

STITCHED SOUND

print issue #2



LIGHTS | SIMPLE PLAN | THE USED | VEIL OF MAYA

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a letter from the editor



I must start this off by saying, thank you so so so so so much for the response to our first print issue. The results were so impressive and beyond anything that we all expected.

With this print issue, we were so pressed for time it was insane. Probably didn't help that I left from March 16th to the 26th on a school trip as well. But, I'm glad everything turned out the way it did.

I am so proud of everything in this issue, all the articles, interviews, reviews, and photos. I sure hope that everyone enjoys it, there's the lovely Lights on the cover and also one of my proudest interviews to date - Simple Plan.

It's kind of crazy, I grew up listening to Simple Plan and they were one of my favourite bands. They are a huge part as to why I am who I am today. Being able to run a peice on them now and also photograph them at the biggest venue in Edmonton is really so great.

Anywho, I'll stop talking. Thank you to everyone who has supported us along the way. We keep on pressing on and do what we love for you. We just love to bring you news about new aritsts, and the ones you love.

Sincerely,
Cynthia

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Q & A

with

ASKING ALEXANDRIA

BY SARAH LOZANO

When the band first started did you ever imagine it doing well?

I joined the band a couple of months right after they got together, I'm not an original member of the band. I could see straight away when we went to America that this was something different. My perspective is different than everyone else. From where we are now I'm sure no one in the band saw this happening.

What about Asking Alexandria, music wise, do you feel that people like the most?

I think it's the fact that all of us in the band love different music. Our combination of what we love blends together perfectly. Heavy and catchy. Dan loves 80's, so a lot of his part is based on that. Cam and James love heavy rock. Ben and I just love classic rock.

You have been able to play shows with bands such as Slipknot and Avenged Sevenfold, big bands massive fan base and influences, how does that feel?

We haven't played with Slipknot yet, but Avenged Sevenfold has been one of my favorite bands since I was like thirteen. Getting to tour with them was just insane, I was like a little fan boy when we first met. They were really cool and the shows were awesome. Those stages were massive. Getting play shows like that really makes us realize how small we are.

You guys played South By So What festival this weekend, and you're playing a festival today, what separates a festival from a normal show, besides the massive amount of bands playing?

I think it affects our crew more than it affects us. We kind of don't really do much. Our crew was working all day yesterday, because we were headlining. It's a really long day for crew. We just have a lot of time to kill. Until we get on stage it's just really boring.

What city has had the most reckless crowd ever?

I think Australia is pretty pretty reckless. People get really loud. It's crazy. We've played so really cool European shows as well. Like in Switzerland not too long ago we played a show and it was crazy, we had people jumping off balconies and stuff.

A lot of people look for guidance in music, some fans have told us that listening to your music has saved their lives. How does it feel getting stories like that?

Fans have said that to me personally as well. It just takes you back a little. I just can't imagine that. I mean were just a band, but when people say stuff like that to us it's like we must be doing something right. We don't get a lot of good press, but we're saving lives so we must be doing something right. It's amazing that we get to do that, we get to help people.

Do you feel like being someone's hero or idol adds pressure to being a musician or artist?

Personally I just do what I do all the time. I don't really change for anybody. If you are the person that's a good idol and that's great. I don't put pressure on myself and be someone idol. I just go on stage and do what I have to do and put on a good show.

Are there any stereotypes about hardcore music that you wish didn't exist?

It's such a general thing for base how your look on the genre of music of music you play. It's like "Oh you play hardcore music? I've never met you, but you probably look like this!" I can't stand it. We generalize ourselves as heavy rock in roll band that we don't pigeonhole the band and we can play were ever we want.

Do you feel like there are any big difference between the American music industry and the UK music industry?

Well not the industry, but I would say more so the fans. There are so many bands in and coming to America. If you're not on top of it, if you're not constantly touring in America people forget about you, because there's so much to compete with. In Europe, if you break it and get big over there the fans are just so much more loyal. Like right now we're touring with Trivium and they're big in Europe, never would we think we'd be headlining a tour with them.

Define a sell out?

People change their style of music all the time. It's more changing yourself. Say you're in the band three years ago and you were just a normal guy with a few friends and you change because things got a little bigger for you. That's a sell out. It's a personal thing, not a music thing.

If you could play with any two bands who would it be and why?

I can't use Avenged, because we've already toured with them and they're my favorite band so that's like cheating. This might be odd and I don't think it would work with our style of music, but I would like to go on tour with Muse.

What would be your dream collaboration project?

I have so many ideas, but I can't think of one. That's a Ben question. Maybe we could do something with Slipknot that would be awesome.

Do you think that the world would end in 2012? If so how do you think it's going to happen?

I'm a worrier, I worry about those things. Some of the guys in the band don't really care, I'll joke about, but I spend time by myself alone and just start worrying. No I don't think the world is going to end, but I do worry.

What are your plans for the rest of the year?

Write a new album after this tour. We'll be constantly touring. We're writing now and recording. We're recording while touring. We've got two buses one's a studio bus complete with a drum kit and everything ready to record. This is the first time we've actually done that, I don't know how it's going to turn out, but we'll see.



**WELCOME
TO**



FAMILY

PHOTO & STORY BY SARAH LOZANO

THE



Ever since the late 2000s a band of California Goths known as New Years Day has been working hard to get their music to the world. **New Years Day** got their first big break in 2007 when they had to choose between signing with Decaydance Records (owned by Fall Out Boy's Pete Wentz) and TVT. The band went with TVT, put out their debut album *My Dear* and released their music video for "I Was Right" which blew up on every music channel possible. Sadly a year later the band was let go by TVT when the record label filed for bankruptcy. However due to their love of music it didn't stop New Years Day from trying to take over the world. The band was back writing and trying to start over and make it on their own again and although it's been hard for them, having to make many line-up changes and dealing finance issues, the band never gave up.

Many years later New Years Day is signed to Hollywood Waste Records and have recorded an EP entitled *The Mechanical Heart*, a five track story haunting story about how a relationship can go from adoring and full of love to murderous. The EP is just a preview of what this band has to offer, but even after all these years lead vocalist of Ashley Costello still holds a place for the band's first pop-rocky album *My Dear*.

"It was the first music we ever wrote together as a band. It was the beginning of a lot of excitement in our lives, a lot of ups and downs and hard times," says Costello. "I look back on it and my immediate reaction is that someone took a chance on some kids and their music. It means the world to us!"

Since then then New Years Day has moved on and have grown into a harder haunting sound. *The Mechanical Heart* EP is where they're at now. We asked Ashley how band transformed for the good feeling fun pop sound into the equally fun blood-drenched-live-every-day-like-it's-Halloween loveable sound. "There was a four year gap in between the two [albums]. You're not the same person you were four years ago. A lot of personal growth and life experiences, personal preferences change and so did we as people and in turn so did our music. We sat down and decided we were going to write songs and we didn't say to ourselves 'okay, lets go for something more dark', it just happened naturally and we we felt like we had a good song we loved it. It was all very natural."

The natural writing was a success. Fans who have stayed with NYD since the beginning were very pleased with the album, even if it wasn't the same as the original. "I love them. We all do. We adore their support and their love and we know we would be here without them," Ashley commented on the fans who have been their for New Years Day during the hard times and plan to be there with them until the end.

When *The Mechanical Heart* EP was released fans instantly went along with the style. Going by the names Creeps and Lost Souls you will soon find out that New Years Day welcomes everyone into their family. Everyone from the preppy cheerleader on the football field to the goths smoking outside of school are welcome to trade their souls to New Years Day to become a creep.

"[Our] fans actually started to call themselves Creeps. That's the most band ass part about it. We were doing a Stickam chat and [they] asked what New Years Day fans should be called. Another fan replied Creeps and they loved it. Lost Souls was kind of an accident. I tweeted that I didn't want fans' money, I wanted their souls and our fans just started offering up their souls, but we really just use the terms Creeps."

Of course Ashley is really reaping souls, so how does one become a Creep? Simply by listening to New Years Day. But if you really want to go the extra mile try adapting a Creep sense of fashion. New Years Day fans have been following Ashley's crazy sense of Style, before Monsters (Lady Gaga's fan base) could walk. Dressing in high boots and ripped up goth dresses then covering themselves in blood. That how Ashley does it, but did she ever consider people following?"

"Hell no," says Ashley. "I knew I always stuck out, and I always knew I was different. I mostly was picked on through my younger years, because of my odd choice in clothing and hair, but back then I would have never thought that someday people would look for me as fashion inspiration. It's a total trip, but I love it."


Of course the Creep style isn't just a clothing thing. You can dress however you like, but it's the really the attitude that pulls the look together. "Be yourself and be brave," Ashley explains as the whole mind set behind her creepy taste in fashion and how you can own it too. "If there is that little voice in your head that says 'I want to wear this, but I'm afraid I'm get made fun of, or looked at with judgment' ignore it. Don't follow the mass majority."

With such loyal fans New Years Day are trying their best to keep their fans for happy. While the band would like to jump into the studio and release this full-length fast it just isn't possible, but what is possible is seeing them on the road soon. New Years Day has expressed how much they love playing Vans Warped Tour and are doing their best get on that summer long festival, but in case that doesn't happen the band is planning on releasing more music videos touring non-stop, before heading into the studio and they're ready to meet all of the members of the Creep family.

When this new length album does get released what can we expect from this great band. The *Mechanical Heart* EP is as Ashley describes it just a snack. Their next full length album is planning to be the big meal. "I see it as being a part two of *The Mechanical Heart* story. The EP was just a teaser and there is way more to come from us."

VELLMAYN





Hailing from Oak Park, Illinois is the extremely talented Deathcore band, Veil Of Maya who are known for their energetic and entertaining live shows. Since their first rise to fame in 2008 with their release of *The Common Man's Collapse* on Sumerian Records, they have released two more highly anticipated albums.

One of the biggest reasons of their success could be pointed towards the internet. Having started off playing shows in Milwaukee and Chicago, it was through the web that they really gained attention. "Our genre of music was founded off the internet. No one would listen to us if the internet didn't exist," states guitarist and songwriter Marc Okubo.

Their latest album titled *Eclipse* was just released recently on February 28th, 2012 via Sumerian Records. Within the month of it being out, it has already brought tons of new fans to the band along with good reviews from several media sites. Their single "Viscous Circles" was also a contributing factor as to why the album was so successful. "It actually wasn't one of the songs that we would have put up if we had the choice but considering that it's been going really well and we're excited." Okubo, when asked about how they felt regarding the feedback from the song.

Eclipse definitely shows a step up in all areas when compared to past albums. "We had a chance to make our music over the top," Marc states. However it wasn't that easy of a writing process for the bands, much like it isn't for most musicians. "I guess it's like hard to force it sometimes because after you put out your first album you have to keep writing and do better than that so it's good to take breaks outside of it. With every album we face it a lot because there's a limited time to write it, it's not like your first album where you have as much time as you want. You have maybe two months to write and then it's off to record. It's crunch time, you gotta try and write when you can." But, Marc did get a rather large inspiration behind the album from a girl he met in Italy who was blind half her life and got her eyesight back during an Eclipse.

Veil Of Maya is currently overseas in Japan where they're playing a few shows. Fueled by excitement, they were very stoked to travel and play in a place that they haven't yet. As for the rest of 2012, all they have in store is touring, including dates in Australia and Europe. When we asked Marc about where we expected to be in five years, he simply responded with "Millions of dollars, lots of lego sets, and cool computers. I'd like to get the Death Star."

WINNERS



OF THE DECADE

Since their debut double platinum album was released ten years ago, Simple Plan has had the chance to travel the world several times and become one of the most influential bands of this generation. With all four highly acclaimed albums and years of touring below their belt, there's no question as to why Simple Plan has achieved as much success as they have: simply because they are still five down to earth guys who love to play music. We caught up with guitarist Sebastien Lefebvre at the Edmonton date of their Canadian tour to discuss how the past ten years have been for them.

PHOTO & STORY BY CYNTHIA LAM



Simple Plan has been a band for more than a decade now. What is the most important thing you've learned about the music industry in the past ten years?

It's just the fact that nobody's going to take care of your band better than you are. You meet a lot of people, at the label and management, and it's not that they're trying to bring you down. It's just that at the end of the day the five guys are always going to have the best intuition and the best instinct for the benefit of the band. Most, if not all, of the best decisions we did ourselves. That led us to where we are today and that led to why Simple Plan is still around and why we got together in the first place.

When you first joined the band, did you ever expect to gain this much success?

Oh no, no. You can never expect that kind of stuff. When you're a kid playing in a basement, your dreams start off with "maybe one day we'll go to the United States and we'll play at the big arena in our hometown." We never dreamed of going to Japan and playing a sold out show or South America. Those kind of things never occur to you that you're ever going to go out and tour there. You think of Europe maybe, [but] Japan and Malaysia, you never think of stuff like that.

Did you ever encounter a language barrier?

Yeah absolutely, in some places when you're on stage you can't do your usual kind of like snappy jokes because they just don't understand. So you kind of have to adapt the show a little bit, you have to speak slower, go with the obvious clapping hands and say "Hey" kind of interaction. It's very fun, people don't even know how to speak English but they still love the music and they still understand the meaning of the song. They still love the band even if they don't understand the language that we're singing in.

No Pads, No Helmets... Just Balls was released ten years ago. How would you say you've musically grown since then?

A lot, hopefully. Ten years of playing together, writing songs together, listening to ten years more of listening to music definitely helps. I think we're a better band, better songwriters, better overall.

Also, since then, how would you say that you're different now?

It's funny because we're very similar to how we were ten years ago when we first started off. Obviously everybody's a little older, [and] understands life a bit more. But I think in the essence we're still five guys that travel, have fun, and play on stage for a living and that's always going to be who we are.

If you could re-do one moment in the band's history what would it be?

It would always be fun to know if we would have come out with a different song, what kind of reaction it would have given us. You never know, and you're never gonna know, so that's something that I would definitely want to know. Like if we were to put out a song on our third album, for example "What If" which is super epic, what would have happened then. Those are very interesting things.

What is your favourite song that you guys have written?

I'm a big fan of "Astronaut", I think just the melody and the vibe of that song is special. It's just about loneliness and how hard it can be to find the right person to spend your life with.

You've changed so many lives through music. How do you react when kids tell you that you've saved their lives?

That does get pretty crazy when people tell us that we wouldn't be here if it wasn't for you guys. All you can do is try and listen and try to say that it's okay. When you're put on the spot it can be pretty awkward but we write songs about them like "This Song Saved My Life". That's pretty much why we started the foundation to try and help people. We want to go even further with the foundation.

Get Your Heart On was released summer of last year. What has the feedback been like so far?

It's been really good. When we do our live show we kind of mix it up, we do [songs from] our first album, second album, third album, fourth album and every song gets the same reaction, every song gets the same intensity. For some bands you go to their show and everybody just wants to hear their old stuff, but [for Simple Plan] it seems that the kids want to hear the new stuff as well.

In the past fall you also toured the US as well. What was that experience like?

It was a lot of fun, it's been a while, we didn't go to the states much in the third album, we went more to Europe, Canada, places in Asia and such, so to go back to the states for Warped Tour last summer was fun. We went back to do our own tour in November with Marianas Trench and it was great to see some familiar faces we haven't seen in a while.

If there was one fast food chain from the states that you could bring back what would it be?

Not because I like it but because I knew my friends would like it. In n Out burger. Everybody loves it. I don't think its that much better than everywhere else, but everyone loves it so I'd bring it back to Canada. The fries aren't good and the bread's kind of sucky.

Do you guys have a history of tour pranks?

Not so much. We don't prank, well not so much when you're thirty. But we still have fun, we're still idiots. We have this intro video for the show where we're just goofing around. That's the new version of pranks.

What does the rest of 2012 hold for Simple Plan?

A lot more touring. In January was Asia, now we're in Canada. March/April is Europe. I think in May we're doing a lot of Australian dates and then all summer is going to be festivals, and then we'll have time for maybe one more tour, maybe to the states, we have to go back to South America, we've been lucky enough to have this amount of success in all these parts of the world so we have to visit.

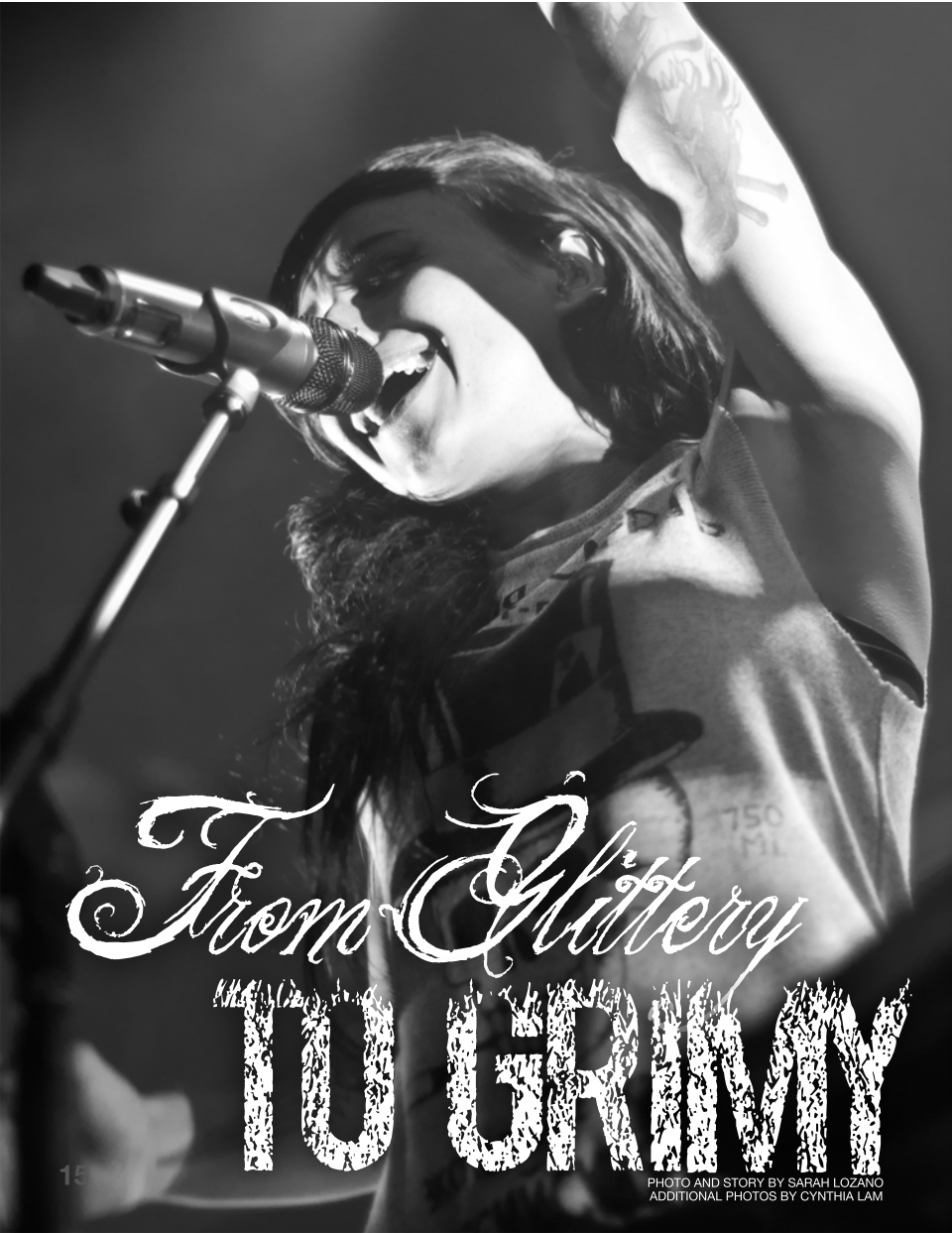
Do you think the end of the world will happen this year?

I don't believe that. I don't really believe the end of the world is going to happen because we also want to release a new DVD, maybe some new music that didn't make it on this album that we still really like, so hopefully the world doesn't end.

Where do you expect to be ten years forward?

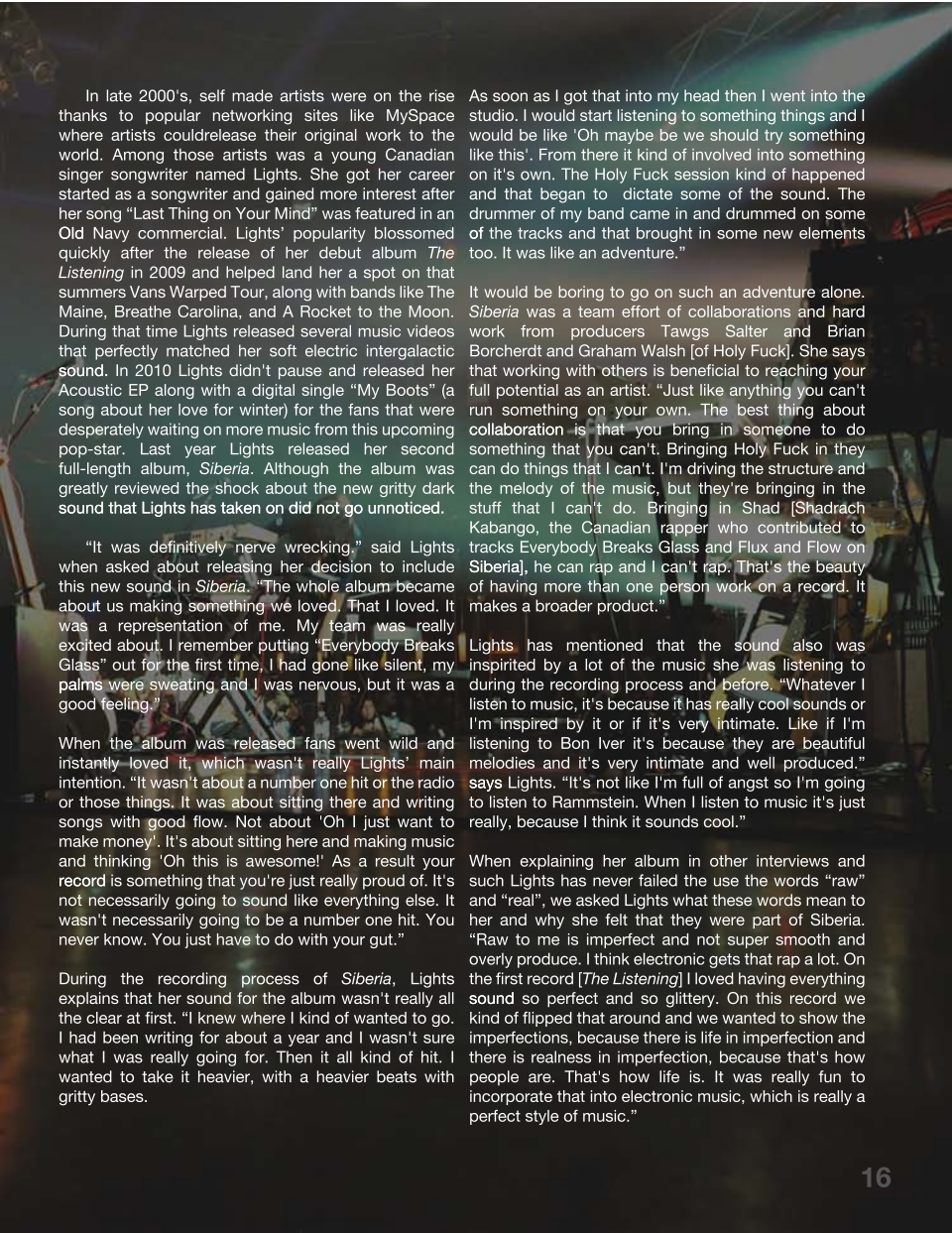
Hopefully in a flying car! I saw in Back To The Future in 2025 that they go to, it's pretty bitchin', so I hope to have one of those by then and just fly over traffic and I'll be like "sucka, what?"





From Glittery
TO GRAMMY

PHOTO AND STORY BY SARAH LOZANO
ADDITIONAL PHOTOS BY CYNTHIA LAM



In late 2000's, self made artists were on the rise thanks to popular networking sites like MySpace where artists could release their original work to the world. Among those artists was a young Canadian singer songwriter named Lights. She got her career started as a songwriter and gained more interest after her song "Last Thing on Your Mind" was featured in an Old Navy commercial. Lights' popularity blossomed quickly after the release of her debut album *The Listening* in 2009 and helped land her a spot on that summers Vans Warped Tour, along with bands like The Maine, Breathe Carolina, and A Rocket to the Moon. During that time Lights released several music videos that perfectly matched her soft electric intergalactic sound. In 2010 Lights didn't pause and released her Acoustic EP along with a digital single "My Boots" (a song about her love for winter) for the fans that were desperately waiting on more music from this upcoming pop-star. Last year Lights released her second full-length album, *Siberia*. Although the album was greatly reviewed the shock about the new gritty dark sound that Lights has taken on did not go unnoticed.

"It was definitely nerve wrecking," said Lights when asked about releasing her decision to include this new sound in *Siberia*. "The whole album became about us making something we loved. That I loved. It was a representation of me. My team was really excited about. I remember putting "Everybody Breaks Glass" out for the first time, I had gone like silent, my palms were sweating and I was nervous, but it was a good feeling."

When the album was released fans went wild and instantly loved it, which wasn't really Lights' main intention. "It wasn't about a number one hit or the radio or those things. It was about sitting there and writing songs with good flow. Not about 'Oh I just want to make money'. It's about sitting here and making music and thinking 'Oh this is awesome!' As a result your record is something that you're just really proud of. It's not necessarily going to sound like everything else. It wasn't necessarily going to be a number one hit. You never know. You just have to do with your gut."

During the recording process of *Siberia*, Lights explains that her sound for the album wasn't really all clear at first. "I knew where I kind of wanted to go. I had been writing for about a year and I wasn't sure what I was really going for. Then it all kind of hit. I wanted to take it heavier, with a heavier beats with gritty bases.

As soon as I got that into my head then I went into the studio. I would start listening to something things and I would be like 'Oh maybe be we should try something like this'. From there it kind of involved into something on it's own. The Holy Fuck session kind of happened and that began to dictate some of the sound. The drummer of my band came in and drummed on some of the tracks and that brought in some new elements too. It was like an adventure."

It would be boring to go on such an adventure alone. *Siberia* was a team effort of collaborations and hard work from producers Tawgs Salter and Brian Borcherdt and Graham Walsh [of Holy Fuck]. She says that working with others is beneficial to reaching your full potential as an artist. "Just like anything you can't run something on your own. The best thing about collaboration is that you bring in someone to do something that you can't. Bringing Holy Fuck in they can do things that I can't. I'm driving the structure and the melody of the music, but they're bringing in the stuff that I can't do. Bringing in Shad [Shadrach Kabango, the Canadian rapper who contributed to tracks Everybody Breaks Glass and Flux and Flow on *Siberia*], he can rap and I can't rap. That's the beauty of having more than one person work on a record. It makes a broader product."

Lights has mentioned that the sound also was inspired by a lot of the music she was listening to during the recording process and before. "Whatever I listen to music, it's because it has really cool sounds or I'm inspired by it or if it's very intimate. Like if I'm listening to Bon Iver it's because they are beautiful melodies and it's very intimate and well produced," says Lights. "It's not like I'm full of angst so I'm going to listen to Rammstein. When I listen to music it's just really, because I think it sounds cool."

When explaining her album in other interviews and such Lights has never failed the use the words "raw" and "real", we asked Lights what these words mean to her and why she felt that they were part of *Siberia*. "Raw to me is imperfect and not super smooth and overly produce. I think electronic gets that rap a lot. On the first record [*The Listening*] I loved having everything sound so perfect and so glittery. On this record we kind of flipped that around and we wanted to show the imperfections, because there is life in imperfection and there is realness in imperfection, because that's how people are. That's how life is. It was really fun to incorporate that into electronic music, which is really a perfect style of music."



Although it's been a few years and Lights has changed her feeling from the perfect electric album *The Listening* still sounds good to her. "I don't keep a diary, my diary is in the music. That [*The Listening*] was a representation of my life then and *Siberia* is a representation of my life now, and I don't know what the next one is going to be. I'm not in the same place I was a few years ago, but I listen to the songs on that album and I love them. As long as you never put out anything that you hate, you're going to love it, because that what you know."

We asked Lights if it's difficult sharing her personal feelings with the world. "It's really nice actually, it makes writing a lot easier to know what you're writing about. You need that inspiration to get the write lyrics."

If there's one thing people know about Lights it is that she's full out geek girl. "That's crazy" says Lights after we told her that she made *Star Trek* and playing *World of Warcraft* cool for girls. "I'm glad that I made it cooler than what it was before, well I mean I don't see it that way. It's such a cool world. There's so much creativity that goes into video games, card games, graphic novels, and comic books. It's beyond anything that I can ever invent and that why I like it, because it takes you into another world."

Even if Lights doesn't have the ability to take people into another world or dimension, over the past few years Lights has had the ability to become a positive role model for young women who want to be musicians. "It's amazing. I've had girls tell me that. I work really hard at being the best person I can be and that's not just about being myself, but treating the world right. I worked really close with *World Vision* and going to high schools trying to motivate the 30 Hour Famine project. If it's inspiring people than that's just great, because it's going beyond us."

Being a role model herself, we asked Lights about her role models growing up. "My parents. I was raised a missionary kid and that was all I knew. It was just my family and me going all over the world. I respect my parents so much. My mom get's into all these stuff, like one day it's cake decorating, then she's studying the stares, then it's stain glass, and she's brewing wine. She learns so much and whatever she wants to do go she goes for it. I was raised to do what you love and to go all the way with it. I couldn't think of a better role model."

With supportive parents and real passion Lights says that she always knew she was going to be successful. "When I was kid I was just sure I was going to be successful. Years pass by and reality sets and you realize okay, this might now happen, but I remember when I was thirteen was positive that I was going to be a musician and I would practice interviews. Reality sets in, but I convinced myself it was going to happen and here I am now."

Lights has reached her childhood dreams, but her journey is far from over. Lights will be spending her twenty-twelve touring. She says that she'll be going to Australia for the first time ever. She also want to release something small, keeping with her trend of releasing new music every year since 2009.

From glittery to gritty, it does not matter what music she's performing, Lights is filling our ears with charming sounds that inspire us to create.



BY CYNTHIA LAM
PHOTO COURTESY OF TOTAL ASSAULT

NAMESAKE



If you were to turn back three years and someone had told you that you would be where you are today would you have believed them?

Yeah I think I would have. I've always been very dedicated and hard working and that pays off in the long run.

Growing up, who were your biggest inspirations? Do you think that it reflects through your music?

I was always listening to stuff like Coheed & Cambria, The Used, 30 Seconds to Mars. I definitely feel you can get some vibes from those bands from my music, especially when it comes to the vocals.

You also have your music video "Worlds Away" up on Youtube - which is excellent by the way! How was it working with Scott Hansen?

It was awesome! I have known Scott for 3 years prior to working with him and we have always talked about working together. Once we got signed that all became possible, and it was a lot of fun.

How did the concept of the video come about? Does it tie into what the song was written about in the first place?

Well the song is about a relationship in which the couple felt like they didn't know each other anymore. So much so that it felt like they were "Worlds Away" The video was just a bunch of live shots in space, just to give it that vibe and so you can really listen to the music as it is with a nice visual.

So I understand that you just finished recording your debut full-length. Is there anything you can tell us about the album?

I am very excited about this album. It is our first full length and I am really excited to hear what people will think of it. I'm happy that every song turned out amazing and unique, every track has it's own feel and has it's own story associated with it. The album drops this summer!

What was it like working with James Paul Wisner?

Incredible. I have nothing but good things to say about James. He is a musical genius and we were able to come together and create this awesome chemistry. I grew up as a human being and as a musician, and that's a rare thing to be able to say I feel. It was quite the journey.

While writing music, where do you draw inspirations for songs?

I love writing songs people can relate to. If people can't relate to the music, they won't form a bond with the songs. I feel like that kinda stuff is really important so I mostly write about personal experiences I've had and I'm sure other people have had as well.

You'll also be playing during SXSW. Are there any other bands/acts that you're excited to check out there as well?

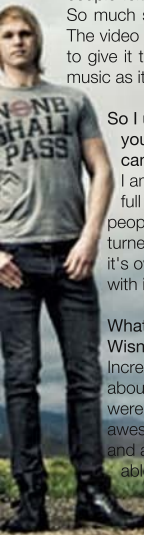
I'm really excited to play with A Skylit Drive. I listened to them a lot back in the day and never got to see them perform, so now is my chance!

Have you been at SXSW before? If so, what was the experience like? If no, what are you expecting, as it seems just chaotic there?

Yeah we were actually guests last year helping out at the Time Warner booth. The experience was great, everyone is there to have a good time and everyone is so friendly. It's really easy to make connections with people and just have a blast.

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

Just keep your eyes out for our debut album "Borders & Fences" this summer! Really stoked to get it out there.



Q & A WITH

the used

ANSWERED BY JEPH HOWARD
PHOTO COURTESY OF HOPELESS RECORDS
BY CYNTHIA LAM



So it's been years since you last put out an album, how do you think fans will react to your upcoming release *Vulnerable*?

Everyone we have talked to is super excited and loves the new stuff. It's hard something trying to experiment and change naturally, sometimes people just want you to make the first record over and over again. But doing that isn't being "real" and we are "real". We are writing songs to create and create art. And we are lucky our true fans understand that.

Is there a concept or theme behind the album that you hope fans will grasp?

Yes. Vulnerability as a strength [and] there is a positive side to showing who and what you really are.

How did you come up with inspirations for the lyrics? Any specific events or changes?

I'm a bass player but Bert is mysterious, dark and intense. After artwork we all a bit unhappy with how it leaked three months early and there was no push from our label. We were also unhappy with our management and so we decided to start over.

How did you come up with the artwork for the album? What was the inspiration behind it?

The boy on the cover has just found out how to be strong from being vulnerable. It also ties into our video for "I Come Alive" which should be released very soon.

Has the change from a major label to your current label affect the band?

Yes, we kick more ass now. There is no one telling us we can't do something we want to do.

Would you say that "Hands And Faces" and "I Come Alive" are a good example of how the album will be like?

Yes. The album is very different for us but at the same time sounds like The Used.

Do you have any tours or shows planned following the CD release?

About a year and a half of touring world wide. So look out!

You've been a band for quite a while now. What is the most important thing that you've learned about the industry?

Make sure you know who your real friends are and don't trust anyone.

What do you think is the biggest difference between bands today and ten years ago?

The front man. The world has a shortage on "Front Men"

What advice do you have for kids who are hoping to pursue a career as a musician?

Don't trust anyone, record companies are like the mafia.

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

We are very happy with this record. Listen to it with an open mind and find out why we're so happy.

REVIEWS



Indie rock band Say Anything has just put out their fifth studio album titled *Anarchy, My Dear* on Equal Vision Records. Say Anything is fronted and formed by Max Bemis along with four of his best friends and recently joined by The Academy Is' former bassist Adam Siska. In their twelve years of being a band they have achieved a great amount of success and inspired kids everywhere to start playing music.

In July of 2011 it was announced that Say Anything had signed to Equal Vision Records and would be working on writing and recording their debut release on the label. Starting in August of 2011, the band headed into the studio with Tim O'Her (who also produced *...Is A Real Boy*) to work on their upcoming masterpiece.

Anarchy, My Dear can be simply described as over-the-top phenomenally amazing. Throughout the whole album the beat is kept energetic and upbeat, capturing the listeners undivided attention throughout. When listening, it's a bit hard to focus on anything other than all that's happening in the song - the lyrics, the instruments, and every quirky sound intelligently incorporated into the song.

The first track on the album "Burn A Miracle" is the perfect starting song. It is definitely one, if not, their strongest track and pulls listeners in immediately. It is downright gritty and can be defined as experimental rock, but it still holds the catchy pop punk melody.

Now, let's fast forward a couple tracks to the cheek pinching cute and adorable song "So Good". It's incredibly heart warming and the soft tune of the guitars behind Bemis' smooth voice make it impossible not to smile and feel giddy during the song.

Overall, *Anarchy, My Dear* is an album you do not want to miss this year. It's an album that holds a bit of everything for everybody. Say Anything definitely went above and beyond with *Anarchy, My Dear* and it's definitely one of the best albums of 2012.

BY CYNTHIA LAM

The Shins ★★★★★

Port Of Morrow



The Shins, a band formed in 1996 released their fourth studio album, *Port of Morrow* on March 20, 2012. Currently based in Portland Oregon, this indie rock band has made their rounds through the music industry, touring with bands like Modest Mouse, as well as having their songs featured in multiple TV shows, and the movie Garden State. Throughout their sixteen years of being together, they have had a great amount of success, appealing to a wide range of demographics.

The tracks on this album would be ideal for those quiet nights where people sit around and converse about global issues. Or maybe good coffee shop music. It's not meant to be blasted or abused in any way. The album is more of a put it on for nice background music, but not to disregard and not appreciate. This album is definitely meant to be **appreciated**, just subtly and non-intrusively. The methodic melodies are soothing and may be more impacting than one might expect. The songs sneak up on you and please your ears with soft guitar riffs that accompany beautifully crafted lyrics.

by Stefany Bryan

Kieran Strange ★★★★★

Adamantine Heart



If you're from the Western Canada area, chances are you've heard of Kieran Strange. This extremely talented British Canadian singer has been active for a couple of years now, spreading her talented voice and music all across the globe.

Her latest release is a short EP titled *Adamantine Heart*. With an electronic feel, Kieran brings us through a three song journey and also shows us what she's all about. The song "Rock N Roleplay Baby" starts off with a lower tone before bursting out into a straight up pop and catchy tune. It's very nice to find an artist like Kieran, who holds an electronica song but doesn't abuse or overuse it, keeping a real yet galactic sound.

Adamantine Hearts is set to drop on April 1st, 2012 and is sure to catch the attention of many music fans worldwide. Be sure to check out the EP when it is released!

by Cynthia Lam

Twin Atlantic *Free* ★★★★★



Glasgow's four-piece rock band Twin Atlantic sets out to give music lovers a treat with their debut album *Free*. 13 fresh sounding tracks introduce themselves with their invigorating riffs as they attempt to illuminate British music's striking elements. "Edit Me" leaps into your eardrums as an exciting opener highlighting the beginning of an epic sounding first full length album. Fan favorites like "Free", "Crash Land", and "Make A Beast Of Myself" uses distinguishable techniques allowing Twin Atlantic to adopt their own badge of style. "Crash Land" executes beautifully with the sound of the acoustic guitar mingling with the cello, the heavy yet heart warming lyrics and tone endangers the emotions of listeners. Sam McTrusty flaunts his strong vocals in a few catchy choruses of the album hinting a Biffy Clyro edge as well as a pinch of modern pop-punk sound. The overall vibe of the album blended in with McTrusty's bold accent paves a possible path of successful musical accomplishments for the band. Twin Atlantic's *Free* is also flawed as an album, some of the songs namely "Time For You To Stand Up" and "Yes, I Was Drunk" pale in comparison to the rest with its non impressionable taste and bleak sounding choruses. However, a band as young as Twin Atlantic only has a forward path to go and for a debut album, *Free* kicks an appropriate amount of ass proving existing capabilities and productivity, I expect big things from this band.

by Roxanne Asthenia

I Call Fives ★★★★★ *Someone That's Not You*

I Call Fives' new 7" *Someone That's Not You* is amazing to say the least. The first song, which is the title track, is some of the bands best material to date. The song has a catchy hook and great lyrics. I Call Fives know how to play good pop punk music, and they show that with this song. The next song is "Backup Plan" which I don't think they'll need because they are going in the right direction. The song reminds me of the good All Time Low days. Its very catchy, and just a great pop rock song. Lakeview, the third song on the EP, gives you some time to relax and really listen to the music. It's an acoustic track, and probably one of the standout tracks in "Someone That's Not You". The melodies are spot on and it really highlights Jeff Todd's vocals, all of which make the song that much more mesmerizing. The last song, "How's It Gonna Be", is a cover of Third Eye Blinds hit song. I really enjoyed it. It was a great cover and it showcased the range of I Call Fives' musicianship. With this EP, I Call Fives is destined for a bright future and I can't wait to see what comes next from this up and coming pop punk band! Buy this album and check out the rest of their catalogue. Also get ready for their full length coming out this summer.

by Victor Andrade





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