

STITCHED SOUND

Issue #9

Pierce The Veil, Belle Manoir, The Homecoming, Eye Alaska, Austin Gibbs, + more



Changes, changes, changes.

They happen, they all just happen.

So, in the past two weeks, I have been on vacation, attended Warped Tour, and travelled. It's been a busy two weeks, and to rush back and finish an issue in three days. I don't know how, but I pulled it off. Along with that, we have switched our host to tumblr, so this way we can bring you more updates, and make it easier for us, it's a win/win situation. I really hope you guys like the new site.

Along with that, as I mentioned I attended Warped Tour - this was in August 5th, 2010. Covering this event was a experience to say at the least, it was way easier with interview schedules than I expected it to be, and the weather was perfect, everything turned out good.

I really hope you guys like this new issue, it's packed with information that will hopefully introduce you, or familiarize you with one of your favourite bands.

Stitched Sound is an online magazine that brings you the news about tomorrow's bands as well as your favourite artists. We do this through interviews, reviews, updates, our issues, and photography. We want to keep you updated with what's going on in the fast blooming music industry. Wether it be through an interview or an update we strive to let you know what you need to know.

We have a Twitter, and Facebook. Links are on our site if you click on Contact. It'd be great if you guys were able to help us promote Stitched Sound.

Wether it be good or bad, we always appreciate feedback. It helps us know what we should change, or what you enjoy so we can continue bringing this to you. Send it to cynniephotographs@gmail.com or stitchedsound@googlemail.com

Cynthia Lam

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VANS WARPED TOUR



Each summer many music enthusiasts seem to anticipate one (or more) days, where they get to see their favourite bands, and discover many more. That is Vans Warped Tour which makes its way across the United States and Canada, bring entertainment and live music to many across North America. With more than sixty bands, there is something there for everyone. This year's lineup included Bring Me The Horizon, Pierce The Veil, The Summer Set, Alesana, Every Time I Die, Pennywise, Sum 41, and much more. Filled with entertaining sets, crazy crowds, and the summer weather, Warped Tour is one tour you don't want to miss out on.

Madison Bass-Taylor (Atlanta, GA) and Cynthia Lam (Edmonton, AB) got a chance to attend Vans Warped Tour, and also conduct some interviews. They can be found at <http://youtube.com/stitchedsound>



The Summer Set

By Madison Bass-Taylor



View more of Madison's photos from Warped Tour at:
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/madisonbasstaylor/sets/72157624594567344/>

On July 26th I saw The Summer Set on the 2010 Vans Warped Tour. It was at Lakewood Amphitheater in Atlanta, GA.

When we finally found the blowup we saw that The Summer Set was playing at 6:15, so we saw of couple of bands in the meantime, walked around, did some interviews, and payed \$4.50 for a normal size of bottled water.

The Summer Set played late because in the same pit for Sum 41, some guy got hurt so they had all the emts there and everything.

When it became around 6:30/6:45 they came out and the crowd went crazy. They started with "Chelsea". The crowd's favorite seemed like "This Is How We Live". Then, Josh gave a little speech about redemption while Brian was doing something. He said, "Its been a long fucking day, we're all hot and sweaty, but I want you to think of one word while we're here, and thats redemption. I need all of you motherfuckers to redeem yourself for how fast you do your homework (something like that), cheating on your boyfriend, and killing your parents. Redemption, can we do that?". Then Brian came back and said, "That is the absolute last time I am ever gonna let you say anything".

They got engaged with the crowd and really got them moving. Except, I don't know how this went by with some people. There was a storm coming/came and The Summer Set started saying something like, "Theres a tornado coming! We're all gonna die, but at least we'll die together". Of course I saw some people freaking out. Brian was just exaggerating. It was a lie. Although there was a storm, but no tornado. So, all the tents and stages got taken down except for the Glamour Kills stage and the AP/Advent stage in the amphitheater.

I would definitely recommend that you check out The Summer Set on Warped Tour. If not, try and check them out on other tours in the near future. They definitely know how to engage a crowd. With their upbeat and fun songs theres no way you cannot have a good time.

Artist Vs Poet

By Cynthia Lam

Dallas powerpop band Artist Vs Poet headed out on Warped Tour this pas summer playing the Glamour Kills stage. They started off with a great intro, getting the crowd pumped up with "Rollin" by Limp Bizkit. Their set was very entertaining, energetic, and fun. Getting their crowd involved with jumping, and with songs that are easy to dance to, the crowd was moving in no time. I give Artist vs Poet so much credit for putting on an fantastic live show, and I myself found it hard to stand still - not that I did.

Starting off with "Car Crash", I knew it would be one a great set to watch, I had a feeling they would be energetic, and that made my experience better than I expected. Closing up the afternoon with "Damn Rough Night", Artist Vs Poet did an outstanding job of putting on a live show.



View more of Cynthia's photos of Artist Vs Poet at: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/sinshads/sets/72157624708417238/>

You Me At Six

By Cynthia Lam



View more of Cynthia's photos of You Me At Six at: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/sinshads/sets/72157624588283527/>

With an already big fan base that seems to be growing every day, You Me At Six released their new album *Hold Me Down* in January 2010. The response from *Hold Me Down* was fantastic, and headed out on Warped Tour this summer playing the Altec Lansing Stage.

As soon as I saw the crowd for You Me At Six I had a feeling that it would be a great performance. In contrast to last year's three rows of people, it is great to see a massive crowd of fans anticipating their stage presence.

As they got on stage and cheers erupted, they immediately bursted out into their first song, the crowd started going wild, and singing along to every line. It was a great experience to watch them live, and the amount of emotion that Josh Franceschi puts into singing is amazing. You Me At Six is definitely one band you don't want to miss seeing live.

Pierce The Veil

By Cynthia Lam

I don't know where to start off while trying to explain Pierce The Veil's live performance. I don't even know how I would describe it, because I feel as if phenomenal would be an understatement.

I had a chance to see them during Taste Of Chaos '09 and they blew my mind away. Me being a fan now, and with the recent release of *Selfish Machines*, I knew it was going to be a great show, but I didn't expect it to be half as good as it really was.

After releasing the highly anticipated *Selfish Machines* on June 21st and getting great feedback, Pierce The Veil headed on the Vans Warped Tour.

Being the odd-ball that I am, I did my best to ignore all the comments about Pierce The Veil's performances at Warped Tour 2010, just so I could be surprised with the songs they played, and what their live performance would be like.



Moments before Pierce The Veil went on stage, I looked back to see the endless crowd of fans excited to see their performance. To the second the intro began, until the point where the band started to go on stage, you could believe with your eyes, that everyone in the area was excited for Pierce The Veil to take the stage. As they rushed on and began with "Caraphernelia" I began to feel a big grin spread across my face. The bass drum seemed to be controlling the beating of my heart, and I felt invincible. The crowd had lost it, and started a circle pit and sang-along to every word.

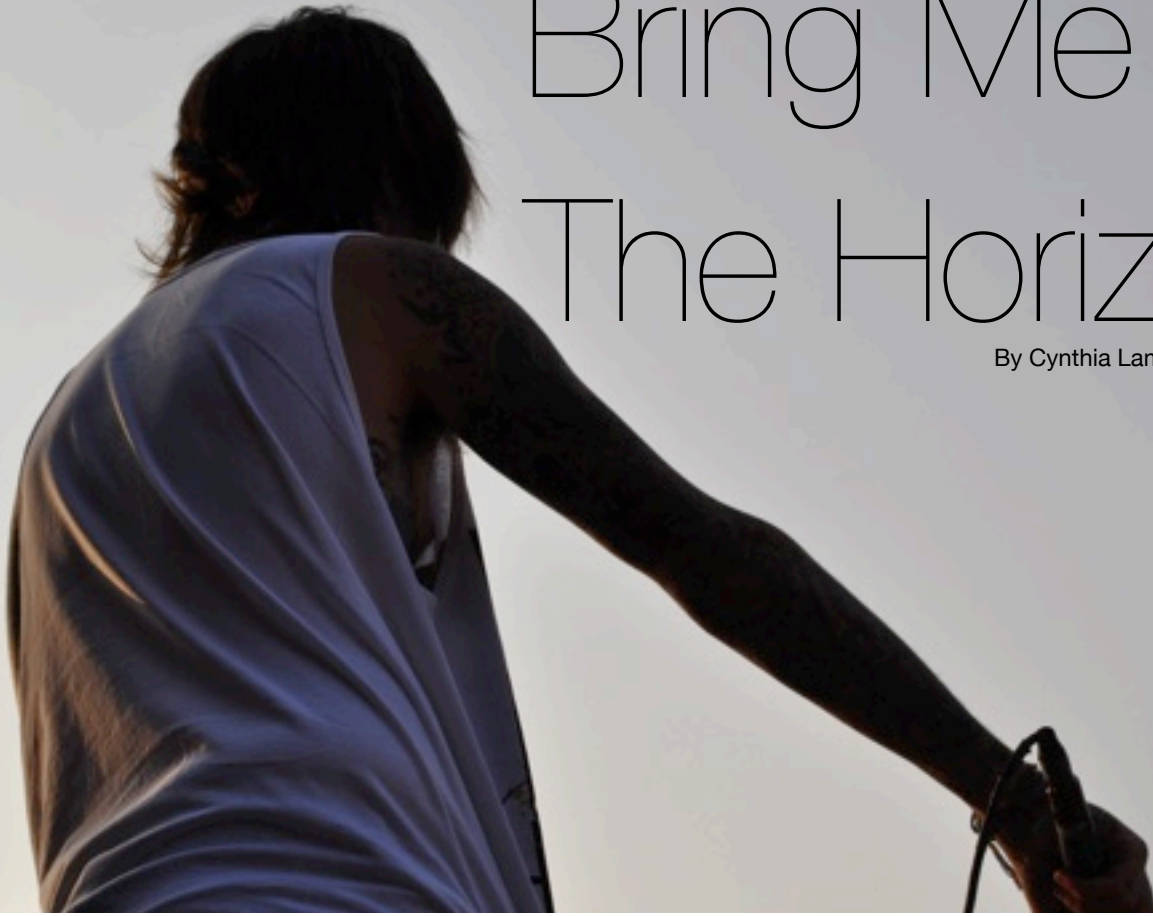
The rest of their set was mind-blowing. Pierce The Veil really understands how to involve the crowd, bringing a super energetic live show so that they can jump, sing, and dance along. Every single one of their shows seem to be a blast. Playing songs such as "The Sky Under The Sea" and "The Boy Who Could Fly" they picked out great songs to play for a summer tour as everyone seemed to be off their feet and having a great time. If you haven't seen Pierce The Veil live yet, I urge you to do so, you won't regret it, and personally, I think they're one of the greatest bands to watch live.

If you haven't already, you need to check out their new album *Selfish Machines*, which can be purchased on iTunes and in your local CD stores.

View more of Cynthia's photos of Pierce The Veil at: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/sinshads/sets/72157624546088949/>

Bring Me The Horizon

By Cynthia Lam



Bring Me The Horizon's shows all seem to be energetic, powerful, with the crowd going crazy, and amazing pits. This is one band that successfully get the whole crowd moving and involved, with Oliver Sykes (vocals) constant commands to start a circle or mosh pit.

As Bring Me The Horizon got up on stage many girls - and boys started with their high pitched screams which seemed to almost blow my ear drums out. They started their set off by getting into the crowd and chanting "We will never sleep, 'cause sleep is for the weak, and we will never rest, 'till we're all fucking dead". This ended up in an amazing response from the crowd who started getting more energetic by the second.

Bring Me The Horizon never fails to play short of an amazing show, and attract a huge audience. It seemed that the Teggart/Main Stage for the most part of the day had a smaller crowd than the other stages, but at the end of the day as I walked to the rest area, many people started flooding out, and there was the faint murmur of "Bring Me The Horizon" coming from their mouth's, and I had a feeling that it would be a great set.

They are definitely a band for all venues, arenas, indoor and outdoor. It seems that wherever they play, they'll bring an amazing live show. If you haven't already, you need to check out Bring Me The Horizon live.

Their new album "There Is A Hell Believe Me I've Seen It There Is A Heaven Let's Keep It A Secret" is set to release in the US on October 4th 2010. Shortly after this they will be embarking on a worldwide tour.



THE EXOTIC AQUATIC

How would you describe your music to someone who has never heard of The Exotic Aquatic?

It's like something you have never heard before. Imagine if Bob Dylan and Miles Davis made a punk band without a drummer. I have heard that we sound like Neutral Milk Hotel and Beirut for those who don't like to use their imagination.

Would you describe your music as a specific genre? Why or why not?

Jason and I have been referring to it as folk punk. The orchestration of the band lends it self to folk and the attitude and lyrics and drive in the music are where the punk roots originate.

What is your favourite thing about music?

Playing it.

How old were you when you got your first instrument and learned to play it? What instrument was it?

I was around 7 or 8. I know I was in second grade and the instrument I picked up was a trumpet that my dad used to play when he was a kid. I apparently wanted to play an instrument and that was lying around so my dad taught me what he could and it all was downhill from there.

Do you have a favourite instrument? Why or why not?

My favourite is always changing, similar to

the stock market. You know what I mean DeWitt. As of this very second I would have to say my favorite instrument is the theremin. If you don't know what it is, check it out and you will be amazed.

What inspires you lyrically and musically?

Music I listen to fuels my style and how I play/phrase my own music. People who are important to me also inspire me as well as watercolor pictures, 40's, classic 50's and peach iced tea.

What is your favourite part about playing live?

Playing for people who want to hear the music. When people are having a good time its much easier and way more fun to play.

Interview with Mike

It's also nice when people sing back the words. It is very helpful in the event that I forget them.

What has been your favourite show that you've played? Why is this?

Playing at the School of Rock in South Hackensack has been a lot of fun. We played an acoustic show in the middle of winter with Vinnie Caruana, JT Woodruff, and Anthony Raneri. The crowd was so quiet but not because they didn't care, they wanted to listen. It was the first time I ever played in that type of setting and I had a great time.

If you could play with any two bands in any venue where and who would you play with? KISS and Foxy Shazam at the Super Bowl.

What, in your opinion, makes a good show?

To me a good show is when everyone has fun. Whether I am on stage or watching another band, the best shows to me are the ones that I have the most fun at.

What made you decide to go with an acoustic sound?

It's a pain in the ass to carry around amps.

Where do you see yourself in two to three years?

Right where I want to be.



MY EPIC

Interview with Aaron



How did the band start?

Well my brother Jesse and I have played music together since we were kids and had been in a band together all through High school and my undergrad studies. Right when he came to college that band broke up. We new we still wanted to play music and we talked about who we would like to play with. We asked our friend Jeremiah to come tryout and thus My Epic was begun. Our unity gelled relationally long before it did musically and we were a 4 piece for a while. We played our first show 6 months later in February of 2005.

What has been the craziest show you've played?

We played a house show once in a college town on tour with our good friends Harvard like 3 years ago. There were like 300 people crammed in a basement on a freezing November night in the mountains. There were like 6 beer kegs and a DJ playing between sets. To put it euphemistically; there was a lot of very unhealthy behavior going on that night. We were totally out of our element. We kept asking G-d and ourselves what we were doing there and trying to figure out if we should leave. But in the end it seemed like exactly the place Christ would have gone. It was a lot of fun and we were able to see a lot of awesome things happen that night. We have played to much bigger and receptive audiences. We have played much cooler venues. But when you said "crazy" that's always the first show I think of.

What is your favourite quality or feature about yourself?

I am not sure if this is a personal or band related question but I think I would give the same answer either way. One of the strongest lessons G-d has been teaching us in the last two years while we wrote "YET" was that any good thing in us was truly from Him. I don't know why he is so patient and kind to us, it defies all reason, but it is the case nonetheless. There is not a beautiful or valuable thing in us that is worth anything that does not have its source in our ever patient Father G-d. So essentially, the patient presence of G-d almighty is my favorite thing about me.

If you could meet anyone, dead or alive, who would you choose?

Jesus, C.S. Lewis, Rich Mullins

What is your worst habit?

Checking my phone messages. I am so bad at it that I finally let it fill up and I never empty it. That way I have to call people back or they text me. It's my irresponsible way of being responsible.

Is there a special story/meaning behind the name, "My Epic"?

I kept using the word "epic" to describe how I wanted our music to sounds when I first started the band. Matty, our original second guitarist, and I were trying to come up with band names and he suggested My Epic. I didn't like it at first. We voted. I lost. But I have grown to love it. Two other things I should mention; the "my" in "my epic" is not us, it's G-d. We really desire for him to be the one guiding and "writing" our lives. Also we choose the name a bit before "epic" became the most popular adjective on the Internet. Had we known how overplayed the word would become we may have kept thinking but we don't spend a lot of time on the Internet and the name suits us fine.

What do you think is overrated, right now?

Self. Independence. Always has been, always will be. The desire to accomplish on our own and "make something of ourselves" is almost always a lie we believe that cleverly keeps from us from seeing our own selfishness and pride. We even have a generation of believers seeking to do "big things" for Jesus. But G-d has never needed us. That's why the whole thing is so beautiful. He absolutely doesn't need us at all. But he wants us. G-d doesn't need a generation who will do big things for him, he wants simple people with broken spirits and contrite hearts who will follow him anywhere and give him anything regardless of how unforgettable their lives may be to the rest of the world.

What has been the most embarrassing thing, that has happened to you, while on-stage?

In our second show ever I messed up a really critical part where my voice is actually the only thing happening. I got flustered for some reason so I kind of just whispered the lyric in like a really Emo meets R&B voice. I did it with no confidence either so I am sure everyone knew. It's been 5 years and I still get crap for that one. But that's fair because it really was funny. I am really not an easily embarrassed person and we try very hard not to buy into the whole image side of playing music so there are probably a ton of times we probably should be embarrassed but just don't care.

What makes My Epic different from other bands?

I am sure we share something in common with almost every band. There really is nothing new under the sun, we all stand on shoulders. We just try to be honest and make the absolute best music we can. There really isn't anything else we can do.

How can fans support My Epic?

Seek truth, and a personal relationship with the G-d who alone is the source of all truth. Knowing that we might play just the smallest part in that encourages us more than anything. Beyond that pick up a copy of "YET" and come see us on tour this fall.

THE ROYAL HEIST

Interview with Collin



What are your thoughts on the genre, "crunk-core"?

Never heard of it but it sounds like a hot mess.

Who are your hometown inspirations?

Los Angeles is our primary hometown but we consider Denver to be our hometown as well. In L.A we love Oh No Not Stereo, Murph and The Blackouts, Gran Ronde, and The Ringers. In Denver its The Epilogues, The Photo Atlas, and Take To The Oars (formerly Vonnegut).

iPhone or Blackberry?

Gotta go with the iPhone.

Where, and when was your first live performance (as a band)?

Our first live performance was in 2005 at a place called The Gig in Hollywood.

Do you try to be eco-friendly? If so, by how?

A Couple of us ride bicycles to work instead of driving, that probably has more to do with eco-nomics than being eco-freindly but its still a good thing.

What is one fashion-trend that you hate, but won't go away?

All the Ed Hardy, Tap-out, Affliction, etc... stuff is pretty nauseating and it doesn't seem to be going anywhere unfortunately. Also dudes that wear super tight pants but still insist on sagging them way past their ass.

What were some ways you had used to advertise the band, as well as your music?

Getting out there and playing live will always be the best advertisement for a band, sure there are loads of great resources on the Internet and whatnot but we feel strongly about letting the music do the talking. When a band gets on stage and can just rock your face off, it doesn't matter how many Myspace friends they have or who likes them on Facebook.

What are your favourite aspects of Los Angeles?

L.A is a bizarre place and it changes all the time so some of the things you love about it you end up hating 2 weeks later. The consistent things are the weather is amazing, there are loads of opportunities for artists,

and we have some really great friends out here.

How has your music changed, over the years?

We like to think its gotten a lot better haha... we're really proud of our new album "Midnight in the Garden of Evil" and we encourage everyone to go out and buy it!

Anything you would like to say to our readers?

Our new Album "Midnight in the Garden of Evil" is available on iTunes, Amazon, etc... give us a listen and if you like what hear go out and get a copy for yourself, tell all your friends, and when we come to your hometown come out and ROCK with us! Most Importantly, if you truly consider yourself a fan of independent music then go out and support the bands you love. I.e, GO TO THEIR SHOWS, buy merch when you can, tell everyone you know about some great new band you've discovered! The age of untouchable, god-like Rockstars is over, we're all in this together now and we all need to support each other.

Interview by Bianca Delicata



BELLE MANOIR

How would you describe the music, and sound of Belle Manoir?

As a band, we obviously try to possess our own sound and uniqueness, but at the same time, we won't say that we don't draw from other bands that we look up to. The biggest influences on us would most likely be bands such as Emarosa, Circa Survive, Sleeping with Sirens, and we came as Romans, but we try to mix it up and do something new with our genre. Musically, we strive for strong melodies, intricate instrumentals, powerfully ranged dynamics, and emotional representation. Lyrically, we spread messages of love, individuality, and moral strength. Our vocals are mainly singing, however, we do have screaming tastefully integrated into our music. All we can say is to give us a chance and see what you can personally take from our songs.

How did you meet the other members of Belle Manoir?

We met in a fairly unorthodox way. We came, primarily, from two different bands. One was called Skyscrapers Walk Among Us and the other was named Catalyna. After the break-up of both bands, we were all looking for something new to start with dedicated musicians and a mutual respect for our genre. Eventually, we all just stumbled upon each other and decided to create a band.

What has been the biggest challenge musically for you to overcome? How was this done?

Our biggest musical challenge was probably just getting on our feet as a band. One of the most difficult parts in starting any band is defining your sound and writing a solid set. We overcame it with hours upon hours of work and we can finally say that with this new EP, we are becoming the band that we all envisioned being,

What should we expect from the new EP?

You can expect a lot more maturity. We have grown so much as a band since the "Save Us

All" EP and we want to prove it. Everything from lyrics to dynamics to overall power has stepped up a few notches. Our music is quite a bit more technical on the instrumental standpoint, but the vocals keep the music catchy and help to preserve a bit of the sound that fans have come to know from our music. We've kept just enough of our old sound to stay familiar to our fans, but we have changed enough to widen our musical spectrum and hopefully bring in a few new listeners that didn't like us before.

What is was the writing and recording process for your new EP like?

Writing and recording was pretty well organized as opposed to how we have done it in the past. We pretty much locked ourselves in our practice room until we got some ideas for songs, then we took the ideas to Stanley's house to record demos of the songs in order to hammer out any kinks or changes that we want made to the instrumental aspect of the songs. Once we had that done, we got the vocals organized, then we hit the studio and laid it all down! It's a pretty lengthy process, but we found that it works best for us.

What inspires you to write music?

Anything and everything inspires us, but without a doubt, one of the biggest inspirations to us is the choices presented in life. We feel that every day is only what you make of it and we want to portray that in our music. Everyday in life, you are presented with opportunities to better yourself whether it be a personal change in values, or even something as small as the opportunity to help somebody in need. Love is the basis of our lives, thus, it is the driving force behind our inspiration.

What is the hardest part of recording? Why is this?

Overall, the hardest part of recording for us is being satisfied. We are all perfectionists, thus, we feel that we can always have done something better whether it be lyrical, instrumental, or in the

structure and composition of our music. They say through a perfectionist artist's view, a piece is never finished, but instead it is abandoned. It is a very difficult thing to let go of something that we have worked so hard on and care so much about, but in the end, if we never let go of it, our music will never see the light of day.

Is there any specific goal(s) you hope to accomplish through music?

More than anything, like any band, we want to have the opportunity to play music for the rest of our lives. We all have so much passion invested in what we do and we want that to translate to the ability to do it forever. As far as our actual music goes, we hope that every listener can take something different away from our music and apply it to their lives. We strive for a personal connection with fans through our music, we want to be able to relate to our audience in one way or another.

What in your opinion is the most important thing to keep in mind while in the music industry?

It's so important to remember why you started playing music in the first place. That means putting your blood, sweat, and tears into every song, show, and album. Music is passion and expression, just like any form of art, and if you lose sight of that, then you aren't a real musician. It's also very important to keep fans in mind and to take the time to hang out with the people who come to see your shows. Fans support you, and a lot of people forget that. More than anything, it's just necessary to keep your heart in music instead of playing for a paycheck.

Do you have any plans for touring after the EP is released?

Yes. We are planning to hit the road every opportunity that we get. We want to spread our music as far as we can with hopes of developing a loyal fan base around the US. We are all very aspirational musicians, so you can expect us to be in your city sooner or later.

Interview by Cynthia Lam

Pierce THE VEIL



Since the release of *A Flair For The Dramatic* in 2007, San Diego rockers Pierce The Veil have been touring non-stop all over the country. They were on Rockstar Taste Of Chaos '09 as well as being on the entire Warped Tour in 2008, not to mention several other tours that they have also done. After taking some time off and heading into the studio, Pierce The Veil released the highly anticipated sophomore album "Selfish Machines". Weeks after the album was released, Pierce The Veil headed on Warped Tour. We got a chance to talk to Jaime Preciado (bass, backup vocals) and Tony Perry (guitar) about Warped Tour, *Selfish Machines* and more!

How has Warped Tour been so far?
Tony: It's been great!

What has been your favourite stop on the tour?

Jaime: We haven't played Edmonton yet so, we'll hold off until we play Edmonton. But, we got a lot of cool stops, we played Dallas, it was fun since it was pouring as we were playing, and Chicago, and Boston. We played first in Boston but we still got like the biggest crowd. A lot of different dates.

What's your favourite part about Warped Tour?

Jaime: I like the fact that it's just a big city that travels, and you never know what time you play. It's always like, you don't know what's going on until that moment. It's like school, you just have to show up.

Tony: You get to make friends in different bands

Jaime: Yeah, it's like school, but way fun. Without teachers.

Have you ever had any embarrassing moments on stage?

Jaime: No what are those?

Tony: I jumped off my cab one time, I didn't fall but I stumbled all the way across the stage until our security guy caught me and stood me back up.

Jaime: I played a show one day and I ripped a hole in my pants while we were playing and I don't wear underwear, so there's just a big hole while we're playing, and I like to bring my guitar up sometimes.

Tony: We had to have our guitar tech run out and tape it.

If you got offered Warped Tour next year would you do it?

Jaime: I would love to. I love Warped Tour. I know it's very selective, how the biggest bands, and what's going on. We did it in

2008, and it was the best summer I had and this summer. So yeah, hopefully if they want us back.

Were you satisfied with the feedback you got from *Selfish Machines*?

Tony: Yeah! So far the feedback from the album was really, really positive. Even though it released a few days before warped tour, and right away kids started singing along to their favourite songs, so it was really exciting.

What's your favourite track of the album?

Tony: My favourite track to play live right now is probably *The Boy Who Could Fly* it's a lot of fun.

Jaime: I think my favourite track off the album is *Stay Away From My Friends*.

What song off *Selfish Machines* that you haven't played live would you want to play live?

Jaime: I know definitely that I would want to play the first track of the album, it's called "Besitos". We don't play it live but I definitely want to.

Tony: I don't want play it live.

Jaime: He doesn't want to play it, but that's fine.

The Homecoming

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

I think any kid who gets a musical instrument or even their first cd does their fair share of mirror dancing and hoping that can eventually be their job, but I think the first time I stepped foot into a college classroom I was like, "yepp, doin' music would be way more fun!"

What sparked your interest in music, or made you decide to start a band?

I got my first Relient K CD from my brother's girlfriend when I was in like 6th grade, and after that I was dancin' in front of every mirror in the house!

What made me want to start a band was after noodling around and coming up with my first 'song' it was just tons of fun and I wanted to do it more! Something about creating music is addictive, but a good one, as opposed to soap operas or substances :D

Has age ever been a barrier for The Homecoming?

Not really, seeing as me, Mike and Eli look like we are 4 years younger than we actually are, most of the younger peeps at shows probably can relate to us better, and most of my jokes are super corny, so adults seem to enjoy it too! hahah

What would you say is your biggest accomplishment as a band?

Not to be cliché, but anytime someone sends us a message on MySpace or tells us at a show that our music makes them super happy, or it's what they needed, that's a super accomplishing feeling! As far as 'events' - playing the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame was suppperrrr fun, making a CD makes ya feel warm on the inside, MTV recently licensed out music so thats neatttt, and when our songs turn heads of anyone who knows what they're talking about with music is a feeling of accomplishment as well.

What has been your favourite show that you've played? Why is this?

I think my favorite show, and the other dudes would probably agree, was when we played for a camp of kids up by Lake Erie. We just showed up, had no idea what to expect. It was super hot and they had us set up in like a giant barn type deal. But right when we started playing, 70 kids came into this room and went NUTS! It was super hot, sweaty, and a good time! Then afterwards, we got to talk to them all and go swimming in the lake at 1am, so it was all good :)

Have you pulled any crazy moves on stage? What happened?

We aren't really stage divers or anything, so as far as something crazy going awry, that hasn't happened too much. But for our CD release show, we have this Roswell landings sample at the beginning of one of our songs, and a friend of ours came on stage in an E.T. mask and a flashlight! I think he tripped over a few things!



Who are your favourite bands that you have played a show with? Why is this?

There's a really cool band called Leo we met earlier this year. They are just really cool guys, so we loved playing with them. A band called Eleventyseven is really cool and zaney (word usage?) So we had fun getting to play with them a few times. Then one time we played with this crazy electro band called Plastic Haircut. It was wierd!

When you write music, do you aim for a specific genre, or do you just go with what's in your mind? Why is this?

When I write, I kind of generally know what I want it to sound like, but I don't really expect it to sound exactly like a certain genre or anything. I am just not a fan of super dark music, or really something that's super weird, and seeing as I write all the jams on my computer, it usually is pretty electronic based.

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

I dont think we are necessarily a band that has like something to shove, but we definately have something to share. We're all Christians and try to just have that positivity and joy that Christ gives us. As far as lyrical content, a lot of it is just personal situations that I am kind of going through or learning from. A lot of the songs are somewhat of lessons to myself.

What inspires The Homecoming lyrically?

Like I said before, just a lot of different situations whether it's with girls, emotions, friends, memories, lessons, and definately how I see God or get closer to Him through all of it!

What, in your opinion, is the best thing about Akron?

Probably The Homecoming. Joking. The actual city of Akron isn't the most eventful place, except for being the hometown of that Lebron James guy. They used to have a cafe that served bubble tea. Ever since itt closed down its hard to enjoy.

What do you hope to accomplish as a band in the future?

Just to continue to have fun with it! Always be content with the people we are playing for and the relationships we're making along the way! If God can use this band for His glory, then it's totally worth it :)



GOODNIGHT FELLOWS

How would you describe Goodnight Fellows (musically, and the band members) in one word? Why is this?

I would have to go with Adaptable. As we continue doing what we're doing and facing the common hardships of trying to be serious musicians I think we are able to evolve and adapt pretty well musically and to each other. We definitely try to keep it fresh and vary our style up based off of our constantly changing taste in music and what we all enjoy listening to and playing.

Have you ever experienced writers block while writing lyrics, or music? What do you do to overcome this?

Oh yeah, almost every time! It's definitely a natural part of any writing process and it just takes time and different opinions to get through it and make something good. Also, I'm pretty sure the truck in my backyard where I write most of the time has magical powers, so that probably helps out quite a bit with a lot of my writing problems.

When Goodnight Fellows first started, what did you have in your mind to accomplish?

When we first started playing together I don't think we were really thinking about the future or all the complicated stuff. We just loved

getting together and playing music and I think that can be said for any musician. I'm sure we thought about playing Warped Tour or getting on the radio occasionally but I don't think we really had a plan when we first started.

Who are your biggest inspirations? What have you drawn from them?

Our inspiration definitely comes from bands and musicians that we listen to right now, and wanting to be on that level with them. But I'd say our biggest inspirations that we have are the fans and the people that listen to our music and get something from it. There's absolutely no feeling in the world as good as seeing complete strangers and people from across the nation enjoying our music and telling us that our lyrics mean something to them or that a song touched them in personal way. It keeps us working hard every day.

What is your favourite thing about each of your band mates?

My (Josh) favorite thing about Erek is that he's a hard worker and very reliable. And also he's basically a human GPS and knows directions like it's his job. So that's very helpful. My favorite thing about Mike is that is probably the funniest dude I've ever met. He's and extremely talented musician and helps write most of the songs.

What, in your opinion, is the most overrated song right now? Why is this?

I was gonna say "Tik Tok" by Ke\$ha right off the bat but it's just overplayed. Totally a killer song. So I'm not really sure actually of what the most overrated song is.

Do you have a guilty pleasure music wise? Who is it?

Were so in love with pop music right now and I can say without an ounce of shame that Justin Bieber is killing it right now. I really dig a few of his songs. Either him or Katy Perry, I would say is our guilty pleasure.

If you could have dinner with anyone dead or alive, who would it be, and why?

Ummmm Katy Perry? And then we'd hit a movie after.

What's your favourite pickup line?

Hmmmm I don't think we know of any good ones, and I don't honestly think anyone in the world actually uses pickup lines, but maybe that's why were all still single.

Where do you see Goodnight Fellows in the future?

I see Goodnight Fellows staying together and hopefully going really far and achieving all the goals we have right now.

Interview by Cynthia Lam

WINDSOR DRIVE

STITCHED SOUND

How did Windsor Drive come to be?

Jon: Windsor Drive started with our singer Kipp Wilde and our drummer Owen Jones, who actually met at a small private middle school. Kipp's dad is a Pastor, so eventually they started playing together for the worship team at his church. I met them through a couple of mutual friends in high school and started playing with them on a regular basis. That is when we decided to name the band "Windsor Drive," after...yes the street we rehearsed on, which just so happened to be at the time in the basement of Owen's house. After jamming with a few different people we eventually met Dan, who was

playing bass in another local band in Central Wisconsin. We began writing songs with him playing guitar and slowly grew from there :)

How would you describe the overall sound of Windsor Drive?

Dan: A blend of beautiful piano, solid complimentary rhythm section

Jon: When asked this question it usually comes down to "piano-based rock." Kipp's piano is kind of the staple instrument during the writing process. I've also heard "melodic rock?" Pop? Alternative? You decide.

When first starting out did you have any specific goals in mind? Did you accomplish these?

Jon: Its funny how over time goals change. I remember when we first started, we would say things like, "man if we could just play The Mission," (Which was a small 200 cap venue in our hometown) or, "it would be great to actually have a CD to sell." I guess at the time getting gigs, recording and writing songs were goals that we met and surpassed. You just kind of grow from there to bigger things, but I suppose you have to start somewhere



What has been your favourite experience being in the band, or with your bandmates?

Jon: Personally, my favorite experience is traveling to different cities, meeting new people, and just hearing their stories. Everyone has a unique story that you can learn something from. Playing music professionally allows you the opportunity to perform like we do and talk and hang with the people that come out to shows

Dan: My favorite experience with the band is for sure the time I get to spend traveling.

Are you excited for your fall tour with Mae and Terrible Things?

Owen: Of course! It's exciting to make new friends in the industry and even more exciting to continue expanding our fan base

Are there any stops during this tour that you are excited to visit? Why?

Owen: For me personally I am super excited to see and visit the NW, specifically Seattle, it's one of the few places I have yet to see in the US and I hear great things. Also NYC both because I love the city and the show is at an amazing theatre.

What, in your opinion is the most important thing to keep in mind while being in the music industry?

Owen: Who you are as a person and where you came from. Staying grounded will keep your music real and your relationships strong, whether it be friends, families or girlfriend.

What does Windsor Drive have planned for the future?

Owen: I personally would say that Windsor drives plans for the future are simply to reach as many people with our music as possible. We will do whatever it takes to accomplish this goal.

AUSTIN GIBBS



Is there a song that you wish you had written?

I'm gonna say no because if I'd written a song that I like right now, like something originally by Bruce Springsteen, I wouldn't like it anymore because I wrote it. I can't say hey guys listen to this song I wrote!

When on Tour, what is something from home that you miss the most?

Gosh, I miss the comfort of home. I haven't toured enough to really miss stuff but I really miss my mom.

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

Johnny Cash and Elvis Presley for sure.

What are some of your influences musically and lyrically?

Bread, Wilco, Daniel Johnstone, and Johnny Cash are some of my biggest influences.

What is your opinion about young people illegally downloading music nowadays in contrast of purchasing it?

[Pauses] Hmm...to me it's a good and bad thing. It's good because people hear your music but it's bad for the lack of funds for

bands. If money wasn't a factor I would have no problem just giving my music out.

Have you ever experienced any serious illnesses or injuries on tour?

Not really. I usually get a cold. I actually feel something in my throat right now! I once got really sick on tour in 2008 but that's about it.

For you personally, when do fans cross the line of difference between being dedicated and being extremely creepy?

[Laughs] I haven't gone to that level of creepy yet! I don't know, if someone got my number and called me I would talk to them. I search up girls I like! I'm creepy, we are all creepy.

[Laughs]

Do you ever Google yourself?

Of course I Google myself! And honestly, I haven't found anything negative. All I ever find is a website with my songs and a picture of me that I took. [Laughs]

What does singing mean to you?

Singing to me is like storytelling. You get to tell people more about yourself.

How long have you had your moustache for?

[Laughs] I've always had facial hair, I don't really shave a lot but I've been fully growing this moustache for about four months.

Is there a specific genre of music that you don't particularly enjoy and if so, why?

Not at all! There's no genre of music that I dislike. I find inspiration in everything and I've got love for all sorts of music.

In that case, who's your favourite rapper?

[Laughs] I'm really into Kid Cudi. He's a genius! Also Project Path. You should Google them!

[Laughs]

What was the first album you ever bought?

First record I bought was Weezer's Blue Album. Right after, about a week later I got the Get Up Kids Four Minute Mile. That's about all I listened to back then!

While on tour, have you ever had any brushes with the law?

[Laughs] I haven't gotten in trouble yet. The only "real" trouble I've gotten in was when I got escorted out of Six Flags once for talking to fans after the show. If I ever get in trouble though, I would probably get away with it!

CACTUS

Interview with Asher



When you're on stage, what do you guys enjoy seeing most in the crowd?

Well most importantly we like to see a crowd actually there. Anytime people are excited to hear new music we're excited to present it.

Do you ever feel frustrated or fed up with any of your bandmates?

Of course everyone gets frustrated with one another, you'd get frustrated with us too if you had to spend enough time around us.

How did the members of Cactus's, come to be?

We all just met through friends basically. We knew each other for a long time before playing music together. Eventually the timing was just right and we were all headed in the same direction.

What are your goals for the future, regarding the band?

We recently spent a couple months living and playing shows in South Korea, we'd love to return there for a longer period of time as well as many other lovely lands. We all have some wanderlust and plan on never settling down for too long geographically.

Has your music ever been criticized, and how did you deal with it?

Yes our music has been criticized generally speaking we don't focus on feedback negative or positive. We create music that we love and that's much more important to us than any individual or mass opinion outside of the creators.

Skittles or M&M's?
M&M's

How old were you when the band first formed?

Cactus's formed in late 2007 so that would put us all at around 22 and 23 years old at the time.

What has been the craziest thing that's happened at one of your shows?

We are the craziest thing at our shows. Trust me.

Do you try to send a message to your fans, through your music? If so, what is the message?

I don't think we try to interject any message into our music. Music is a living thing and whatever its saying is more interesting than anything we can say anyways.

ALL OR NOTHING

Interview with Nick



When was your first show? Do you remember what was running-through-your-mind before you performed?

Well my first ever show I ever played was when I was 11 years old, I'd been playing drums for two years and I was in this new band at school with the friends in my class called Anonymous. We were the best haha. We played covers of Nirvana, Ash, Green Day and maybe even one of our own totally awesome songs... I remember being both nervous and excited to play, thinking "don't fuck up" but that's about all I can remember as it was years ago. I'm pretty sure we nailed the school disco and got all the chicks though.

What's your opinion on music censoring?

Well 'regular' radio edits are understandable, lots of young kids listen to the radio so I wouldn't really care if they bleeped out some bad words or something in order to keep the parents happy - I wouldn't be a fan of having to re-write lyrics to get played on the radio though, because the whole point of the subject can often be lost. Further censorship like actually covering up the lyrical content of a song in order to prevent people from hearing what the artist is really talking about I think is cheating, however. And censorship of artwork I think is 100% dumb because art is all about free expression and challenging the status quo.

How would you describe your music to someone that's never heard of your band before?

I'd say check it out for themselves with an open mind and see what they think first. I

don't like to tell people what bands we might sound like, unless I know they like them of course, because then they already have their own ideas and might be put off yknow? But for the sake of answering the question, I'd say we're more of an aggressive pop punk band.

What's your favourite song to play live?

Personally I love playing A Day At The Stadium off our first EP 'Is Pretty Hot Right Now' because the drum parts are the most interesting, and the crowds go crazy and sing and shout back the lyrics to us which is always awesome. It makes us go off even more and really have a good time at the show, which is the whole point. The others would probably say one of our newer songs though like 'I Hate Being The Dip Guy' or even one of the brand new tracks we've written for the forthcoming album, because they're new and exciting and we want everyone to hear them.

How has All Or Nothing's music changed over the years?

Well straight up, it's got better. If you don't improve as a band with each new song you write then what's the point? We're all committed to making a success of All Or Nothing and so we push ourselves to write better songs in general, catchier choruses and become better musicians. And I should explain that by success I mean longevity, we wanna keep writing albums for years to come, not have one successful record then fall off the radar. So over the years I'd say our music has improved and will continue to do so.

Is there any specific age group that All Or Nothing is reaching out to?

We don't intentionally write music for any particular age group at all, no. We write music that we love to play and listen to and that style is, fortunately, what makes the younger people at shows go nuts! We are all for anyone of any age or gender or race to come out to see us play and support the scene that we love ourselves so much.

What's All Or Nothing's song-writing process like?

Some bands write lyrics first, other bands write melody first, some bands write the instrumentation first then do the vocals after, and other bands do it the opposite way round. For us, we tend to jam out some ideas at our lock up that have been written at home or in the van and we see where it takes us / what it feels like we should do next. When we have a feel for the song we tend to make a rough idea of how the song will go from start to finish, and then we go away and think about vocal melodies and bring everything back to the table at the next practice. That's the way it's been going in writing these newest songs for the next album anyway. But sometimes having said that, Rich or Tom might come into practice with practically a whole song written already and we just go through it over and over until it's tight as fuck.

Do you think staying in-touch with fans is important? Why?

Yeah absolutely. Firstly, the fans of our band are just like us yknow we listen to the same kinda music and dig most of the same bands and so why wouldn't we wanna stay in touch with them? We become friends after meeting each other at one of our or someone else's shows. That's what's so great about the scene we're involved with. And secondly, from a professional perspective, it's important to know what your fans think about the music you're writing and the new directions you choose to go in as a band because once you have a dedicated fanbase you're not just writing music for yourself anymore. You have to take that into consideration, otherwise you alienate your fans and where does that get you?

If your bandmates were animals, what animal would they be?

Err well I'd say Tim Williams is a bear or something because he's so hairy, but he's also pretty organised and effecient so I'll go with a German shepherd! Rich Murphy seems to be good at everything he ever tries in life so maybe he would be a chameleon, and Tom Chong is a good front man so he's a wolf like the leader of the pack.

What's your favourite pick-up line?

I wanna bag you like some groceries.

Interview by Bianca Delicata



What, in your opinion, is the toughest challenge for musicians today?

In the situation we're in now, we would say finding a dedicated musician who is compatible with our needs to become part of Nobody Yet. In general we think getting your name out there, not only through the expansion of social networks but to the general public is tough with the millions of bands and musicians there are today.

What would be the ingredients to a Nobody Yet song?

Energy + Catchy Hooks + Exciting Build ups + Unique Lyrics + Climatic Pauses + a tbsp of sugar = a Nobody Yet song

Skittles or M&M's?

We going to answer this separate for the sake of the argument...

Ryan: What kind of M&M's are we talking here, peanut? pretzel?

Remember those mint M&M's, what happened to them?

Joe: I like M&M's more but sometimes I crave some tropical flavoured skittles. I have a vegetarian friend who can only eat certain coloured Skittles because they don't contain a type of gelatin in them.

How have you grown musically, since Nobody Yet began?

The writing style of the songs have progressed from being simple to more complex and elaborate ideas. I pay more attention to varying the structure of songs instead of using a cookie cutter outline. As I've developed more skills on the guitar I've been able to write more intricate parts for songs.

Can we expect a new EP or full-length in the fall or winter of 2010?

We're shooting for a full length, hopefully before the new year. However, that all depends on how fast we find a drummer and raise money for the studio.

If you got to turn back time and yourself one piece of advice, before you took your journey into the music-industry, what would it be?

I wish I would of studied music in school. This way I would have more experiences and possible connections when I decided to take music full time.

Is there any message you're trying to send through your music?

I wouldn't go as far to say that there is a direct message, but I do like to filter some of my opinions into the lyrics. I don't like to come off as a preacher. I write about experiences, whether they are positive or negative. I certainly don't write only love songs. Most of the songs are the complete opposite.

How long would you like to be playing music for?

FOREVER.

What is your favourite restaurant to stop at, on tour?

Joe: I personally would shoot for Waffle House as much as I can. Unfortunately when you're not making as much money you are forced to go to the McDonald's Dollar Menu.

Ryan: I recently found this restaurant in Baltimore called Noodles & Company, there aren't any around here. I'm looking forward to go to another one when we get back out on the road. However, I'll never turn up Wawa.

What do you like seeing most at a Nobody Yet show?

People singing along and going nuts with us.

THE SLEEPING

Interview with Doug

Which song would you say was the hardest to write on the new album?

It's actually pretty difficult to say which song I think was the most difficult to write. I feel like these songs came together so organically, more easily than I could have ever imagined. One second we were writing and the next we were like, "Wow... we created that?" Everything just fell right into place. I feel we all just knew exactly what we wanted this time around.

What can fans expect on the new album?

They can expect the unexpected... honestly. We will always be The Sleeping, there is no question of that. However, this is a brand new version of us. We have been rejuvenated as a unit. We still have that honest and unique style that people have connected to from our band... but we are a completely different entity. We are more focused and more determined to make honest and solid rock and roll with a deeper vibe than most people are willing to go nowadays.

Have you decided on an album title, yet?

The album is titled, "The Big Deep"

How did your parents feel about you touring at such a young age?

My mother has always been and will always be super supportive of my musical aspirations. She never once told me "GO TO COLLEGE FIRST" or anything like that. She was always right there to help me bring my luggage to the van. She claims that a lot of

her reasoning was from the time I picked up my first instrument at the age of 12. I told her, "Mom, you watch... I am going to be a rockstar." Haha. She told me that the look in my eyes when I told her that changed her whole life and that she knew I would be successful somehow in the field of music. She is the most influential person in my life. There's a song for her on this record. :)

If you could get one band back together, who would it be?

In all honesty, I think the bands that have made a mark in my life wouldn't be as influential and as important to me if they were to get back together now. When bands break up it's usually for a pretty serious reason and with all of these bands doing reunion shows left and right, it kind of loses its sense of purpose and meaning. It appears that reunions have become this "quick way to make some cash" trend and I think it's real disheartening. I actually have a huge respect for the bands that I love who have broken up and refuse to do reunions no matter how much they're offered more than the ones that get back together. It shows integrity and it reminds me why I became a musician in the first place. Obviously that's not a stab at every single reuniting band... I give enormous props to Sunny Day Real Estate for getting back together. Music nowadays needs a band as honest and as beautiful as them.

Were any of you guys in your school's music programs?

I got kicked out of middle school choir during my first set of tryouts. My teacher, Mr. Wynn, told me that I would never be good enough to sing with the rest of the group. Pretty funny eh? Joe, our drummer has done some drum clinic stuff and Sal went to school for engineering. Chris, our organ player (Keys, etc.) also does a lot of engineering stuff.

M&M's or Skittles?

Peanut Butter Cups

What is your favorite place to eat when you are on tour?

It depends on where we are... there's a lot of gems in the world. Haha.

Any tips for bands that are starting out?

Don't be in a band just to be asked how to get huge. Don't be in a band just to be in a band. Be in a band because music pulls you into another world. Because you breathe it and can't see yourself anywhere else in the world without it.

What are some of your favourites and dislikes of touring?

I can go on forever about both sides. Touring wouldn't be touring without the good and the bad and that's what makes it absolutely worth every moment.

Interview by Bianca Delicata



THE WONDER YEARS

Interview with Soupy

What's the hardest part of being on-tour?

A lot of cliches about missing people popped into my head when I read this question, and that is hard, but you know that's hard. What you don't always hear about is keeping yourself in decent health. We definitely don't shower often, we eat fast food twice a day, we drive overnight almost every night which means we sleep on bench seats in shifts and we live in a van with six other dudes. So, if one of us is sick, everyone is sick. We've found that staying healthy is something that has to be seriously thought about everyday. Sometimes, the burger isn't the right choice. Every now and again, maybe try a salad. Some days, it's worth the 70 bucks to get a hotel room and let everyone shower and sleep in a bed. The gold bond powder and mouth wash and baby wipes that you consider buying before each tour are always worth it and if you do end up sick, we found that urgent care facilities are much easier to use and much less shady than we expected.

Harry Potter, Twilight, or neither?

I've never seen Twilight so I'm going to go with Harry Potter. Nick is a huge Harry Potter guy so I think that's the right path to take on this one.

Was there a certain band, concert, or quote, that got you into music?

I guess there were a slew of occasions that could be blamed for me creating music so if you're leading the witch hunt, you might want to start with Boyz II Men and GreenDay as

they were the first two things that I liked separate from what my parents would put on. Then, make take out Blink 182 for getting me into this genre. Then, head towards Saves the Day and The Get Up Kids for really cementing this as the music I would always love. And then, once you've significantly punished all of them, you'd be right to go after a local band called Inklung that made me believe that I could be in a band if I wanted to.

What would be your dream instrument to own?

Have you ever seen the episode of Futurama where he plays that clarinet-looking thing that makes music but also creates like mini-movies? I think it's called a Holophone. That. I'd like to own that.

How did the members of The Wonder Years meet?

Nick, Matt and I all went to high school together and played in a band called The Premier. Kennedy, Josh and Casey went to a separate high school nearby and played in two other bands, Bellwether and Emergency & I. We all played a show together and our friend-groups started intermixing and eventually we all ended up in this band together.

What's the craziest thing you've pulled at a show?

On our first tour in England, Kennedy played a song totally naked. I've done some pretty stupid stage-dives off speaker stacks or little

balcony areas. I don't know. I feel like we do a lot of stupid shit but now that I need to recall a specific instance, I'm having trouble.

Who are three bands you'd love to play a show with?

Blink-182, Hatebreed and Hatebreed again.

What genre would you consider the band to be?

I call us a pop punk band. Seems fitting to me. Sometimes, we say "realist pop punk" because of the lyrical content but we've been really pushing lately to be considered satanic pop punk. One day. We can dream, right?

What is your opinion on the new genre, "crunk-core"?

I don't know if you wanna call that a genre, but I don't really have an opinion on it. Everyone is entitled to create whatever music they'd like to create and if I don't like it, I just won't listen.

Do you ever feel used by your fans?

The only time I think we've ever felt mistreated by our fans is when we get messages saying things like "I can't believe you're not fucking coming to Boston on this tour" when we're playing maybe an hour from Boston. We drive, on average, six hours to every show. It's kind of insulting when you get mad at us for not playing your town when we're playing pretty fucking close to it and we drove overnight on no sleep to get there.



Interview by Bianca Delicata

EYES ON THE PRIZE

Interview with Jeff Salkowski



Who/what encouraged you to play music, for a living?

Most of us in the band have grown up in somewhat musical families, who encouraged us to explore our passions and interests while still maintaining solid grades in school. After we all graduated high school, we spent a year away from home at various colleges assuming this was what the next step in our lives were, only to all move home after that first year and continue with music. None of us forced that upon each other, so when we realized it's what we all wanted we decided to take it much more serious.

How did the band begin?

The band actually started around 2005, when most of us were only 14-15 years old. We could barely play our instruments, but we learned a few covers of our favorite bands. Before any of us could work jobs legally, we had all the time in the world so we constantly practiced in Kevin's basement after school. Eventually we started writing and recording our own material. The core of the band (Pat, Karl, Kevin and I) have always been the same since then. We only recently picked up our new bass player Chris, but it already feels like we've known him forever.

What was your favourite moment in 2009?

Definitely recording our latest album "Take It Or Leave It". It was our first serious attempt at a self-released EP and we were learning so much about how everything worked. We did the album with Kory Gable in Baltimore who recorded our good friends I Call Fives, which was incredible. Even after the album was recorded, it took us forever to figure out how to get album artwork,

market the record, press it, etc. To most people that's annoying work but we loved every second because it made us feel like we were actually a part of something real.

Is there any special story behind the name, "Eyes On The Prize"?

We were that annoying band that always stuck with the same members but constantly changed the name. In 7th grade we started off calling ourselves "Nine Star". To this day I have no idea why. After that we changed the name to "The Atlantic", trying to represent the east coast the best we could. However, a band called "New Atlantic" got signed and gained some fame nationally so we decided to once more change the band's name. We were just about to give up musically after all we had been through, and I thought the phrase "keep your eyes on the prize" fit considering how much we talked about how the end product would be worth all the work. I think we're going to stick with this one.

Are there any crazy antics you've pulled on-stage, or that you've seen in the crowd?

So many stories come to mind. I remember we played a huge Halloween themed show and dressed up as the "Rugrats", diapers and all. Sometimes we just get weird with it. We like to be really energetic with our lives shows so that even if kids don't fall in love with our music, perhaps they can at least be stoked with our performance.

Was there any song on the new EP that made you anxious to see your fans' reactions?

For me personally, it's "Out With The Old, In With The New". It's the last full band track on

the record, and to me the perfect metaphor for who we are, what we've done, and what we'll be doing. Specially, the track has so many dynamics to it that I love. We like to classify our music as "progressive pop-punk", and I think that track does a fantastic job of showing that.

Who's your guilty pleasure?

We've covered Miley Cyrus, Lady Gaga, and Rihanna before. I believe we're doing some studio time at the end of August to record a pop cover actually, so stay tuned for that. Personally, I listen to a lot of Chris Brown. Like...I dance in my room to it. If that's wrong I don't want to be right.

Have you ever felt like the music industry is collapsing?

Yes, but it's really inevitable. I'm actually a business major at college, and I have always thought the music industry business model had seen it's best days years ago. Physical cd's will be completely phased out by 2020. I think most people who buy those will prefer to purchase vinyl records as a sort of collectors item.

Do you like Township, New Jersey? What's your favourite aspect of it?

Well....I like South Jersey as a whole. I had a great childhood in this town, so I can't complain but musically it's not that cool. I Call Fives and Eyes On The Prize are really the only bands from this town that are still playing. I wouldn't mind living in a city like Philadelphia or New York for my 20's, but I would probably raise my kids here. But the entire South Jersey scene actually is getting cool again, with bands like Man Overboard blowing up and such.

FALLEN FROM THE SKY

Interview with Jim



What is your favorite place to eat when you are on tour?

That's a great question, we love to find that hole in the wall spots from each town we visit. There's this place in Tallahassee, FL. called "Taco Bus" that has some of the best Mexican food we've ever had. There's also "Juan In A Million" in Austin TX. where they have the biggest Breakfast Burritos, period. We even saw it on the Food Network. "Sheetz" & "Wa-wa" are always a must while in the Northeast, great subs and what not. As much as we all love Taco Bell, we try to stay healthy on the road... for the most part. So we love hitting up some grocery stores when we can. While recording our album in California, we hit up "Vons" multiple times since it was on the way to the studio. Between the five of us, we could probably write you a food only touring guide... for dummies.

Any tips for bands that are starting out?

I always say the key to longevity is a strong band nucleus. Find some good friends with similar interests and just stick to it, grow together in every sense of the word. None of us were super shredders individually, we just had fun playing together, so we stuck to it, and here we are 8 years later still doing it. There's going to be fall outs and obstacles along the way, but if they don't kill you, they make you stronger. Slow and steady wins the race, so never lose hope. Make sure everyone is always

on the same page, don't be afraid of putting a friend in his place if he isn't pulling his weight in the band. A band is one big compromise, so everyone has to put in equal effort. Always focus on having fun and getting better at your instrument, those are both key.

What are some of your favorites and dislikes of touring?

Touring is one of my favorite things to do, but its not for everyone. It takes a lot out of you, especially when it's months at a time. Like I said before, being in a band is one big compromise, so respecting everyone's space is very important. You have to keep in mind that no matter what happens, you're stuck with 4 or 5 other people for the duration of the tour. With that in mind, we always have a good time but we treat each other with respect first and foremost. I suppose we got all the crazy pranks out of the way in early tours. Somehow the craziest things happen when you stick a bunch of friends in a van and have them cruise the country. It's so hard to explain if you haven't done it, but the absolute best part is how strong of a bond you can create within your band, with other bands, or people you meet along the way. I've made some of my closest friends to date on the road, there's just something about it that just can't compare to anything else.

Which song would you say was the hardest to write on the new album?

We came into the studio with 15 tracks which we wrote during tour breaks throughout 2009 - 2010, 12 made it onto the record. I feel our band has a very good system when it comes to writing new jams, so none of these were "difficult" to write. Some came out in 15 minutes, some took a couple of practices to figure out & some even came from riff ideas we had laying around that never evolved past a cool jam. We don't like to burn our selves out writing music, so if a song idea isn't coming together we just sit on it and come back to it with a fresh ear.

What can fans expect on the new album?

This record is by a land slide the best material our band has ever produced. Everyone will be pleasantly surprised with the band's growth since the last record. Every release this band has ever put out has been following a natural progression. We've evolved and matured, but never tried to do what's popular or what's been going on in music at the time, which we're all pretty proud of. This record will stand out within our catalog and definitely feels like the beginning of a new era for FFTS. We had the luxury to demo the whole record before we hit the studio with producer Shaun Lopez (Far, Deftones, The Black Pacific) so we were super prepared for this one.

Have you decided on an album title, yet?

We've been tossing around some ideas here and there, but nothing solid, that's usually the last thing we worry about when it come to putting out records.

If you could get one band back together, who would it be?

I'd say Oasis, even though they just recently broke up. They're one of my favorite bands of all time, "(What's the story) morning glory?" was my first CD ever, so i was pretty bummed out when i heard they had split up. I still can't believe it, but knowing them it feels like a publicity stunt.

M&M's or Skittles?

I'm not a sweets kind of guy, but I'd probably take the skittles. Our singer Ryan is the sweets guy, he gets down with all sorts of sour candy, and truck stop snacks. He went through a huge Take 5 phase a couple of years back when those first came out, but that's not as mainstream of a candy bar as M&M's or Skittles.

Were any of you guys in your school's music programs?

I was in the music program in middle school when I lived in Peru, once I moved to the U.S. I tried out for band but it wasn't the greatest experience, my band teacher told me it didn't matter how good I was at drums, they already had too many drummers, so they gave me a clarinet... I ended up dropping it the following semester, but I did take drum lessons at age 13. Our guitarist Justin used to play trombone in band for a bit. the rest of the guys never entered the music program but took lessons for their own instruments.

Interview by Bianca Delicata



EYE ALASKA

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

Midway through 7th grade I realized I was going to be involved with the art of music and all the territory that comes with it. It has always been about a lot more than simply creating songs.

Do you aim for a specific genre or age group when you write music? Why or why not?

I don't believe in genres or age groups.

What inspires Eye Alaska lyrically and musically?

Life, and struggle, and love, and pain, anything real.

Would you rather be recording or touring? Why is this?

I want to do everything on my own terms. I love to write and record. I need it. I wont go on the road unless I can have that luxury.

What has been your favourite tour that you've been on? Why is this?

My favorite tour was probably the first tour we ever did with The Summer Set and Anarbor. We had all just started our bands and I think it was everyone's first time being on the road. So many good memories.

If you could play a show or tour with and two bands who would they be and why?

Kanye West, and Bad Rabbits. Making "History".

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

Don't listen to anyone. Do what you know is right.

What is your favourite thing about music?

It can take you anywhere.

Where do you see Eye Alaska in a year or so?

It's too early to say just yet. Guess you'll have to see. I'm pretty sure i know where I'm gonna be tho.



WHAT HAPPENED IN VEGAS

Cliche start to an interview, but how did What Happened In Vegas come to be?

Aaron and Nick started jamming together in their friend's basement. Steve stumbled upon this hole one day and after a couple years of many lineup changes, we're where we're at now. Aaron, Nick, Steve, and Ron. The 4 amigos.

Is there a story behind your myspace header photos where there shows two sides to each member?

Yes, we wanted to depict that we are normal guys (casual clothing) just like everyone else. As well as we are serious musicians who flaunt professionalism (suits). We are here doing what we love and we're trying to make our dreams come true. Business in the front, party in the back!

How would you describe the sound of What Happened In Vegas?

Hard hitting rock with a smooth undertone <@!;

What has been the biggest challenge for you to overcome? How did you overcome this?

Well, we've ultimately had challenges from beginning till now. We honestly have the worst of luck anytime we're together as a band. Whether it's us getting drug raided by police dogs, losing two of our three vans, one blowing up

(and we mean BLOWING up), to about any other bad luck event you can think of, we've experienced it all. We'd probably have to say the biggest challenge out of the many is our conversion van catching fire, blowing up, and leaving us with nothing. We overcame this by working hard to save up for a new van, and several donations from our amazing, supportive fans!

How did you come up with the band name What Happened In Vegas?

If we told you, we'd have to kill you. ;)

What sparked your interest in music?

We've all been playing music since we were younger, so i guess we all started because we felt "the dream" early on!

You're currently out on Warped Tour. Is this your first time? What is the experience like?

Warped has been an awesome experience! We met a ton of cool kids that are there to just support the music and have a great time! There's definitely a lot of people who are there for all the wrong reasons and they bring everyone down. So, it really means a lot seeing all of these awesome people supporting the band's dreams and getting wild!

We played warped a little bit last year as well, but this year blew last year away!! DY-NO-MITE!!!

Would you say you prefer outdoor shows as opposed to indoor venues?

We prefer indoor shows better. The sound is much more controlled with an indoor venue which makes for a great mix! We love getting everyone all packed in to get wild, sexy, and sweaty! OH YEAHHH!!

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

NeverShoutNever! @ St. Andrew's Hall in Detroit 12-29-2009. he's a bro! Such a fun group of kids! Outstanding audience =]

What has been the most embarrassing thing that you've done at a show?

Aaron fell off stage one time when we were playing with Versaemerge! Aaron had a crush on Sierra. Needless to say, he was VERY embarrassed!!

What does the future hold for What Happened In Vegas?

TOTAL WORLD DOMINATION!! New record being recorded sometime at the end of this year, with hopes of an early 2011 release. New tours, new music, new WILD!!!

ADALIE

Interview with Derrek Siemieniuk



What song on the new EP was the most difficult to write?

Honestly, each song for this new record presented its own unique challenges. For starters, we produced all of the tracks entirely ourselves and recorded them at our home studio in Philly. It was our first attempt working in that capacity, and, despite being stressful at times, we learned a lot about ourselves and our work ethic in the process. If I had to pick one song in particular, though, as being the most difficult, I'd have to say "So, Breathe." We had written a skeleton of that song over a year and a half ago, and have since made many alterations to its arrangement. Our manager even had the track peer-reviewed, so to speak, by Erik Ron, a talented Producer/Engineer from Los Angeles, CA. He basically listened to the demo, then fired us an e-mail reflecting what he felt were the song's strengths and weaknesses. That was the only song out of the six on the EP for which we received outside help. We couldn't be more pleased with the final product and absolutely cannot wait to have it made available to the public!

What are your thoughts on autotune?

From an engineering standpoint, autotune and other pitch correctors are great tools to have when working with artists who aren't endowed with perfect-pitch. Our band personally doesn't use autotune for our own recordings, but we do advocate the use of such software on an as-needed basis. If something like autotune allows for an individual to not only create, but to experiment and tweak with his or her art, what's the harm? That's like criticizing a writer for referring to a thesaurus. If it helps get the job done, why not utilize it?

Who/What inspires your lyrics?

Our song lyrics are directly inspired by events, and the emotions felt during and after those events. To jumpstart my creative engine, I either need to have something really good or really bad happen. Otherwise, the writing feels forced and insincere, like a ten page, school research paper. If I'm feeling complacent, or just indifferent to what is going on in my life, I cannot find it in me to sit down and put my thoughts to paper. It's only when my emotions are being pulled toward an extreme that I am able to find the inspiration. Ideas don't have to necessarily stem from physical occurrences either. I spend an awful amount of time reflecting at the beginning and end of each day, and many times, through that alone, I'm able to find that there's a lot I want to say.

What can fans expect from an Adalie show?

At our shows, expect to see us deliver an honest performance and have the time of our lives during each and every song. Additionally, you can anticipate hanging out with us after the set, whether initiated by you approaching us, or us annoyingly flagging you down. We want everyone at our shows to have the best time possible, even if you're not there for our band.

Is there anything you'd like to say to our readers?

Keep supporting stitchedsound.com and all of the bands they promote! Also, keep your eyes peeled for our new EP "Don't Give In" to drop somewhere around late September/early October.

What do you think sets Adalie apart from other bands and musicians?

On the exterior, we differ from most because our band consists of two sets of brothers. Coincidentally, we're also headquartered in Philadelphia, PA, known as the city of brotherly love. Obviously, our band isn't the only act around whose members share a familial link, but it's something we feel allows us to work more effectively with each other. Another interesting fact about Adalie is that we all grew up together in the same neighborhood, our families literally residing within two minutes walking-distance of each other. When we were a little younger and just beginning to dabble in playing in bands, we'd sometimes jam together and provide encouragement for our respective projects. More than that, though, our roots can be traced way back before any of our members even picked up instruments.

Have you ever felt like the music industry is collapsing? Why?

I wouldn't necessarily say that the industry is collapsing, although it has changed dramatically since the advent of digital downloads. Virtually any band now can record their music cheaply and have it streaming online, making their content accessible to a potentially enormous audience. Having said that, though, there is definitely more clutter than ever before, which can really make finding a great artist a painstaking process. Even though record companies are still trying to adapt to the changing industry, the new model does work out in the benefit of the bands. Sure, without the backing of a major label, a band's chances of achieving success beyond the national level can be hindered, but that doesn't mean artists can't begin to make a living by means of their own talent and self-promotion.

How would you describe your music to someone that's never heard it before?

I think all of us in the band have a difficult time trying to throw a label onto our music, and that's because we feel that our songs have the potential to cater to a wide range of listeners. Whether you're a fan of pop-punk, post-hardcore, indie, there are various elements of our music that can catch your interest. I guess the only way to really know is to take a listen and to form your own conclusions.

Have you pulled any pranks or crazy antics during a show? How did it go?

During one of our shows, we did manage to get the crowd to play quite possibly the biggest game of leap frog I've ever witnessed. I don't know if that constitutes a crazy antic, or if it's just ... well, dumb?

What was the last concert/show you've been to?

The last concert I went to that Adalie wasn't on the bill for was Thrice. They've been among my favorite bands since before I was in high school, and I've seen them live more times than I can count at this point. Personally, they are a huge influence on me as a musician and lyricist.



THE HANDSHAKE AFFAIR

Interview with Eric

What made you choose the name "The Handshake Affair"?

To be honest there is no deeper meaning behind the band's name. We just played with words and thought it would be a cool name.

If you had to use three words to describe your music, what would it be and why?

That's a hard one. we think our music is nuts, energizing and loud. cause we would say our music is pretty rigorous and aggressive but with a propensity to melodies.

The Handshake Affair is heading to North Carolina to record your new full length. What should fans expect from the full length?

It's the first full-length we are writing right now and it will definitely sound a lot different to our latest releases. With this record we're trying to head to a totally new direction. The whole album is going to be an unified whole and it will be the hardest stuff we've ever written. Though fans will recognize the typical THA features and sound elements.

What makes a "The Handshake Affair" song?

Every song features those characteristics we mentioned earlier. But we are influenced by so many different genres and artists that our songs include some kind of contraries. For example we have a huge passion for a few progressive post-rock bands like "pg.lost" or "ef" and sometimes you might discover those influences in our music too.

Are you excited to head to the United States to record?

Hell yeah! we are so stoked, you have no idea! it's definitely going to be an overly great experience. We've never been in the studio for such a long time and we just can't wait to start and finally record that album. And in addition to that we've never been to the US before, so we're excited to meet new people and collect new experiences and impressions.

What made you choose to record in the United States as opposed to Germany, or Europe in general?

We can relate to the american music scene alot and we want to be a part of this musical centre. Our goal is to gain a foothold in a new area and this is the first step for us. We definately feel like taking this chance to scent new air that will be different to Europe. We recorded our last releases here in Europe and now it's time for something new. It's grounded in human's nature to always look for challenges and fresh aims.

Do you prefer recording, or touring? Why is this?

As we already said we've never been in the studio for a really long time but we've been on tour a few times and we can absolutely say: touring is ace! Even though sometimes you have to sleep outside in the middle of the rain in a parking lot and the fact you're confronted with weird smells touring still is the best thing ever!

Is the writing process for The Handshake Affair collaborative? What is it like?

Ot's solely collaborative. When we're writing new music we're tossing around every single part and every single second we just wrote 'til everyone feels comfortable with it. Of course it will take more time if you do it this way but for us as a group it is more satisfying. during the writing process we had to learn to reach compromises. It's really fascinating that four different human beings with a similar musical imagination have found themselves making music with each other. It's great to see how many people are connecting themselves while making music together. and we now feel we definitely have found our common ground to base on.

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

We had the chance to play a few shows at the Taste Of Chaos Festival here in Germany and those shows were definitely one of the best shows we've ever played. It was so unreal and so inspiring sharing the stage with such great bands we look up to. And it was a really motivating moment as well. We never thought that one day we would play in front of thousands of people playing this kind of music. but the number of kids at a show has no immediate effect if we are feeling we just had an insane night. Every single show where we can hang out with fans and meet new people is so much fun and insane in it's own way. It's great to meet people who are interested in our music and it's amazing to get to know them.

Thieves & Villians South America



Hudson Valley, New York based quartet Thieves & Villains have recently released their sophomore attempt titled *South America* throughout Victory Records. It's quite clear that the Thieves & Villains sound has changed; for the good, though. The band has shed their original pop-rock roots shown on their debut *Movements* for a more mature, and "grown-up" indie-rock sound. *South America's* single "Virginia Woolf" is definitely one of the best tracks off the album. It's a great example of a catchy and quirky typical indie-rock track. In retrospect, the new direction of sound will help Thieves & Villains go down the right road. *South America* is a good way to come back into the scene, but the effort could have been a bit better.

By Robbs Quezada

Arcade Fire *The Suburbs*



Arcade Fire is a Montreal based band made up of seven members. Included, is a married couple, Win Butler and Régine Chassagne. They're maybe not the youngest band, or the hottest thing around, but their music is extremely respectable. It could also be possible that their age and maturity contribute to this. Arcade Fire uses a multitude of unique instruments, and the members often switch off roles, gaining even more respect in the music world.

Their third album, *The Suburbs*, which was released August 3rd has a mature sound to it, switching vocals between male and female. Win Butler's wispy and wife's young-girlish voice compliment each other well, and show a sense of intimacy in their lyrics. *The Suburbs* starts with a song called "The Suburbs," and concludes with the continuation, "The Suburbs (Continued)." My two favorite songs, "Modern Man," and "Rococo," in that order, start the album up with some excitement. The middle of the album slows down and the liveliness tapers off with softer songs like "Half Light I," and "Half Light II (No Celebration)." Reluctantly, your ears are revived by "Month of May," a song seeming to be about making a song in May. By then, your interest has been recharged, and is ready to lead you through the remaining six songs. The third and second to last songs are another set of part I and II's. In my opinion, the second half, "Sprawl I (Mountains Beyond Mountains)" Is better than the first.



So my only criticism is that some of the songs can be a bit boring, but their better songs make up for it. However, the album is long, sixteen songs to be exact, and that leaves room for songs like that. Probably without them, the album as a whole would feel incomplete and wouldn't flow as well. Does that even make sense? Well anyway, I just have to say that whatever it is that Arcade Fire does, it works for them. Therefore, If you plan on listening to *The Suburbs* from start to finish, prepare to fully indulge yourself into a world of hushed singers, a variety of instruments you didn't know existed (like a glockenspiel and hurdy-gurdy), and sentimental melodies that ooze indie essence.

By Stefany Bryan

Secondhand Serenade *Hear Me Now*



Secondhand Serenade's sound has always been a little different than the other music that is in their genre—their music tends to be a little bit softer, a lot slower, but that's definitely not a bad thing. Their latest album, *Hear Me Now*, is not a disappointment for anyone, but it's not exactly mind-blowing. It's just sort of a 'ho-hum' third record that blends in with the rest of their music. Regardless, the band stays true to their form—piano-driven ballads and soft rock anthems that talk about love and loss.

Only a few songs stand out on the album—*You & I*, a slightly fast paced love song, *Reach For The Sky*, a slow, melodic, piano-driven piece that's reminiscent of their hit '*Fall For You*', and *So Long*, a more pop-rock song intended to be the song on the album that falls between all the slow songs. However, the album finishes out with *Hear Me Now*, a ballad that features the unique voice of Juliet Simms from Automatic Loveletter. Secondhand Serenade seemed to be keeping the best for last, because to this writer, it seemed to be the best song on the entire album. It's slightly haunting, and Juliet Simms' voice adds that element more than anything else in the song. It's a good song to end the album with.

Overall, it's not really something to get all up in arms about, but it is a good attempt at a third album. Give it a listen, or, at the very least, give a listen to the last track.

By Sarah Rutz

Stuck on Repeat Tour

The Stuck on Repeat tour was the first headlining tour of New York pop-rock band Stereo Skyline. It included supporting acts Cady Groves, Cash Cash, and the Audition.

This tour is the first to feature Cady Groves full band. With her cute meaningful lyrics and well thought out sound she is sure great to see live. She did a fine job covving Katy Perry's *California Girls* and *Umbrella* by Rihanna, putting her own Country girl spin on them. Being a opener you don't expect much people to know your music and lyrics by heart, so Cady stated "Sing it if you know it. If you don't know, Sing it any ways!" Which had everyone just fall in love with her.

Next was Cash Cash. There's something really wonderful about this band that I can't point out. Maybe it's the well blended techno beats with rock guitars mixed with the Hip-hop like flow of lead singer Jean Paul Makhoul, I really don't know, but they are amazing. Imagine a giant 45 minute dance party, with the perfect lighting, the best music, and general fun. Well that's the only way to sum up Cash Cash's performance. Just fun with a great crowd of dancers. Their one of the rare bands that sound better live than on album.

The Audition had one of the best sets of the night. I'd never really listened to their music before that night and I have to tell you I'm obsessed. It was very entertaining watching them live. Their music is pretty soothing and they where a nice calm down from crazy techno dance party Cash Cash had brought just before.



Last we get to those four adorable blondes that we call Stereo Skyline. They came out just pumped and excited to play. Starting with their song "A Little More Us" this was just fun for the rest of the night. I was happy that they played mostly songs off they're new album "Stuck on Repeat" but they threw in some oldies for their loving fans and had some of the funniest side gimmicks.

Stereo Skyline, are pretty much one of the last living boy bands down to the screaming girl, but it's something that's worth embracing.

Over all the night could be summed up like this good clean fun and cute.

By Sarah Lozano

Any comments? Feedback?

stichedsound@myspace.com & cynniephotographs@gmail.com

CONTACT

For Interview Inquiries please contact us at
cynniephotographs@gmail.com

General Inquiry: stichedsound@googlemail.com

Website: <http://stichedsound.com>

Tumblr: <http://stichedsound.tumblr.com>

Myspace: <http://myspace.com/stichedsound>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Stitched-Sound/>

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

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& To all of you who are viewing this!

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Interviewers and Reviewers: Bianca Delicata,
Robbs Quezada, Cynthia Lam, Sarah Lozano,
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