, what band or artist would you go watch?

That's a hard question to just pick one, but we would've loved to get the led out at a Zeppelin concert or got down with Johnny Cash.

Where do you see Black Water in a year or so?

Hopefully playing tons of shows, maybe even touring, hanging with our fans, and Black Water livin'. We are getting in the studio soon and it would be really cool to have our songs on every local kids ipod and having the crowds at shows singing along with us. In short, we hope to be enjoying what we do and hope that our fans enjoy it also.

How did you come up with Black Water? Who thought of it?

Our guitarist, Mike, did. Right before our first show, which was a school sponsored event, we needed to change our name because it wasn't school appropriate. We wanted to be called "Black Jesus." Out of desperation for a

name, Mike said "The Black Water" and we that's what we used. We never intended to continue after our first show, but it stuck. Later, we changed it to just "Black Water."

Has age ever been a barrier for the band?

Well, not so far. Our bassist, Joey, and guitarist, Mike, are still juniors in high school and our drummer, Dillon, and vocalist, Gabe, have already graduated. We're only two years apart, but Joey and Mike's musical talents have filled the age gap between us. They're too good for the other musicians their age.

What were your first impressions of the other members in Black Water?

Haha, that's a funny story because we talk about this all the time. We were all in guitar club at school and we thought we were all dicks. We really didn't know each other until we got together to play our first show, and now we're real close friends.

How would you describe your music to someone that's reading this interview now, but has never heard of Black Water?

We're a christian rap group...nah, we're Rock/Blues. We've been called "Nu-Blues." Our music is really unique because it has southern, hard rock, and blues mixed together. It's like you take a cup Maylene and The Sons of Disaster, a teaspoon of Johnny Cash, a dash of Black Keys, and pinch of Led

Zeppelin and you got a recipe for Black Water. We go really hard when we play and people just don't listen to us. They feel us when we play, even if you're listening to it through your headphones.

When was it when you played your first show as a band? What were your thoughts before you went on stage?

Our first show we played together was a Battle of the Bands competition that our school hosted. We were really nervous. Our lead singer had never performed in front of a crowd before. Our competition was this other local band that has been playing together for a year or so and had a fan base at the show. We thought we were done before we even got to perform because they had the crowd. After our set, the crowd erupted and it went the judges. We ended up winning and even got an encore. That night we felt invincible and like we were on the top of the world. That was our first big moment as a band.

Anything else you'd like to say?

Check us out on Facebook and download our single "Tiger of the South" on Purevolume.com/theblackwater and if you want to get to know the band on a personal level, check our our YouTube channel, BLACKWATERTV11. We have a music video coming out soon for our single and you can find the promo for the video on our channel.



Interview with Andrew Baylis
 Interview by Cynthia Lam
 Photo by Joe Perri

LIFE ON REPEAT

What makes Life On Repeat different from other bands?

I think we have a sound that hasn't been done before. We blend melodic, heavy music with mostly singing. It's heavy enough to get down and energetic to but we sing over the parts which definitely makes us different in today's scene.

How have you grown musically since you've joined Life On Repeat?

I think that we have gotten a lot better with actually writing songs, rather than just writing riffs. Anyone can write a cool part but not everyone can make a song out of it.

Is there a message that you'd like to spread through music?

That it's okay to be different...nothing great comes from being another face in the crowd. That's something we can do both musically and lyrically.

You will be releasing your first full-length album out on June 14th. Can you tell us about the album?

It has been in the works for over two years now and is honestly the best music we have ever written as a band. We hope everyone can tell that by the first listen through, and can become an instant fan. There are a lot more riffs, more technical parts, and more aggressive vocals rather than just singing. There's just more of everything!

What is your favourite song on the album and what does it mean to you?

I think my favorite song would be "The Need,

Not The Cause". Musically it's a super energetic rock song and really made us step outside of our comfort zone, as far as going more rock and aggressive. Lyrically, it's awesome as well and not the typical, "sing about a girl" song, ha

Are there any songs on the album that you think fans would be surprised with?

I think "Feet Under" is really going to catch people off guard because of the blues solo intro, but once they hear the entire song they will be like "Oh, okay...now I get it!"

Is there a concept behind the album or the album title?

Our path with the band hasn't been easy at all. We come from a small town which doesn't give us the benefits and rewards other bands have living in cities. We work twice as hard to do things a lot people just get handed and there are times when there's so much stress it's hard to get a wink of sleep. So we thought "Struggle and Sleep" was appropriate for the record and to generally sum up the last couple of years for us.

Did you encounter any new challenges while writing and recording this album?

That's probably an understatement. We are so picky when it comes to writings song that we will re-work it 3-6 times, recording each version in full. I'd say every song was a three week challenge as far as writing!

The band will be going on tour this summer with There For Tomorrow, Conditions, and Oceana. How excited are you?

Too excited. We are super close with Conditions. And Oceana and There For Tomorrow are both bands we look up to and listen to, so it's something we've been excited about since the idea of it first came about.

Are there any cities in particular that you are excited to visit on the tour?

I really like going to Nashville. There's always stuff to do before and after the show and it's just a great music town.

Are you planning any crazy things to do on stage? (ex. or an unexpected intro perhaps?)

Yeah, we are going to play the set naked each night. Sike!

What is one thing you would change in the world that would help others?

I would take away the Internet...enough said.

Turning back five years, if you were told that you would be at the point where you are now, would you expect it?

Not at all. I had no idea what being in the music business is really about. You always think that you're just going to blow up quickly and be in a tour bus the next day.

Where do you expect to be in a year or so?

Hopefully touring in front of hundreds of new fans coming just to see us. It would be awesome to see the record doing its job!

Is there anything else you'd like to add?

Come see us on tour this summer and please don't stop buying music!

LOVE CUNNINGHAM

Can you tell us about how the band came to be?

The band actually started as an acoustic project. Wayne was doing some local shows when he met Teddy back in 08. The rest of us came on board as the project developed.

Were there any local bands who have influenced you in a big way?

Not any local bands per-se, however, we do live pretty close to a few of the guys in Anberlin. We've been told that we have similar styles so I guess you could say they were a local influence.

Since the band's formation almost three years ago, would you say that you have grown musically?

Absolutely. When we started we were indie-folk which kind of evolved into the pop rock sound that we have now.

Did you ever expect to be at the point where you are now when the band first started?

We all worked pretty hard from the get go so we knew that something would happen eventually, even though we're no where near where we want to be. However, we are continually impressed with how much support we receive from our fans. They're seriously the best in the world.

Could you describe the band's sound, members, and music in one word?

I guess you could say 'Fun'. We strive to make every show an experience for the audience. We realize that we are there to entertain and that's what we try our best to do

You released a new album called *She Dreams In Color* in May of 2010. Were you happy with the result that you've gotten from it?

Definitely. That album got some decent radio play and was substantial in spreading our fan base

You guys are currently working on your new release that should be out this summer. How the process going?

We spent WAY more time in the studio than we initially anticipated. We ended up recording at 4 or 5 different locations. Its in post production now and we are on target to release it sometime in August.

Have you encountered any new challenges while writing and recording this EP?

We have a tendency to write a song and then completely re-write it in the studio. It can be a costly/timely habit. Hopefully it makes for a better record in the end

As a band what would you say your biggest challenge that you've had to overcome was?

Probably coming from an area that doesn't have a huge scene. We are from a REALLY small town that doesn't house too many venues. With that being said, our hometown fans are super committed and have been with us through thick and thin so its worked out for the best

What can fans expect from this new EP?

A lot of diversity. Its still fun/poppy LoveCunningham, but its definitely matured a lot

Is there a message that you'd like to send through music?

We just want people to be happy and enjoy themselves despite their circumstances. The fact that people come to our shows or listen to our music to escape their problems means the world to us

What can we expect from Love, Cunningham in the future?

We plan on touring quite a bit in support of this new EP. There are a few other things in the works right now but we're waiting until all the details are worked out before we make any announcements



WE ARE! THE NEW YEAR!

Interview by Cynthia Lam

Growing up, how much of a part did music have in your life?

Music was a huge part of my life its all I did. It gets you through the bad times and amps you up more during the good times

How did you come up with the name "We Are! The New Year"?

DJ and I (Clay) had a side project called The New Year and later once the band was all together decided to make it our main band name and put We Are! due to there being another band name called The New Year

What was the first instrument that you picked up? What was the first song that you learned?

Drums and i learned a song by Thrice called All Thats Left

What inspires you lyrically and musically?

Cartel has always inspired us in every way possible

Can you tell us about how a We Are! The New Year song is formed?

Our guitarist DJ comes to practice with and idea for a song and we all put our cents into it

How would you say that you differ from other bands who would be considered in your "scene"?

Wed like to think we bring more of a punch to pop rock music something stronger than others in our genre.

Turn back time three years, would you expect to be where you are now?

I feel like there would be more interest because lots more people came out to shows and this genre was a heck of a lot bigger than it seems now

Do you have any crazy tour stories that you can tell us about?

Probably going to Rosewell, NM and drawing like 50 kids after we have never been there before.



What can fans expect at a We Are! The New Year show?

Highly energetic, fun, excitement, time of your life.

Do you think that is it important to go and hang out with fans after the show?

Definitely or you most likely wont have fans/friends to come back to when you plays shows near them again

How important is it for you to connect with fans through social networking sites?

Very very very.....very important it keeps them reminded where we are going to be and what we are up to it also lets them interact and talk to us even when were not there playing a show

What site do you think is the most convenient for doing this?

Facebook and Twitter.

Is there anything else you'd like to add?

Keep a watch on We Are! The New Year!



Interview by Cynthia Lam

LOVE AUTOMATIC

Turning back time to three years ago, would you ever expect to be where you are now?

You can never really expect to be anywhere as an artist. The best thing you can do is try to put out the best material you can and do the best you can at getting your name out there. It is definitely an amazing feeling to have so many people digging what we're doing so far. Hopefully, people will continue to love the music we release.

What makes Love Automatic different from other bands who you would be compared to?

Well, first of all, we're not really a "band." I think it would be best described as an Electro House "group." That kind of sets us apart automatically. I don't know what other bands people are comparing us to, but, if anything, we mainly have been compared to other DJs since we make dance music.

You recently released a video for your song "Nightmare." What inspired this video?

I had been saying we needed a music video for quite some time. We knew we didn't want to have something that was like a traditional music video (ie. playing to a crowd). So, after searching for about 2-3 months, we came across this AMAZING director, Lee Hardcastle (<http://leehardcastle.com/>). I saw some of his videos online and knew that doing a claymation/stop motion video could be pretty interesting. I'm a huge fan of b-horror films,

which is his specialty, so that pretty much sold me.

What is your song "Nightmare" about?

According to Brent, it's about really being left alone in his head trying to sleep at night, and thinking about his life. Just thinking about everything and doubting himself and being scared to keep living how he does.

Do you have a song that you've written that you are extremely proud of? What is it?

We are honestly really proud of all of our songs. We are definitely very picky and kind of perfectionists when we make tracks. Basically, anything we release is the culmination of a lot of work and tediously picking apart a track until we feel it's good enough to release.

How would you describe Love Automatic to someone who has never heard of you before?

We are an Electro House group with the energy of a rock show in our live show.

Is there anything that bugs you in the music industry?

This is a tough question to answer because there are probably tons of things I could say. The two main things I notice is that a lot of great, hardworking bands/artists get ignored, while money is spent on "flash in the pants" one hit wonders. The other thing that bugs me, which is more related to the artist side, is that I don't feel many artists take their craft as

seriously as they should. To "make it" as an artist, whether it be music, painting, or film, you need a clear-cut vision of what your art will be and where you want to be as an artist.

You guys have a few shows lined up in July. Are there any venues that you are excited to play at?

We are excited to play each and every show. We just enjoy the opportunity to be heard by new people.

If you could play at one venue anywhere, where would it be and why?

Right now, I think one of our main goals is to play in the Grand Ballroom at Webster Hall. Hopefully, a show like that can become a reality at some point in the near future!

Do you have anything planned for the near future?

We have a remix EP coming out on July 26th. It will feature a remix from Anjunadeep artist, Michael Cassette, plus 3 other remixes from contest winners. We are also working on our second EP and hope for it to be out by the end of summer/beginning of fall.

Is there anything I missed or anything that you'd like to add?

You can check us out at www.loveautomatic.com All of our links to our other sites are there.

CULPRIT

What first sparked your interest in music as a kid?

Well when I (Zach) started getting into playing music, I was about 13. Around that time, I was introduced to bands like Blink 182, Bad Religion, Weezer, etc. & one of my buddies wanted to start a band. He already played guitar, so I decided to learn how to play bass. I have to say watching some Blink DVDs were super inspiring at that time & definitely played a huge part in 'sparking my interest'. As I grew a bit older (15-17), I started broadening my musical horizons w/ some somewhat-heavier music via bands like Deftones, Thrice, ISIS, etc. The rest of the guys & myself have kind of shared the same musical growth as well & have found influence in many of the same bands, which is something I think is awesome.

Would you ever expect to be doing what you are now, playing music and touring?

I would say to an extent I've expected myself to be constantly playing music & touring over the last 5 years, but I definitely didn't expect that our band would be where we're at now a year back. It's incredible to watch the progression of something you believe in so much, although there is much hard work still to be done.

What is your favourite thing about music?

My favorite thing about music would be the feeling of when you're jamming something out & you realize your head has escaped everything but that flow of creativity for that moment.

Is there a message that Culprit is trying to send through music?

I don't know if there's any solid, direct message that we're trying to burn into people's brains; if there's any message it would be: Be content with yourself and find a way to enjoy what you're doing in life. Don't get too hung up on

what other people are doing or saying, because at the end of the day you must live with yourself. A few of our songs are directed at this idea of self-improvement.

You released a new album *Analogue* in April. Are you happy with the feedback that you've gotten from it so far?

Very. It seems we have been getting great reception from the EP & we couldn't be more stoked.

What is your favourite song off Culprit, and what is it about?

I think my favorite song off of *Analogue* is "Siren." The song is mainly about temptation & it refers a bit to *The Odyssey* & the alluring song of the sirens. It's more or less our anthem for our fallen brothers who fell prey to the siren song.

Did you encounter any new challenges while writing and recording this album as opposed to 2008's *The Show*'?

Well the only challenge I would really say we had was funding. We started recording a couple songs with Erik Ron (*Versa Emerge*, *Panic at the Disco!*, etc) in January of 2010 & finished with a few more songs by October due to a break between sessions. Aside from that, working with Erik was an amazing experience & everything went incredibly well.

As a band, what is the most difficult thing that you've had to face, and how did you overcome it?

We've come across some difficulty on the road for sure, and we haven't even done much extensive touring yet! Some bad luck seemed to follow us on the last couple trips (van trouble, tickets, etc.), some stuff of which we're still dealing with. As far as internal band stuff, we've

always been able to face everything head on & whatever difficulties we've experienced, we've overcome rather quickly.

How would you describe Culprit's live show?

I would say our live show is very feeling-based & humble; I definitely think we find a way to make an energy-filled set intimate as well.

Have you ever pulled any crazy antics while playing? What happened?

Hmm... well we're not doing backflips off our amps like *Story of the Year* (although that was pretty awesome), but I will say that I got hit in the temple with the guitar headstock about a couple weeks ago, haha.

What are your thoughts on illegally downloading music? Do you see it being the downfall of the music industry?

I think there's no real way to stop the constant flow of illegal downloading. Unfortunately some of us are guilty of it from time to time when we're anxious to hear a release & are broke. I definitely make the effort to buy & support records as often as possible, but I don't think that downloading will be the downfall of the music industry; When you have guys like Steve Jobs coming up with iCloud, I feel like many things are possible for the music industry.

Where do you expect to be a year forward?

I think at this point, it's feasible for us to expect that in a year from now, we'll either be doing a great deal of touring or we'll be getting ready to begin recording our first full-length.

Is there anything else you'd like to add?

Make sure to become friends with us on Facebook! facebook.com/culprita

JAWBREAKING JEWELRY

Interview by Sarah Lozano

Photo by Lindsey Glenn

How did Jawbreaking Jewelry start?

The summer before my junior year of high school, I really needed some extra cash because I dreaded the fact of actually having to go apply for a "real" job. So, on a whim, I started making necklaces out of clay to sell online because I was already selling my old clothes and what not on eBay and Myspace (yeah, it was weird). I was planning on just doing it for the summer, but it kind of just gradually kept becoming something more and I began to really love doing it after seeing all the positive feedback I received from it.

How long had you been making these charms and necklaces, before you started selling them?

That's the funny part, I had zero experience. I just taught myself and was like, "Eh, this seems self explanatory, I can do this." And yeah, I thought I could do it then, which I did, but looking back on the craftsmanship of all my old pieces is kind of embarrassing. It was essentially all trial and error with the necklaces.

What was your first design like?

Ha, well... I tried to make this Chanel logo necklace and it was most definitely the most hideous thing I've ever seen. But the first designs I ever sold were all food based: poparts, peanut butter and jelly slices, cupcakes. The truth is, I never even really liked any of that stuff I made. I just made it because that's what people were requesting!

What's your current favorite design?

Necklace wise, my favorite is the dream catcher necklace and the marbled feather necklace. I wear em both almost everyday. Shirt wise, they're all currently dream catcher designs, but we have like 10 new shirts coming out for the summer line and one of them was inspired by A Day To Remember's song "All Signs Point To Lauderdale," and that shirt just embodies our (Savannah and I) lives and it holds a lot of meaning for us, but you all will just have to wait and see for that one!



Did you ever expect the kids to like it as much as they do?

God no, not at all. Like I said, I was just doing it for the summer and just to make some extra cash to go out with my friends. But the support and feedback over the past few years has been insane.

Who was the first band member you gave a necklace to?

I feel like I should remember this but I really don't... I have photos of all the people I've given necklaces to posted on a bulletin board in my office and I'm staring at it trying to figure it out... I'm pretty sure it was Dani Artaud, who was formerly in the Millionaires but now in Mr. Downstairs! I gave her a charm bracelet at a local show the Millionaires did.

When self promoting where you ever nervous to give people the necklaces?

ALWAYS! My friends are forever pushing me to do it, I always get scared they're not going to like it or think I'm annoying. I just recently went to the On Your Side tour with my friend, Austin, and we were at Jimmy John's and we saw the guys from Runner Runner, but we weren't sure if it was them and Austin was like, pressuring me to go up to them and give them necklaces. Since I wouldn't go up and do it, Austin all of a sudden says, "Hey! Aren't you in Runner Runner?" Long story short, we ended up talking to Nick and Jon for awhile and Jon still wears his Roots + Branches necklace everyday. It's always worth a shot, bottom line!

What role do you think fashion can play in the music industry?

I feel like fashion in the music industry allows everyone to have their own individual style, people can do whatever they want, you know? I mean, kids at Warped Tour, you will see every crazy outfit you could possibly see. Fashion in the music industry is rather limitless, in my opinion.

Do have any collaborations planned for the future?

We have some in mind, but those are under the wraps and we'll announce them when they're set in stone!

Can you leave with a personal quote to live by?

Dream while you're awake.

Elisapie

There Will Be Stars



The multi-talented Elisapie Issac shows are worthy work as a singer, composer and filmmaker. She released her anticipated album, **There Will Be Stars** which is a whole different vibe with surprising instrumental beats and focuses more on Elisapie's vocals. The songs are much laid back and casual setting type moods. I must say the lyrics in her songs are very soulful and has loads of energy off each track. Though, one song caught my eye, *Out of Desperation* is like your perfect summer beach song to sing along to while you're out surrounding the waves. If you would like to listen to something completely out of your comfort zone and experiment with new music, I recommend this album especially for those who are still trying to discover what type of music they do like.

By Catherine Khom

Aaron and Andrew



The pop alternative rock band, Aaron and Andrew from the Connecticut / NYC area combines similarities to Snow Patrol and Coldplay with lyrical inspiration by The Fray with electronic beats. The lead vocal, keys, and guitar is Aaron Ruiz laying out the right tune with the thoughtful lyrics. Andrew Hansen takes full swing of guitars, backing vocal and keys. I can picture myself at a show right now, seeing this band live, their album, TO BE BRAVE with eleven tracks. Every song, is different and keeps the mood flowing as each song can correspond to who you are in life. I didn't know what to expect, as I clicked on "Hand To Hold," the song is absolutely breathtaking, very inspirational and some things to take note for. I would love to see them perform live, Aaron and Andrew will soon expect bigger and better things to happen in the future.

By Catherine Khom

fun.

Showbox SoDo, Seattle
on the Vices & Virtues Tour.
By Angela Winnie

Last weekend, an indie pop band from New York known as **fun.** played at Showbox SoDo, Seattle as a part of Panic! At The Disco "Vices & Virtues" Tour. The band played with total 7 songs from their debut album "Aim and Ignites" which also they played a new song called "We Are Young" as the opening song, followed with their single, "Walking The Dog" and closed with a 7 minutes song, "Take Your Time (Coming Home). Most of the crowd that come to this sold out show sang along to every single song that they played that night. Overall, the whole night was filled with great music from amazing bands and so far, this is the best tour I've attend this summer and if anyone have time to check this band maybe on their future tour, its a must!



AWINNIE

Owl City

All Things Bright And Beautiful



Everyone was very curious to see where Adam Young would go after Ocean Eyes and while you hear similar sounds, the new album is unique and stands out on its own. The songs sound a bit bigger and he definitely has experimented in this record with hip-hop as well as using more guitar and natural percussion. Some of the songs while they make you feel all warm and fuzzy are quite moving. Especially “Galaxies”, which is a depiction of astronauts on the space shuttle Challenger ascending to heaven. Some songs do outshine others like “Real World”, “Honey” and “The Bee & Alligator Sky”. One of the most creative songs on this album is probably “Yacht Club”. Some of the lyrics in it are just like something out of a children's' story book.

By Juliette Chagnon

Arctic Monkeys Suck It And See



Many bands today seem to lose faith in music and fail to create an escape for listeners— but not for Arctic Monkeys. Their new album, Suck it and See, sticks to the true sound of AM, but brings something new to the table. Nearly two million fans on Facebook, four albums, and nine years to make comebacks and continue shocking critics, Arctic Monkeys still have the power. Suck it and See is just a taste of what is to come; an old rush with a new feeling.

Suck it and See jumps right into the perfected tunes that fans had been counting-down-the-days for. “She's Thunderstorms” can be related to a grand entrance of something spectacular. The feeling of patience being broken; when you finally get what you want. The ideal summer record. As the record continues on, “The Hellcat Spangled Shalalala” is the lovechild of Humbug and Whatever People Say I Am, That's What I'm Not. Dousing the song in addictive chants, the song will become a summer serenade determined to be implanted in your thoughts. Suck it and See, unlike Humbug, does not use as many literary devices. The album is more open, and easier for fans to decipher and relate. “Love Is A Laserquest” is a classic case of a slower song for AM. A double-dose of powerful and impacting lyrics that leaves listeners breathless.

Throughout the album, themes that overlap the feeling of summer are evident. Arctic Monkeys sticks to their guns and keep their true sound, but freshen up their record with a modern feeling.

By Bianca Delicata

Death Cab For Cutie

Codes and Keys



A band with history. The name is widely known, and so are the songs. Going back to 1997 in the suburban city of Bellingham, Washington, Ben Gibbard started a

solo project which later developed into a full band, taking on the name Death Cab for Cutie. Releasing a total of seven full length album's Death Cab for Cutie has expanded its fan base from the student body of Western Washington University to the world. Making a mark wherever they go, continuing to fill the hearts of young and old alike. Known for their soft melodic tunes, sometimes lasting longer than a normal amount of time, yet always containing just the right amount of catchy-ness and emotion, their seventh album *Codes and Keys*, is no exception.

The album starts off with “Home is a Fire,” a slow, evenly paced song, reminding the listener of Ben Gibbard's whispered voice that hasn't been heard since *Narrow Stairs* in 2008. The introducing song is then followed by “Codes and Keys,” Zooey Deschanel's favorite, filled with upbeat, steady drums, and strings in the background. Ending too quickly, the album immediately transitions into “Some Boys,” a buoyant song whose flowing piano notes, swim through the song effortlessly, keeping the song alive and awake. The next up, “Doors Unlocked and Open” starts off with a minute and half just instrumental, vaguely reflecting, but not nearly as long as that of “I Will Possess Your Heart's.” His voice also has that same underwater tone that provides comfort and satisfaction. It then slows down at “Unobstructed Views,” but quickly continues right on with more easy listening, colorful sounding tunes, never failing to entertain, and consistently staying as good as the prior song.

Codes and Keys resonates well in not only in one's ears but mind too, overflowing with a sense of fulfillment. One might say that seven album's and touring for over a decade means the band's time has past, but *Codes and Keys* proves wrong. Still going strong, despite marriages and less guitar, Death Cab for Cutie had no problem creating another great album with a new level of maturity and improvement. *Codes and Keys* successfully showcases what good music is that it can be enjoyed by everyone.

By Stefany Bryan

Touché Amore



Los Angeles-based band **Touché Amore** has recently released their second studio album, **Parting the Sea Between Brightness and Me** to Deathwish Inc. This record is a great follow up to their previous studio album and their numerous 7" EPs. Although they've been around since 2007, this band has recently been getting some much-deserved recognition.

Parting the Sea Between Brightness and Me has little to no effects, which makes the feelings listeners get from the album much more real. The record has 13 songs and is around 20 minutes, each song being very concise and succinct. Every song on BTSBBAM flows together very nicely, even though some tracks are very different than the others. Lyrically, the album is fantastic. With lyrics like, "I'm not the golden boy so don't shine me on, I'm the bastard son of romantic Babylon," from the song, "Art Official". The mesmerizing lyrics fit perfectly to the somewhat melodic and catchy tone of the record, especially the instrumentals in "The Great Repetition." They're perfect for backing up frontman Jeremy Bolm's extremely heart-felt screams.

You'd think that after four years and a few member changes, a band's sound would change, but Touché Amore has stayed true to the same sound they've had since the beginning of their musical career, and Parting the Sea Between Brightness and Me is no exception this. I'm sure this isn't the first you've heard of Touché Amore, and it definitely won't be the last. I can assure there will much more to come from this band in the future!

By Taimé Guido

The Wonder Years

Suburbia: I've Given You All And Now I'm Nothing



The Wonder Years have released their newest full length, *Suburbia: I've Given You All And Now I'm Nothing* on Hopeless records. This album is absolutely fantastic, from start to finish. The band faced a lot of pressure while writing a follow-up to their prior release *The Upsides*. That pressure seemed nonexistent to them, and just got better, if that's even possible.

The album started off with a bang with the track "Came Out Swinging", and it really set the tone for what the rest of the album was going to sound like. Tracks 2 & 3, "Woke Up Older" and "Local Man Ruins Everything", kept the fast pace going and molded perfectly into each other. The fourth track on the record, titled "Suburbia, is an interlude. There's 3 of these short songs/interludes, which is the one thing on this album I really don't enjoy. I feel like they could've done more with those spots on the record. Other than that, the album is upbeat, fast, and has really straight forward lyrics that are really fun to sing along to.

The track I enjoy the most would have to be the closing song, "And Now I'm Nothing". It's a slower song compared to the rest of the record, but it is by far the catchiest. The album as a whole is about the vocalist, Daniel "Soupy" Campbell, struggling to conquer all of his problems he had faced previously in his life, and that his home really didn't feel like home anymore.

To reach a final verdict, I love this album a whole lot. If you're a fan of New Found Glory, The Movielife, or old Saves The Day, then this album is for you. If you like true pop-punk at it's finest, I highly recommend it.

By Tim Story

ALL TIME LOW DIRTY WORK



By Sarah Rutz

After being pushed back, All Time Low's major label debut, *Dirty Work*, has finally hit the shelves and the iTunes libraries of many happy fans and listeners. While the album has quite a different sound from the rest of their music, it's still, very much distinctly All Time Low. Fans of the band have turned out to not be disappointed and, rest assured, All Time Low is still creating music that's energetic, true to their sound, and reminiscent of the All Time Low that everyone has come to know.

A few of the songs had already been released prior to the full album coming out—"Time Bomb" was even the opener for their latest tour, aptly named "Dirty Work Tour", and fans had even gotten a little taste of the song "Under A Paper Moon" and "I Feel Like Dancin'". "Time Bomb" proved to be a quick live favorite amongst the fans, and while "I Feel Like Dancin'" wasn't necessarily on the top of anyone's list, the fact that it was a fun song to dance to was undeniable. (And, after people actually *understood* the meaning of the song, they warmed up to it considerably.)

The lyrics on the album are phenomenal (yes, even for "I Feel Like Dancin'") and leaves little to be desired—all around, the album satisfies 100%. For how long it's been anticipated, since 2009's *Nothing Personal*, *Dirty Work* is a very welcome addition to the All Time Low discography. A couple of stand out tracks on the album? "Guts", "Under A Paper Moon" and "Heroes". Fast paced and somewhat reminiscent of a few Blink-182 songs (which is always a thumbs up in this reviewer's book), those three songs are songs that fans are hoping to hear live later this summer on the tour. A couple of songs such as "That Girl" leave a little to be desired, however, it's quickly brought back up by ballad hits ("Daydream Away", often compared to the acoustic "Remembering Sunday" from *So Wrong, It's Right*) and romantic power-songs ("Return the Favor").

If you have the opportunity to, go and pick up the deluxe version of the album which features a few extra songs, including "Get Down On Your Knees And Tell Me You Love Me", "Merry Christmas, Kiss My Ass" (a Christmas song released in early December), and this reviewer's personal favorite, "My Only One", a softer, ambient song that is a very pleasant, welcome surprise at the very end of the album.

Everything about this album proves to everyone that All Time Low is still in it. From the vocals to the lyrics to the actual *instruments*, *Dirty Work* is so well put together that it's definitely one of their best albums to date. All Time Low has so much to look forward to following the release of this album, and you can bet that their fans are eagerly awaiting their next tour.

PICTURE ATLANTIC JOUST



Picture Atlantic isn't just any typical band from San Jose; their unique sound has conquered with world with their past tours with Say Anything, and even played at Vans Warped Tour. The band swiped the charts by opening for highly anticipated bands such as Coldplay, Quiet Drive and The Higher. Picture Atlantic recently released their third EP, *When Everything is Numbers*. If you are looking for some new bands to check out, I recommend this band, hands down especially if you are fans of Death Cab For Cutie to Radiohead are some similarities. The EP includes five well-played tracks distinctly addressing to fans what their EP is all about, with their pop alternative rock beats. The rhythm and lyrics are well played in their first song off their EP, *Joust*. The vocals and instruments are on point and no confusion between verses, its pure perfection.

By Catherine Khom

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR!

We will be starting a new segment in our issues which will be called "Letters to the editor!" Do you have any feedback? Anything you want to say about the interviews/reviews/features? Just send it over to stitchedsound@googlemail.com with the title "Letter To The Editor" and we'll pick some to include in our issue!

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If you would like to contribute a review, let us know at cynniephotographs@gmail.com

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And also to all of you who are reading this!

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