

STITCHED SOUND

Issue #7

Cash Cash The Girlfriend Season Hey Monday +more

Sing It Loud



Summertime!

It's summertime, this means sunny days, hot weather, vacation, and pool parties. Unfortunately for me, it's been rainy for the past two weeks, and the weather doesn't really get better than 22 degrees celsius. So instead of looking towards a fun exciting summer, I've been stuck inside on the computer. I guess this is a good thing for you guys though, since I take my time to put even more effort in an issue.

I was thinking the other day about how much that Stitched Sound has accomplished and how proud of the whole team I am. I would have never thought that all of this would happen, but I guess the thing is if you keep your head in the right place and work hard, you'll achieve whatever you want - except for flying. That might not turn out so well. But, we've been going great, and I just want to thank all the managers, bands, staff members, and every one who has read our issue, and is reading our issue right now. This all would not be possible without you guys.

That being said, I really hope you guys like this issue! We have pretty sweet interviews and reviews.

Stitched Sound is an online organization that brings you the news about tomorrow's bands as well as your favourite artists. As started before we do interviews, reviews and soon hope to embark on photography. We want to keep you updated about what's going on in the music industry, wether it's through an interview or update, we strive to let you know what you need to know.

Also, we have a Tumblr, Twitter, and Facebook! Links are at our site under the Contact bar. If it'd be possible and you guys were able to help us promote Stitched Sound it'd be great!

It's always crazy to see how much we've grown and how much we've accomplished. I hope you enjoy reading this, and please send your feedback - negative or positive - to cynniephotographs@gmail.com or stitchedsound@googlemail.com

Cynthia Lam

- | | | |
|----|-------------------------------------|----|
| 3 | Hey Monday | |
| 5 | Matt Kelly | |
| 6 | The Blue Pages | |
| 7 | Sing It Loud | |
| 9 | The Sun. The Moon. The Sky. | |
| 10 | Motel 6 Rock Yourself To Sleep Tour | |
| 11 | Cash Cash | |
| 13 | Therefore I Am | |
| 14 | Dear Zim | |
| | | 16 |
| | | 17 |
| | | 18 |
| | | 19 |
| | | 21 |
| | | 22 |
| | | 23 |
| | | 24 |
| | | 25 |

HEY MONDAY

Interview with Jersey Moriarty



How did the band form?

The band formed a little over two years ago. We got together with our old drummer Elliot and our guitarist Alex. They got together and did some stuff. Somewhere along those lines they figured out they needed a bassist to complete the picture and that's where I came in.

From the start is this the sound you were looking for? Were you searching for a more hardcore sound or was it supposed to be as pop-y as it is?

No, we're all pretty much pop kids at heart. I mean, we enjoy playing it. We're all fans of pop-punk. You know other bands kind of like Third Eye Blind. We kind of just wanted to play what we enjoyed listening to.

Who are your influences?

Influences came from a lot from the modern day bands we listen to. The kind of influences that made us want to play the stuff that we play.

Then who is your favorite artist?

That's a hard one. I don't really have a favorite artist today. I guess if I were to pick a current artist that I've been listening to the most... I've been really into the urban-pop scene. Just summer music that you can kind of chill out to.

If you had to change your look what would it be? Would you throw away all your skinny jeans or what?

No way! I kind of changed my look more recently. Not that it's a major change. I've been wearing more ties. It makes me look like a bigger looking person. I cleaned up my hair a little bit. It's not as big and bushy and all

over the place anymore. I got some of a haircut. I wanted to look cleaner and nicer. Just a fun look, y'know?

What would you say your favorite part of performing is?

It's fun to play live music in general. Just expressing ourselves and showing people our kind of music.

While you're on stage what are your favorite things to see?

My favorite thing to see is fans enjoy themselves and fans interacting and showing that they're really having a good time. It's really fulfilling to see kids enjoying themselves when we're playing. When kids stand around it's kind of a bummer because we're trying to have fun and convey a point and kids standing there make it show that we're not doing what we're trying to do.

What is your favorite place you've been to?

I don't know! We're in LA right now. We're about to play a show in a couple hours. I always really, really loved LA. I think LA is my favorite place in this country. It's always so happenin'. It has a really cool vibe. It might be a little too cool but it's easy to get around. You just want to get around it.

If you weren't in a band what would you be doing right now?

I would probably have a job of some sort. If I weren't in a band hopefully I would try to be in another one. I love writing music so I would try to do that. I love recording music. Probably something with music but I guess there are other things out there.

What are some of your favorite things for fans to bring you on tour?

A lot of people like brining candy. I don't like that, personally. Something that really shows the fan cares about me. If you give me candy you're just showing that you want to rot my teeth out. If you give me cupcakes you're

just saying you want to give me a stomach ache. I love when people put effort and time into it.

What song in your opinion is the bands best song?

I think the best songs are the songs that are yet to come on the next album. I can't tell you anything about it but it'll be soon enough you'll be hearing about it.

So you think the new album is going to be better than the recent album?

Yes, yes. Absolutely. In my opinion.

What is your favorite high school memory?

I was in Cross Country. I was really into that.

Did you get into the music scene in towards the end of high school or were you always into it?

I was always in the music scene since 7th or 8th grade. I was always into music but it wasn't until after I got out of school I really got into it.

What's easier about having a girl singer rather than a guy?

I don't think there's anything that's easier or hard, to be honest with you. I think it's awesome but there's not much of a difference.

When you're meeting fans are there some things that creep you out more than other things?

Not really. I'm not really freaked out by anything. Some people can be clingy but I don't like clingy. Clingy freaks me out. What do you love about meeting fans? I love how fans really show how much it means to them. When they really express why they're into the band. I don't really get nervous while meeting fans. I love hanging out to chat.

What's the longest you've ever stayed out to talk to a fan?

I love to sit outside until the last person is gone and just chit-chat. If someone is willing to sit out there forever then we're usually willing. It's something we really don't forget to do. I think it's very important.

Interview by Erika Westfall



MATT KELLY



Do you try to send a message through your lyrics, to your fans?

Some music certainly stresses the lyrics. There are audiences I shoot for when I write. I love touching down on various groups, to try to reach out to anyone and everyone. If they get the message, great. If they don't... keep listening.

What other artists would you like to play a show with?

I would love to get the chance to go on tour with someone like Eric Hutchinson or Matthew Santos.

How old were you when you began playing music?

I don't remember exactly, but I remember writing a song in my head before I started playing guitar. I must have been 9 or so. Then I picked up my mom's guitar and started learning.

Has your live performance changed since you've played your first show?

Yes it actually has. Ever since I began playing out, I have had a bit of a battle with stage fright. It is always there in the back of my mind, but with every performance it is a different animal. It depends on my personal attitude of that particular day, of how hungry that animal is.

What do you hope to accomplish in the future?

Honestly, any one that makes it to the "future", at any point, is already accomplished.

What are your opinions on music censoring?

I do not believe in music censoring whatsoever. Without truth and passion in an artist's writing, the artist isn't actually writing at all. They are manipulated and moved.

What is the writing process like?

The writing process, I guess, is not a process at all for me. Its more of like an ongoing extension of myself. It takes a while for me to complete a song. However, I'll have ten to fifteen ideas going at once. So at any given time, I may pop off 12 songs in a week because of the thoughts built up around those projects for such a long time. Its a very free flowing process, not formula driven, very "whatever".

How big of a part does the band have in your life?

They are a very big part. There are a few constants, but some "here and theres". The ideas that play out of them are tremendous. The reason for this is that when we practice, I give them an idea and a feel, if I have a particular one. They then go free with it and play what sounds right to them. Its a very spacious creative atmosphere.

What is your favourite pick-up line?

I don't do pickup lines, haha. If someone is interesting, kind, and genuine, I can notice it. Making conversation is something that I am never good at, so I practice often. I appreciate casual conversation much more than, "Whatya doin' tonight?!".... haha.

What is your favourite part about Chicago?

When I was small, I would build forts in my house out of whatever I could. When I built them, I would try my hardest to make as many rooms and nooks as possible, to make it more interesting and diverse. I actually talked about this to a buddy of mine the other day. When I am in Chicago, I feel like I am back inside one of my childhood fortresses. There are so many interesting, crazy, frightening, and calming nooks and crannies of this city, that the possibilities are endless when you are in it. The city never ends as long as you keep it going.

Interview by Bianca Delicata



THE BLUE PAGES

Interview with Zac Barnett

Is there a story behind The Blue Pages?

The Blue Pages met at Berklee college of music a few years back. I (Zac) was the president of the colleges song-writing club and James (guitar) approached me about listening to a few of his songs outside of the club. I liked what the tunes he showed me and offered to try singing over them. I would sing on stuff he had been working on and he would come up with lead guitar lines for songs of mine. From there we began writing together and the band kind of just came to be. I had already worked with Matt (drums) in previous projects, and Dave (bass) had been a friend of mine for a while. As far as the actual name, The Blue Pages, the journal that James and I wrote all of our lyrics in had light blue pages.

What inspires you musically, and lyrically?

We love it when other people are having a good time. Whether its listening to our music in private or partying at a live show, we get off when people perceive our music positively.

You will soon be going on tour with Down With Webster, Let's Get It, and Stay. Are there any cities, or stops that you're excited for?

New York city is always fun. A lot of our close friends recently moved to Brooklyn so its great to party with all them.

Who are your favourite bands to play, or tour with? Why is this?

Bamboo shoots is a super fun band. We've toured with them a couple times and both tours were great. The guys from Cash Cash are really radical too. All Night Dynamite do some hilarious stuff out on the road which always livens things up. Other than that Snoop Dogg and Milli Vanilli are cool too.

What, in your opinion, would make a great show?

Explosions, fireworks, large quantities of alcohol, and nudity.

You recently released "NightHawke". What is your favourite song off that EP?

I spend a lot of nights crying and feeling sad so probably breaking me. It's the only slow jam on the EP and it makes me weep like a little baby every time.

Did you encounter any challenges, or obstacles while writing, and recording "NightHawke"? How did you overcome this?

We actually wrote and recorded around 20 songs and only picked 6 to put on the EP so we had an alright amount of material at the time. We came across some obstacles when it came to the lyrics in certain songs, but we tried to make a few of the verse lyrics (slow down and true blood specifically) a little darker and intricate. The

chorus' in those songs are pretty cliché and club ready, but the verses tell a different side to the story.

What kind of music did you listen to while you were growing up? Are they more or less the same today?

My parents were pretty big hippies so I listened to a lot of Beatles, Bob Dylan, Crosby Stills Nash and Young, Led Zeppelin, and other classic rock gems. Today I listen to a lot indie pop stuff like Friendly Fires and Frankmusik, but recently I have really been getting into R&B. Robin Thicke is my current favourite.

Are you trying to spread a message through music? If so, what is it?

We're trying to make music that everyone can relate to. A lot of our music is upbeat and fun and we want people to have a good time while listening to it.

Do you have any plans after the tour with Down With Webster?

Releasing more music! We've already demoed out a solid number of fresh new jams and we're not going to hesitate on releasing them. Aside from continuing to write and release new songs, we're going to be hitting the road again for the months of August and September.

Interview by Cynthia Lam

SING IT LOUD

Interview with Pat Brown



TUNA Melt

4oz tuna filet cheddar, dil
-LOOK MA NO CANS!
\$5.75 W. FRIES \$7.50



Minneapolis pop rock band Sing It Loud has caught the attention of many music enthusiasts since their self titled EP which was released in 2007. From that time till now, they have released another EP, and two full length albums on Epitath Records. Along with that they have been on various tours, including We The Kings, All Time Low, Cobra Starship, Forever The Sickest Kids, and much more. They also spent their summer of 2009 on Warped Tour. They released their new album "Everything Collide" on May 11th which was a huge success. Catch Sing It Loud on the Motel 6 Rock Yourself To Sleep tour!



Sing It Loud recently released *Everything Collide*. When was it that the band decided to head into the studio and record this album? Was there anything that triggered this?

We had done over a years worth of touring on "Come Around" and we had so many songs written that we had finished on the road. It just felt like the right time to record something new.

What was the writing and recording process for this album like?

It was very interesting. We did a few things that we had never done before. We had the majority of the songs already written for the album when we went into the studio but we got to record the album song by song rather than instrument by instrument. We got that idea from a Def Leppard. Most bands record instrument by instrument but doing it this way really helped give each song a different personality. We also got to spend a month in a 3 bedroom condo in downtown Minneapolis as a band during the recording process which was a BLAST!

Were you satisfied with the outcome, and response that came from *Everything Collide*?

Extremely satisfied. It was kind of nerve racking at first because it is quite different from our first album but everyone has been very responsive when we play new songs on

tour and we haven't seen a negative album review about it yet!

You guys are currently on the Motel 6 Rock Yourself To Sleep tour with Every Avenue, The Secret Handshake, and There For Tomorrow. What has been the craziest show on the tour so far?

Omaha, Minneapolis (our hometown) and Chicago have been the 3 biggest and craziest shows so far. They were all in a row too.

Are there any cities you are stoked to visit again during this tour?

I always love playing Ft. Lauderdale, Boston, NYC, Baltimore, Long Island and Philly. I have high expectations for these shows!

What has been the craziest show that you've played? Why is this?

Halloween last year in Chicago at House Of Blues with The Rocket Summer and Forever The Sickest Kids. It was single handedly the most rowdy crowd we have ever played for. 1,300 people sold out going absolutely insane. Plus we dressed up as the Scooby Doo gang so that was the icing on the cake.

Have you ever had any embarrassing moments on stage? If yes, what was the most embarrassing thing that has happened to you on stage?

One time we played a sold out show in Detroit with Cobra Starship and I slipped and fell flat

on my back and knocked over my mic stand. You don't want to know what it feels like having 1000 people laughing at you.

How important is it, in your opinion, to keep in touch with fans?

It is THE most important thing. They're what keep you afloat. They're your support system. If people don't support your band, you will fail and if you don't show your appreciation for that support, you will have no fans.

Who is your favourite band to tour with? Why is this?

Cobra Starship. They are the most fun and crazy group of people we have ever met. We got to share a bus with them in the UK and it was the funnest 2 weeks of my life.

If you could go on stage wearing any outfit of your preference, what would it be, and why?

Chuck Taylors, Black jeans and a Minnesota Vikings football jersey. Because I LOVE the Vikings.

Does Sing It Loud have any plans for the fall?

We will be touring the US this fall but we just don't know when yet. We also have a brand new music video for our next single, "Here With You." that will be released very very soon!



THE SUN, THE MOON, THE SKY.

What sparked your interest in music?

Well I was always involved in music through school which really helped spark my interest in it, but about 5 years ago, my mom bought me my first acoustic guitar for like 100 bucks, and since that day I've yet to set it down.

Who are your biggest inspirations?

My biggest inspiration for my music would probably have to be God. Every song I write is like my personal prayer to Him and my way of telling Him how I feel. Another huge inspiration for me would be Dustin Kensrue.

Why did you decide to become a solo artist as opposed to being in a band?

That's kind of a funny story because I started off solo when I first started playing music, then found members for a band which didn't work out after all, so I went solo again. There's good people and there's bad people, but in the end the only person you can really trust is yourself. If you want something done, you have to go out and make it happen.

You recently released *Till We Have Faces*.**What is your favourite song off this album?**

Hm, I guess I would probably have to say...The Grey Mountain. It talks about star-crossed lovers and how that feeling of knowing what needs to be done, is usually never an easy

one. It seems to be the favorite of most people I've talked to also.

How is this different from previous albums and EP's?

Well the biggest difference would be that this album was recorded with a full band. The other album I have on iTunes now, "And The Hope You Left Us With", is acoustic with some electronic drums in it. We (I was still a full band at the time) wanted this record to be pure and simple. No over producing and nothing that we couldn't reproduce live, and thankfully, I think we accomplished that.

Did you encounter any new challenges while writing and recording *Till We Have Faces*? How did you overcome them?

I did. As most lyricists would know, writing music can be tricky, but when I started writing this album probably close to 8 or 9 months back and in between that time, there was more than one occasion where I just wouldn't be able to write anymore. Writers block if you will. But through prayer and perseverance, I was able to get through it and write some of the best songs I think I've ever written.

Do you have any hidden talents that people may not know about?

Haha, hidden talents? I guess one would be that I am a graphic designer on the side of all this. Some people know, but not too many.

If you could collaborate with any artist, or band (dead or alive) who would they be and why?

Dustin Kensrue, most definitely. He is, as previously mentioned, someone that I look up to so much, not only as a musician, but as a human being. Such a great guy.

What is your favourite thing about Las Cruces?

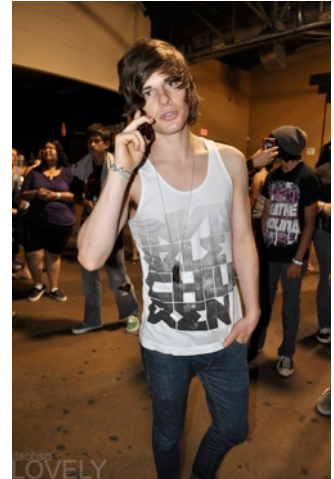
A lot of people hate Las Cruces because of how small it is, but honestly, I love this place. I don't know if I'll stay here forever, but it's a nice and quiet place to have been raised. Plus, the mountains are beautiful.

What do you hope to accomplish in the future?

Well, as a musician, I'm not looking for fame or fortune. I'm just looking to spread my message of hope and forgiveness to kids who want to have fun and listen to good music. If someday I'm able to live off of this, and provide for my family, then I would be more than content.

MOTEL 6 ROCK YOURSELF TO SLEEP TOUR

By Sarah Lozano



The Motel Six: Rock Yourself to Sleep Tour was really a tour about dreamers. This has to be one of my top ten shows. The Motel Six: Rock Yourself to Sleep Tour was headlined by Every Avenue, and supported acts, where Sing it Loud, The Secret Handshake, There for Tomorrow and a different band that picked to open up a certain number of dates. For the Houston, TX Rock Your Self to Sleep Tour that band was the Sound of City, a three piece pop-rock band from Phoenix, Arizona.

The Sound of City opened up the show with good energy. They seem to have been happy to be playing.

Next was There For Tomorrow. They we're extremely amazing live. It was almost as if you where listening to their album. Very clear.

By The time The Secret Handshake was on stage I had come to a conclusion "I Love this Tour" without needing to do research I knew that none of these bands sounded alike, but the crowd just didn't care. It was a tour of the dreamers and the tour of the music lovers.

The Secret Handshake had to be my favorite act of the night. Luis pulled an extremely gutsy move by playing only new songs off his upcoming album. Normally if someone would pull that everyone would be like iUgh, I don't know any of these song,î but let's go back about what I said before about the crowd. These where people who just loved music, and of course TSH is great music to dance too, so we dance.

Sing it Loud, it loud I feel had the most fans, at this show, and how could they not? Teenage girls in homemade band shirts, that's what it's all about. They played a

great set of new music and old, which made me thankful for their new album "Everything Collide". after seeing them play the same set off their first album, it was very refreshing to hear something different live.

Every Avenue ended the show and made me smile. Here what I have to say about Every Avenue on this tour, I felt like it was the first time I really saw them live and I was impressed. Every Avenue use to be a band that I would over look at shows, but after the performance at Rock Yourself to Sleep I don't think that would be a problem anymore. There's only one word that exist for this performance Fantastic.

To wrap this all up it was a great time. Most shows now and days are about gimmicks and popularity. This was a show purely for music lovers and amazing bands to connect well with their dedicated fans.



Interview with JPizzle

Looking back to before you were in Cash Cash, what did you think you would be doing at this point in your life?

I knew I would be doing something involving music whether it was producing, recording, playing or working on the business side at a label or mgmt company. I had such a passion for music and was lucky enough to be able to apply it in places more then just performing in a band. Being a producer and engineer enabled us to practically create everything ourselves in our studio. But for right now, the most important thing in my life is performing on stage and writing and recording our own music. Maybe down the road I'll start producing and recording other bands, but for now we just do remixes for close friends or bands when we have free time on the road. Sometimes me and Alex mix band's music for really good rates when we have spare time!

Who were your biggest influences when you were growing up? Are they more or less the same, or have they changed?

So many people and things have influenced me in my life. My overall drive and motivation comes from my parents. Musically, bands like

the Goo Goo Dolls, Nirvana, Stone Temple Pilots, Jimmy Eat World really played an important role in getting me involved in playing an instrument and starting a band. Producers like John Feldmann and Eric Valentine really got me into recording and producing music.

What is the most memorable show that you've played? Why is this?

I don't think I could pin point our best or most memorable show, but I could probably narrow it down to a few.

Kiss Fm Seattle's Jingle Bell Bash in '09 was amazing. It was the most fans we've ever had sing along to our songs. I think it was like 5-8 thousand people singing party in your bedroom at the top of their lungs...we took a video of it and posted it on our myspace so we could always remember how loud the crowd was.

Another good show was when we sold out our local venue "School Of Rock" coming back from tour in DEC '09. It felt really good to see all our hometown fans come out and support us after all these years.

Playing London on the UK Cobra Starship tour was also amazing. Having a sold out crowd singing our songs overseas made my heart drop.

How important is it to you to keep in touch with fans? Why is this?

It's very important. Now a days, being in a band is more than just playing shows and recording albums. Back in the day you didn't have Axel rose or Kurt Cobain tweeting fans or chilling with them by their merch tables. Haha no they played their shows and that was it. You had to go read books on the band to get to know anything about them or watch interviews. Now a days, the fans know everything about the bands, what they eat, what they like, what they do on a daily basis, it's awesome, it's letting the fans have a real connection with the bands they love. I support it 100% and we always kick it with the fans as much as we possibly can. we always read their messages and stay super late at shows to sign stuff and hang out with the fans.



Jim

What is the craziest, or your favourite tour that you've done? Why is this?

Hmmm, like our favorite show, I don't think I can narrow it down to one tour, I would say Warped Tour '09, UK Cobra Starship, the Metro Station tour, and Family Force 5 tours were a few of my favorite. There were just such amazing shows on all those tours and the bands were just so amazing. We made a lot of great friends on those tours that we still keep in touch with.

What is the difference for you, when playing in the UK as opposed to North America?

Hmmm, everything is pretty much the same. the only difference is that in the UK we get to hear our songs sung by the crowd in a super sexy british accent. What can I say I'm a sucker for a british accent. Damn it mom and dad why didn't you give me a british accent!! :-)

You recently did your first full headlining US tour in May. What was this experience like?

It was awesome! At first we were a little nervous about headlining, but the tour was a success and we had a blast! We got to hit the road with our good friends All Night Dynamite that we produced an EP for. It's always good to tour with some of your best friends. It makes it 34538743597345 times more fun!

Why do you want to be Forever Young?

Because old people suck. Haha I don't know, I'll always be getting into stupid shit no matter how old I get. I'll always be a teenager at heart. Of course there's a time for work, but you can't forget about the play....I always make sure I keep a good balance of the two.

What is the craziest tour prank that you've pulled, or been a victim of? What happened?

Sean P from the White Tie Affair placed a little battery powered speaker in the seat of our van that made these crazy like bird chirping/crazy bug insect type noise that had a sensor that would go off by vibration, it had like 3-4 sounds that it rotated so it was soooooo believable that there was some crazy ass bug or animal in our van..it was going wild as we were driving and we all freaked out. We pulled over, ripped up some of the carpet and shit. It took us like 2 days to realize where it was in the van. We never returned the prank but I'm sure one day we'll get our revenge...mwahhhahahahhhhh!!!

Cash Cash is currently touring this summer. What should fans expect at the shows?

Yeh! we're stoked to be heading out with our good friends Stereo Skyline & The Audition! fans can definitely expect us playing a couple new songs as well as some crazier shit in our

light show, basically bring your dance shoes, we're gonna boogie like it's 1999 baby!

Will you be heading into the studio soon to record a new album?

Yeh, we have like 3/4 of our next album already written and demoed. We're still writing and recording the rest of it, but we have a single coming out this summer called "Red Cup (I Fly Solo) ft. Lacey Schwimmer & Spose" We're super stoked on it and can't wait for it to be released! It features our good friend Lacey Schwimmer who you've probably seen dancing on the ABC's Dancing With The Stars. This is her first singing release so everyone is really stoked on it! And we had our boy Spose lay down a dirty rap in the bridge. The songs really a fun jam and song you can bump at any party to get people hyped!

What do you hope to accomplish in the future?

We'll we're accomplishing a big goal this summer. It was to go to South America and play a show. This July we're going to Brazil to play a couple shows and do press/promo. I'm so excited for this trip...it's gonna be wild! We're constantly setting new goals for ourselves and it's been such an amazing journey of accomplishing so many of them and having an amazing time in the process. We'll see where the wind blows Cash Cash next. :-)

Interview by Cynthia Lam

THEREFORE I AM

Interview with Alex Correria

STITCHED SOUND Issue 7



What was the writing and recording process for The Sound Of Human Lives?

When we worked on TSOHL it was the first time we had ever really sat down and collectively focused on writing a record with no distractions. Prior to TSOHL we had recorded an EP called Escape. Escape was, in a way, our first trial run of writing with the current line up. Most of songs were written over the course of a year and a half, some six months apart, which now looking back on it gave the the EP kind of a disjointed and unrefined sound, as far as style and approach go. I think because we had set so much time aside for TSOHL and had really focused more on writing a record as a whole and not just a collection of songs, it has more of a cohesive sound to it. We wrote almost all of it in a small practice studio in Boston, MA during the fall of '08 and then immediately after, we tracked the record in Providence, RI with our friend Mike Poorman in January of '09. I think this was the best part of the process for us because it gave us no real time to slow down and over analyze what we were doing. I think it helped us to write a more organic and honest sounding record this time around, which is exactly what we wanted.

What is the craziest thing that has happened at a show?

At the Seattle date of the Alexisonfire tour I broke my bottom tooth in half, 20 seconds into the first song of our set. I had run off of the stage into the crowd and someone's hand/arm/head must have hit the mic directly into my mouth. My tooth broke and went through my lower lip and, well, I bled all over a group of (what seemed like) young girls who were all squished up on the

barricade waiting for George and/or Dallas [Alexisonfire] to swoon them with their lovely voices. Needless to say, they were not too happy to be covered in a small redheaded man's blood. The craziest part of the story is later that night Travis, while standing at the foot of the stage, said jokingly, "Let's look for your tooth; I bet we can find it and glue it back on." As soon as he looked down, there was my tooth in all its broken glory, resting right by his foot. We didn't have any super glue, so I just put it in my wallet.

In your opinion, how important is it to keep in touch with your fans?

It is one of, if not the most important thing in my opinion. For me, music is all about the experience you acquire from it. Whether it's driving in your car and putting on a record that captures a moment or being caught in the moment at a show and feeling like your a part of something real. I think without communication between the artist and the listener everything fails. The people who support music are the most important thing to a band. I think it's pretty sad that a lot of musicians these days lose sight of that.

Is there a message that Therefore I Am is spreading through music?

I'm sure there is somewhere haha. But the message we intentionally try to portray is often different than the message someone takes away from a song or lyric. It's like asking what the message behind Picasso's painting "The Scream" is. I'm sure he had a certain idea of what the viewer would take away from it, but every person has their own idea and vision of what it means. It's really open for individual interpretation.

How did you meet the other members of Therefore I Am?

Originally I had met Chris and Jim (and 2 ex-members) through a website called "justanotherscene.com" which at the time, was a DIY website dedicated to show postings, venue listings, band listings and had a sort of "band member classified/wanted" section. They had posted a thread that said something along the lines of "Therefore I Am needs vocalist". At the time, I was also looking for some people to try and start a band with so I contacted them. After sending some emails back and forth we ended up playing together a few times, hanging out and had sort of officially formed the band. About a year or two after forming we met Brian and shortly after that we met Travis, both through mutual friends we had made in the Boston area. And that my friends, is how true love is made.

Would you rather be recording or touring?

That's a tough one! I'd have to go with touring. I love recording and everything that's a part of creating art and music and seeing it all come together in front of you...but getting to see so many parts of the world with some of your best friends is one of the most amazing things in my life. Touring takes first place.

Who are your favourite bands to tour with? Why is this?

We just got off of a great tour with Alexisonfire, Trash Talk and La Dispute. I'd have to say those guys were some of the greatest people to tour with. For me, the best part of touring with them was the fact that no one cared about the political side of being involved in music or cared about the pretentious garbage that a lot of bands submerge themselves in. From the start, it was just 18 people hanging out, playing music and having a good time. A wise man once said: "It's not about where you are, it's about who you're with." I think that's my motto for every tour we do.

What advice would you give to young musicians who would like to start a band?

Right now I'm sitting on my friend Chris's couch in Providence, RI typing this out and behind me is a picture framed in his living room that says, "WORK HARD AND BE NICE TO PEOPLE" - I think that sums it all up.



What do you hope to accomplish in the future?

All I want is to keep having fun and creating music with my best friends. If I have that, I'm a happy guy.

Dear Zim

Interview with David



What can someone expect from one of your concerts?

Hmmm... Light Up Drumkits, Penguins, and Glowsticks! Hahaha, but seriously we try to put on as high energy of show as we can. Because if you wanted to hear the music you could just listen to the EP. There's nothing better then making it into more of a party, rather than a "concert" where everyone can have a great time, and dance around. The more people moving the better. :)

What, in your opinion, is the coolest aspect of touring?

There are a lot of cool aspects to touring its hard to pick one. I guess if

you forced me into a corner surrounded by killer chihuahuas and made me choose, I would have to say that seeing new places and meeting new people along the way. That to me is by far the coolest aspect. I just love hanging out and meeting kids at shows, its just really refreshing to hear different peoples life stories, and make connections. I love making new friends along the way, I don't have enough lol :P

How have you managed to grasp the concept of living your life on the road?

Well growing up in so many different countries, I've kind of gotten used to

the idea of always being on the move. Besides I honestly can't think of anything better than spending a month or so in a van/bus with your best friends, doing what you love. The only thing that I have to say kinda stinks is being away from your family and loved ones, but to be honest being away from them only makes coming home that much better.

If you had your own MTV Reality show, what would you call it?

"Jealous Much?"hahah



If you had the choice to either wear a deep-v American Apparel or a regular-v neck American Apparel, which would you choose and what colour?

Hahaha.. Well I have to say I kind of feel left out in the "scene" I literally do not own an "AA" V neck. So in that case I feel like I need to go with the total cliché and go for the deep V and obviously the purple is the way to go, right? But honestly, more of a fan of the tank tops...

What is your favourite song to play live?

That's a tough one, I would have to say it's between two, Click Boom and I'll Be There. I love Click Boom just because it gets me so pumped up on stage. However everyone seems to react better to "I'll Be There" so purely because of the crowd's energy, and how awesome the kids are when we play it, I'd have to go with I'll Be There.

How has your sound evolved since you started out?

Oh man! you have no idea!.. If you want to have a good old laugh you should check out the Myspace thangs under my name. I used to write and record "chill out music" with no lyrics or structure. It was.... um.... interesting. :P Then I was determined to write more music with lyrics and more of a band sound. That was pretty much terrible I had no clue what I was doing lyrically or musically. I guess after that something just clicked with Dear Zim, and stuff just became more natural. Now here we are with the extremely poppy dancey sound on the EP. Who knows even that might change.

What was on your mind when you were writing for "Ready, Set, Dance"?

"Please let me be better than Metrostation!" haha only playing. I guess I just really wanted to try and make music

that everyone could just have a good time with. And not think too hard about what was going on, just have a happy feeling you know? I never really had an overall goal as such I just wanted to really hit the scene swinging.

What kind of music did you listen to growing up?

I know it sounds cliché but pretty much everything at different points in my life. I think mainly though most pop radio hits I absolutely love. As well as and poppy sounding stuff that's coming out of the scene. Now don't get me wrong I was in my fair share of hardcore bands so I do love me something brutal every once in a while :)

GOODBYE COASTLINE



How old were you when you started making music?

We all started playing when we were teenagers. Every member started playing in bands since they were freshman's in high school.

Who were your musical heroes growing up?

Jerry's musical hero's that made him want to be in a band were groups such as The Foo Fighters, Oasis, Blink-182 and mainly the Beatles. Brian and Eddie grew up listening to a lot of punk bands including The Lawrence Arms, Suicide Machines, Rancid and many other influences that made them want to be in bands. Zane's biggest influence that made him want to play drums was Andy Hurley from Fall Out Boy. Mike's biggest influence growing up was Blink 182.

What are your future goals for the band?

Future Goals for the band are to tour and build a fan base outside of Chicago mainly. Also to record a full length after we release our current e.p.

Describe the Chicago music scene.

The cool thing that I believe we all agree upon about the music scene in Chicago is it's very diverse. If you are looking for a specific genre of music to listen or go see at a show you can more than likely find it in Chicago, which is pretty rad.

What songs do you listen to if you want to fall asleep?

Most the members in the band usually need complete silence to go to sleep hahaha. But I'm guessing if we had to pick some bands to fall asleep listening to they would probably fall in the category of Owl City, Minus the Bear, Sigur Ros, etc.

Is there any particular song that you wish you wrote?

Dirty Little Secret by the All -American Rejects. The chord progression and melody are so simple yet the song is priceless. Easy to connect with the lyrics and start humming along with immediately. It's sort of the way we approach songs when we write- we ask ourselves how can we make this song

accessible to the vast majority of music lovers.

What inspires you to write songs?

The biggest inspiration for us to write songs are real life incidents that have happen to us. All our songs that we have written are based on specific events that have happened to at least one of us in the band.

Do you have any favorite types of guitars you like to use best?

Jerry prefers to play vintage Gibson Les Paul custom's. Mike plays a Nord stage Keyboard. Brian plays a Fender Telecaster. Eddie plays a Fender precision Bass. Zane plays a Custom Tama Set. Basically these are the instruments we feel comfortable playing and use at all our live shows!

Interview by Stefany Bryan



I, The Skyline

How would you describe I, The Skyline to someone who has never heard your music before?

Unique but familiar. We like to mend styles together and there's a little bit of something in our music for everybody.

When was it that you knew you wanted to play music for a living?

After playing our first out of town show.

What has been your biggest accomplishment so far?

Signing with our first label, and prepping our first full length to be released.

What do you prefer, recording, or playing live? Why is this?

Definitely playing live. We get to see the reaction of the listeners firsthand.

What has been the most insane show that you've played? Why is this?

The Exit in Fresno with Confide and Blessthefall. The crowd packed the building, and people went nuts. We've played a lot of packed shows, but Fresno has by far been the most energetic crowd we have played for.

Who are your favourite bands to play with? Why is this?

Confide, Flight 409, Jamies Elsewhere, and Our Last Night.

Confide because they put on an amazing live show.

Flight 409 because we always had a good time hanging out after the show.

Jamies Elsewhere because we're good friends with them and they're an amazing band.

Our Last Night because they have some of the most well written music we have ever heard, and they put on an intense show.

Have you seen any crazy antics coming from the crowd at one of your shows? What happened?

We've seen tons of pits, and some of them turn into fights.

At a show in Bakersfield with Eyes Set To Kill two kids started duking it out, and pretty much ended up on the stage with us.

We're not about fights at all, but how can you deny it was a crazy event to go on while you're playing?

What should fans expect at a I, The Skyline show?

A 6 foot 8 frontman, a Bro, 2 lumberjacks, An average Joe, and Kaleb McTollybears!

Haha. You should expect us to make you leave wanting more!

How would you describe your new full length?

A wide variety of styles mixed into one.

A taste of the old mixed with a taste of a new, and more mature side of I, The Skyline that you've never heard before. Ranging from breakdowns to melodic riffs, topped off with emotional choruses

What was the writing and recording process like? Was it collaborative?

To be honest it was rushed..

We wrote about 6 songs in a month, and everyone threw in ideas. But we can promise it sounds like we spent a year writing it!

What does the future hold for I, The Skyline?

Releasing our first full length, touring, reaching out to fans outside of California, and a lot of writing to prepare for a new album.





SOCIAL JET LAG

Interview with Melissa

How did Social Jet Lag come to be?

Jeremy started a band in Orlando, FL, that I became a part of a few years ago and after some thought, we moved back up to his home in Alabama to find musicians. Eventually we brought on Jeremy's brother, Ben, and Cody and Skinny.

How would you describe the sound of Social Jet Lag?

Our sound is like a mesh of pop and hardcore. Even though we listen to a lot of the same music, we are all coming from different backgrounds and have very different tastes so we try to bring all those influences into something that makes us...us.

What inspires you musically, and lyrically?

All kinds of situations, past experiences, and even daily struggles inspire me. We want to keep our music positive knowing that through life we all experience struggles and hardship and most people are tired of listening to songs about defeat. A lot of our personal beliefs also come through our lyrics.

What in your opinion sets Social Jet Lag distinct from other bands?

I think a combination of our style, and who we are as people make us unique. Having a girl singer heavily influenced in pop combined with a metal style makes us completely different than even similar bands such as A Day to Remember. We like that in a way we're creating a new genre. Off stage we want to be a band that you can hangout with because we're so blessed to have the fans and friends who support us.

What has been the craziest show that you've played? Why is this?

Probably in Nashville at Rocketown at their anniversary bash this year. It was the first time playing main stage and we spent the whole day making crazy signs to help promote. We caught the attention of a lot of people and when we walked on stage they were holding our crazy signs. All in all it was awesome. Rocketown already feels like home for us, but that night was especially memorable.

While you were growing up how big of a part did music have in your life?

Wow...so much. I never understood the people who didn't listen music daily. It was definitely my expression for every emotion in life: love, anger, excitement, tragedy, etc.

Who are your favorite bands to tour with? Why is this?

Favorite? Hm...well honestly we haven't toured with any bigger bands yet. But the people we do like touring with are humble, crazy musicians. The times we've had the most fun were with bands that took music seriously but liked to have fun. As a fellow musician, you can relate because you are all dealing with the excitement and struggle of being a musician and trying to "make it".

If you could collaborate with any artists, who would it be and why?

Definitely a band like The Devil Wears Prada would be cool. It would also be fun and pretty random to collaborate with a band like Relient K or Blink 182 since those are the bands that

first inspired me and made me want to do music as a career.

Is Social Jet Lag's writing process collaborative? How is it done?

As a band, we write the music together. Lyrically, Ben and I either collaborate while we are all writing the music or independently and come together later to discuss song ideas.

What is your favorite thing about Alabama?

Our scene. When we first started as a band, we were afraid people wouldn't like us because everyone already had their mind made up of what is "good music". Bands like MCMB and In Irons came from our area and so there was a pretty big shadow cast. After people saw us, though, they immediately grabbed on to us and have been completely supportive since then. It's always a relaxing and fun environment when we play hometown shows now.

Where do you see yourself in a year or so?

We will have released our first official full length that will be distributed beyond our previous release, Harmony in Discord. Currently we are in virtually every digital download store with physical copies only being sold on the road at shows. We will be changing that with this next album. You'll be able to see it at stores such as Hot Topic, Best Buy, and your local coffee shop. Ha. We also plan to be on the road as full time as venues will allow.

Interview by Cynthia Lam

THE GIRLFRIEND SEASON

Interview with Colby



If you were to tell somebody who has never heard of The Girlfriend Season to listen, what would you say and why?

I would have to say that "Things That Fly (Part 1)" spans across a variety of genres, from pop to dance, to rock and acoustic. It's got a little bit of flavor for just about everyone, and I think that the blend of all our pretty unique influences puts out a pop/rock blend that they haven't quite heard yet.

When you first started out, did you have a specific sound, or genre in mind? Has it changed since then?

Well before The Girlfriend Season even had its name, it held a much darker alternative sound. Once it was decided that keys and synth would be added to the mix, a more upbeat pop-oriented sound seemed to just feel like the right way to go.

Who were your biggest influences when you were a kid? Are they the same today, or how have they changed?

I know I definitely don't speak for the rest of the band on this one, but personally, I was a big country music fan, having grown up on a ranch. Dwight Yoakam, Garth Brooks, George Strait. They slowly evolved as I started getting introduced to more and more rock music. My influences

have since changed to more progressive rock outfits, started with a lot of Rush and Iron Maiden when I was younger, into Coheed and Cambria, The Mars Volta, etc., now. Pretty odd now that I think of it. Ha.

What is your favourite thing about each one of your band members?

Well let's see here. It's hard to point out certain things I like most about the guys, but I'll try.

I'll start with Pat (guitar). My favorite thing would have to be his performance, always energetic and awkwardly awesome on stage. For Ryan (Pat's brother, lead vocals), I'd have to say his creativity when it comes to the basis for the songs he writes, and his extreme denial whenever one of us can pull a miracle and beat him at a video game. Haha. For Travis (drums), his dedication and precision. He's a great drummer, even if none of us have really figured out how old he is yet. And finally, my little brother Garret (guitar). I can speak for everyone when I say either his Kermit the Frog impression or his epic movie trailer voice take the cake on this one. Priceless out of a lanky kid with braces.

When was The Girlfriend Season's first show? What were your thoughts and feelings before you went on stage?

- My first show was about 2 months after The Girlfriend Season officially formed, at Muse Music in Provo, Utah. July 27th, 2007, I'm pretty sure was the date. I was pretty nervous, but I was only supposed to be filling in for that show, so I figured I'd just go all out and have fun. There were some butterflies, but for it being my first full band show ever, I was more excited than anything.

How big of a part does The Girlfriend Season have on your life?

Well we were all up in arms as to whether we wanted to continue the band last summer (and we were spread around 4 different states) and we all decided to come back home to record this album and push it, see where it goes. So I think I can confidently speak for everyone when saying, outside of family, it's our #1 priority. Gotta put everything into it to get something out of it!

Continued ->

What was the recording process for "Things That Fly" like?

It was incredibly fun. It lasted just over a month. We started by sitting down with Geoff (Rockwell) and brainstorming the structure/composition of each of the unfinished songs, and revising a little bit of the ones that were finished, tossing ideas back and forth. Laid down drums for about 5 days, moved onto rhythm guitar and bass for the next week or so, all the while brainstorming lyrical/melodical ideas for wherever they were needed. Any guitar leads, synth/piano parts, effects, etc., we did more toward the end of the month, while we recorded vocals. Other than that there was just a lot of Qdoba burritos and epic washers tournaments, setting off alarms by opening doors the wrong doors, and cramming 6 guys into one sweet and sweaty hotel room. Pretty standard stuff, really. Ha.

How do you decide which songs make the album, and which don't?

Geoff helped a lot in this aspect. On which songs would fit together the best, which would be the most beneficial for us to put. We had about 18 songs I'd say that were a possibility to put on

either 'part' of the album, and we just broke down the demos that we had recorded of them, and debated why each one should or should not have gone on the record. Basically what we thought fit well with each other, content wise, musically, and what gave the best variety of music while sustaining a signature sound went onto the album!

What is your favourite track off "Things That Fly"?

My favorite track of the entire album will be out on "Part 2". But as for "Part 1", I still have a soft spot for "The Way She Moves" and "Rocketship". Just a blast to play live and love the lyrics.

Do you have any plans for touring in the future?

We're hoping to be able to extensively tour this fall sometime, and our next show will be at the Boise Music Festival on July 24th, headlined by Bret Michaels and Macy Gray.

What made you decide that you wanted to be in the music industry?

Just a passion for listening to music and hearing how it evolves over time that turned into a passion for making it and

performing it. There's not a better feeling in the world than hearing a crowd of people happily singing the words to a song that your band gets to perform.

Is there a message that you are trying to spread through music?

There's not really one specific message that our EP or debut album were made to send, but it seems like there is a theme of enjoying your youth, appreciating the little things, and living without regrets that seep through a few of our songs. So if I were to put that into a message to anyone who listens to us, I'd do it this way:

Don't grow up too fast, life happens everyday!

Interview by Cynthia Lam



TREES ABOVE MANDALAY

Interview with Sean

STITCHED SOUND Issue 7



How did you come up with the band name "Trees Above Mandalay"? The name comes from a story I had come across on abc.com about a couple who had decided to do Methamphetamines at a New Years party in Nebraska. On the drive home, because of how high they were, got lost and kept calling the police operator telling them all these strange things they were seeing. When asked where they were, they kept telling the police that they were in the "Trees Above Mandalay." It's a pretty wild story and is worth reading. Long story short, it sounded cool and had an obscure meaning to it, so we were into it.

What has been your biggest accomplishment as a band? I'd have to say staying together for this long haha! When we started almost 4 years ago, we had come from different bands and just started this project as something fun to do.. It seems like most of the bands we were playing with back then had given up but we kind of just stuck it through. At some point before last summer, we were all down and miserable. But we got a new manager and some great things have started coming our way that really gave us hope and the drive to really work our asses off this summer and on.

Who were your inspirations when you first started playing music? Are they the same today? We all have our own personal influences, but they all seem to be bands that have always broken the mold. We all grew up in hardcore bands but made it a point to stretch the boundaries when we started Trees, developing a more pop sound. Bands like Glassjaw, Boys Night Out, Underminded, In Theory, Beloved, Brand New were all on constant rotation, especially around the time we started. Growing up and going/playing local

jersey shows with bands like Folly, Hidden in Plainview, and Face First, I'd say, was the biggest influence. Being able to watch those bands grow and take it on the road just made us want it that much more as we grew older.

What inspires you to write music, or lyrics? I'd say the inspiration comes from simply wanting to entertain. a good song to us is one that we know the audience will have a good time listening, as well as watching it be performed. Dave deals with all of the lyrics, and it usually comes from his personal experiences in his life as well as in the band.

If Trees Above Mandalay was a sandwich, what would the ingredients be? Probably a really messy reuben or sloppy joe of some sort that just looks like shit, but tastes really good.

Where is your favourite venue or city to play in? Why is this? Definitely Alley Katz in Richmond, VA. We've been playing there since the first summer as a band and will always be wanting to get back there. The kids and the vibe is absolutely amazing there and we always have a great time. The Meatlocker in Montclair, NJ is definitely up there as well. It's basically our hometown and always having all of your friends and familiar faces there always makes it special.

Who are your favourite bands to play a show with? Why?

Touring with Broadway and Marilyn is Dead was such a fun experience. Having to say goodbye to the Broadway dudes after 4 weeks of living with them was the worst, but we'll be seeing them again real soon (cough, cough.) Washington Square Park are our good friends and always put on the most entertaining set. They're all out of their minds basically. I've been friends with Max since I started playing

music in 8th grade so it's awesome to both be doing what we always wanted to with music. I have nothing but respect for that dude. Their CD just dropped and its killer. Check them out.

Have you ever had any embarrassing moments on stage? What happened?

On stage at the School of Rock in NJ, Dave turned around in the middle of the set, look at me, and launch a spitful of snot in the air. I didn't think anything of it until it landed in my eye and down the left side of my face. I had to play the rest of the song like that.

Where do you see yourself five to ten years from now? If not still playing and performing, I'd have to say we'd hope to see ourselves all with steady jobs somewhere in the field of music. Wherever we are, I think we can all agree that we just want to look back at some point and be proud of our accomplishments and experiences as a band.

Do you have any plans for touring during or after this summer?

YES! TOURING! We'll be hopping on another tour starting at the end of August. We should be announcing the dates and with who really soon. After that we're hoping for another regional tour and a full US tour by winter time. We are currently writing, nonstop, during our time at home and we hope to be recording an album while we're home for a few months in the winter!

Is there anything else you would like to say?

Thanks so much to stitchedsound.com and thanks to everyone who keeps supporting us. We have a ton of things coming to look forward to and having everyones support really does mean the world to us. And we're so excited to see everyone out on the road!

Interview by Cynthia Lam



KRISTEN WILLIAMS

How old were you when you started doing music?

Singing-forever. But I really got a crush and fell in love with it when I was 15. I learned how to play guitar and started writing my own songs.

How would you put your music style?

A little bit of everything. I like to explore as much as I can with music but ultimately pop is the genre I really like to get down with.

What do you think sets you apart from any other female musician?

The fact that I can read minds...also I am so real with my lyrics and style of writing. Everything is 100% me and it's something I hold onto with a passion.

Any inspirations in music for you?

I get so amped up on other musicians it's unreal. I went to a Katy Perry concert one time and was like, "Oh my God this girl is awesome, I want to make amazing music and play in front of thousands of people also!" Seeing other people have the same love for music really gets me inspired.

Could you tell me about Mollie from the song Unsinkable Mollie?

She is the smartest, most talented, weirdest girl I know-she's my best friend! I have known her since 5th grade and we do everything together. She is the kind of friend that says things at the same time you do, dances like a fool with you, and knows all the weird quirks

about you no one else does. I wrote a song about her because I like to write about things happening in my life and why not write something about my BFF? It was fun!

Why the word Unsinkable?

To me the word means nothing can get you down, you show ultimate strength, and positivity! I dig the word and that's how I perceive my best friend, Mollie to be. Also it's good for everyone else to try and be Unsinkable...but wear a life vest just incase!

What are your thoughts on the local Texas music scene?

I love it personally! I met so many of my friends through the Dallas music scene by playing shows with them. I remember one time playing a show and a bunch of local band guys flooded to the front and were screaming my name and singing along with me, I got a kick out of it.

What lyrics do you feel the closest to?

Lyrics of my own?

I would have to say every lyric in my song "Over You" writing it and recording it was a blast. I totally used so many emotions in that song and hearing other girls tell me "This reminds me of my ex, I love it!" was the cherry on top.

Any plans for touring any soon?

Right now I am focused on recording new songs and then yes, I want to tour so bad! And

I know it will happen soon...I can't wait to meet new fans and spread my music out to everyone.

Any artist that you're thankful to have grown with?

Right now I am doing cartwheels for the band Runner Runner. Can't express how much I love those guys and how talented they are! And Colbie Caillat I have to give mad props to. I remember when I first heard her music I was so stoked on her...I saw her in concert and a year later I actually met her! We took a picture sticking our tongues out at the camera and I jammed her new CD the entire way home singing at the top of my lungs. It was one of my favorite days ever.

What music do you listen to?

I really like to jam Katy Perry, La Roux, Black Eyed Peas, The Beach Boys, and Lights. Total feel good music that makes me feel on top of the world...can't beat that! I would like to have a giant group hug with all of them.

Where do you see yourself in the next two years?

I would love to be on some amazing tours with other amazing musicians, on the radio, on MTV, having my album in every store, accepting a Grammy, and high fiving every family member, friend, and fan that believed in me! Hey...a girl can dream can't she? :)

YOUR BEST FRIEND

Interview with Nick Elder



What, in your opinion, is the most important thing to keep in mind while on tour?

You have to stay positive. Tour is the time of our lives, but it gets difficult to be away from home. You have to remember that your attitude can affect everyone around you. Your actions are a reflection of everyone in the band, not just yourself. You learn the dynamics of the band and soon enough it feels like home.

Who are your favourite bands to tour, or play a show with? Why is this?

We've had the honor of playing with some amazing bands. The Rouge, Sent By Ravens, Chiodos, The Classic Crime, Damiera, Robots In The Garden, Jacob's Ladder, And Then There Was You, Ports of Aida, Settle, Koji, La Dispute, Act As One, Mike Mains & The Branches, Harvey, Whisperwall, Eagle Scout...there are so many! I'm sure I'm forgetting some and I'm sorry! We are absolutely a live band, that's us at our best. We've been spoiled with such good bands to share that experience with.

What should we expect from the new EP?

We actually have two EPs coming out this year. We just released an acoustic EP called 'Ghosts'. We recorded 5 songs with our friend Sean in Chicago, IL. This project turned into quite the production. I

don't even like to call it 'acoustic' because that's not really the case. There is a full drum kit, guitars, upright bass, banjo, organs, pianos, mandolin, pedal steel, and all sorts of percussion tricks on this recording. This was just an EP that we did for fun. There are different versions of 4 old songs and 1 new one. If you haven't heard it, go check it out!

We head back into the studio on August 2nd to record brand new, full band songs. I can't wait to get this out. It's been almost two years since we wrote and recorded some new rock & roll songs. The new songs are a bit more vocal driven, with the vocals being quite evenly distributed amongst Dale, John, and Steve. We truly have no 'lead singer' but we've got more singing than we've had before. I feel like we've really found our sound with these new songs. I've never been more proud of anything I've had a hand in creating.

What are ways that fans can help promote Your Best Friend?

Keep coming out to shows and showing support! We're nothing without our friends that love and support us. I promise that this new EP will make you proud. We'll be seeing you soon!

Check us out at:

www.yourbestfriendrock.com

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What is the story behind Your Best Friend?

John and Dale met in their brief stint in college. I believe there was a sandwich offer and an intense game of Double Dragon. They both decided that a rock & roll band was the way to go and told college to suck it. I joined the band about 3 years ago. I had heard they were looking for a drummer so I gave it a try. They've since told me that they thought I was a strange young man, but they let me in anyways. Steve joined almost a year ago. We had played with his band, The Weather State, pretty often and we were always impressed with him. So when we found ourselves with a position available, we snatched him right up!

Your Best Friend has accomplished quite a lot. Turning back time to three years ago, would you expect to be where you are now?

I think every band wishes they were further along in their journey to success. We've met some amazing people and shared a stage with some amazing bands. We've sold quite a few copies of our debut full length record and completed 12 U.S. tours. We can't complain about what we've accomplished, but we're ready to take this to the next level.

How old were you when you first started playing music? What was your first instrument, and why did you decide to play it?

I started playing drums when I was 15 or 16. I got started a bit later than I would have liked to, but I was off and running. Drums were my first instrument and probably the first thing I was ever any good at. I saw a video of Ringo Starr playing on a champagne sparkle Ludwig kit and I thought he looked like the cat's pajamas. I've always been so intrigued by the rock & roll lifestyle. I was looking for an excuse to get in on it.

Is Your Best Friend trying to spread a message through music?

We're just trying to write songs that are real. We write music that we believe in. Sometimes we write to say something good and sometimes we write to let out the bad. This is our way to express ourselves, whatever that may mean.

Does Your Best Friend have any goals for the summer?

We've been writing for 6 months or so and we can't wait to get some new recordings to tour on. I'm really hoping to hit the road again this fall. The new EP will be out in early October.

Interview by Cynthia Lam

WATERSTREET

Interview with Rob

Where do you expect to see Waterstreet in 3 years from now?

Hopefully not broke, on a good label, still touring, recording, and on a more national spectrum.

If you could live anywhere else in North America where would it be?

I think all of us really enjoyed playing in Nashville but it's hard to beat Chicago. We are all very much mid-westerners at heart.

How did the band come to be?

We all are from Peoria, IL. Joe and Evan were childhood friends and learned how to play guitar around the same time. They played acoustic shows and added Mike Crusen on bass when they were in high school. Mike actually was a guitar player at the time but was quickly converted. They stayed acoustic till adding Rob (myself) on drums in 2005. Although the name existed with the acoustic act, 2005 was start of the rock band, Waterstreet. From 2005 to now we have become more focused on our sound. It took us about 3 and half years to learn what made all of us click musically and what we wanted to do as a group. Playing as many live shows/bar gigs early on as we could in Peoria helped us find our direction immensely. There is nothing like a live audience to give direct feedback on what is working and what is not.

Three of us attended music colleges (2004-2008) and that also was a great step for the band. I think many bands would've broken up if separated in different parts of the country, but being surrounded by other musicians and teachers from different backgrounds made us better than we ever could have alone. Not only did we further our technical skills in college but we matured as musicians by being saturated by new influences. In 2009 we moved to Chicago to pursue music further. Now I would consider our sound Hard Rock that is both modern but has its foundation in 60's and 70's. Our hope now is we have achieved a style that is distinctly our own.

How old were you when you joined your first band?

I was 15, Evan and Joe were probably infants and Mike probably 15.

What can fans expect from the new EP, *Of Gossip*?

Its grittier and its live takes. All four of us played in one room to tape, no pitch correction, no click tracks, and only vocals/percussion overdubs. It is unpolished and to the point. There are mistakes here and there but we wanted the emotion of these songs to come through not engineered perfection that is so often heard today. *Of Gossip* is the best representation of what we are as a group thus far and we hope people give it a listen.



Which came first, the chicken or the egg?

Neither, the Big Bang came first.

Why did you decide on Waterstreet?

Actually the name was already decided when I came into the group but one of the first gigs for them was at a restaurant on Water St. in Peoria, IL. and that is where it came from.

Do you still remember your first kiss?

Sure do, 6th grade school dance. As for the rest of the guys I have no idea.

How do you respond to people that dislike your music?

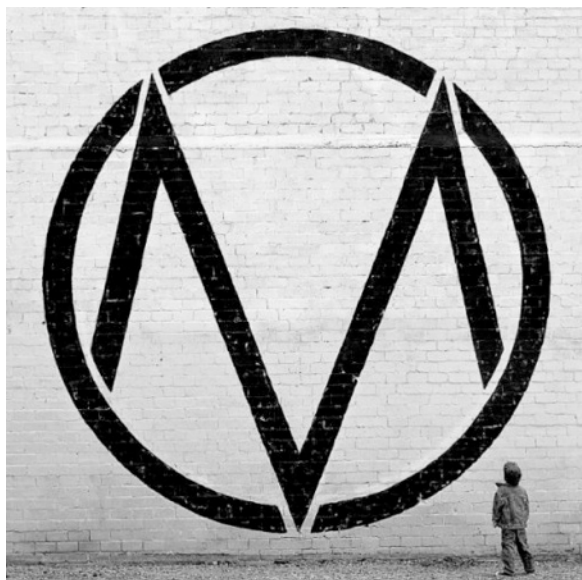
I don't mind and neither does the rest of the band when people who hear us don't like our music. Preference is what makes music so cool, its personal and there is something for everyone. One thing I can't stand is when people don't give underground music a chance whether it's us or someone else.

If you could go back and live in any time period, what time period would it be?

The 1960's so I could witness the Beatles firsthand and all the other musicians at the time like: John Coltrane, Miles Davis, Led Zeppelin, Rolling Stones, ect... It was an amazing time for music and the most influential to the music I play.

Interview by Bianca Delicata

The Maine *Black & White*



Three years down the road, several tours, three EP's and a full length album later, Arizona pop-rock band The Maine released the highly anticipated *Black & White* on July 13th, 2010. To say that The Maine has accomplished a lot is an understatement. This album is currently on the top ten iTunes albums in Canada, the United States, and many other countries. Listening to just the first song on the album, it's not a mystery to why they're so popular.

Since 2007's release of *Stay up, Get Down EP* The Maine has done several US tours, including opening the Soundtrack Of Your Summer Tour in 2008. They've also been on the AP Tour, OP Presents Tour, and Warped Tour. Gaining the attention of many music enthusiasts throughout the world, The Maine's fanbase started to grow larger every day.

When The Maine headed into the studio in early 2010, many were excited about what this had to hold for The Maine. Keeping fans updated with studio videos, the time that The Maine spent recording seemed to fly by, and soon enough they were on their spring tour. Soon after that tour The Maine announced that they would be embarking on their first ever headlining tour with This Century and special guests at each date in July and August.

Black & White released on July 13th to many enthusiastic fans. Taking a first listen to this album it is evident the hard work and the passion that The Maine has for music. O'Callaghan's vocals and the overall sound of The Maine makes them easily distinct from other bands. Starting off with a soft guitar intro, it leads into "Don't Stop Now" which is an great start to what is an amazing album. *Black & White* brings you through an emotional journey, with songs that make you smile, laugh, and ones that can bring you to tears. Notable tracks include "Listen To Your Heart" and "Give It to Me" which both are amazing in their own ways. At the end of it all, *Black & White* ends with "Color" which can teach many an important lesson. It shows everyone who The Maine is, and is a song that will get stuck in your head. The chorus of the song holds the famous lyric "We're just trying to find some color in this black and white world" which is a big part of *Black & White*. Like John O'Callaghan stated in "The Maine: The Making Of Black & White" documentary "We wanted to make a more distinguishable sound. In a world of all the black and white we wanted to bring colour to rock and roll, or at least music as we see it."

It is announced that The Maine is one of the highest album selling bands in Arizona, and it is not a mystery why. Through the years, The Maine still makes it one of, if not their top priority to keep in touch with fans, and bring them closer to the band. As the follow up to 2008's *Can't Stop Won't Stop*, *Black & White* has caught the attention of many throughout the world. This phenomenal album is a must listen.

By Cynthia Lam

Punk Goes Classic Rock



Every year, certain bands team up to create a cover CD titled, *Punk Goes (insert different genre here)*, and release it on Fearless Records. This year, with a mash-up of Never Shout Never, A Skylit Drive, The Almost, etc, have created yet another cover CD, *Punk Goes Classic Rock*. The CD begins off with "More Than A Feeling" by Hit The Lights. Track #3, "Free Fallin", by The Almost, have melted the hearts of teens and young adults everywhere, with the soothing voice of Aaron Gillespie. The album finishes off with the '80's inspired sound, "Take Me Home Tonight", covered by Every Avenue.

This year's *Punk Goes ...* has stirred much talk about how well some bands have done, or haven't done. As every supporter of a band would say, "Don't like it? Don't listen to it."

By Bianca Delicata



Vampire Weekend *Contra*



College friends, a comedy rap band, and an amateur film maker, collectively known as Vampire Weekend released their second album, *Contra*, in January of 2010. They are managed by The White Stripes manager and signed to the much respected record label, XL Recordings. Their first album before *Contra* was self titled, and released in 2008.

Contra, just like their first album has a very unique sound to it. The album starts out with a song about drinking some kind of traditional beverage that only a band like Vampire Weekend would write about. It then goes on to a song that contains a variety of high pitched “oohs” and “aahs.” The singer, Ezra Koenig has a surprisingly wide range, and an intriguing voice that can easily win the hearts of young indie music listeners. Their most upbeat song, out of the whole album, “Cousins,” is full of oddly chosen rhymed words and a fun melody. Altogether I would describe their music as fun, enjoyable, and artistically creative.

By Stefany Bryan

3OH!3 *Streets Of Gold*



Following the ridiculously successful *Want* from 2008, Colorado duo 3OH!3's third studio album, *Streets of Gold*, was recently released. The band's catchy dance-pop-electronic ('electro-hop' as they're often referred to) has made them popular not only through the internet, but also on MTV and are a popular play on radio stations worldwide. The band has hit a weird kind of success—their music isn't what a lot of people usually listen to, but then again, maybe that's what the music community needs now, right?

Streets of Gold comes at us with 14 tracks of the band's almost annoyingly catchy music. So far, it's received mixed reviews from other media outlets, but from this author, I give it a solid four stars. It's a little different from the 3OH!3 music that we're used to—giving it a listen through it was noted that a lot of songs were slower than what they're known for, and then a few (like 'House



Party') were just plain ridiculous, but there are some very catchy songs on the album. 'I Can Do Anything' not only catches people's attention with the mantra of 'I can do anything, anything, anything I want', but is also paced enough that it makes it a good dance song. 'My First Kiss' has been on the radio for a while (as well as floating around internet communities). Featuring Ke\$ha, who seems like everyone's guilty pleasure artist, the song is catchy and the beat can get an entire room moving within seconds of it starting. Other songs that stand out on the album are 'Double Vision', 'Deja Vu' and 'Love 2012', which is sort of a song that jokes about the end of the world.

3OH!3 is one of those bands that puts out unique music that some people love and some people hate. It's music that's easy to dance to and that gets stuck in your head all the time—which, I suppose, could be a good thing or a bad thing. But *Streets of Gold* doesn't disappoint. Unless you've been living under a rock and haven't heard of 3OH!3 before, now would probably be a good time to start listening, so go pick up the album. It's a big change from their previous album *Want*, which featured heavier beats and a more 'gangster' approach to electronica, but it's not necessarily a bad change. You'll have to give it a listen for yourself.

By Sarah Rutz

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