

STITCHED SOUND

Issue #12

WE CAME AS ROMANS

The Bigger Lights, The Dance Party, Uproar Festival,
Michael Froh, and more!



Rush, Rush, Rush.

These past two weeks or so have been crazy. School is going great, but I'm still a bit confused with the program, and unfortunately, I've been slowing down and falling a bit behind. I've also been falling behind / a little more slower with Stitched Sound as well. Hopefully, this will all be gone soon. It's just a bit tough for me but, I deal, I deal! This issue barely made it out, I really was unsure if this issue was going to make it until a couple days ago!

In these past two weeks, I, myself have been fortunate enough to attend two amazing shows, and our staff has also been able to make it to several shows. We have three reviews in this issue, as well as many interviews, and reviews. We hope you like it!

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

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

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

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UPROAR FESTIVAL By Cynthia Lam

It's safe to say that Rockstar Energy Drink UPROAR Festival is a night that I won't ever forget. The lineup consisted of the local Jaegermeister band, Hail The Villain, New Medicine, White Cowbell Oklahoma, Hellyeah, Halestorm, Stone Sour, Avenged Sevenfold, and Disturbed. Starting in the sunny, moderate weathered outdoors, the concert made its way inside a packed venue where fans were cheering and singing along to every song.

This day started off with the Hail The Villain playing first. Their live performance was alright, with lots of movement and energy. Next, New Medicine took the stage starting with a catchy sound that seemed to stay in your head through most of the night. While Cowbell Oklahoma put on an entertaining show to say at the least. I, myself found them very entertaining and they were definitely doing something different than almost all the bands out there. Cloaked in cowboy hats and some of the members in jumpsuits, they performed with utmost energy giving the crowd a fantastic show.



Soon after the show inside the venue started, with Halestorm opening the main stage with fantastic applause and audience reaction. This quartet started the night off perfectly with a good live sound, and music that gets the crowd going. Stone Sour took the stage next, with a good live sound and performance. Although they may not be the most exciting band to watch live, there is no way one can deny that they sound ten times better live than on their albums. It was easy to tell that the audience loved Stone Sour and their performances by the reaction and antics that were pulled during their set.

The curtains came down, and the crowd started getting louder and louder, buzzing with talk about Avenged Sevenfold playing next. Up on stage many were setting up what I would consider one of the most aesthetically pleasing stages that I have seen. With Mike Portnoy's drums set up on top of a platform, with gates and pillars spread out across the stage. As the curtains lifted up the crowd started erupting in screams and cheer for one of their beloved bands. The band soon came on stage and started off playing "Nightmare". Starting off with a strong show, Avenged Sevenfold's set included many explosions and pyrotechnics. In the middle of the set they changed the backdrop to a picture of The Rev, and asked everyone to hold up their lighters and cellphones. I have never seen so many lighters held up during a concert, and that just shook me. Being heavily influenced by Avenged Sevenfold when I was younger, that was just the most amazing thing for me to see. They put on one of the greatest live performances that I've ever seen, with songs ending in loud explosions. By the end of Avenged Sevenfold's set the crowd was going wild, exploding into mosh pits, everyone in the area singing along, and just having the biggest smiles on their faces. Watching Avenged Sevenfold play live again is definitely one of the experiences in my life that I will never forget.

With a good lineup, a good organization setup for the tour, and a good, fun packed crowd, the Rockstar Energy Drink UPROAR Festival was one of the better tours in 2010.



BAND OF BROTHERS TOUR

By Cynthia Lam



On October 1st, the Band of Brothers tour stopped in Edmonton, Alberta. We got a chance to catch up with We Came As Romans (see page 15) and also attend this show. That night was packed with good performances all around and a welcoming, friendly atmosphere all around.

The first band to play was a local band, Submerge The Sky. They played a pretty decent set, with a good live show and the crowd seemed to enjoy them quite a bit. Their sound and performance seemed to fit right in with the rest of the tour.

Upon A Burning Body came on next after a very enthusiastic chant from the crowd "Burning body!" Personally I have never heard of them before that night, and I had no idea what to expect, and also why the crowd was so excited for them. However when they took the stage and started off in their first song, I

realized that they were an extremely talented, having a blast on stage, all around great band. One of my favourite parts during their set, was when Danny (vocals) took someone's cell phone, keeping it for a while. He later returned it, stating that he took it because they were texting during their set.

In Fear and Faith played next. Even though I, myself am not a fan of the band, I heard nothing but good things about them. I had hardly any ideas in my head about what they sounded like, but I expected them to put on a good show. Like the other bands on the tour, they didn't disappoint. Starting out with a strong intro and keeping the crowd entertained through their whole set, they ended off with the crowd going insane.

We Came As Romans was up next, and it was clear that the anticipation from the crowd was felt by everyone. The previous three bands that played put on fantastic sets, and it was pretty obvious that We Came As Romans would not disappoint. As they took the stage, the whole crowd started going crazy during just the first song. Through the whole set smiles and a warm feeling seemed to wash through everyone. We Came As Romans ended the night off with a phenomenal energy packed performance.

It's pretty hard for me to find a tour, or a show where after the show, I come out thinking that all the bands/artists that played were great, and all put on enjoyable performances. With the Band of Brothers tour, I achieved that. The lineup was great, and the crowd was crazy. If the Band of Brothers tour is coming to your town or city soon, be sure to check it out.

JOE BROOKS

By Sarah Lozano

It's late on a Thursday night and Joe Brooks takes the stage at Mango's Cafe, a small bar and venue in Houston, Texas and a place you wouldn't expect major talent playing. Let me say Joe Brooks just screams talent. If this 23 year-old from UK that's inspired by artists such as the Beatles and Jack Johnson, isn't selling out shows soon then I don't know what's wrong with the music industry. Of course Joe doesn't seem to mind playing this small venue, as you can see by the smile on his face, he's just happy to play. For being his first show in Texas, he seems to have a small group of fans singing their hearts out to his songs such as "Superman" and "Kaleidoscope". Joe Brooks' music is not only catchy, but passionate. Let's be honest anyone can write a catchy song and not have any passion put into it. Joe Brooks defiantly has passion and you can see it in his live show. The way it seems like the smile never leaves his face while he's playing

4 gives you a warm feeling, like maybe all your dreams will come true one day.





QUIETDRIVE

Interview with Justin Bonhiver
Interview by Cynthia Lam

What does Quietdrive have that makes you unique from other bands?

I think we have a unique misconception about our band that because our radio hit was a remake of Cyndi Lauper and because we were so young when it came out, that we didn't work hard to get where we are. The reality is that we would have never had the chance to work with a Major label like Sony if we hadn't busted our balls for years as a local and regional act. We were drawing 1,000 kids in our hometown before Sony / Epic even expressed interest. We explain this to aspiring musicians all the time. You can never just sit back and wait for something to happen to you. You have to put everything you are into your vision and your dream and that is when you will find yourself surrounded by labels, managers and agents. Make them come to you.

What is your favourite song to perform live, and why is this?

"It's A Shame" is hands down my favorite song to perform live. It is our most uptempo

energetic tune and the bridge includes an incredibly gnarly guitar solo. Yes I just said gnarly.

Do you participate or have been a victim of tour pranks? What happened?

Bowling for Soup covered us in toilet paper and silly string. A terrible combo. Brandon has had his drums slowly removed from the stage during the last song too. That's always funny to watch a drummer try to complete the song with only a few pieces of his kit left. Another band threw a burrito at our van while passing us on the highway. I'm not sure if that counts but it sucked to clean up.

Is there a message that Quietdrive is trying to spread through music?

The songs that we write are more or less snapshots of times in our own lives. By writing and providing perspective to our own lives we hope to inspire others to live life with as much passion and enthusiasm as possible.

When was it when you knew you wanted to play music for a living? What sparked it?

My older brother had a rock band in high school called "Born". I was front row center at every show they played screaming obnoxiously and wearing Born t-shirts. I was addicted and have been ever since.

Which one do you prefer: recording, or touring? Why is this?

When I'm on the road in a stinky van with a bunch of dudes eating fast food and partying way too much, I want to get back in the comfy studio to get creative and feel at peace. When I'm in the comfy, peaceful studio being creative and peaceful I can't wait to jump back in that stinky van, eat fast food and party every night! It's like the changing of seasons.

What do you hope to be able to accomplish in the future

I just want to continue to write, record, perform, travel and live the dream that I never accepted as unattainable.

Anomalie & the Speakeasy Earth

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

Around 5 I started the obligatory piano lessons so I guess that would be my first instrument. As far as those skills though I only know the one classical song to fool everyone into thinking I'm a pro, it's pretty basic beyond that.

What sparked your interest in music? Was there a specific band, concert, or show?

In middle school I started getting into punk, ska, & music beyond commercial radio. Even though my tastes have grown since then and I don't exactly write in those genres, that was the scene that made me want to get into playing guitar in a band.

Who would you say are your biggest influences music wise?

Even though my music doesn't sound like them, Rx Bandits is one of those bands that I've grown up, so what they do has always influenced me creatively. I listen to a lot of different music, but anything Jenny Lewis, Emily Haines, Conor Oberst, Imogen Heap, Fugazi, Explosions in the sky, Portugal. The Man & Death Cab For Cutie do also influences me lyrically and with production style.

Do you have to be in a specific mood or place to write music?

I'm always writing lyrics down, humming melodies into my cell phone, and tapping beats into my head so it's pretty random when I write, but being alone in my apartment recording is usually a good time for me to tie ideas together.

What is the most meaningful song that you have written? What is it about?

A lot of people have been really receptive to the song "Move On", which is basically about a moving past a relationship, not because there was any huge falling out but because there's a time and a place for things to end. It's the in between, nonchalant phase that make decisions difficult to deal with, but after time things eventually look up and it's usually for the better.

Out of all the instruments that you play, which one would you say is your favorite? Why is this?

The guitar for sure because it really is the core of the instruments that I play and where most of the songwriting begins.

Did you expect to be where you are now when you were a teenager?

Not at all. Towards the end of high school it was about going to college and all that jazz. Didn't know then that I would major in philosophy & law, then go to recording arts

school and venture into the solo artist realm. Personal expectations grow with age, with the music I'm making now I'm sure my teenage self would be asking "Where did your band go?" haha.

Are your friends and family supportive of the fact that you'd like to play music for a living?

I'd like to think so. I've been in and out of bands for a while, so sometimes it feels like they want to see a faster turn around on my investment in music. At the end of the day though, my family & friends are really understanding, beautiful human beings that are always there for me when I need them.

Is there a message that you'd like listeners to get out of your songs?

Your lowest may be low, but the high's make it worth it all.

If you could play a show with any band/artist who would it be and why?

The Beatles, because that's what's up.

How can fans support Anomalie & The Speakeasy Earth?

Come to a show and tell your friends! I just got back from touring with Audigriffiti up the west coast, so buying merch is always a plus. I just love meeting people and sharing music beyond ideas in my head, so spread the word.

HEART OF A COWARD

Interview by Bianca Delicata



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

Allot of anger is expressed lyrically within the current songs, but also a strong message of unity. Im sure people can relate to moments and situations in their own lives, hopefully help to vent their own frustration. We will also be exploring deeper issues within the new album as theres allot to be said for the world in its current state.

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

Nando's, Burger King, Domino's or KFC! These are enjoyed as part of a healthy balanced diet!

What do you like seeing most at a Heart Of A Coward show?

Rowdiness, movement, girls and cheap drinks.

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

Probably poking your head out of the water, theres an ocean of bands and artists out there, allot of them all trying to do the same thing! You've got to have the right mixture of talent, ambition and most of all luck! Its like fishing for diamonds in a river of shit, you'll hit lucky once in a while!

Skittles or M&M's?

Chicken.

How have you grown musically, since Heart Of A Coward began?

As with any band we formed as a group of friends inspired by music wanting to play music, over the years members have changed, songs have been trashed and like a fine cheese the music has matured over time, and we'll continue to do so.

What would be the ingredients to a Heart Of A Coward song?

Mix one part metal with one part groove, mix in a little hate, add lemon for bitterness, bake for 33 minutes, sprinkle with attitude, serve cold.

What is your favourite song to play live?

Each member has their own favorites! Im sure we'd all agree that "Around a girl in 80 days" always seems to get the crowds moving!

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

Have a plan, stick to it, work hard and don't take any shit!

How long would you like to be playing music for?

Until our minds and bodies wont let us do it anymore.

HALF HEARTED HERO

Interview with Meyer Interview by Cynthia Lam

How did you meet the other members of Half Hearted Hero and decide to start a band with each other?

When I was a sophomore in High School, I used to play upright bass in a Youth Orchestra in Providence, Rhode Island. We were taking a break from our rehearsing one night and I heard someone start to play drums in the next room. I walked in there to see who it was, and it was a cellist named Ian. We started talking to each other, and as luck would have it he already had been jamming with two guitarists for a while. Me and Anthony (singer) had been friends/bandmates for a few ears before this point and were looking to start a punk band, so everything just kind of fell into place from there.

When you were a child, did you know that this is what you wanted to do for a living? What did you think you would grow up to be?

This is kind of a loaded question, because I don't know if this is what I want to do for a living. I love playing music and I love touring and writing music, but I don't want it to be something I am forced to do to support myself. I want to be able to come home after a long day of responsibilities and pick up a guitar and not have to worry about anything except the music. With that being said, I did want to be a professional musician for a while (my first two years in college were spent as a Music student), and before that I wanted to be a cartoonist!

When Half Hearted Hero first started what accomplishments or goals did you have in mind?

To be able to play the right notes at the right times and not sound like dog mess. In all seriousness though, from the very beginning we wanted to be taken as seriously as one could take a punk band. We didn't want people to come to shows to watch us rehearse and get better, we wanted to come right out of the gates sounding practiced and tight. In many ways, that is still one of our primary goals today, as is the goal of any serious musician or group of musicians.

If you could play a show with any two bands in any city/state, and venue who, where would it be and why?

That's a pretty tough question, but I think I would have to say if The Fullblast got back together and played a show where



NOFX didn't play anything off of their last two records I would do everything in my power to try and play that show (or at the very least be there). That show could take place in a septic tank and still be the most incredible show ever.

What is your favourite song to play live, and why is this?

I have a few favourites. I really enjoy playing Satori, It's Cool, but the Fullblast Did It Already, A Pathetic Attempt at an Apathetic Approach, and our new song Periphery. I think I like all those songs because they stay fast for a majority of the song, and it gives me a chance to lock into the beat and just groove out.

While writing music would you say that Half Hearted Hero aims for a certain genre? Why or why not?

I would be lying if I said that I wasn't trying to emulate the artists that I enjoy, but at the same time I'm not trying to completely rip them off. I will always turn to my favorite bands for guidance, and in that way I guess we do "aim for a certain genre". We make no bones about being a balls-to-the-wall fast aggressive punk band, but I also feel like we are trying to take what we like and what we write and turn it into something that stands out in the over saturated world of punk music.

Do you feel that the internet has helped Half Hearted Hero in a big way?

Absolutely!!!! Almost every big step we've taken as a band, from recording our first demo to booking our European tour,

would have been insanely difficult, if not impossible, had it not been for the Internet. Thanks you to everyone at their end of the keyboard who has helped us book shows, record our records, support us by purchasing merch, and for just checking out our Myspace and listening to our music!

How would you describe Half Hearted Hero (the band, the music, the members) in one word, and why did you pick this word?

I really don't know if there is one word that can sum up the music and the band and each individual member at the same time. I think the one word that could sum us up as individuals and as a band would be "dedicated". We all live pretty far from each other and 4 out of 5 of us are full-time students, yet we all find time to rehearse, write music together, play shows, and relax. I think one word that could be used to describe our music is "stimulating". The music is pretty loud, very fast, and especially with our newest material pretty densely layered, I think it's safe to say, without sounding conceded, that the music absolutely activates the ears and mind.

Where do you expect to be a year forward?

Probably living somewhere in Western Massachusetts and doing a lot of homework.



HEARTBREAK CITY

Interview with Sam Sumser
Interview by Cynthia Lam

What is the thing that sets Heartbreak City apart from other artists and bands?

I think the biggest thing is it's just me doing it all. I have done the band thing before and finally got to the point where I wanted to make all the music and call all the shots. As for the music I think its got that top 40 radio vibe but with that classic lead guitar hidden in the tracks.

Who are your biggest influences?

Everyone haha. From MJ to Ryan Tedder to Queen to Coheed and Cambria.

What made you decide to play music for a living?

Music is the one thing that everybody loves. That being said making music is my one true passion. I love playing anywhere, writing whatever and if the songs I write get stuck in your head or fill you up with some sort of emotion...I have done what I set out to do

How do you draw inspiration lyrically? (everyday events, movies, etc.)

Real life, whether its something I have seen/ done/felt or something I have witnessed through others, everyday life brings me almost too much material to work with.

How would you describe the writing and recording process for your songs?

Writing usually starts with me and a guitar or a piano and a simple vocal melody. I could be out in public and an idea jumps into my head so I have to stand there and sing into my phone like a weirdo. As for recording...I do all the tracking myself with a friend of mine Sean Small, he's a great producer/ studio engineer.

What has been your favourite song that you've written so far? What is it about?

I love all my songs, but if I had to pick right this moment it would be the newest one I just finished which is about stepping into my shoes (high tops). Its a real catchy fun song to sing/dance too, cant wait to release it.

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

As long as my music can evoke some emotions into the listener I feel I got a message across, whether it was the message I was trying to convey or maybe a message coming from somewhere else in the listener music is about escaping reality even for that couple of minutes and being able to feel something different. Although sometimes the songs I write were written for the sole

purpose to get the fans to sing along/ or dance but every artist needs those.

How would you describe your sound in one word? Why did you choose this word?

Repeat. The songs will be on repeat no doubt.

What would you like to accomplish through music?

I would love to make music for the rest of my life and I would love to make music that people enjoy and can sing too.

Looking back to about five years ago, would you expect to be doing what you are now? Why?

Absolutely. I always loved music and knew I wanted to write/play it. I have a long way to go before I am where I want to be but I have great fans early and am looking forward to every step of the way

Where do you see yourself in a year forward?

Ipods across the world.

CULTURE CHEMISTRY

Interview with Josh David
Interview by Cynthia Lam



What sparked your interest in music? Was there a certain band, show, or concert?

My whole life I wanted to sing. I really knew I wanted to be a musician when I was 9. All I knew is I was gonna sing. For me the first thing that sparked my interest in rock music was Third Eye Blind. I grew up on gospel and christian music and so I never really heard much rock until I heard Third Eye Blind's first album in 97.

Is there something you'd like to accomplish through music? Spread a message, perhaps?

I don't know if there is one specific thing I want to accomplish through my music. I hope the songs are inspiring musically. I listen to a lot of songs that I don't really relate to lyrically but musically I'm inspired by the talent and it makes me want to be creative myself. There are some songs that I have written that have deeper more personal meanings and I guess my hope is that through those songs people can understand the person I am a little more.

Which do you prefer: recording, or playing shows? Why?

I definitely prefer the recording. I think most of that is just my inner songwriter and producer. I really enjoy hearing a song come together and figuring all the parts I want in a song. It's pretty cool to actually hear something that's been in your head for so long.

How would you describe the writing process for Culture Chemistry? Would you say it is collaborative, or not?

For Culture Chemistry I would write all the songs on my own and then I'd take them to the guys and they would tell all the things they don't like. But it's actually a great process because they would add their input of what they think would work better and it's not just one persons ideas. So I would say I write everything and then as a band we arrange the song.

What has been your favourite song that you've written?

I really can't say what my favorite song I've written is. I'm just too critical of myself to make that decision. Right now there's a song that we haven't recorded yet called No Body Else that I really enjoy playing.

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

I think we agree that it would be pretty cool to tour with Jimmy Eat World.

What is one place you have to visit before you die?

I would love to make a trip to Japan before I die. Mostly because my mom grew up in Japan.

Are there any album released that you are excited about, or really liked?

There a lot of good albums that have just come out. I know Alan is always listening to the new B.O.B album. I have really been into Mumford & Sons. And the new Thrice album Beggars is pretty GREAT! But I'm really excited for the new Jimmy Eat World which releases tomorrow!

What would you say is the best quality about Culture Chemistry?

I would say one of the best qualities about Culture Chemistry is each of us are perfectionists. We spend a lot of time trying to make a song good rather than just rushing to record something just keep putting new music out. We would rather spend 3 years making one really good album rather than making 3 ok albums. We also have so many different influences that I don't think we could ever run out of ideas.

What should we expect from Culture Chemistry in the future?

I think you can definitely expect some more music from us soon. And you can expect it to be awesome. :)



YESTERDAY

Interview with Chris Diana
Interview by Cynthia Lam

How would you describe the overall sound of Yesterday?

That's one of the hardest questions for us to answer when people ask. I really can't think of any other bands to compare us to, and that's one of the reasons why we all love playing in this band, because it has such a unique sound. There is definitely a lot of rock and punk influence. My favorite part of the show is the moment we start to play, especially in front of a new crowd because you can tell it is a kind of sound they haven't heard before.

Is there a story behind the band name "Yesterday"?

Actually, aside from people saying we picked it cause it sounds cool, there is a reason behind the name. Right now, all of us are finishing up school, and we're all getting closer and closer to that point where we are going to enter the 'real world,' and I think that most of us honestly aren't really ready for it. The name is very symbolic of trying to stay in the now, and trying to never get old, a notion that every one of us feels sometime in our life.

What was your first instrument that you learned to play? How long have you been playing this instrument?

The first instrument I learned to play was the trumpet when I was about 10. Still got that thing somewhere. I didn't end up picking up the guitar until I was in high school, and have been playing it nonstop ever since. Matter of fact, all of us have had a heavy musical influence early on in our lives and throughout

school. That's what brought us together in the first place.

How would you describe "Between Tomorrow"? What was the process of writing and recording it like?

The music of "Between Tomorrow" has a real storyline feel to it. Actually, Yesterday started off as a solo side-project of mine as our previous band began to dissolve. I had written and recorded the "Between Tomorrow EP" before Yesterday was even an established band. As the music began to pick up, we made Yesterday a major priority.

Why did you decide to name the EP "Between Tomorrow"? Is there a concept behind it?

I would say the main concept behind the name "Between Tomorrow" would be trying not to let go of the present, if that makes any sense. It correlates a lot to the name in a similar way. Many of the songs on the EP have this underlying theme.

What has been your favourite show that you've played so far? What made it so memorable?

Our favorite show would probably have to be at Diesel in Pittsburgh, PA. It was a lot of fun and the crowd there was incredible.

If you could sit down and talk to one of your inspirations, who would it be, and what would you ask them?

I would love to sit down with Jim Adkins and ask him how he writes such incredible lyrics.

If you weren't playing music right now what do you expect you would be doing?

I really couldn't even imagine what any of us would be doing if we weren't playing music. It pretty much consumes all of us.

A lot of people are saying that the music industry is slowly disintegrating - whether this be because of the lack of "good" music and/or illegal downloading. What are your thoughts on this?

I really don't think that the music industry is disintegrating because people are always going to listen to music. Although, I do think that it is much more difficult for bands to make it in the industry today. The internet has really leveled the playing field for artists, both for better and for worse. It's great because anyone has the opportunity at showing the world their music. On the other hand, the artists that work extremely hard are sometimes covered up by all the "other stuff" out there, so many don't have that chance to stand out.

As far as illegal downloading, I think that it is a double-edged sword. On one end, it allows people to share music with others across the globe. But on the other hand, artists pour everything into creating that music, and aren't really getting anything out of it to keep them afloat.



SPIRIT FANGS

Interview by Cynthia Lam

What made you decide to start a band with the other members of Sprit Fangs?

We all hate how Arco gas stations charge an ATM fee and we can't pay at the pump. So we started a band so we can make money and pay for that stupid fee. Our original band name was "Arco Fangs", because they're biting into our wallets but we then changed it to something more subtle.

What would you say is your favorite thing about each of your band mates?

We're all laid back and we like to play music together.

How would you describe the overall sound of Spirit Fangs?

We've been told we're like an Ear full of Beer. It's the right stuff... But in the wroooooonngg place.

Is there a song or lyric that you yourself are really proud of? What is it and why?

I like playing with words and my favorite thing to do is be vague but also very direct at the same time. Usually my lyrics sound like there's a initial

one message, but when I listen to them later I can see a different interpretation each time in each line.

" I'm like my father before me / Just like his father before him / Only in a new era / and a different Location "

What is the writing and recording process for Sprit Fangs like?

It's kinda like going into a thrift store... you never know if you're going to find something. But when you do, it's like "ooooOOOOOHHHHHHH THATS GOOD"

Where do you draw your inspirations for lyrics?

Other bad lyrics , movies, messed up situations, stories I make up , alternate realities and things I overhear in my everyday life. Basically... whatever has an effect on my mind at the time I have a pen in my hand. Sometimes all I have is a crayon.

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

I love it! I haven't bought a cd in years.

I don't think people can really OWN music, but they are the ones responsible for it. If a musician is good, people will go to their shows. I think that.. we, as consumers have a right to determine the music's worth.

The internet has a really big part of a lot of bands and their success. How would you say the internet and social networking sites has helped Spirit Fangs?

It's great to have someone tells us they love our music when they live in a place we didn't know that they spoke english.

What, in your opinion is the most overrated thing in the music industry? Why?

Auto tune, That shit is *not* cute.

What should we expect from Spirit Fangs in the future?

More GUTS in our music. We've just started the writing the next batch of songs, and we can guarantee it's gonna be real fun.

THE BIGGER LIGHTS

Interview by Cynthia Lam

When The Bigger Lights first started, what did you expect to accomplish? Was it as much as you have today?

The only goal that has remained constant throughout our entire career has been to write songs that we believed in, that challenged us, and that might affect the people around us in a positive way. We've been fortunate enough to field some amazing opportunities together but at the heart of everything we do, it's always been and always will be about the songs we write and play together.

How big of a part does The Bigger Lights have in your life?

I think that our band plays an important role in all of our lives. For each of us in our own way, art and music have always been central passions to everything we've done and we all feel extremely fortunate to have the opportunity to pursue them together as a family.

Growing up, who were your biggest influences? Are they still more or less the same now? If not, who are your biggest influences now?

If your tastes don't naturally evolve, I don't think you're challenging yourself enough. The bands I loved growing up are still bands I love today, but I absolutely love bands today that I never would have gravitated towards while I was growing up. I try to take something positive from everything I listen to because I love music in it's totality. As far as influences that have stood the test of time, I adore Ryan Adams and Butch Walker as songwriters. Recently, I've been getting really into Metric, Phoenix, and Biffy Clyro.

If you could turn back time and change a mistake that you've made what would it be and why?

I can recall a few periods in my life where I didn't trust my own instincts and ended up in unhealthy interpersonal situations as a result. I think I'd go back and try to teach myself to trust my instincts a little sooner than I actually started to.

As a musician do you ever get "writers block"? How do you overcome this?

I generally write or explore new musical ideas every day, but writer's block is a real beast that likes to come around and stir up trouble from time to time. The only cure I've found is to let it take its natural course. For me, there's nothing healthier to my creative well-being than forcing myself to create under false pretense. The results never feel as when I let the them happen on their own terms.





What has been your favourite song that you've written? What is the song about?

There's a song called "So Crazy" that closes our self-titled LP that holds a special place in my heart. It took a lot of courage for me to let myself write about that part of my life, let alone put it on a record for people to hear, but thanks to the support of my bandmates and our producer Paul Barber, it made it onto the album and I'm really proud that it did. We're actually writing for our next record right now and some of the stuff we're working on is really getting me amped. It's a gutsy step forward from everything we've done to date and I'm excited to see how it all takes shape.

While writing music, do you aim for a specific genre or age group? Why or why not?

We used to make the awful mistake of putting too much stock into genre and demographic when we wrote. The most valuable lesson we've learned since starting our band is that you have to write

what inspires you at any given moment without limitation. Preconceiving the identity of art rather than letting it naturally establish its own identity is the single most regrettable thing we ever allowed ourselves to do.

How would you say the internet has helped The Bigger Lights in your musical journey?

The Internet has been both a blessing and a curse for us. Without it, I don't think we'd have ultimately received a lot of opportunities as quickly as we did, but it also negatively creates a false sense of the general success or failure of your art if you aren't self-aware of your goals enough to insulate yourself from it. We try to use the Internet as best we can to market our music to fans, but I think we've learned not to let it affect our sense of artistic identity.

In your opinion, what would you say is your favourite networking site to connect with fans?

Twitter and Facebook have become our two most active networking sites. That being said, I love Tumblr because of how broad its application is. It's a lot cooler than people seem to give it credit for.

What are your thoughts on illegally downloading music? Do you see it being a big problem in the music industry?

If the entire music industry decided to unanimously make music free, I would be behind it, but that belief aside, illegally downloading music hurts the artist in the existing model. If you support a band's art, help them keep making it, at least until the record industry catches up with the technology.

Where do you see yourself and the band in about five years from now?

Hopefully still making music together that inspires and challenges us! It'd also be nice to have a Starbucks sponsorship. Hint hint.



Interview with Joshua Moore

Interview by Cynthia Lam

WE CAME AS ROMANS

What do you think makes We Came As Romans different from other bands?

I don't wanna be the guy to say that we write like really different music or anything like that, but I think we have a really good message behind our music, and I guess a lot of bands don't do that.

What are your favourite and least favourite things about touring?

I just like hanging out with all the other bands and what not, theres always something to do, someone to hang out with, theres not really ever like a dull moment. But I do get homesick still, and I miss my family at home.

Which do you prefer: touring or recording?

I love recording, I love making a CD and writing music and all that, but I mean you can only do so much of that a year, and all the other time has to be filled up with touring. But I definitely love being in the studio, it's probably my favourite thing.

So you recently released a new song "To Move On Is To Grow" on myspace. Were you happy with the feedback that you got?

Oh yeah, that's my favourite song that we've ever put out so going into it and posting it, a

and trying to figure out if kids are going to like it or not, I wasn't too bothered by the fact that there was a possibility that kids won't like it because I was completely happy with it.

Do you have any plans for an album in the near future?

Yeah, in February we'll be recording and then it'll be out as soon as possible.

What would you say makes a good show?

The interaction between us and the crowd is like the deciding factor on whether or not the show goes well or whether or not we have fun on stage. It's all about the interaction, and the response that kids give us.

What has been your favourite show so far?

What made it so memorable and great? The best show so far was in May. We played Bamboozle in New Jersey and there was thousands of people there. It was just awesome, there were so many kids who just knew the words. There was just so many people, and it was just awesome.

In your opinion, what is the most overrated thing in the music industry these days?

There's a lot of gimmicks, a lot of really generic things that happen to music, and a lot

of really good music that goes unnoticed. It's heartbreaking as a musician to see other bands that I know and they are great people, and they write great music, but they don't really get noticed for it because people are too concerned with the current fad whether it be the most mindless music or mindless lyrics that are just terrible. People are just too concerned about what's popular, than what's good.

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

Yeah, our whole first CD was about it, just about caring about other people, and being in relationships. That's how we basically lead out lives, and what we talking about on stage.

Is there anything else you'd like to say?

No, I don't really have anything to say. Hopefully that anyone who watches us will listen to my band, maybe they'll like it, maybe they won't but hopefully we'll at least get the chance to not necessarily influence or impress somebody, but hopefully just connect with people.

Watch the full interview at <http://youtube.com/stichedsound>

THE DANCE PARTY

Interview by Cynthia Lam

When The Dance Party first started, what goals and accomplishments did you have in mind?

We started the band to party and meet girls. But then we began writing hit songs and everything changed for the better.

Where do you draw your inspirations for songs?

Many songs are about experiences partying naked on rooftop pools, but some songs (like "Survivor" and "Run Away") are about characters that have intriguing and fucked up lives.

Do you have a favourite song that you have written? What is it about?

My favorite song at the moment is "Body Language." It's mainly about meeting girls and the moments leading up to sexual fruition.

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

Dancing, partying, and The Dance Party rule my life. It's 10am and I'm in bed with a fan drinking a Miller High Life as we speak.

In your opinion, what is the best part about The Dance Party's live show?

We rock so hard sometimes the audience doesn't know what to do with themselves so they start rocking with us. Then we're a team.

If you could get rid of one thing that the crowd does at a show what would it be and why?

Too many shots after the show!!!! Moderation people!!! We are only human and we have to get to the next city. But usually all shots are granted.

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

A stripper tried to make love to me on the stage once.

What is your favourite song to play live, and why?

"Hush." The song kicks into sixth gear and allows us to spend the evening with women.

Touch will be released on September 28th, 2010. Are there any songs on the album that fans might not expect from The Dance Party? Why is this?

No. All of our fans know that we have ambitions of conquering the universe. There are huge power ballads, and raging pop songs. We did it our way and if we win the whole country will drink champagne with us.

Which song on the album did you have the most fun writing and/or recording? Why is this?

My favorite is "Forever Yours" because I was able to get sexy time Prince on the vocal.

What are your thoughts/feeling on autotune and the part it has in the music industry today?

I have always wondered what would happen if one were to TUNE AUTOTUNE. Reverse osmosis? Think about it.

Do you have any plans for the future?

Play a few shows, sell a few records, and hit the ground running.



MICHAEL FROH

interview by Cynthia Lam



What would you say sets you apart from other musicians that could be considered in the same "scene" as you?

Well I feel as a musician I'm very hard to classify. I have released music in genres from punk to acoustic, to house music and hardcore, so I mean, my versatility for one sets me apart. And I would also like to think my live performance chops are something that sets me apart, in anything I try to do. It all stems back to me being a competitive athlete turned singer and musician, and this was way back in high school. So I started with a competitive attitude towards my music, which I think turned me into the performer I am now, but now its second nature, and I'm a little more relaxed about it.

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

Nah, It might sound like the answer that

everyone says, but I make music for myself, and I'm just so blessed every time someone lends an ear or a dollar to enjoy that music with me. I aim to write what is stored up in my heads, and i aim to make it please my ears and soul.

What has been the biggest obstacle for you to overcome in your musical journey? How was this done?

I would have to say the end of my first band, back when I was around 19 years old. I was devastated, as this group was my fucking life. I wrote everything, I booked everything, I put all sorts of cash into this group, as a little kid, it was crazy. And out of nowhere it was all kind swept out from under my feet. I learned so much from this experience, but it also fucked me up for a couple years, until I got straightened out, and started The Holly Springs Disaster.

If you had to describe your sound and music in one word, what would it be and why?

Party.

What would you say is your favourite aspect of Herbal Remedies?

My favourite aspect is that I did it. At one point, there was never going to be another album from me. And at other points, I had no money or support from the anyone in the industry to get it out, it was so hard. So basically the fact I wrote, produced, recorded every single song, then spent my own hard earned cash on getting it on iTunes, and making it into cd's, and in the end it went to #1 on the Electronic charts, it was just the most incredible feeling of accomplishment. I'm just so blessed i have my family and girlfriend, and friends, to push me through this process, and get that EP released.

Do you have a favourite track off the album? If so, what?

I would say 9 to 5, just because i feel my production talents are shown the best in that track. The funny thing is a lot of that EP, was made to show to people in order to produce tracks for them. I was never going to release this stuff, but then people around me loved them, and I fell in love with them.

As a musician, do you ever get something like "writers block"?**How do you overcome them?**

I always used to get writers block. But I've figured out that its caused, at least for myself, by over thinking, and over stressing a project. If I have deadlines and other peoples money and time involved, I can't think of that, or I'll block all creative outlets! So now I just write music for my own pleasure, and when I don't have any ideas, I remix someone else's tunes, to stay productive!

If you could get rid of one thing that the crowd does at shows what would it be and why?

Two things, and one is simple.

One: Fighting. Get outta here with that shit. It ruins everyones nights.

Two: Kids who are worried more about there clothes and looks, than the music and art that is on hand. Its just not the way I was raised at shows. I think back to my favourite shows as a teen, and I have no idea what anyone was wearing, but I sure remember the circle pits around the sound booth.

What would you say is your favourite thing about Saskatchewan?

Wow, I really have no idea where to start. I'll answer like this. My least favorite thing about saskatchewan, is that I have to drive 30 hours to get to the major markets of Canada to play music, it is so hard!

But my favorite thing to do when I return home from a tour, is get in my car and just drive in the prairie, down dirt grid roads for hours, and just listen to the radio and admire the farmers crops, and the beautiful prairie skies. Thats what I love about Saskatchewan.

Where do you see yourself in five to ten years?

5 years - Making music around the world. DJ-ing, producing, and maybe a new project with some other members.

10 years- Married, 3 kids, and a house with a recording studio, but STILL TOURING THE WORLD!!!!



HERRINGTON

Interview with Tyler

Interview by Bianca Delicata

STITCHED SOUND Issue 12



How did the band start?

I think we've always been a band, before we even knew each other. We all came from metal bands. Me and our drummer, Sean, always played together while Tabe, our bass player, played in other groups from the same area, so we've been friends forever. Our band went on tour and Tabe ended up in the van and the whole time we secretly talked about starting a super band when we got home; so we did. For some reason all we wanted to write 80's hair metal stuff and it was pretty hilarious. Brent was a Katrina refugee. He played in another hardcore band around here so naturally we became friends. It was instant chemistry when we met him and we automatically knew he needed to be in our 80's hair metal group. It's kinda funny, Tabe didn't even know his name for the first two months of jamming together. The hair metal got old real fast, so we took interest in songs I was writing, and Tabe finally learned Brent's name. Everything was perfect. We played a couple more months and played

our first in January, 2009, which we credit as our official start.

What has been the craziest show you've played?

We try to make every show crazy and fun, so it's hard to narrow it down to one. My favorite show we've played is definitely House of Blues with Mayday Parade. It was sold out and the kids were just nuts. I could've said monkey into the mic and they'd just scream. Another time we got stuck playing a two and a half hour set for like five people in Texas. We were the only band and we just made up half the stuff we were playing. Sometimes our metal comes out and we play random break downs. Once Sean ran onto Hawthorne Heights' stage with a cape. We're really spontaneous so every show is unique. We'll play in our underwear if we feel like it.

What is your favourite quality or feature about yourself?

I like our attitudes. We're very optimistic and just have fun no matter what the

situation is. There seriously is never a dull moment around us, and we show that on stage. I also love our musical chemistry. We improvise a lot of random stuff during the performance. When you mix that with our personalities, it's always something goofy and it always makes for a good laugh, which is what we're all about.

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

We wanted something different. We wanted to branch away from generic two or three word phrases like every other band. Herrington stuck out for a few reasons. It's one word, short, classy, three syllables, and easy to say and remember. It's Brent's last name, but we don't think of it like that at all. We've actually found out it's probably the most popular last name in America, which is a good thing because it's constant promotion. Plus it's a dude porn star's last name.



What do you think is overrated, right now?

Ehh, I'm not the person to down things. I just don't really care. Trends aren't really overrated like most outsiders argue. Everyone in music is part of trend in some way anyway, even if you're an extreme indie band. That whole scene is a trend in itself. But I don't judge. If I like it, I like it. Ya know? But one thing I do hate is how serious people take their bands and music and shows and everything. People treat every show as it's a battle of the bands or something. We focus on entertaining, not impressing.

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

It's kind of hard to embarrass us, given our attitudes. But there are some things that should be embarrassing. Like once I accidentally peed on myself, but that's just hilarious. haha. I burp into the mic a lot. Sean falls off his drum throne all the time and everyone laughs at him. There's a video of Tabe busting his ass onto his stage monitor. And most of the time our

jokes are embarrassing because they're so lame. :P

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

I have a few music hero's. The bands I grew up on are a bit different from my band mates. First on my list is Matt and Dan from Alkaline Trio. That's the band that got me into music. That one that makes you want to be in a band, you know? Next I'd have to say the great Johnny Cash. When I was a boy, my dad stuck in his live album "At Folsom Prison" and I was hooked immediately. Honorable mentions include Tom Morello and Zack de la Rocha from Rage Against the Machine and John McCrea from CAKE. All these people molded me.

What makes Herrington different from other bands?

Our obnoxious and fun personalities definitely play a role in that. Our songwriting is a bit different as well. We don't gather ideas from other bands or what's hot right now. We honestly write our own music and love it, and it just

happens be a little poppy, which is a reflection of our character. Our performance is real and our passion is real. It's something you gotta come see for yourself.

What is your worst habit?

This band farts way too much. It's pretty gross. My real worst habit is probably saying inappropriate things on stage. A lot of times in inappropriate settings. haha.

How can fans support Herrington?

Just like you support any other bands. We have all the social media sites so be sure to check those out. I'll list them below. We have two releases on iTunes and Amazon for pretty cheap, our full length "I'll Ask the Rain" and our latest EP "Cursed and Capsized". Aside from that, just coming to shows and hanging out. Picking up a t-shirt, CD, stickers, or buttons. The best promotion is word of mouth, so just tell your friends about us. :)

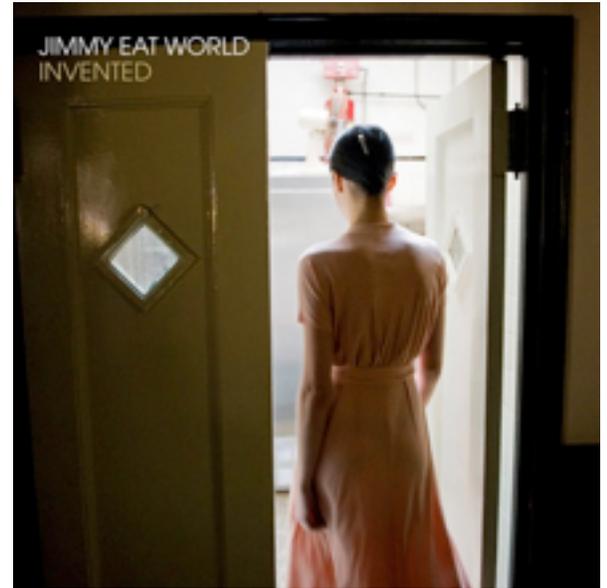
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JIMMY EAT WORLD *INVENTED*

By Sarah Lozano



We live in a world where if an artist or band were to change their style and go in a different direction we'd hate it, where if the band were to sound the exact same with zero no depth to it we'd hate it. One thing I've always liked about Jimmy Eat World is that they're refreshing. You get a slightly new sound that gives you the same good feeling you had the first time you heard them. Their new album *Invented* didn't disappoint me at all. The album was full of beautiful lyrics and even more beautiful lyrics. A song that I feel in love with was "Stop", "Mixtape", and "Invented". In this album Jimmy Eat World has proven to yet again, that you don't have to completely abandon your music style to keep up with the current music scene or dish out the same track we heard all those years ago.



The Scenic *Biopolaroid*

By Catherine Khom



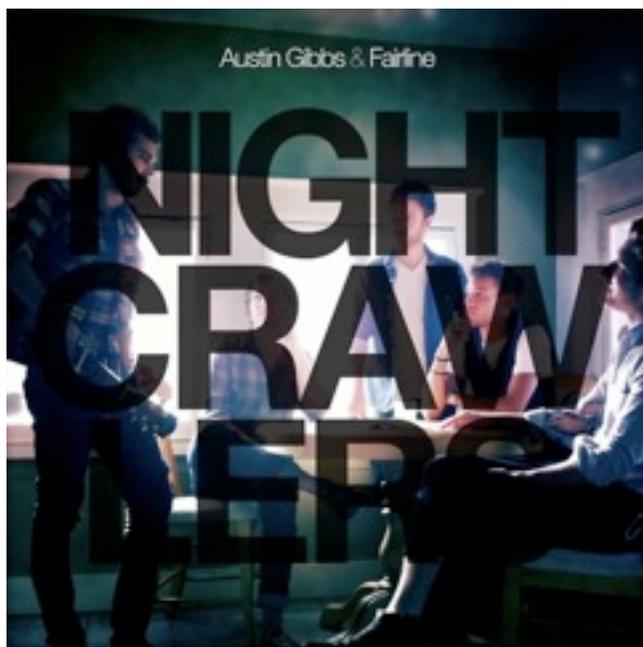
A pop-rock band from Philadelphia with heart pounding beats from the drums to the strings of guitar. The Scenic recently released an album, *Biopolaroid*, with lead singer, Jeremy Menard, Zach Andresen on vocals, Jake Beierschmitt on drums and Frank Romantino on bass. One of their hits, "Find Yourself Here" led them to a discovery as a genuine band. This band is currently signed with Victory Records since March 2008. They toured and gain huge fan base words can't describe as they were approaching writing a new record, *Biopolaroid*. You can tell in the songs, they thought about every single piece of work that went into there songs for fans to hear. They're music is so energy impacted and will you want to jump and at times, make you want to dance. Their album, is based on the fact of them, growing up and appreciating their love and support from fans.

Austin Gibbs & Fairline *Nightcrawlers EP*

By Catherine Khom



Nightcrawlers EP, as you may think has nothing to do with people who crawling into the night but it does have one amazing musician and one inspiring new band. Austin Gibbs and Fairline did a collaboration of music together. They are all sort of their own personal style of music clash into a featured piece. One of my favorites is, "Ready Now" by Austin Gibbs. In this particular song, Gibbs fans will hear a different side of his music and more to the story he is trying to tell. A job well, done for Gibbs and Fairline's "Need A Way Out" will make all Fairline fans even more excited for them to produce a record. This bandsurprised me a lot, from their amazing sound of voice of lead singer, Nathaniel Moon, Jake on bass, Trey on guitar and Kevin on guitar and vocals. Their collaboration of music, was mind blowing on how great the music makes fans to learn more about each performer. I currently believe these two performers will be rising a huge fanbase and good things in their future. This EP should turn into an album, because their work of music and keeps fans speechless and wanting more!



Anberlin *Dark Is The Way, Light Is A Place*



By Sarah Rutz

"Dark Is The Way, Light Is A Place" is the latest studio release from Florida rock outfit Anberlin. It seems like not too long ago they were releasing "New Surrender" (2008), and "Cities" (2007), and despite those releases, Anberlin is still going strong and their music continues to cater to all different kinds of people—it seems that Anberlin doesn't cater to just one genre, or the genre they may be placed in, which is an excellent quality to have today.

The album opens with "We Owe This To Ourselves", which is the shortest song on the album, but an infused anthem intended that will keep the listener interested throughout the rest of the album. Closely following it is "Impossible", the single off the album and the song that most people are familiar with, having released early in July.

The entire album is crafted beautifully, each song flowing effortlessly into the next, fueled by powerful lyrics and familiar tones — "Take Me (As You Found Me)" includes sounds reminiscent of 'Inevitable' from their album "Cities", "Closer", "You Belong Here"

and "Pray Tell" are a trifecta of songs that make up the middle of the album. Next is "Art of War" and "To The Wolves", a powerful song about betrayal and deception that sports lyrics such as "say you love me but you cast the first stone/betrayer/left me outnumbered to the wolves alone" and "who needs enemies when we've got friends like you?"

Finally, "Down" is a softer, acoustic song that winds the album down before "Depraved". Raising the question of "Are you depraved or are you deceived?", this song closes out the album, starting out slowly, but increasing both in tempo and intensity before ending with an incredible, chilling finale in a familiar Anberlin fashion.

Anberlin has once again delivered a flawless album that shows that there is still unique music out there today. Whether it be Stephen Christian's voice or the way that their songs are crafted, each one of Anberlin's songs is different from the last—no song sounds the same. Everything this band does is unique, but it's also always distinctly 'Anberlin'. It's this quality that has kept Anberlin going strong and will keep them a prominent figure in the music world. This is definitely an album that everyone should pick up, because Anberlin's music is the kind of music that you're going to be listening to for a long time.

★★★★ Weezer Hurley

By Stefany Bryan

Weezer, good old Weezer. Their eighth full-length album was released September 14th by Epitaph records. First of all, let me start off by saying that their album artwork is pretty much the most epic cover ever. Secondly, they're just such a classic, how can you not be excited by their not so serious, nerdy music that can be so easily enjoyed? Weezer has also been around for a good amount of time, and people still haven't lost interest, so that's saying something. They're still going strong and I applaud them for that.



Hurley, Weezer's latest work, is just as good as any of their old stuff. The album starts out with "Memories," which has such a catchy chorus; you'll learn it after listening just once. I'm not going to lie, River Cuomo, the lead singer doesn't have the most amazing voice ever. It's not the type that girls swoon over, but its fun and gives you a sense of the band's overall personality. A song that almost makes you feel good about being a loser is "Trainwrecks." For something on the more satirical side, listen to "Where's My Sex," where they replace the word "sex" with "socks." Once, you realize this, you'll smile at Cuomo, and agree with me on the fact that he's a genius at writing songs that are just as witty as they are funny and likable. There still are songs that can sort of be described as "throw outs." Or at least that's how I see them; they just aren't as significant as other songs, but I don't think it's any sort of deal breaker. The album is still good how it is.

Weezer has a way of making things fun. Their music is pleasing and perfect for those moments when you're in need of a lifting of your spirit. Count on *Hurley* to help you realize the not so serious, more for the heck of it side of music. I'm not saying this because their music itself isn't sophisticated enough, because it actually is. The band is filled with talented musicians, but it's just the lyrics that give you that edge of ridiculousness. This is okay because that's what Weezer is about and that's the Weezer people want to hear.

Runner Runner Runner Runner



By Catherine Khom

The SoCal band, Runner Runner, new release of their self-titled album with Capital Records blew me away! Their punk, rock and pop catchy lyrics that fans can relate to, will keep you wanting more. The band, originally from Huntington Beach, California that have a unique sound with pop mixes and amazing performances. The lead singer Ryan Organ, Nick Bailey and Peter Munters as guitarist, Jon Berry as bassist and James Ulrich as drummer keeps their performance alive on stage. Their music is so diverse and is a piece of music, that I would recommend you give a try. They're catchy hit single, "So Obvious" with so many hits on their social media sites such as Myspace. They keep their natural voices alive and you can tell that they love what they do, through each and every song in this album. You will not regret their music and will jamming to them, till forever!

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