

STITCHED SOUND

Faber Drive Steve Salazar City Lights The Ride +more!



THANK YOU!

To say that May has been a busy month is a understatement. We rushed to get this on time, finishing the night of the 29th. It's crazy, but we managed to pull through as we always have. Thanks for viewing this issue and I hope you like it. The staff of Stitched Sound have all contributed to make this issue awesome!

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

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

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

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THE BACKGROUND

Interview with Shaun Gunnels



What (in your opinion) is overrated, right now?

Right now I'm not too "down" with all the auto-tune synth rock and the really really heavy bands. Some of the synth stuff just sounds so fake. The drums are always simulated (done on a computer) and the vocals are so auto-tune it sounds like Chipmunks or something. The really heavy "grindcore" or whatever they call it these days...I just don't like trying to sing along to lyrics I can't understand and pig squeals and stuff. haha

Where do you most feel comfortable, while writing your music?

I'm big on moods when writing. So I have to be in a mood according to how the song's mood will sound. Usually I write in my bedroom on acoustic with the TV and computer off. It's a nice piece and quiet time for me.

Do any of you have nicknames?

I never chose any nicknames for myself. But recently its either Shaunigans or Sha-bang-bang..or I'm called by my last name, Gunnels.

What is the hardest part of being on tour?

I'd say one of the hardest part of being on tour is either getting lost without a GPS, or trying to keep everyone together after shows. haha. We're all pretty friendly guys so after shows we love talking tot he kids that come out. Sometimes we've been at venues until 3 or 4 in the morning.

What is one band you have to see this summer?

One band I personally HAVE to see this summer is Foxy Shazam. I recently discovered them and if you've heard their music, you'd understand why it's a must to see them live.

What is your favourite venue to play at?

We don't really have a favorite venue. These days a "venue" could be literally anything! We've played shows in gymnastic rooms, clubs, house parties, churches, living rooms, bed rooms, you name it, we've probably played it. We love each and every place we play especially if everyone is on the same page as far as the promoters and sound guys go.

If you were an animal, what would you be?

If I were an animal I would be a lion. King of the jungle!!!

What has been the craziest gig you've ever played?

So far one of the craziest shows we played was in March at Six Flags. So many kids showed up and wouldn't let us off the stage without surrounding us. It was awesome to see the smiles on all of those kids' faces. It had been a rough day for me prior to the show so having magic like that happen after the show was amazing.

At what age were you sure that you wanted to play in a band?

I picked up guitar when I was 16 after playing bass for a couple years. The reason why I did was just to learn some Dashboard Confessional songs and impress some girls. haha. A friend of mine heard me playing and singing and wanted to start a band almost immediately. By the time I was 18 I had toured once and had an EP out. It was awesome going to school after touring or being in the studio for weeks.

Do your family/friends approve of you leaving home and touring places you've never been to?

My friends think it's awesome. They usually throw parties or take us out when we get home. My family not so much. haha. My Dad always thinks something's going to happen and I'll have to call him for help, and my Mom thinks that I will be seduced by an older lady in a "strange place". But hey I'm 23 I might WANT to be seduced by an older lady! haha

STEREO SHOUT OUT

Interview with Travis



How would you describe Stereo Shout Out to someone who has never heard of you guys before in one word?

Power-Pop!

What sets you distinct from other bands?

When we are playing it is simply impossible to stand still. We love to bring energy, say goofy things to the crowd and have a complete blast in our live performances!

How did Stereo Shout Out come to be?

Basically our hometown Evansville, IN is all metal based music. Pop is definitely not all the rage here so one day we decided to grab group of friends and bring something brand new and fresh to the scene.

What has been your biggest accomplishment? How did you reach this?

We just recently got signed to an awesome label called inVogue Records and we will be doing a couple tours in the summer!!!! It took

a lot of time, practice, money to get to where we are now. Playing all kinds of local and some bigger shows to make sure that are performances are getting right where they need to be. We are far from perfect yet but all these things are getting us to that one step closer to our goals in this band.

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

During the middle of one of our shows we called up a guy on stage with us, picked him up and literally just threw him right into the crowd!!! It was so epic.

If you could sit down and have dinner with anyone who would it be? Why?

Morgan Freeman because he has the most pleasant and soothing voice a man could ever have!

Did you imagine yourself playing music as a career when you were young?

Yes. My whole life i have thrown myself around the music scene. Getting tips from better musicians and

just simply learning how the whole music industry works. The more i matured in my playing i then realized that this is what i really want to do.

What is the songwriting process like for Stereo Shout Out?

When we go to write a new song, we like to listen to some bands that is going to influence the song whether its the music aspect or a melody line for the lyrics. And also just a simple getting together and comparing ideas with one another.

How can fans support Stereo Shout Out?

Well there is a bunch of things: add us on myspace, make street teams, look at our upcoming shows and spread the word, Come out to our shows, buy our merch, and mainly come talk and hang out with us when we play. We love seeing new beautiful faces!!!

BACK-POCKET BELIEVERS

Interview with Catherine Powell and Stacy Magallon



How did the back-pocket believers start off?

Catherine: It started off last May when my friend Sara and I were talking on the phone about how great it would be to start something together. So we got a bunch of our friends together and ta-da. Sara isn't working for us anymore, but the site was her idea more than mine.

Stacy: I remember back in May 2009, Catherine messaged me about this idea she and our friend, Sara Feigin, had about a webzine. She asked me if I wanted to take part in it and I jumped for the position.

What about the lyric back pocket believers from All Time Low's "This Is How We Do" made you pick the site name, and what does it mean to you?

Catherine: Well, we wanted something somewhat All Time Low related because they were really the band that made all of the original staff members friends. I think we picked Back-Pocket Believers because we were kind of coming out of nowhere, but we really believed this could be something huge. Also, we like to feature a lot of bands that people kind of keep tucked away in their back pockets, so that ties into the name as well.

Stacy: Clever, isn't it? I'm glad this was the chosen name because All Time Low was most definitely the band that brought us all together.

What bands do you guys feel the closest to and why?

Catherine: For me personally, The Friday Night Boys are probably my closest band friends. They were the first interview Christine and I ever did for her old site, and they've been really big supporters of me photography wise since the very beginning.

It's really cool to have people "on the inside" who really believe in you. They're cool guys.

Stacy: Bands? I'm in this for the techies and merch guys!

Let's talk photography. Catherine, what does it feel like being able to take some amazing photos of some of the biggest stars including people from Disney? That's pretty big.

Catherine: Honestly, it's so surreal. I never thought I'd be able to work with such big artists. The craziest thing ever was probably getting to photograph Blink 182 at, excuse my language, fucking Madison Square Garden on their reunion tour. I never thought that would be possible.

Stacy you're the genuine behind "the truth is..." photos.

What's the story behind those and how do you feel about the copycat artist (I confess to be one)?

Stacy: "The Truth Is..." started around November 2008 when my good friend, Daria, and I were messing around with a pack of post-its at my house. We started writing secrets on them and held them in front of our faces. I grabbed my camera and began taking photos of her while she took photos of me. Out of no where, the idea just came to me. I said to myself, "This is a cool way to express thoughts and feelings, even through a simple post it." And that's how "The Truth Is..." was born. I didn't start the project until November 19th, 2008.

As far as copiers go, I guess I'm somewhat flattered though it gets a bit irksome at times. Some people will just claim that the idea was originally theirs while others are nice enough to mention that the project is mine. I'd personally prefer it if people didn't copy what I started, but hey, I can't control everyone.

What type of cameras did you guys first start off with?

Catherine: I started with, and still use, a Sony a300.

Stacy: Nikon D60.

Were you nervous the first time you asked for a photo pass?

Catherine: Definitely. I got denied tons of times before I got my first one.

Stacy: I was terrified! I don't take rejection well either. Luckily, I was issued a pass the first time I asked. Thanks, Matt!

Any tips for some newbies at photography?

Catherine: Don't give up, especially when it comes to concert photography. You will get denied time after time, but eventually someone will take a chance on you, and from there you just roll with it. And expect criticism, a lot of it. Not the constructive kind either.

Stacy: If you love the feeling of a camera in your hands or the sound of the shutter, there's nothing else to think about. There is no right way to take a picture, so don't be hesitant to take risks and be creative. Photos are just a way to capture a memory, so make sure you do a great job in doing so. Everyone has their opinions on what makes a "good picture" and out in the real world, everyone's a critic. But don't let anything they say get you down. Learn from your mistakes and do all in your power to improve.

How long have you guys been going to shows?

Catherine: I went to my first show in June 2007, but began going to them more regularly in October 2007. I started shooting in September 2008.

Stacy: I went to my first show on April 22, 2007. I saw The Hush Sound, Boys Like Girls and hellogoodbye at Hammerstein Ballroom. It wasn't until November of that year that I started coming out to concerts more frequently.

Do you think that traveling from show to show pay off?

Catherine: Definitely. I've met a ton of people from all over that I consider some of my best friends. And it's really great getting to see bands you really love a few times in one week, and shooting different venues.

Stacy: I agree with Catherine on this one. It's a total adventure. Seeing bands on the same stage gets rather boring, so it's awesome whenever you get the opportunity

to hit up out of state venues. It's a chance to see more of the country, make new friends and have a blast while it all happens.

How do you feel about artists that people claim "sell-out"? Do you ever feel the same way or do large fan bases just don't matter?

Catherine: I don't think a larger fan base means a band has sold out, I think it just means they're doing something right. I saw Cobra Starship back in 2007 when no one really knew who they were yet, and now look at them! I think kids use that term because they don't like not being the only person that knows a band, because it becomes less personal.

Stacy: Having a large fan base isn't necessarily a bad thing. Every band wants to be popular, right? That's what they aim for. I mean, yeah, it's nice to keep a band as your little secret, but eventually that's going to change. The most you can do is remember who they were, accept who they are and be happy for them.

What music is currently being played on your iPod 24/7?

Catherine: Lately, The Morning Of's new record, The Way I Fell In. PICK IT UP. I've known these kids for awhile, and I'm so proud of what they've done with this album. It's great. Also, I've been jammin' Sing It Loud's new album, and an NJ artist named Gary Bender.

Stacy: All Time Low and Something Corporate are always my top two. But as of recently, I've been listening to a lot of McFly, Taking Back Sunday, Heffron Drive andBig Time Rush. Don't judge me! I love those guys.

How far do you think that Back-Pocket Believers will go?

Catherine: Considering what we've done in less than a year, I'm hoping really far. I'd love to work with bigger artists, but I think we'll always stay true to our roots and give little bands the chance to get exposure that other "big" sites might not give them.

Stacy: The Back-Pocket staff is dedicated, hard-working and there's always news posted daily. I think the site has immense potential and I'd love to see it get as well-known as it possibly can! I'm happy to be a part of this whole experience and I'm proud to see how big this site has gotten thus far.

Check out back pocket believers at
<http://back-pocketbelievers.com>

Interview by Sarah Lozano

THE GREAT VALLEY

Interview with Alex



How did The Great Valley meet?

First and foremost we are brothers, we grew up together playing music.

What was the recording process for Wrecking Ball like?

It was unlike any other process we had been through before. It was a rigorous pre-production process. We had a great time doing it though. Louis did all the drum tracks and lead vocals. I (Nick) did all the guitars and back-up vocals. It was double the work for both of us but it has become second nature for us!

If Wrecking Ball was a sandwich what would the ingredients be?

It would totally be a Johnsonville bratwurst in a potato bun with some Grey Poupon slapped on it. Just like our record, simple with a bite to it. You'll never want a mediocre hot dog again.

Who are your biggest influences?

Number one would have to be our parents. As far as bands would go definitely Thrice, Boys Night Out, old Fall Out Boy, The June Spirit, and Tokyo Rose just to name a few.

Have you ever been completely fed up with your band mates?

We're brothers. It's a daily thing. Next question. Haha.

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

It would have to be Green Day. When we heard "Dookie" that was all she wrote. We were also into Nirvana, Bush, and The Smashing Pumpkins. This was all when we first picked up our instruments.

What's the craziest thing that's happened at a show?

We were playing a show in Erie, PA. Had 30 seconds left of our last song when I (Nick) was rockin' out and tripped over one of the monitors and

fell off stage. I hit my head on the ground and was bleeding everywhere. At the same time I broke the headstock off of my guitar. I was pretty bummed out. I got rushed to the hospital. I had to get 4 staples in my head. When I left the hospital I see the rest of the guys role up in our van that breaks down a few hours later. We were stuck in Erie for a few days.

What has been your biggest accomplishment to date?

Releasing "Wrecking Ball".

Does The Great Valley have any goals in the future?

One of the biggest goals is to tour full time and to be able to support ourselves by doing what we love. Also, to go into space one day. That would be gnar.

Interview by Cynthia Lam

VICTORY BY REVENGE

Interview with Rick Butler



Are you trying to send any message to your fans? If so, what is the message?

We don't really try to send any specific message but I think what we want people to get from our music is to not take life too seriously and to not get down on yourself about the negative things because there are always way more positive.

Coca Cola or Pespi?

Coke!!

If you had a million dollars, what would you spend it on?

A sweet tour bus (with a driver) and trailer.

What is your favourite song to play live?

We just moved "She's So..." to the last song of our set and I think we all really enjoy that as a good way to end our set.

What is your opinion on illegal downloading of music?

I used to download music illegally but now I really enjoy having the actual CD or the actual iTunes file because some of the files on downloading sites are really bad quality. Also, after being in a band and seeing how hard it is to actually make money doing it, I really like to support the artists. I think in a perfect world people wouldn't be able to illegally download music unless the artist chose to put it out there for free.

If you could create your own planet, what would its name be?

I just saw Avatar for the first time the other day so I'd have to say Pandora. At random moments throughout the day I feel like I'm living there.

What did you listen to while growing up? The first artist I really remember listening to is Elvis then that progressed to anything popular at the time like N*Sync, Backstreet Boys, Blink 182, Linkin Park, Third Eye Blind, and I still love listening to all of them!

Who is your celebrity crush?

Emmanuelle Chriqui who plays Sloan on Entourage, she is beautiful.

What is your favourite dance move?

I don't know any dance move names but James (drums) is currently obsessed with Jason Derulo's dance moves so I'd have to say anything he does.

Interview by Bianca Delicata

AZRIEL

Interview with Sean

What has been your biggest accomplishment?

The bands biggest accomplishment to date, in terms of shows would probably be a UK, and European tour with A Day To Remember, as well as signing to Artery Music Management in 2009. In terms of the band, I think that just writing music and have people tell us it means something to them is an accomplishment in itself.

What bands are you excited to see at Slam Drunk?

We are stoked to see Set Your Goals and New Found Glory, and hope they play lots of old stuff! Alkaline trio and our good friends Your Demise as always!

What has been the best show that you've played? What made it so memorable?

Im sure that every member will tell you different, but for me it would have to be selling out the Garage in Glasgow with our friends Yashin. To know that you can get 800+ kids through the door, at a show that you and your friends organized is an amazing feeling.

How did the members of Azriel meet?

Some of us met at school, through mutual friends, or because of bands that we used to be in.

Do you ever get fed up with your bandmates?

Not really, we don't really argue much as a band, but obviously if your on the road for 5 weeks, you can get a little tired of each other sometimes, but generally we have a lot of fun.

Have your childhood heroes influenced your music in any way?

Id say that if it wasn't for our childhood interest in certain bands, we would never have ended up here. For example if you ask Andy, he will tell you the whole reason he started the band was solely because of his love for the band Hopesfall, an influence that you can still hear today. For me, my dad was in a band when he was younger and from a young age let me listen to bands like Sabbath and Hendrix, which is probably why I've ended up playing heavy music. So I would say that childhood heroes have definitely had an influence on our music, but its one of many things that have an influence.

Have you ever participated in any tour pranks? What happened?

We once wrapped Love That Kills van entirely in wrapping paper and cling film. They then shit on ours.

What's the craziest thing that you've ever done at a show?

Once at a show in London, it was Andys birthday, so us, the driver and the merch guys decided it was a good idea to hit him with a massive chocolate cake at the end of the set. He was not happy.

How can fans help promote Azriel?

I guess by wearing our shirts, telling your friends about us, bringing your mates to shows to check us out, just spreading the word in general! If we are playing in your town and think we are worth seeing, don't leave it up to the promoter to promote the show, get flyerling or just telling everyone you know to come down to the show!

Interview by Cynthia Lam



DRIVE LIKE RED

Interview with Andreas

What was the hardest challenge that Drive Like Red had to face? How did you overcome it?

Getting the band up and running with people dedicated to make a living out of music. Also when Qe first reached this lineup about 4 months ago we didn't have anything, neither fans nor the tools to reach out to people. So basically we had to start from square one and trust us when we say it's been some tough months of hard work.

How would you describe Drive Like Red in two words?

Fucking awesome

What inspires you lyrically?

It really depends on, you never know what might pop up. Some days you might feel down and write "emotional" stuff other times you're on the go so you really can't tell until you write.

What's the craziest thing that you've seen happen in the crowd during a show?

Actually that was quite recently. At our release party this weekend the crowd suddenly storms the stage during our last song. It probably was about 100+ on stage jumping around dancing with us and carrying around Andre (vocals) like some kind of dead whale. Though, seriously it was pure love, it's not often you see such a dedicated crowd at live shows and we just want to thank everyone for showing up!

What was the recording process for Too Much Is Never Enough like?

It was so stressful, we recorded 24/7 for about four days with our studio engineer Dino Medanhodzic. This was done before Andre and Bodill joined the band so basically what we recorded during these days was the instrumental parts of the EP and some old vocals which we never used. The aftermath was pretty shattered, we even did some of the vocals late nights here in our rehearsal room without the right equipment. But still we think it turned out pretty well in the end. Listen and judge for yourself!

How would you describe Too Much Is Never Enough?

The songs have been around for quite some time now but it wasn't until we reached our final lineup they took the form of "us". We'd say they represent the new energy in the band quite well and over all it's a really nice piece of work full of old post-hardcore/rock cliches. Buy it now or you'll regret it forever!

What's the funniest thing that a band member has done during practice, or a show?

We can't really decide which of the following two things we laughed the most about.

The first one was when our drummer (Daniel) decided to throw one of his drumsticks out in the crowd. There was a small problem with that, Bodills head (bass) was in the way so he gets hit and goes like "WTF IS HAPPENING, WHO'S TRYING TO KILL ME!?". Everyone died from laughter except Daniel who didn't even notice what happened. The other thing was once again when Bodill got hit by something thrown at him, this time from the audience. One of the less sober guys threw his tank top up on stage, somehow it got stuck on Bodills head hanging from his mouth making him look like Santa Claus. He runs up to Andre trying to get help with taking it off but he just corrects the beard making him look even more like Santa.

If you were the opposite sex for one day what would you do?

We'd get some lesbian action with each other.

What does Drive Like Red hope to accomplish in the future?

There's only one answer to that... World domination or at least the Major countries. Nah, but seriously. We'd love to learn how to cook!





THE MADDIGANS

What band or artist has inspired you the most?

To name a few: Blink 182, New Found Glory, All Time Low, The Maine, The Summer Set

What's your favourite thing about Edmonton?

The scene in Edmonton is a lot of fun, my favorite thing was probably an old venue we had there Avenue Skatepark. It was really neat playing in a half pipe with kids skateboarding on the other side. But we are actually moving to St. Catharines, Ontario in a couple days. The music community there is a lot bigger and we're excited to break into it.

How old were you when you started to play music? What was your first instrument?

We've all played our instruments since middle school and have kept to the instruments we currently play in the band. Since then we have been exploring and mastering other instruments as well.

Who and when was your first concert?

Trisha: Green Day on the American Idiot tour

Benn: I think it was The Tragically Hip in grade 7

Eric: Ricky Martin in elementary!

What's your favourite pickup line?

Hey...somebody farted. Let's get out of here.

If you could tour with any three bands who would they be and why?

The Maine, The Summer Set and nevershoutnever! why? because we love all those bands and what they represent. Love, compassion, having fun, carpe diem and respecting music as a community instead of a competition. I think they are all super rad people and it'd be a lot of fun touring together.

What is your favourite venue to play at?

Any venue where we can play on the floor. We like being on the same level as the crowd and we feel a way better connection with them :) But L3 Nightclub in St. Catharines is pretty rad!

What has been The Maddigans' biggest accomplishment?

So far its probably been booking and playing 5 Canadian tours. Also were really proud of our newest EP Way To Start This. We got to work with people who've done some of our favorite bands like All Time Low and Cute Is What We Aim For (check out songs from it here: www.themaddigans.com)

Interview by Cynthia Lam

THE DANCE PARTY



Was The Dance Party aiming for a specific genre, or age group when the band first started?

Good looking girls.

Are you parents supportive of you being in a band?

Nope.

When was your first show, and what were your thoughts before going on stage? How did it go?

Black Cat club in DC. Thought we were going to rip it. We ripped it.

How big of a part does The Dance Party have in your life?

God. Groupies. Dance party.

What inspires you lyrically?

True love and physical love.

How old were you when you started playing music?

College.

What does the future hold for The Dance Party?

Wealth and leisure.



FABER DRIVE

Interview with Faber

How did Faber Drive come to be?

About six years ago, there's a killer story on our Myspace, actually on our YouTube page [faberdriveTV](#) called chapter one, and it's called the name. It's basically driving down the road playing guitar while driving and steering with my knees singing songs and doing our first video blog. It's become a little bit of a cult video now.

How has your music changed from when you first started the band?

The music has changed a little bit. You know what happened was, the difference between the first CD and the second CD is for the second CD we didn't really have any help from outside producers. Everyone was really busy with all kinds of other projects, so we just started doing our own thing and the first song we worked on was "Get Up And Dance". The reason we did "Get Up and Dance" as our first song was one time we were playing at a club in Ottawa, and our record company rep said,

"Hey, I got your song coming on at the club tonight" and all these 19+ kids are on the dance floor dancing away. All of a sudden our song came on and it was "Second Chance", and the entire dance floor was empty. We were like, "Aw shit, we gotta write a song that keeps people on the dance floor". So that was the idea behind "Get Up And Dance". Originally "Get Up And Dance" was going to be a dance project, but then we showed it to the management and the label, and a lot of people just loved the song better than the original Faber Drive. Basically what happened was we recorded our first album in Nickelback studio, and then the second album we recorded in my barn. So we pretty much had to learn to record things ourselves. The sound and production is a lot of work. When you work with professional producers as opposed to beginner producers, we're all kind of beginner producers. We had to learn all the stuff. So we tried a bunch of stuff and we're pretty proud of it. We really like some of it,

some of it is what we truly are. We really wanted to write some dance stuff so we wrote "Get Up And Dance", "Give 'em Up", with Josh Ramsay, and we're proud of what we've got.

Did you expect to become as famous as you are now?

You know, it's one of those things that for me it's just a part of life. Back in high school I was always in a band, and I kind of experienced a little bit of fame, it wasn't anything like the level we're at now. We always seem to be recognized and whatever but, it's so weird to me too because fame for me, it's not anything I ever wanted to be. I never wanted to be a musician because I wanted to be famous. I always wanted to be a musician because I wanted to do what I love to do. I always wanted to make music that I loved to make like play in bands, sing in bands and write songs. To feel the emotion that I get when I listen to other songs, out of my own songs. So for me, fame is kind of a weird term.

What is your favourite song that you've written?

Oh, that's a tough one. I think one that is really really close to my heart is this song "By Your Side". That's mostly because I'm writing it about my dad who passed away in '95. He was such a hero to me and such an amazing man, all he had was love and he was just the most kind most loving person I ever knew. I truly believe that when somebody passes away, there's always a piece of them with you. It's like all the memories that I have about my dad are always going to stick with me and it's powerful how much of an impact one person can have on somebody's life and that's what the song by your side is about. Another song that we really like to play a lot is "Get Up And Dance". A lot of people just get right into that song and jump around, wave their hands and dance, stuff like that. It still blows us away that when we do "Tongue Tied", and "When I'm With You", the crowd sings so loud during those songs. It's a huge rush, gives us chills every night.

What's the craziest thing that you've done on stage?

I remember one time we found this huge Wheel Of Fortune wheel, I don't know if this is the craziest thing but it was pretty spontaneous. We played a theatre in, I think,

Nova Scotia, and we found a huge probably like a fifteen feet high wheel that spins. So I decide that I want to wheel this out, bring up some kids from the crowd, so we bring them from the crowd, we're wheeling the wheel and it's great, and we gave the kids some free t-shirts, cd's, and whatever else we could give them. I'm pushing this big Wheel Of Fortune wheel, and just as it was about to go off the stage, I lifted up to get it over a wire, and the whole thing tipped over, and literally almost smashes the guitar amps. It was so close, it was one of those things where you're like holding your breath. Another time we were playing a show in Abbotsford, BC which is very close to our hometown Mission. We were on stage rocking out and all of a sudden some girl throws her bra, and I grabbed it out of the air, and then I was just about to say something, and literally as I'm about to say something my mom jumps on the stage, grabbed it out of my hand and goes "That's disgusting!" and throws it back in the crowd. I was so embarrassed, I was like, "Oh, everybody say hi to my mom!" and I gave my mom a big hug and the crowd loved it, it was funny.

What do you hope to achieve in the future?

We're involved with a charity called World Vision. A lot of people don't realize how good we have it in Canada, and how easy life is for us. I mean we all complain, and we all take so many things for granted but if you go to a third world country just to see how much poverty and how much struggle it is just to survive through a day, you really put things into perspective. Me and Pritchett went down to the Dominican Republic two months ago with World Vision and it was so weird, it was so amazing that the people there, even though they could have been in complete despair, there was so much hope in them. We saw kids laughing, happy all the time even though they could be totally unhappy because they were in worn out shoes, they didn't have a house, they were in tent things. This one house we went to this guy showed us their toilet, and it had no walls, no windows, and no roof. It was literally just a cement cylinder, in a backyard that they would just shit on. It's one of these things that was like, "Wow, we really don't realize how good we have it".

Check out Faber drive on myspace at <http://myspace.com/faberdrive>
Also follow Faber on twitter, @faberfaberdrive

Interview by Cynthia Lam



THE ART OF ATTRACTION

Interview with Kyle



Speaking about newly released albums, you've rereleased the *Prae Factum* EP and you've released it for free. What made you guys decide to release it online as a free download?

Prae Factum actually consists of six songs from *A Gentleman's Agreement* that we thought would be a more digestible listen for people who've never heard of us (the name itself meaning sort of an introduction to a larger work). It's cool because we had both the album and the EP mastered to be totally seamless, so that each song flows into one another. Making it available for free online seemed like the smartest way to get our music out to as many people as possible. We figure if they enjoy the six songs, they would probably be more inclined to buy the album and get the full experience.

What bands have influenced TAOA to play music?

Each of us definitely has our own unique tastes, but as a band, we usually agree on Thrice, Circa Survive, Brand New, The Receiving End of Sirens and The Dear Hunter. Definitely TREOS in particular, just because they crafted a super unique sound, paid their dues and became this huge success story in Boston, which we really aspire to.

So far, what does the future have in store for you guys in terms of touring, etc. ?

Three of us are actually making a permanent move back to New Jersey at the end of June to make that very thing possible. We have played quite a few shows, but have yet to have the experience of a several day or week tour. In addition to doing a lot of individual writing and collaboration, we'll definitely be doing everything in our power to tour the tri-state area and beyond.

In your opinion, what genre of music would you consider TAOA to be?

I think we've settled on "experimental rock," although there are pieces on the album that are entirely jazz, chamber music, latin, etc. as it fits the story. A lot of the new material definitely has a more experimental / ambient rock mood to it, so I'd say the genre title suits.

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

Crowd involvement is an instant perk for all of us, for sure. A lot of people are definitely leery of coming up to the stage and rocking out with a band, so we try to make a point of getting people to come up and get involved before we start playing. Seeing kids play air drums or bob their heads in the audience is always awesome. I think we'd love to get to the point where people are singing along to our songs, but all in due time, right?

How did the members of the Art Of Attraction attract each other to form a band?

First off, nice play on words. Believe it or not, we all went to high school in New Jersey together, so music has been forming between this group of people for some time now. Kevin, Chris and Austin played under the name "Silverthorne" for quite a while, and we all actually got together for a one-off thing as an Incubus cover band called "Stellar Eyes." Those guys went on to form The Art of Attraction when I went off to Boston for college in fall 2005. About three years ago, Chris and Kevin came up to Boston to attend school, and that September, Austin came up as well and we all got a house together and the band went from there.

How does TAOA differ from other bands out in the music industry?

We'd like to think that we're doing this for pretty genuine reasons. As a band, we definitely feel like we have something unique to offer to whomever cares to listen, and the thought of catering to a certain group of people or a certain group of people or a certain genre really doesn't cross our minds. Our first album covers a lot of ground, for sure, both in being a concept album and spanning several genres of music, but it's entirely us and we're truly grateful for anyone who takes the time to listen. There is definitely a lot of thought -- conceptually, musically, lyrically -- that goes into the music, and we would love to be able to connect with fans on that level.

You guys released your debut album "*A Gentleman's Agreement*" in October. How do you guys feel now about the release differently than when it first came out?

I'm sure it goes without saying that there was a ton of pride and accomplishment that came with completing the album. I remember when the first run of CDs was delivered to us, we opened up a copy and kind of just marveled at the finished package, the fact that we had accomplished this and people could finally hear it. Looking back perhaps more objectively, I think we hear certain things and think "Ah, if only we had done this differently," as I'm sure a lot of musicians do. It also kind of fuels the fire and motivates us to outdo ourselves on the next album.

Interview by Robbs Quezada

STEVE SALAZAR

From the city of Minnesota comes an acoustic pop artist named Steve Salazar. With cute and adorable acoustic tracks Steve's music is sure to capture your heart. His voice combined with the acoustic guitar creates a lovely song for you to listen to at all times. Steve Salazar has released two albums and an ep. Along with that he often covers songs by artists such as The Maine and NeverShoutNever. Check out our interview with him at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9RocoMLJYRI>

Be sure to check out <http://myspace.com/stevesacousticyo> and follow him on twitter @stevesalazar123





What can someone expect from one of your concerts?

Our live show is extremely high energy. If we don't walk off stage feeling like we just got our asses kicked, we've done something wrong. We love to move around a lot, and get the crowd moving with us. I think our live set is one of the most surprising things about our band. It's not what people expect from a band like us. One thing for sure is that it's a lot of fun.

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

The best thing about touring is waking up every morning and realizing that you don't have to go to work, you don't have to go to school, you get to play a show that night. That's a pretty sweet feeling. Being on tour is so much different from being at home. Every day you're going to experience something totally different than you experienced the day before. It makes life much more interesting and fun.

How did you all meet?

Columbus' music scene is pretty tight knit. Although it's a huge city, everyone kind of knows everyone. We all grew up in Columbus and the music that we grew up on brought us together and somehow we ended up in a band together. But

before we were playing together, we were all friends first.

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

At first, being on the road is a crazy thing. Once you do it more and more, the more it becomes a part of you. Whenever we're home we complain the whole time about how we wish we were on tour. It's not too hard of a concept to grasp once you've experienced enough of it. It really is a ton of fun.

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

I'd probably actually buy a crew neck and cut a little slit at the top of it so when the time was right, I could rip it off like Hulk Hogan and show off my tough bod. If you had your own MTV Reality show, what would you call it?
What happens on tour, stays on tour.

What is your favourite song to play live?

My favorite song to play live is always our newest one. I love to see the crowds reaction to songs that aren't released yet. My favorite song to play off of our record is Just In Case. It usually get the crowd moving the most.

How has your sound evolved since you started out?

Our heavy parts are heavier, our soft parts are softer, and we're definitely trying some things we've never tried before. Expect to be surprised.

What was on your mind when you were writing the new songs?

As a band we kind of feel as though we've been underrated for one reason or another. With our new music we're eager to prove that there is more to us than people think. This comes through the music both lyrically and sonically. Our new songs are about real life situations to which we are emotionally connected, and we've tried to capture that emotion in our music better than we have in the past.

What kind of music did you listen to growing up?

Saves The Day, New Found Glory, and Blink 182 were my first loves. I have musical roots in punk, pop punk, hardcore, metal, country, r&b... It doesn't matter what kind of music it is, I let everything I listen to influence me.

Interview by Bianca Delicata

ME VERSE YOU

Interview with Kevin

If you had to be stuck in an elevator with one person, who would it be and why?

Hacksaw Jim Duggan and if you look him up you will know why!

What has been your biggest accomplishment?

As a band, I would say being named Alternative Press unsigned band of the month. Big magazine and big honor

If you were a crayon, what colour would you be?

razzmatazz

Harry Potter or Twilight?

You for got to include neither as an option? haha

Where do you think Me Verse You will be in 10 years?

Wherever the wind takes us

What is the longest band name you've ever heard?

The Tony Danza Tapdance Extravaganza

Do your friends/family have a nickname for you?

Probably just Kev or Kevo.

Would you rather drink a whole bottle of ketchup or a whole bottle of mustard?

Scary thought. Probably mustard though

If you could have the chance to preform with any musician, dead or alive, who would you pick and why?

Well I'm relatively young and grew up on the Foo Fighters so I would say them. Incredible band and musicians!

How can fans support Me Verse You?

Just by coming out to shows, buying us drinks and telling everyone they know about us. I think that is a pretty simple request.

By Bianca Delicata



THE RIDE



What thoughts, feelings or emotions were going through your mind when they announced that The Ride won The University Of Akron's Battle of the Bands?

We were honestly a bit in shock. We have played many battles and hadn't won one yet. Being the first battle we had played in maybe a year we were still unsure of how it would go. Standing in front of the stage looking out into the crowd as they were announcing the winners was an anxious moment and when they said we had won we were ecstatic! It was all for such a great cause (Relay for Life). It felt good because we knew it was just the beginning of good things to come!

What's the longest band name that you've heard of?

"I Can Make A Mess Like Nobody's Business" or by the same artist "Ace Enders & A Million Different People" Maybe he's onto something with these truly gigantic band names...

What's your favourite song to perform live?

Out of our officially released songs we can all say Rumors is our favorite song to play. It's full of energy and there are

some real high notes for Dan to sing! We are really excited about some of our newer stuff. We've played "Fall For It", off of new EP coming out a few times and the crowd seems to love that one. Andy really gets the crowd (girls) going!

What does the future hold for The Ride?

The Ride's future is looking to be something great. Like our name suggests, it's sure to be quite the ride to end up where we want to be. We've had talks with label reps, managers, companies for sponsorships, and even a possible performance piece in an upcoming Universal Pictures movie. We aren't trying to rush into anything, so there are a lot of unsigned contracts. We are really just trying to get our music out there to people however we can. We currently put up new songs on our Facebook and Myspace to get feedback from our fans! So the next step is to release our EP and set up a tour to promote it. We get new fans from all over everyday so we hope to make it out to everyone who wants to see us. We hope to see you all at a show real soon!

Do you ever get extremely frustrated or fed up with any of your band mates?

Oh, of course we do. Our ideas conflict at every possible moment. People get upset, leave the room, or go home haha. We really are the best of friends, we've never met a challenge we couldn't overcome together. I don't think we would have it any other way! Being in a band is like being married, we share everything together. Fights are bound to break out at some point and I think we have our system of working things out well enough that nothing will break us.

What is the songwriting process for The Ride like?

Because we have our own studio that we work out of, songwriting can come very easily. We get an idea in our head whether it be an idea on guitar, piano, or vocals and record a bit. Then through the magic of the studio we expand. We all take over our respective roles and instruments and help hone in on the sound we are looking for. Justin will have rough tracks for weeks and work on the drums perfecting each and every little beat. We can be perfectionists at times and spend massive amounts of time on something that might be unnoticeable to some, but to us it's worth it when we hear the final cut.

What's your favourite thing about Ohio?

Well...it used to be the Cavs, but if LeBron leaves then, sigh, nevermind. The summers here can be really great! Our friends and family are here and they are so supportive. Having Cedar Point is where it's at!

What is the theme song to your life?

Dan- "Let Love In" - Goo Goo Dolls
Billy- "Spinning" - Jack's Mannequin
Andy- "Anthem Part 2" - Blink-182
Justin- "Rough Landing Holly" - Yellowcard

What's the craziest thing that's happened at a show?

We played a show with All Time Low in Cleveland awhile back and Dan had been told that he looked a bit like their lead singer Alex. Before we even played girls were coming out of line, which was wrapped around the block, to ask for his signature. "Alex!! ALEX!! Can you sign my shirt!!," He'd laugh and say, "Hah umm, I'm not him." They would stop mid-jog and be like "Whaaat?!" We played a good show and so did All Time Low. Then afterwards the whole crowd was outside of their tour bus waiting for the band to come out. Dan decided to mess with his new look-a-like fame and stand right next to their guitarist Jack in front of the bus. With his back turned to the crowd you could hear the fans all yelling, so he turned around to get mobbed by people asking for autographs. He was nice about it and told them he wasn't Alex. Except for one case, he did mess with two girls and left a voicemail on their phone saying he was Alex haha, sorry girls!

Be sure to check out The Ride at <http://myspace.com/sterion> and <http://facebook.com/therideband>

BUILDING ROME

Interview by Jon



What music did you listen to while growing up?

Growing up, I mainly listened to a lot of Nirvana, Green Day, Weezer, Foo Fighters, Third Eye Blind. There are a lot more that I've forgotten about.

What has been your biggest problem, as a band?

Haha. I'm intrigued that you're focusing on a negative. I'm not used to that, and I love it! But anyway, I would say that the biggest problem we've had as a band is keeping a consistent lineup. I've thought a LOT about it, and I think it comes down to people not quite being prepared for the real world of the music business. It's a sick, fucked up business and everyone inside feels a bit empty somewhere. However, Tom and Brian have been in bands for as long as I have and we all understand what's required to get ahead. We mesh well together and we all feel like this is it.

Do you ever feel used by your fans?

That's a really interesting question. I took a few minutes to think about it and decided that the answer is no. I do sometimes feel used, but not by our fans. I have the upmost respect for people who enjoy our music. I have been involved in some awkward situations, but 99% of the time people are cool.

How can fans support Building Rome?

Coming out to shows, buying our music on iTunes, and spreading the word to as many people as possible! Twitter, Facebook, MySpace, whatever. Just tell people. Musicians don't make much money, so anything helps!

What inspires you to play music?

I have no idea! I think it's the thought of something that's real. Something about music lights a spark inside of me that I can't explain. But I think it has to do with my inability to conform to the concept of being normal.

What do you hope to accomplish in the future?

I always wanted to be a "rock star" when I was a kid. But I have no idea what that means anymore. I've always wanted to give people the middle finger at the Grammy Awards. I guess I'm going to have to start writing some good songs...

How did you come up with the name, "Building Rome"?

I took out an ad on a local music site that said "Looking For Drummer." It was big, awkward and people were like, "Who the hell is this guy?" But I put up a few crappy demos and roughly 100 people came to my house to try out. I had it in my mind that I was going to make the perfect band and get famous right away. I wasn't really finding anyone that I was

meshing with musically, so I went to visit a friend at work to complain. He told me to calm down and that "Rome wasn't built in a day." Within the week, I had formed a band that I was content with and it was only right that it was called Building Rome. That band broke up within 6 months.

What would be your dream instrument to own?

I think it's my dream to have an entire room of exotic instruments beyond the usual guitar, bass, and drums. I like experimenting with different sounds. Do you aim for a sound or genre? Not really. I think our music is very diverse. I would hate to just write the same song over and over again, so I try to change it up and I write how I feel. Usually it's about being pissed off.

When was your first show?

Our first official show was at the old Creepy Crawl in St. Louis back on January 4, 2004. I was so nervous that I didn't move. But I did do a skit on stage that involved drinking a Coca-Cola and taking a staged picture, jokingly implying that I was ready to sell out at any time. Since then I've realized that selling out isn't all it's cracked up to be. That's why I'm broke.

OH, ANTARCTICA

How is Oh, Antarctica distinct from other bands?

We care a lot about all of our fans and other bands. We try to message people back as much as we can on all the websites we are on. Sometimes it's hard to keep up, so if we don't write you back the first time then try messaging us again and I'm sure we will reply. We also care a lot about other bands that are trying to make it somewhere, even if they don't play the same type of music. We still fully support them in what they are trying to do and I really do hope every band that tries their hardest to make it where they want to, does.

Who is your favourite band to play with? Why?

I would have to say Asking Alexandria. They were probably one of the coolest group of guys we've met and gave us a ton of advice to help us get to where we want to be, so far it has helped a lot.

Have you ever had a surreal moment when you were playing a show, or about to?

Oh most definitely. When we were on stage opening for Saosin and Scary Kids Scaring Kids. It was our biggest show and the fans were so cool, they would clap, dance and even sang along a bit.

What is your favourite song off We Aren't The Costumes We Wear?

My personal favorite is Last One Out, Get The Lights. Mainly because it was the song we wrote before we decided to expand our genre into a more mature, and technical sound.

How would you describe Oh, Antarctica in one word?

Passionate. The act of us giving it our all and never giving up. Nate says his word would be "Bitchin"

How did the members of Oh, Antarctica meet?

Just friends of friends a long time ago. Me and Anthony have been in bands together since I was 14. Nate was brought in a previous band called Cops Beside The Corpse a few years ago when we needed a new vocalist. And now here we are today! I think of the band as a group of brothers.

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

We Came As Romans,
Four Year Strong,
Like Moths To
Flames

What, in your opinion is the best social networking site to keep in touch with fans?

Formspring for sure. Although it limits connectivity, any fan can ask any question, and get the correct answer.

What is the songwriting process for Oh, Antarctica like?

Uh...crazy. Complicated and crazy. At first it was write what fits and put it in the song bank. But now that we've added solid song structures and more technicality it's been crazy.

When did you decide that you wanted to play music for a living?

I think we've all been inspired by music for a big period of our lives.



PLEASE
FOR GREEN
LIGHT TO
APPEAR BEI
PROCEEDI
ONTO SCAL

BODY ELECTRIC

Interview with Robbie



How old were you when the band was first formed?

Daniel: When we really got serious, I was about 13 years old and Tony was 13 years old as well.

Derek: I was 23. Not when we were 13 though!

Daniel: Tony and I had been playing music since we were 13 in 2000, then we met up with Derek and Robby around 2003.

You used to be called bullets and romance, what's the reason for changing your name?

We just thought it was very cliché. Our old producer came up with the name and we weren't too fond of it right off the bat. We took a 2 year break and decided when we came back it was time for a name change because we hadn't played in a couple years.

And what exactly does body electric mean?

Body Electric doesn't really have a meaning, but we really liked it; we felt like it explains our music, we got it from our song "Body Electric."

What's it like sharing the stage with Bowling for Soup?

That was a long time ago, definitely legit. It was on Warped Tour. It was the first time we've done anything with that much traffic in a show. I remember hearing them and going "oh my gosh, we're playing with a semi-decent band." I'm not gonna lie, at age 14 I felt like a freakin' baller playing with Bowling for Soup.

What are your musical influences?

For sure, I'd say Papa Roach is a huge influence and Michael Jackson. We all like Michael Jackson. He's one of my biggest influences growing up, even though we play rock music, he's just a freakin' stud.

Derek: Who actually got me to play the drums was The Eagles(?). What influences me now both musically and production and stuff is Butch Walker. He's one of my heroes right now, he's amazing.

What are your goals for the future regarding the band?

Enter as many people's lives as we can. Get as many new people on board on our passion so to speak, and love what we love to do basically. I think all of us can agree there's something about music that's contagious and we've been doing it for so long that it's come to the point that we just want to share it with everybody, which I know every band does, but we wouldn't be starting at such a young age if we didn't believe in it. We just want everybody to hear it. If you don't like it, that's cool but we just want to give everybody the opportunity to see what it's done for us and how it has touched our lives.

What's your favorite part about playing on Warped?

It's really cool being a local band and playing local shows and then playing with so many national acts and seeing all the different faces and how many people are there and being able to have that opportunity to see other bands and talk with those other bands and talk about what it's like to be on Warped Tour. The coolest part is just seeing so many people and meeting so many people.

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

Yes, it has been criticized, in many different ways. Lots of good ways and not so good ways. First of all, you have to take it. Anything you do that involves something you love, there has to be constructive or non-constructive criticism and I think it's really shaped us. You always have to listen to the things people say, whether they like it or not, but you also have to do what you love. So you have to find some kind of happy medium on what the people like, but really what's true to our hearts. So I remember being 13 or 14 and there'd be older bands like, "You guys are 'kiddy rock'," and stuff like that. When we were 13 or 14, that really hurt our feelings, but you have to take that and obviously, it's made us who we are now that we're in our mid 20's. It's really shaped the character of our band. And when I think of our name, Body Electric, it just kind of sums up all the criticism that we've ever taken. We're still here, we're still doing the music thing and we're still full of electricness! If you like our band for whatever reason, we'd like to hear why and if you don't like our band for whatever reason, we'd love to hear why. If we are doing something wrong, we want to know what it is, and we'd love to hear anything, good or bad. We'd love to hear if you love it, and we'd love to hear what we need to do better. Our favorite answer to bad criticism where if somebody says we suck, we just smile and say thank you. I've never been upset if someone hasn't liked my band because everyone's different. You have to take it collectively.

Interview by Stefany Bryan

What Defines A Sellout?

by Stefany Bryan

“Sellout” when used to describe a band, usually means that a band changed their music to make more money. But I say it’s when they sacrifice the integrity of their own personal opinions on their music for money. I’m not saying that doing this is a good thing or a bad thing. There are many reasons to become what is called a “sellout” and many reasons to loose respect for those that turn into such a thing.

We are all so quick to label bands as “sellouts” when really, how can we be sure that all bands aren’t in some way “sellouts”? In retrospect, every big band has done something in order to benefit their financial needs. Isn’t that just part of the whole scam we call the music industry? If the audience likes you, then you essentially have the fame and fortune. You have to admit that the music industry isn’t really based off of talent. It all depends on what sells. If you can conform yourself to something others will like, even if it’s not who you personally are, then its better for you because this job could be what you’re making a living out of. In a way, you’re almost forced to play this harsh game of survival. All those young teens that never went to college and instead toured around the world are forced to become what others want them to be in order to keep making a living. Their fans are what allow them to do what they love. They live their lives to please others. To some extent, you’re not able to be a musician if you’re not selling or appealing to anyone.

A good example of how musicians market their music for more popularity is singles. If you’ve noticed, almost all singles aren’t the best song on the album. My thoughts on this are that they choose the song that will appeal to the largest heterogeneous group, and that will make a good music video out of. So I find hard to single out such bands like Green Day or FallOut Boy as “sellouts.” If we’re going to be so fussy about how this band is a “sellout” and because of this and that, then why don’t we take a step back and see the truth behind all bands. Most of them want money, not just a few.

Well, I guess there are two types of musicians. One type does it to make music for their own sake, and then, maybe they aren’t sellouts, but at the same time, they’re probably some small band that people don’t know about. And if they’re content with that, well good for them. Then, the other type is the kind of musician that makes music for a living, and relies on the fans to support them. Those people are forced to conform to this ideology. So it’s kind of a choice. Either stay true to yourself, or make people happy and do what they like. It’s rare to find a quintessential form of both these in a single musician, or band. Maybe some people get lucky, but in the long run, something is going to have to change for money. Your head will get big and that’s when you’ve crossed the line into a typical musician: a sellout.

Oceana *Cleanhead*



Oceana is back ladies and gentlemen. After temporarily disbanding last June until reforming the band in November 2009, Oceana is back bigger than ever with their newly released *Cleanhead* EP. Although the EP consists of only four tracks, the audience will surely be entertained with the clean vocals that vocalist Brennan Taublee delivers alongside slow-starting melodies that break into a beautifully orchestrated track as well as catchy, pulsating rhythms and amazing lyrics. The high point of this EP is track four, Joy which is blatantly clear that it will not disappoint. This EP has brought Oceana back on the right path to success.

by Robbs Quezada

Our Last Night *We Will All Evolve*



Seems today, the younger you are, the more talent you possess. That also applies to Our Last Night, with their second post-hardcore album, *We Will All Evolve*. This well-thought-out album quickly jumps into the fast, harsh song, "Elephants". Right after "Elephants", moves in "The Air I Breathe". Although the album has many catchy lyrics and beats, "The Air I Breathe" just doesn't seem right. It's one-of-those-songs that you would mumble the lyrics, because its too awkward to sing, or because the lyrics can be misheard so easily. There's also another track, that is absolutely outstanding, which is called, "Across The Ocean". You may refer to it as a post-hardcore lullaby.

By Bianca Delicata



Sing It Loud *Everything Collide*



It seems as bands today are taking risks that could lead to lost fans, tons of hate, etc. Thankfully, Sing It Loud's new album, *Everything Collide*, proves that two genres can cross and be successful. This 90's throwback summer album includes 11 tracks that will be sure to remind you of the summer's past, with you and your best friend sitting on the hoods of your car, watching the sun set. Although this fun-album has those type-of-songs that make you shiver, blush, and sometimes make you "week in the knees", there will always be that one awkward song that the instant you hear it begin, you press "next" on your Ipod. That one awkward song would be "Believe In Me". When switching from "Believe In Me" to the next, make sure to listen to "Sugar Sweet". It's guaranteed to get you partying and staying up all night. On the other hand, "Shadows" is one-of-those-gems that you are crying from laughing too hard, because it just seems so abnormal, compared to the band's usual sound. It's not quite SIL, but it's a deeper version of Camp Rock, that would be just too funny to stop laughing half way through the song.

Minus The Bear *Omni*



Omni, Minus the Bear's fourth full length album, was their first released through Dangerbird Records. Minus the Bear comes from an indie-music-haven, and the birth place of grunge music, Seattle, Washington. They may claim that they don't want to classify their music into any specific genre, but it definitely gives off, a synthesized and... whoa you guessed it, indie vibe. Their experimental sounds are the definition of Seattle's innovative music scene. I would say that Minus the Bear is a mellower version of MGMT. Jake Snider, the singer and guitarist of the band, shows off his soothing, deep vocals that find a way to calm your inner self. Their lyrics are worldly yet at times don't make sense.

Their first song on the album, "My Time" has a reassuring feeling to it, as Snider sings "I got your nights, I got your days, I got you on." Later, "Fooled By the Night" brings the album to a closing with a soft, peaceful, and slow melodic tune that repeats the phrase "Freeze frame vision." numerous amounts of time. In between these two songs, you will find an array of pleasant numbers that you'll appreciate the more you listen to them.

The only let down is that all their songs sound similar. But I could say that about several good bands, including Vampire Weekend and Death Cab for Cutie. So if you're looking for some nice, sophisticated and mature music that is also relaxing, this album is for you. I would say that *Omni* is an overall success, especially for a not so mainstream band that has talent but isn't recognized for it.

By Stefany Bryan



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& To all of you who are viewing this!

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