

STITCHED SOUND

Issue #13

Chiodos, Black Tide,
Ian Walsh, Escape The Fate,
Emmure +*more*



Photo By Tim Harmon

Halloween Madness.

I always feel like there is so much to do when it's the week before Halloween. I have to get a costume, figure out what I'm going to be, make myself look presentable in the costume - and now I should add finish an issue of Stitched Sound to the list! But it's definitely fun.

So, this is one of our longer issues. I really hope you enjoy it, and be sure to check out the bands!

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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ABANDON ALL SHIPS

By Cynthia Lam

Abandon All Ships set off to do a tour in support of their new album *Geeving*. The tour stopped in Edmonton, Alberta on October 6th, and I was able to attend the show.

Abandon All Ships being a Canadian band - and living in Canada, I've heard a lot of praise about Abandon All Ships and their live performance, and their music in general. I was expecting a lot more from Abandon All Ships.

Before their set even started, the smoke machine started going off and making the room smell like a mess. Their set started off with a great bang and the audience seemed extremely happy about the band.

I found nothing wrong with Abandon All Ships' sound live, but I was still annoyed. With a smoke machine going off every minute, and lasers which seemed to blind most, I wouldn't recommend going to a Abandon All Ships show when you have a headache. Overall, they did put on an extremely good show, getting the crowd involved and ecstatic. The one thing that completely threw me off was the use of autotune live. Maybe it's just me, but I find that using autotune while performing ruins the whole "real" feeling of a show.



BULLET FOR MY VALENTINE

By Cynthia Lam

Bullet For My Valentine embarked on a US/Canadian tour this fall with Escape The Fate, Black Tide, and Drive A. This tour stopped in Edmonton, Alberta on October 17th, 2010 and I was able to attend this event.

The whole night was filled with bands that just made you want to jump, get off your feet, and mosh. Drive A started off the evening, already sending a great vibe through everyone in the venue.

Black Tide put on a fantastic show, the crowd really getting into the music, moving around, and singing along to their catchy tunes.

Bullet For My Valentine put on an amazing show, ending the evening off perfectly. They started off with a big bang, and ended with one as well. By this time the crowd was packed, filled with people of all ages anticipating for Bullet For My Valentine to go on stage and start playing. Into their first song, the crowd was already going crazy, with several people crowd surfing and a pit already forming.



This tour was filled with a solid lineup that fans seemed to enjoy. A night that was filled with being surrounded by energetic kids, and great sets, it's definitely a night to remember.



Interview by Dannielle Corey

SOMERSAULT SUNDAY

If you were responsible for creating a “dream tour” and you could pick any lineup, who be on it?

Hmmm. If I were to be on this “dream tour” with my favorite bands, I’d have to choose A Rocket To The Moon, Owl City, The Ready Set, and Hellogoodbye.

You had mentioned once that you like to mix up your style in terms of genre. For your new EP, can we expect to hear a new or old sound from you?

My new EP features a fresh sound, overall, but there are definitely elements of my older sound. Honestly, I don’t want to limit myself, I just aim to write good pop songs. I don’t plan to ever ditch the whole electronica thing, but my newer music is heading in a slightly different direction.

Although you play a lot of instruments, you claim to have started with Viola. What drew you to Viola? Do you plan on including it on any of your music?

Well one of my sisters played violin, and the other played cello, so being young, I

decided to try picking up the viola. I probably won’t feature much viola in my music, but maybe some background orchestral stuff here and there.

On your Purevolume you made a statement about your dislike towards the industry because it’s “all about looks” (and I can’t say I disagree at all). What are some of the other changes you would like to see in the industry?

My biggest problems are with the mainstream industry. I hate how artists often have to have this certain, cookie cutter sound in order to get to the mainstream level. I honestly don’t think this is because that’s the sound that’s “in”, I think that the mainstream industry and radio sort of controls what people like and listen to. Let’s say I showed my friends Band A, and my friends didn’t like them. A few months later, Band A is on the radio, and everyone loves them. I’ve witnessed this sort of thing, and I think that needs to change. There’s too much to rant about the

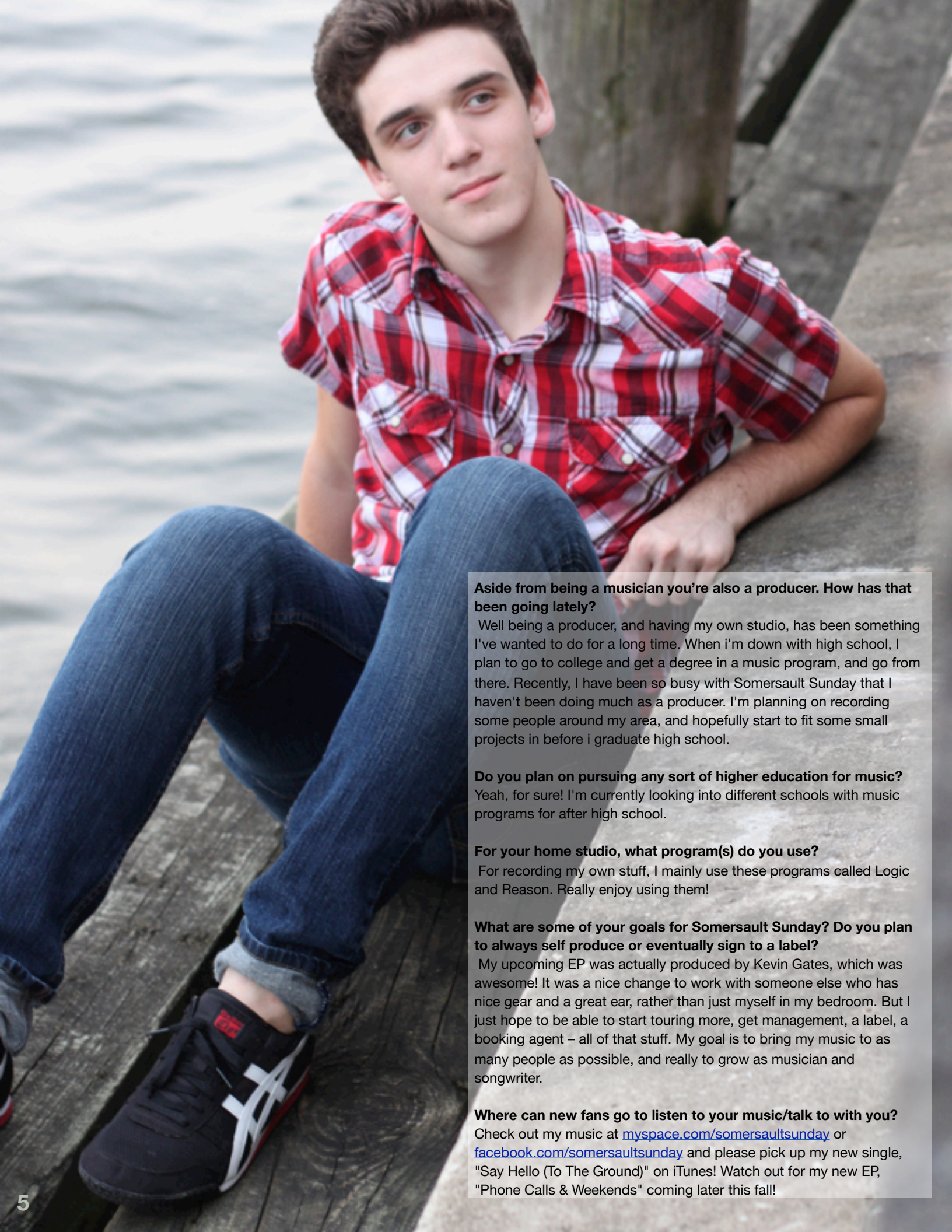
music industry, so I’ll just save everyone’s time and stop now, haha.

So far, what has been your favorite cover?

My favorite cover that I’ve done would probably be “Stacey’s Mom”. It’s super fun to play live, plus I just love the original song itself. It’s such a fun song, and with the dancy-electronic production, I think it has a more original flavor than my other covers.

In what ways have you promoted your music and yourself to gain the growing fan base Somersault Sunday now has?

A lot of my promotion has come from the days when Myspace was popular; but now it’s a combination of being active online, using Facebook, Twitter, Myspace, Purevolume, etc, and also playing shows and passing out flyers at shows that I go just to watch. I’ve never really had any big help with promotion, no marketing yet, none of that. It’s all been accomplished by me, with the help of my fans and friends.



Aside from being a musician you're also a producer. How has that been going lately?

Well being a producer, and having my own studio, has been something I've wanted to do for a long time. When I'm done with high school, I plan to go to college and get a degree in a music program, and go from there. Recently, I have been so busy with Somersault Sunday that I haven't been doing much as a producer. I'm planning on recording some people around my area, and hopefully start to fit some small projects in before I graduate high school.

Do you plan on pursuing any sort of higher education for music?

Yeah, for sure! I'm currently looking into different schools with music programs for after high school.

For your home studio, what program(s) do you use?

For recording my own stuff, I mainly use these programs called Logic and Reason. Really enjoy using them!

What are some of your goals for Somersault Sunday? Do you plan to always self produce or eventually sign to a label?

My upcoming EP was actually produced by Kevin Gates, which was awesome! It was a nice change to work with someone else who has nice gear and a great ear, rather than just myself in my bedroom. But I just hope to be able to start touring more, get management, a label, a booking agent – all of that stuff. My goal is to bring my music to as many people as possible, and really to grow as musician and songwriter.

Where can new fans go to listen to your music/talk to with you?

Check out my music at myspace.com/somersaultsunday or facebook.com/somersaultsunday and please pick up my new single, "Say Hello (To The Ground)" on iTunes! Watch out for my new EP, "Phone Calls & Weekends" coming later this fall!



CASEY IAGOS

Interview by Dannielle Corey
Photo by Esteban Alvarado

How has the transition been from playing with different bands to doing everything yourself?

The transition has been pretty easy actually. With Stick To Your Guns I also wrote/recorded a big portion of the music so it wasn't really anything I wasn't used to. Singing was a bit more work, but I practiced my butt off to get where my voice is now and still need a lot more practice to get it where I want it to be.

Had you always planned on eventually having your own project?

I always did want to go solo. I always thought it would be cool to do everything by myself in this style of music. Not many people have done it and I wanted to be one of the first. It's crazy cause I know tons of people who can do it all on their own but don't. I have so much fun doing it, and I'd like to help break the mold of a band in this genre having to consist of the regular 5 members(2 guitars, bass, drums, vocals). But I also had my doubts..However, after touring with Parkway Drive it left me hungry and motivated to get to their level. After encouragement from a bunch of my friends and family I recorded 'Every Heart'. I told myself if it didn't come out the way I wanted then it would be a sign to not do it. But with the first mix, I couldn't have been any happier listening in my car. I was beyond stoked!

Do you use your own equipment to record or are you working with anyone in particular?

I actually used all of Parkway Drive's guitar/bass stuff. The producer Jason Suwito (Polaris at Noon, Stick To Your Guns, Young The Giant) had an assortment of amps/effects that I also used. I used a combination of his and my drums. Jason's got a great ear, and could make everything I have in my head into reality. I

could say I want a sound that sounds like a spaceship, but going in reverse and a boom at the end.. Then he'd make it. He is also a vocalist and multi-instrumentalist so we worked great together.

When do you hope to start touring?

I am in the middle of trying out members now, and once that is squared away I will book our first show at Chain Reaction in Anaheim. I'd like to tour with it ASAP, but we'll see how it goes. A lot of things depend on when I will get on the road.

Are there any artists you're hoping to work with in the future?

The only artist I want to work with died in 2009. R.I.P. MJ

From playing with Stick to Your Guns, you were able to travel across seas a bit. Did you have a favorite country to visit?

Yeah, real thankful for those opportunities! My favorite places would have to be Palma De Mallorca and Prague. In Prague it almost seemed as if I were in heaven. The way the clouds were opening up for sun rays to come through the first time and all this light would shine onto the cathedrals. The water was glimmering and it was perfect weather. I just remember my mouth dropping with how beautiful it was there. I kinda broke the rules with your question cause I went to Palma De Mallorca with Parkway Drive, it's this small beach island off the coast of Spain. It had THE perfect beaches, the water was so clear. The food was great and so cheap. The people were SO nice and the scene there was actually amazing! I want to get back there!

In your spare time, what do you like to do?

hmm, in my spare time I love to read books and play croquet. Just kidding, I love to hang with family and friends, skateboard, and play music. I'm the type of musician who will jam with anyone, no matter how old they are, no matter how well they play. I just love playing.

How has starting so early in your career been beneficial for you?

Starting early was beneficial to me because now I know what and what not to do when trying to build a band. In a way it's sort of a short cut because I can trim the fat on all the things that don't work. Also just having the experience of traveling and being in a touring environment is helpful, that way I'm not wowed when I go back on the road and there's a problem. I know how to deal with them now.

What advice would you offer to those starting later?

I really don't have any advice except for to be real and just do your best, that's all I'm really doing.

Would you say your new EP has a "theme" or any sort?

The new 'Every Heart EP' does sorta have a theme. It's just very personal and I've always said I'm not a lyricist. I don't try to fool people with big words or analogies, I just want them to feel how I feel. I think you can really feel it. The song topics are ones that a lot of people can relate to. The most common one is me losing my mom to cancer in 8th grade. It talks about trials and how I gained hope through these trials.

Where can new and old fans listen and purchase your music?

You can purchase my new EP on iTunes worldwide!



Interview by Dannielle Corey

SOCIAL CODE

What's the story behind your name?

Nothing real exciting behind the name Social Code to be honest... It was the only name that we came up with that just felt right. We usually make up some wild and interesting story about how we came up with the name but to be honest it's 4am and i'm still jet lagged from our tour in Indonesia and I cant think of anything.

Looking back to when you first started and where you are now, what could you say has changed the most about music in general?

We write chorus' now. We use to be great at writing catchy verses but then fall flat when bringing it all together in a memorable chorus.

After working with each other for so long, do you have a routine when it comes to song/music writing or does it change on a regular basis?

When we first started we would all stand in the same room smashing away on our instruments hoping a song would come out...it would be so loud that no one could really hear what one in other was doing. That way sometimes works but now we get a lot farther with one or two guys strumming an acoustic writing down lyrics as they come. We have a rule that if the song doesn't come across acoustically it's probably no good.

Touring seems pretty glamorous to those who haven't or aren't doing it. What are

some horror stories you have about past tours?

We've toured at all levels. We've gone from airplanes and private villas to minivans and motels. One time a bunch of years ago we opened for the Used as the first day of a cross Canada tour. It was a sold out show at the State theatre in Detroit Michigan, It was great, kids were going crazy. We came off that show feeling like we were on top of the world. Day two of the tour we played a headlining show at a sports bar in Mississauga Ontario. We literally had 18 people watching us. Touring has a way of bringing you up at the best times but also slapping you in the face at the worst. It seems like there's always something that comes up to remind you (pardon the AC/DC quote) that it's a long way to the top if you wanna rock 'n' roll. From transmissions blowing out and having to call a cab to take you and your gear to the next tour date (\$350.00) to flipping the trailer on a back county road only to come back hours later to see someone has taken all your gear. From playing in front of a sold out show in Indonesia (15,000 people) to the next week playing to 15 uninterested people in a sports bar. I'll quote one of our old tour managers as good words to live by... "you gotta take the crunchy with the smooth" amen brother!

Which album of yours would you recommend to new listeners?

Our latest album Rock 'N' Roll is the best.

How do you generally select which song you want as the new single?

Everyone has their opinions on singles... on Rock 'N' Roll we could tell even before Satisfied was finished that it was gonna be the one. It can be a tricky thing especially when a label is involved. You just gotta hope that everyone who is working on your project is on the same page. We've been lucky with Rock 'N' Roll.

Why did you decide to name your last album "Rock n' Roll"?

Cause it's a simple rock record. Some of our other work tended to dabble in other genres a bit so we really wanted to focus this on one thing.

So far, what would you say your biggest accomplishment has been?

All the fans that we've made over the years. It's one thing to write a great record and release it. It's a whole other thing to have people buy it. There is so much music out there these days that to have anyone give a shit about your band is a honour.

In terms of music, what are some guilty pleasures?

I never feel guilty about listening to music. A good song is a good song.

POLARIS AT NOON

Interview with Jason Suwito
Interview by Dannielle Corey



Polaris at Noon is stated to have been derived from a “disappointment in the trend of the music industry”. Can you explain a little more about how Polaris at Noon started?

I had been in a couple bands prior to Polaris at Noon that got the short end of the stick with their record deals. I didn't want to follow in the same footsteps so I wanted to create a new method of self-releasing music.

How did you come up with the name “Polaris at Noon”?

I came up with the name one night as I was going to bed. As you know, Polaris is the north star. Stars are not visible during the day. Essentially, the name can be interpreted to mean that just because you can't see something, doesn't mean it doesn't exist.

Do you already have plans for your “second season”?

Yes, I've been working hard to complete season two.

What are you doing to make your music different?

I don't think I consciously strive to make my music different than other artists. I write what I like, and if it happens to be considered different, I'm all for it.

As a band, what has been your biggest accomplishment?

Releasing Season One.

Do you all take part in songwriting or is it one person's job?

The music is all written by me.

Before Polaris at Noon what were you doing?

Playing in other bands and attending college.

Your single “Time” was recently released, what lyric stands out the most to you?

When I'm old, will I be regretful?

When I'm old, will I be alone?

That pre-chorus really outlines a common fear that people have. I know I've felt that way before, and I want to make my life as meaningful as possible.

Which artists have been your favorite to share the stage with?

I did a tour in the UK with the Plain White T's which was probably one of the best times of my life. As Polaris At Noon, my favorite show so far was with Lydia in San Francisco.

What can we expect to see from Polaris at Noon?

I can tell you that Season Two will be different from Season One. I'm excited for people to hear the new direction that the music is heading. It's a lot heavier electronically but still retains rock / pop elements.

CHIODOS

Interview with Tanner Wayne
Interview by Cynthia Lam
Photo by Tim Harmon



Looking back to when you were a kid, would you expect to grow up and become a touring musician? What did you want to be when you were child?

When I was a child I don't think I expected to be a touring musician. I would wake up early everyday and dress up as a cowboy. Boots, hat, badge etc. When I was about 12 or 13 I started to become obsessed with Blink 182 and Travis Barker, so that's when I set my sights on becoming a touring musician.

Who was your biggest inspiration(s) growing up? Are they more or less the same now?

Musically it was Travis Barker, John Otto (Limp Bizkit) and other drummers I was emulating at the time. But my biggest influence is my dad. He plays a lot of instruments and I'm sure I wouldn't be where I am now without him and his support.

Were you a fan of Chiodos before you joined the band?

Yea, I started listening to them right before *All's Well That Ends Well* came out. It was a new sound that I was enjoying. I also loved *Bone Palace Ballet*. Their sound/style is unlike any others. I think that's why they've had so much success.

How do you feel about fans being upset at Chiodos for the new lineup change? Is there something you'd like to say to them?

It really bums me out. I see kids hitting up Craig directly, talking shit and what not. What bums me out about it, is that kids care more about drama and individual members of bands, rather than just appreciating music. If Travis Barker got

kicked out of Blink 182, the last thing I would do is hit up Tom and Mark and tell them they suck.

Chiodos will be going on the Congregation of the Damned Tour starting on the 20th. Is there a certain city (or cities) that you are excited to visit and play at?

I'm really excited to play in Canada. The only times I've played in Canada were on Warped Tour, so it was outside. I'm excited to see how their club scene is. I'm also stoked that the tour starts and ends in southern California, since it's not far from San Diego where I'm living.

Would you say you have added something new and/or interesting to Chiodos?

Without sounding cocky, yes. I really enjoyed all the drum work from Derrick Frost, but I wanted to incorporate a more aggressive and flashy style. Jason's guitar work was the best template to push my drumming to the next limit. I love playing with the guys live too. Before I joined the band I probably saw them over 100 times. I was excited to push the live show to the next limit, and make it a little heavier, especially for the tours we've done in the past year.

While writing and recording *Illuminaudio*, would you say that you encountered any obstacles that you've never had to face? How did you overcome them?

There weren't too many obstacles. I knew I had to step my game up, but that wasn't putting any extra pressure on me. I've known these guys for years and it was a pretty smooth transition. I'd say getting over my fear of flying was the only problem. I hate flying!!

What is your favourite song off that album to play, or record? What makes it your favourite?

I really enjoy "Scaremonger". It's a style of drumming I've been dying to use in a song for a long time. There's a lot of Mars Volta influence, as well as a lot of Stewart Copeland (The Police) influence. We put most of the song together in the studio.

Would you say that *Illuminaudio* is a concept album? Is there a message behind it?

It's not a concept album, but there's definitely a message. Finding positivity through sound, illuminate through audio. I was saying how it's a let down that fans care more about drama than music, so I'm hoping that our CD helps shine a positive light for anybody feeling negative.

Do you think you could sum up the Chiodos overall (the members, message, music) in one word? What would it be, and why?

REAL. There's no gimmick going on. We're six guys that love music, and have a strong desire to write and perform.

Is there a message that you'd like to spread to the world through music?

Listen to what YOU want. Don't let other people's judgments affect your music taste, or even your life in general. I constantly see kids chatting about who's the best band and so on. It saddens me that kids can't think for themselves. You probably wouldn't guess that my favorite artist/bands are John Mayer and Coldplay. Be yourself.

What should fans expect from Chiodos in the future?

Surprises! We're going to be touring our asses off, so come check us out!

FAR FROM PROPER

How did you meet the other members of Far From Proper and was there a factor that drew you guys to be friends?

Well I met Jesse, the drummer, sophomore year of high school and we both thought it would be cool to play the school battle of the bands, so we threw something together real quick. Jesse knew that Angelo played guitar, but neither of us really knew him well. We picked up a bassist we met online, and then asked a girl we knew to sing for us. Not long after that I got a call from my old friend Nick I knew through a summer drama camp and he asked if we needed a front man. So I told him to come try out and we knew right after his audition that he was in. Then we picked up a new bassist Tyler who which I knew from the same summer camp.

Who were your biggest inspirations musically? How have they influenced you in your musical journey?

My biggest inspirations musically are, Adam Young, Dallas Green, Hit The Lights, Oceano, and The Ghost Inside. I have an extremely eclectic love for music. As a band I think our biggest influences are Four Year Strong, Hit the Lights, Paramore, The Years Gone By, Set Your Goals, New Found Glory, and Veera.

What do you think is the biggest obstacle for artists today that may not have been a problem a few years prior? Do you even think there is one?

I think the biggest obstacles for bands today is that the industry has become all about trends instead of uniqueness. It's hard for bands to have a creative and original sound today because it's all about fame now.

So in the past years the internet has been a huge factor and parts of bands and their way of spreading their music. In what way would you say the internet has helped Far From Proper?

Oh yes definitely. I mean, Myspace isn't as popular as it used to be, that's for sure. But having access to things like Facebook, Twitter, and Purevolume, it's helped so much in getting us noticed.

What would you say Far From Proper's writing style is like? Would you describe it as collaborative or not?

Yes our writing is for the most part collaborative. One of the guitarist, either myself or Angelo will bring a small riff to the table, and then we all just build onto it.

Do you and your band members get into a lot of arguments about the style of music or how the lyrics or music should go while

writing? Do you have a story or an example?

Hahahahahaha, well not really, we don't fight about song writing really. We just fight about other dumb shit in general.

What has been your favourite song to write and record so far?

I think for me my favorite song to write and record was Cloud Nine. Everything just blends perfectly in that song. We had a lot of fun writing it.

Have you been able to try any new instruments while writing and recording, or to learn something new on your instrument (like a new guitar or drum technique, etc.)? What was it?

I learned some new finger techniques on the guitar, and I've also picked up the drums pretty well.

What should we expect from Far From Proper in the future?

I think everyone should keep us in the back of their mind and give us a chance. We're making a lot of big moves right now that in the long run will benefit us greatly. Hopefully if everything goes as planned you'll be seeing a lot more of us!





BLACK TIDE

Interview with Zakk Sandler and Steven Spence
Interview by Cynthia Lam

Would you say that you've grown musically since you first joined Black Tide?

Zakk: Oh yeah. I've been in this band since I was fourteen so if I didn't I'd be in a lot of trouble.

Steven: I feel like we're still growing, every day. We're always learning new things and especially after every tour we're progressing.

So you have a new album coming out in 2011, would you say that it's different from your last album?

Zakk: Definitely.

Steven: I'm glad it does differ because you never want to put out the same record twice.

Zakk: It's the growth of where we were at three years ago till now. We're much older now, we're better musicians, we're better writers.

Steven: It might seem like a more drastic change to everyone else outside of the band, but honestly we've had these songs... some of these songs Gabriel

wrote when he was ten, so they're almost eight years old when these record comes out. Basically what i'm trying to say is we've had these songs for a long time, so we've become the band we are today, over time.

Are there any songs on the album that fans might not expect?

Zakk: I think songs like "Into The Sky"

Steven: A song like "Into The Sky" which is Gabriel and his acoustic guitar singing about a loved one that passed away is definitely not expected.

Zakk: Even like Bury Me is unexpected, or Honest Eyes.

So you guys played Warped Tour in 2009, how was this different from other tours?

Steven: It was like summer camp on wheels.

Zakk: That's not our usual demographic that we go from.

Steven: It was a bit overwhelming just because there were so many bands.

There was just over sixty bands. It was kind of cool though, made so many friends. I felt like a carny, like every day waking up. It was awesome, it was a great experience, I wouldn't take it back.

Would you say there is a band that changed your life?

Steven: I think Avenged Sevenfold changed my life, that tour that we went on. It was our second tour, and being able to watch those dudes every single night, on stage and killing it.

Zakk: That just made it more real to us.

Where do you expect to be in five years?

Zakk: Doing this in Bullet's spot!

Steven: Hopefully to be the main attraction.

Watch the full interview with Black Tide at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uNbiejN8Fkk>

OVER 9000

Interview by Sarah Lozano

Why go for a Dragon Ball Z themed name?

We chose the Dragon Ball Z themed name, not necessarily because it was actually FROM Dragon Ball Z, but because of the meaning it had to us. In the series, it was one of the highest power levels that had been seen at the time, so we see it as "the highest you can go with something" or "the best you can do with something," so the name serves as a reminder to always strive to be the best we can be. Plus, at one time or another, we were all pretty big Dragon Ball Z fans.

When the band started was it just for fun or has your main focused always to get signed and make music for a living?

Well, this band came together through the process of other bands breaking up. It started when Jawn's former band split & he joined Awsten's band. Then, that band went on a break after some members split. So, it was Awsten & Jawn that were left & decided to change the name of the band & get new members & write new music. So, Otto contacted us over the band's Myspace after seeing a blog we had about looking for a drummer. So, we decided on the name "Over 9000!" (for the reasons listed in the question previous to this) and began to write new music & play shows. We play music because it's the most fun thing in the world to write & play shows. We would definitely not hesitate to sign to a label because this is what all of us would like to do for a living, but it's always been about making an impact on this scene & having fun while doing so.

How important do you think it is for a band to get signed now and day?

Nowadays, it seems like more bands are doing it themselves, which is awesome if you have your own connections and resources. Labels/managers have the connections you need to do

everything that your band has got to get done (merch, recording, music videos, etc). Having a label would definitely make managing a band easier, but technology today has made things to where it's possible to manage your band entirely yourself.

It seems that every five minutes someone new is releasing EP and getting noticed quickly. Do you see the competition for getting signed harder since it's getting so easy for someone create their demo's and market themselves?

Considering that there are constantly new artists emerging with EPs, demos, & LPs, I do believe there is more music to dig through before a label finds someone they like. Just because a ridiculous amount of music is being released doesn't necessarily mean it's all good either, so I suppose yes and no. There is more music, but it's not necessarily all good. Therefore, I don't think the competition has increased by much

What do you think of the term sell-out?

I think the term sell-out is something that is thrown around much too loosely these days. It's also "cool" for kids to bash on a band as soon as they put out a new record by labeling them a "sell-out." Usually the "labeling" happens whenever a band decides to tweak their sound and try something different. Selling out is creating music strictly to make money and be successful. I won't give names, but I think it's pretty obvious when a band is trying to sell out and get on a major label and people should really think before they stupidly drool the word "sell-out" on a band for trying to branch out as far as creativity.

What's been the bands biggest accomplishment?

Our biggest accomplishment would probably relate to our recording experience we were so privileged to be a part of this Summer. We flew up to Detroit, Michigan to 37 Studios, who has worked with such bands as Chiodos, I See Stars, Attila & more, to record our 9 track EP which was produced by Brent Allen (I See Stars). We released our first single from that EP, "You Can't Ask Questions During Movie Night" over the radio on 90.1 along with a live acoustic performance which was a great experience.

Who or what influences your music the most?

Everything in our lives influences our band and the music we create. We really try to take influences of things that aren't musical to come up with a unique sound, instead of strictly taking influence from other bands and trying to recreate what they've already perfected. It's a really fun process, but then it makes explaining our sound to people difficult. Getting asked "So, what do you guys sound like?" is a question that all of us cringe at, but it's something people expect us to have an answer to, so hopefully our new record can give them the answer they're looking for.

Last question what can we be expecting from Over 9000 in the next few years?

We plan to move forward in a dedicated fashion, & not lose sight of our goals or get side tracked. We want to make as much music as we can and perform to as many people as possible in an effort to make a profound impact. So, you can expect a lot more music and hopefully pull something good out of our being (and into your own life) from what we've created for you. & this is what we tried to avoid:
HURR DURR WE'R JUSS 3 REGULAR GUYS WHO GOT TOGETHER TO HAVE FUN & PLAY MUSIC AND THEN REALIZED WE HAD SOMETHING SPECIAL HURRRRRR.



FROM THE ROOFTOP

Interview with Seth Umgaugh & Damon Taylor Interview by Cynthia Lam

Would you say that From The Rooftop has a unique quality that makes you different from other artists and bands who would be considered in your "scene"? What is this quality?

Seth: One thing that really sets us apart from other bands that are similar to our style is the fact that we, as individuals, draw influences from totally different genres. When we first started playing together we had a lot of arguments about the direction we should go in because Damon was very interested in 80's ballads, while I had an interest in "emo" and pop punk. We feel that, because we had these differences from the very start, we got a more diverse sound than some other bands that play songs like ours.

Where do you draw inspirations for your lyrics?

Seth & Damon: We draw inspiration from honest emotion. Most of the songs are about girls we've dated (separately

of course), and situations we have been in with young love. We just try to write about what we know.

Is there a certain artist or band who has influenced you in a big way? How?

Damon: I think we can both agree that our biggest influence in the music industry is Dashboard Confessional. If it hadn't been for "Swiss Army Romance" we may have never even started writing music of our own. Seth introduced me to the album, and it was really the first time I agreed that this should be the direction we would go in.

What made you decide to go with an acoustic sound?

Seth & Damon: As we said before, Dashboard Confessional was a huge influence, and that acoustic sound really appealed to us. Also when we sang together we found that we had a pretty good blend and we obsessed over

vocal harmony. We were afraid that if we added too many other components to our sound it would get muddy and our harmonies wouldn't stand out the way they do. That's why we stick to a few instruments and an acoustic feel.

Do you have a favourite song that you've written? Why is this?

Seth: It's impossible to choose a favorite that we've written because in my opinion they're all favorites at some point. Damon and I both have a new favorite song everyday, but I hold all the songs that we've written so dear that I could never choose just one as the one.

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

Damon: Over production. We've always believed in our live performance. Production is great where it's needed, but if it isn't broken don't fix it.



What are your thoughts of illegally downloading music? Do you agree with the statement "illegally downloading music is the downfall of the music industry"? Why or why not?

Seth & Damon: We agree with that statement 100%. As a band that doesn't have a mainstream following, it's very difficult to come up with the funds necessary to do all the things that we want to do. We've already come across links to pages where people can get our songs for free, and that's really stealing directly from us. We're not saying it's about the money, but without a record label we can't fund tours without it.

What it comes down to is, if people steal our music, we can't pay for gas to get to shows.

How big of a part would you say does the internet have in From The Rooftop?

A. Damon: The internet has been a huge part of the way we promote and reach fans. It's really one of the best tools we have to increase our fan base.

What in your opinion would make a great show?

Seth: I think the key to a good live performance is having fun and getting the crowd involved. When you're having fun on stage the rest of the performance tends to just fall into place. My idea of a perfect show is one where I hear the crowd singing more clearly than I hear myself in the monitor.

Where do you expect to be in a few years?

Seth & Damon: In the next few years we hope to be signed by a major label and on a nationwide tour. We like to dream big.

Is there any way that fans can help support From The Rooftop?

Seth & Damon: The best way for fans to support From The Rooftop is to buy our music, and tell their friends about us.

Anything else that you'd like to add?

We would just like to say thanks to everyone who has supported us by coming to a show, buying some music, or just giving us the encouragement to succeed. We'd also like to thank Stitched Sound for the opportunity to tell a little more about ourselves. You can buy our music on iTunes.com and Amazon.com. You can also check us out on myspace, purevolume, twitter, and facebook.



IAN WALSH

Interview by Cynthia Lam

Who were your biggest inspirations musically growing up? Would you say that they have influenced your music style? How?

There were so many people and bands that inspired me throughout my years growing up and also my development into a songwriter. Besides The Beatles, I would say that my Father, who is a guitarist, was always the one keeping me interested in music. He was always shedding wisdom and showing me right from wrong when it came to taste.

What would you say makes you different from other artists out there?

What (I hope) makes me different is that I'm always trying to find different ways to pass emotion through a song. Most artists know the formulas and the paths set by other artists and stick to them, but where is the originality in that? I try to be honest and take as many back roads as I can to get to the same destination. Whether I am successful or not is up to the listener, I guess.

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

With each song comes a different mood and place. The only constant setting is the fall. I love writing songs in the fall and I like recording them even more. I know this might sound "emo" to some, but I assure you I am NOT "emo".

Looking back to three years ago would you expect to be where you are now?

"Where I am now" is still in transit. I would love to be where I want to be, but I'm not there yet. But the beauty is in the journey. Three years ago I just graduated high school and had no idea what I was doing, where I was going, what I wanted, and that never changed. The only major paradigm shift that occurred was when I dropped out of Berklee College of Music, decided to stop screwing around, and really have a go at it. But to answer the question: I totally had no idea!

What is your writing process for songs like? Is there anything specific that seems to inspire you lyrically?

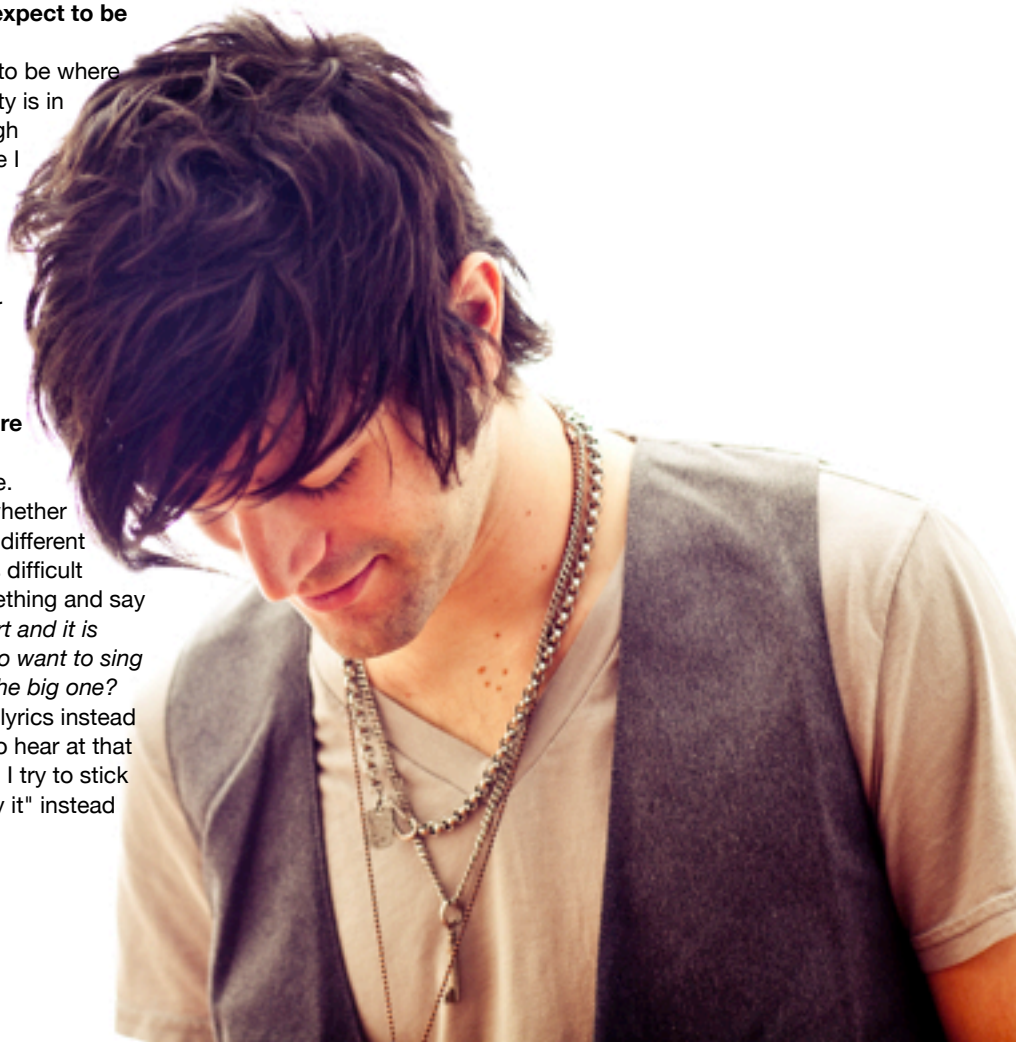
My writing process is an ever-changing machine. All of my songs came about in different ways, whether it have been from all different situations or from different instruments. Lyrically I try to be myself, which is difficult sometimes. Half the time you start singing something and say *is this really me or am I just trying to sound smart and it is making me sound stupid? Or Am I really going to want to sing these lyrics for the rest of my life if this song is the big one?* When you are truly honest to yourself with your lyrics instead of just telling people what *you think* they want to hear at that specific time, you will get tired of it pretty quick. I try to stick to the John Lennon method of "Just fucking say it" instead of dancing around it.

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

I have just recently begun to try out putting a message into my music. My two newest songs "Are They Every Going To know" and "Beyond Explanation" have very strong messages inside. All positive things like not giving up on love or peace and blowing off what others think about you. Its just what I was feeling at the time though, I'm really not into preachy music.

What advice would you give to kids who are starting to take their journey into the music industry?

My advice would be to have open arms to change. Your band members will leave, new band members will join, your situation will change, your look will change, your sound will change, and your life will change. This is called growth and it is positive. Try your best to keep your head up in one of the most discouraging businesses of all and march ahead. Have real lawyers read over anything before you sign it and make the changes they suggest. Don't wait for anyone else to do anything, you should go out and get it done yourself. And also, the pop-punk thing is way over done, stay away from that. Every one of those bands does the EXACT same thing it seems. If you sound anything like any other band out there, scrap your ideas and start over. (it doesn't matter if the girls like you while you are singing your All Time Low cover, ATL already has that down, find your own style and make it work)



Is there anything that you regret doing, and/or wish you could turn back time doing?

I regret letting other people tell me to be somebody different and me listening to them. That was an awful point in my life. There is a difference between being unique and mediocre. Just because the crowd doesn't fully understand now doesn't mean they won't ever. Keep your confidence and keep doing your thing.

What do you think is the most overrated thing in the entertainment and/or music industry these days?

We live in a world of smoke and mirrors. Show biz is one big illusion. It's hard to decipher what's real and what's not. Music has become so aided by technology that not even people on the inside of things can truly tell who is actually great or not. Some people are so shameless that they take the obvious routes, but does that make them overrated? This is a confusing issue to me. Being overrated can really only apply to artists that truly take themselves seriously. I just honestly can say that many people can take themselves seriously knowing all of the technological crutches they use both in the studio and on stage. If they do well then it's the end of the world as we know it. If I had to give an answer I would say that most of today's artists are overrated by the public. (this is only my opinion of course)

What does music mean to you?

Music is my meaning of life. I was made for this. Corny, but true!

Do you have any plans for the future?

I plan to release a bunch of songs from my solo career over the course of the year and my band Find Vienna will also be chugging along. I'm excited for what is to come.



ESCAPE THE FATE

Interview with Robert Ortiz
Interview by Cynthia Lam



Have you grown musically since you first joined Escape The Fate? Yeah, when I first joined Escape The Fate I didn't know how to hit right. I'm obsessed with practicing. I'm actually on a vacation from practicing right now. When we were making the album, I was in a jail cell basically, playing for ten hours a day. Nothing can hold me back now, musically, and the band, nothing can hold us back, except delayed flights. But other than that, we've definitely grown a lot. We know how to put a song together now with an edge. It used to be, you try to be poppy, you try to write a hit, or you just write the craziest thing you can think of. There's the technical part of it, you get better because you just play longer, then there's the side of it where you learn shit, you learn how to

mix it up and make a good song, that means something to people.

You guys have a new self-titled album coming out on November 2nd. How would you say this differs from *This War Is Ours*? The real difference between *This War Is Ours*, and the new self-titled album, we had to go for making a record, making a masterpiece, making a work of art. When I die, it will mean something, my name can be attached to that, and people will remember me for that sound. While as *This War Is Ours*, we were just trying to make something to get it done, to get on the road, and to be a band, and keep the train moving to get us to where we are now.

Where do you hope to see yourself in five to ten years?

Five years, I don't know. The beauty of this band is I don't fucking know. We're either going to be the biggest band ever, or we're going to blow right into the peak of everything. I'm happy with either one, I don't care. I'm just going to keep going and taking it a day at a time, 'cause if I plan too far ahead, I'll go crazy. Five years? I don't know. I want you to remember me.

Watch the full interview with Robert at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WGS6xjUryCA>

FAREWELL TO FREEWAY

Interview with Chris
Interview by Cynthia Lam



How would you say Farewell To Freeway is different from other bands who might be considered in your "scene"?

We're not so different from other bands in our scene except we're all your favourite smashed into one.

While growing up, who were your biggest influences? Would you say they have carried on into your music?

If we all had to pick one band to agree on it would probably be Pantera and then each of us have individual influences. We are also influenced by our friends and peers.

What made you choose the instrument that you play now? How old were you when you first started playing it?

I(Chris) chose to play the guitar when I was 12 or 13 because the local music shop let me jam out Nirvana tunes forever and it was something to do on my walk home from school.

While writing music, do you find that you ever get writers block?

When we write songs we often write a lot around the same time, so sometimes we get caught up in a pattern and have to re-arrange or come up with something new which takes more thought, time and effort.

In your opinion, what is the hardest part about being in the studio?

Trying to get every idea you have and wanted recorded.

Do you prefer recording or touring/playing a show? Why?

I think I can speak for all of us and say we love touring more, because we get to travel, meet people and best of all play our music in front of people.

What makes a Farewell To Freeway song?

Heaviness and melody.

What is the craziest thing that has happened on tour?

We always have many crazy after parties with bands and new friends on tour, BUT one night heading home from a 4 week tour we slipped on black ice and jack-knifed the van and trailer going 70 mph. We thought we we're done for, but we pulled through in the end...unbelievable.

Is there anything specific that you like seeing from a crowd while playing?

Everyone having a good time!

Where do you hope to be a year forward?

Playing shows for as many people possible.

Farewell To Freeway will be releasing a new album this winter. Be sure to keep an eye out for it!

THE GULLS

Interview by Bianca Delicata

At what point in your life were you positive that you wanted to make music?

June 25th, 2009.

What was the most fun tour you've ever done?

One time we planned a full night of playing at each of our friends' different apartments. We just walked around and stopped at each place and played a few songs and we were on our way. It was easy, relaxed, and there was no pressure. Everyone seemed to have a really good time. But when we go on our first tour, we'll get back to you.

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

Paracoccidioidomycosisproctitisarcomucosis, our good friends from San Juan del Rio, Qro., Querétaro, Mexico.

What bands/musicians have inspired you?

Good Old War, Vampire Weekend, Camera Obscura, Blink-182, The Cat Empire, The Beach Boys, Deertick, The Cox Family.

If you were thrown in-jail, and you get only one phone call, who would you call to bail-you-out?

Jordan: My mom.

Ryan: The Ghost Busters. I don't know what they would be able to do in my situation, but I just always figured if you've got one call they are a popular choice.

Charlie: Paul Rudd. He seems like a good guy.

What is your biggest pet-peeve on tour?

Not being on one at this very second.

How have listeners reacted to your music?

Everyone thinks it's fun, which is all we really wanted. We want people to enjoy it. Whether they like the lyrics or the arrangements, we just want it to make people happy. If listeners smile when they hear one of our songs, then we did our job.

What is the craziest thing a fan has ever done to get your attention?

Show up at our front tour and demand a private show with a happy ending. It was weird.

Do you have any early-2011 tour plans?

We hope so. Call us, we'll play for you and your friends.

How can fans support The Gulls?

Come to the shows if you're around and tell your friends, but we just really want everyone to hear us and give us a solid listen. Enjoy the music and HAVE FUN!!!





HOPE FOR AM

Interview by Bianca Delicata

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

Keeping up with bills back at home. I'm just waiting for the tour that end with us coming home to no cell phones, or homes.

Harry Potter, Twilight, or neither?

Let's see Harry potter and his gang fight the twilight gang cage match style. Then I'll answer.

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

Animal is a muppet not a sesame street gang member. I saw weird Al live at the San Mateo County fair and I knew I had to perform.

What would be your dream instrument to own?

One of those one-man-band suits. I think I could rock that.

How did the members of Hope For Am meet?

We were all put into a dark cellar together at random by jigsaw the guy from the saw movies. There used to be 6 of us. :(

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

Yo mommas numba.

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

Paramore, A Day To Remember and Dave Matthews Band.

What genre would you consider the band to be?

Grind-folk-pop-core.

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

Lil John meets Slayer? I could hit that.

Do you ever feel used by your fans?

No.

THE ENERGY

Interview by Dannielle Corey

How did you all come together as a band?

James and I have been in the band the longest, we've known each other for about 11 years. Initially it was 5 people but 3 of those guys aren't in the band anymore. I used to do a lot of theatre and so one of the shows I was in Zach, the drummer, was in the pit for the show so we got together and started doing original stuff. We put out an ad on Craig's list and had people audition and Ian impressed us in his audition.

What was it like opening for musicians such as Ryan Cabrera and 3 Doors Down?

I would say 3 Doors Down was one of the best shows we've ever played in our life, hands down. There were about 6,000 people and we played for an hour before them. We actually didn't find out about the show until 2 days before. From where we are we're building and growing and hoping to be a band that plays in front of that many people. So when you get an opportunity like that, it's a taste of the future.

How do you think old and new fans will react to your new album?

We test out our stuff on tour to see how people will react to it. So far we've

noticed that as we play more new stuff, we're selling more of our older albums. A lot of people have really dug our new CD. Even though our sound has changed, it's still a representation of who we are. We're not a different band, we're just more refined.

A lot of bands have rituals or "Band Sunday" where they don't work but just spend time together. How do you guys spend time together on your days off?

We're all good friends and like to hang out a lot. Our favorite thing to do is go out to eat together. We also work out together at the gym or take jogs.

When did you start building the management team you have?

We signed with a booking agent about a year into the band. Six months after we got our booking agent we then got a licensing agent. Finally, about a year after that, we got an online marketing team.

Recently just toured with Vertical Horizon, how was that? Was that your first summer tour?

We've toured before, that was our first time playing with them. Since we were a cover band they were huge influences on us so to be able to play with them and get to know them was awesome.

Have you guys talked about joining a label anytime soon?

I think invariably we will hook up with a label eventually. Basically for an indie band we've had a lot of successes but we want to make sure we're getting a deal that really works for us and since we do have a booking agent, publicist, management, online marketing team we sort of have our own label. They'll come a time where it makes sense for us to do that.

What can we expect from The Energy?

A tour and a new album coming out on the 11th of January.

Anything else?

If you've heard of us or like what we do thanks so much for your support and keep listening and for the readers who haven't heard of us or maybe have heard of us a little bit, check us out because I think we have something that will and does appeal to a lot of people. We believe in our music and we think we have good messages in what we do and we want to share that with as many people as possible.





Interview by Cynthia Lam

LIFESTORY MONOLOGUE

Would you say that Lifestory Monologue brings something new to the music scene? What is it?

This is always a loaded question of sorts. No one really wants to brag and say they are the most unique, "happening" new sounding band, and no one really wants to pigeon-hole themselves into a certain genre and say "we sound exactly like so and so". We try to write songs that we would enjoy hearing, and that push each other in new, challenging directions musically. We are also very conscious of trying to not have any of our songs sound just like another. We love variety. When writing the new album we spent countless hours hashing and rehashing songs and sections, trying some parts 20 or 30 different ways until we found what felt exactly right. In the end I think the approach yielded a product that we are all very proud of, and whether it be something completely new and unique or not, it is something we are happy with, and very excited to for people to hear.

Speaking outside of specifically musical offerings, I think one thing we bring to the table that isn't necessarily new, but is I feel is strongly lacking in the current music scene is PASSION. Much has changed in the 7 or 8 years since the 6 of us started playing music, for better or worse, and I feel as though in a few ways we are a band that really stands for the past. When we were growing up, just starting to go to (and later play) shows, the scene was very strong. Shows were always packed, every city had what seemed like dozens of local bands that were playing all the time, bigger tours were coming through because the attendance was there to support that, and most importantly it seemed like everyone CARED more than they do now. (I'm not speaking just about Guelph either, we've seen this phenomenon accross almost every city we've been playing in Ontario the last 6 years and even to an extent out east and into the midwestern states.) I remember going to shows with crowds 200-300 strong, and everyone knew each other, then the bands

would get on stage and play songs that they believed in, and everyone stayed inside and watched every band. The lyrics meant something to the bands and the crowd, and actually had a message that the bands weren't afraid to speak about; and whether or not I always agreed with what they were saying, the fact that they were saying it was the important part.

Fast-forward 6 years. Our generation of bands has seen gas prices skyrocket and consequently ticket and merch prices, auto-tune has become an acceptable instrument, and the age has already come and gone in those 6 years where I have seen bands get signed based on their myspace/facebook/twitter plays or friend count alone. All these things have been great tools when used in context, but I feel like the oversaturation has in a way affected the music scene in a very negative way. As I said, we've personally seen show attendance drop, watched many local scenes go from a close-knit, albeit large, group of friends to a cliquy fashion show where kids will stand outside the whole show rather than support bands from out of town, and have gone from a day when we could play the same city 3 times in a month if we wanted and have 5 different bands on the bill with us to struggling to find 3 bands in any given city that we can play with once every 2 months. And I think this can all be tied back to PASSION. Very few are passionate about music and their scene anymore, and I think this all really comes back to the implications of digital marketing. It's very hard to convey passion through a facebook invite, whereas when I was young, I heard about shows from someone coming up to me and handing me a flyer and asking me if I had heard the new AFI record. I'm by no means a technophobe, and understand that all these things are here to stay, a necessary evil of sorts, and we use facebook/myspace/twitter etc. just as much as the next band, however I think its good to have perspective sometimes, which is, in a long-winded answer, what we bring to the music

scene. We are very passionate about our music and message, and will stand behind it to the bitter end. We also try very hard to be even more passionate about every scene (and the bands and people in it) we encounter when travelling, and hopefully through our music or just our company can instill in these people and places some of the same sense of passion I remember feeling 6 years ago when I was growing up.

Being from Guleph, Ontario, would you say that you were surrounded by a great local music scene growing up? Did you have a favourite artist/band?

Growing up the music scene in Guelph was fantastic. At the time, it seemed like there was a show happening at some bar, loft, church or gymnasium 3 nights a week almost every week, thrown by local kids. Plus, the more reputable promoters in town had many of the bigger punk/ska/metal etc. packages that would be only hitting Toronto/London/Montreal other than Guelph coming through at least twice a month. Every show used to be packed, and it seemed like when we were in high school everyone and his brother had a band. I think more than anything that was what inspired us all to play music originally. We were all going to these shows anyway, so why not be playing too?

The 5 of us (Mike isn't from Guelph originally) played in a few different bands before Lifestory, but if I were to pick two specific local influences on LSM, I think it would be Motion Picture Cinema and Race Well Run. MPC was a group of guys a few years older than us that went to the same school, and they played mostly instrumental post rock. This was before I had really heard anything from the genre, and I remember the first time I saw them live I was blown away by what they were doing. This opened me up to the whole genre and really changed my perspective on creativity in rock music and what you can really do with a guitar and a few pedals.

Continued >>

I think hearing them was a big inspiration when we all started this band to just be individuals. Don't try to sound like every other band, instead do your own thing. Race Well Run inspired us for entirely different reasons. They were all good friends of ours who had started to make a name for themselves around the Guelph scene a year or so before we started the band, and had also started to play small tours around Southern Ontario. They, along with other friends of ours in Skylight Drama and a few other bands from the area were really starting to gain some momentum in that market, and were playing together out of town what seemed like almost every weekend. Most of us would often either drive to these shows, or hitch along with the bands and help them carry gear/run merch/be the water boy etc. and had so much fun doing so that I think we really just wanted to be part of the clique so we started our own band in hopes that we would be playing those shows with them soon.

If you had to describe the members, sound, and overall band in one word what would it be, and why?
"EVOLVING".

One thing that we have all come to realize over the process of writing the new record is that NOTHING stays the same. Ever. And that this is always a good thing in the end. This is actually where we got the title from. "Drag Your White Fur, Make It Grey" is a direct reference to our previous album cover which was two polar bears playing. The new album title refers to those same polar bears aging and having their fur become grey; dirtied by age and experience. This applies very closely to the band itself. It's been more than 3 years between albums now, and things have changed for all of us in our personal lives and in the band. The new album covers a lot of new ground for us tonally and musically and much of this I think has grown out of us in age and experience. Lyrically, much of the same can be said. The last album was very much about love, and finding strength in yourself, being happy etc. whereas the new album covers a lot of darker territory. There is still overall a hopeful message, but I think where the last album was saying "We're young, we're happy, we're excited. Let's love each other!" the new album kind of says "We've all experienced a lot in the past 3 years, and maybe we're a bit more jaded now and sometimes fucked up things happen, and things don't go the way you plan. Relationships end, loved ones die, bands you know and love break up, band members quit etc. BUT in all of this, we've still come out better, more grounded people because of that, so find hope in the dark things because they are going to make you stronger and hold on to the good things while you have them because they aren't always going to be there forever."

Where do you draw your inspirations for songs from?

Musically that is a very tough question to answer. We all have a pretty broad spectrum in our musical tastes, and are also constantly seeking out new listening experiences. I know we all do take inspiration from the music we listen to, but that is such a huge collection across the 6 of us that it would be impossible to pick any specific musicians. I think the biggest influence on us over the years has been each other and the bands we have played/toured with. I know I am always driven to be better every time one of the guys in the band brings a new jam to practice by seeing what they come up with and how they create. The same goes for seeing friends play live. Every band we have toured with has in one way or another influenced us I think, as there are always things about a band's songs, especially watching them play them night after night, that just make you go "holy shit! why didn't I think of that!" or that just make your jaw drop when they hit an awesome drum fill or killer guitar riff because you know you wouldn't be able to play that if you tried. But that is what inspires you to go home and practice and try to write something more creative, or play that drum fill over and over till you can play it. Our friends inspire us.

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

That's another really tough call. Our Guelph shows are always a great time because our close friends and family are always there to support us, and everyone seems to know each other and sings along. It's just an overall good vibe usually. SCENE Fest every year we have played has always been awesome too, as it is always just an all day party with all our band buddies from different towns who we don't see very often, and the crowds always seem to be super into it. Both east coast tours and our small forays into the US have been amazing as well. It always feels good being welcomed with open arms when you are so far from home.

Though these are all great memories, I think one of the most memorable shows would have to be Rock The Mill 3 years ago. Rock The Mill is an outdoor festival held in Cambridge, ON every year essentially on a baseball diamond in the dip of this huge bowl. Hills all around. We had a very early time slot and the forecast was for rain. The promoters had been on the fence, but made the call to keep the show outdoors rather than move to the rain venue, and lo and behold it was a bright and sunny morning when we woke to head to the show. We get there, park the van back stage, load in and grab some pizza before we play. Wait around for another half hour, then start setting up. Still sunny. We hit the stage, played our set, and about half way through we see dark clouds looming in over the horizon. We play through a few more songs, and just as we are hitting the climax of our last song, the storm bursts and its thunder, lightning, and huge gusts of wind blowing rain almost horizontal across the stage. We finish the song, and its just a massive flurry of activity as all the volunteers are trying to get gear off stage, pull tarps over speakers etc. and the crowd is all running across this huge sports field to the grand stands to try to get to cover. we get our gear all packed up safely, but by this point we are soaked. The MC goes up and announces that because of the lightning the festival will be running behind, as they can't safely have bands play on a giant steel stage in the midst of an electric storm. Had a bunch of our friends not been playing later in the afternoon we probably would have called it a day, however we were ever hopeful and decided to stick it out through the storm. As I said, we were just soaked already from getting poured on, and not many of us had enough forethought to bring a raincoat or change of clothing, so we decided the best idea at this point was to take in some adult beverages to keep our insides warm at least. This proceeds late into the afternoon, we catch a few sporadic sets in between bouts of rain, and finally our good friends in Shotgun Rules take the stage. They play through maybe 3 or 4 songs and the storm starts up again. The MC comes on again and announces they are calling the rest of the festival off, as it is so far behind schedule and the forecast is for storms the rest of the evening. Everyone is milling around back stage, figuring out what to do, packing up etc. and the crowd is all huddled together in the grand stands across the field, right on the cusp of the hill. Whether it was the adrenaline still pumping from watching Shotgun Rules, the cold in our bones making us want to move, the beverages in us talking, or a combination of all three I'm not sure, but a few of us get the idea that we should strip down to our undies and run through the field, up the hill, and go mud sliding all the way down it. We proceed, and slowly a buzz starts building in the grand stands as a few people, then a few more start noticing 4 skinny pale guys running through the biggest storm of the summer. As we hit our stride crossing the centre of the field, whole rows start to take notice. The buzz is building into a cheer! The adrenaline is pumping faster, and as we crest the hill and turn around and dive, the grand stands erupt. Everyone was cheering and laughing and clapping. The slide was successful down the green monster of a hill, and we all ran back across the field, arms held high in victory and muddled smiles on our faces.

Continued >>

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

Gear mishaps, tangled chords, missed notes and tripping off stage and falling on the crowd aside, I think Richard holds the trophy for Most Embarrassing moment. Without divulging too much, let's just say a much needed bathroom break wasn't taken before our set due to a sound guy rushing us through sound check. Then, on the first yell of the first song, nature and abdominal pressure took their course....

We all thought someone in the front row was just having bad gas the whole set. Only afterward did we find out what really happened. The worst part was he didn't have a change of pants, so not only did we smell it the whole set, but also for the whole van ride home. We've all since then learned the importance of what football players refer to as the "pre-game".

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

That's hard to pinpoint. Like I said earlier we really all started this band many moons ago because we wanted to go hang out with our friends on weekends. At some point it just grew beyond that as we all grew up (or didn't) and I think for us it really became almost a challenge against ourselves of "how far can we take this on our own." As we pushed ourselves more and more, the band just sort of crept its way into our every day life. I don't think any of us just woke up on August 23rd, 2004 at 8:56am, rolled out of bed, and said "wait! I want to play music for a living!" It was much more gradual than that; and somehow the further we took it, the more we accomplished, this unspoken brotherhood grew amongst us. "This is it. We're going to

take this as far as it can go till it kills itself or kill us." We just eventually got to a point where we had pushed it so far and accomplished so much that were proud of, invested so much time and resource, and grown such a strong family bond between all of us that it was sort of a question of "well what else can we do?" Not in a helpless way, but more in the sense that nothing else makes sense to do. This is what we know. This is where our passion lies.

How big of a part does Lifestory Monologue have on your life?

Somewhere between dodging 140kph traffic on the 403 near Brantford to retrieve the roof and back end of your trailer that just blew off as you were driving and having your drunken drummer try to choke hold two band members to death at once in a basement somewhere in Nova Scotia you realize this is something you can't trade for the world. This band isn't just a part of all our lives, this band and the people in it IS our lives. It's like being married to 5 other dudes, minus all the good parts like having someone to cook for you (Harvey, Wendy, The Colonel and Ronald aside), getting laid every so often, and having things like a steady income or a solid idea of the future (ha). You take the good with the bad, the steak dinners with the loaf of bread and jar of peanut butter split between 7 guys for 2 days, the great times with the terrible times, the skinny dipping in hot tubs at 5am with the \$500 speeding tickets at 5pm, the sickness with the health, and the 16 minute sets with the 16 hour drives it took to get there; and somehow in the end it's all worthwhile. We are all living out our dream right now in one way or another, and it may not be perfect, and rock music is never as glamorous as people think (at least not from our experience) but the last 6 years have nonetheless been irreplaceable in my

mind. Never once have I looked at all we have accomplished, the wonderful friendships I have made, the music I have heard and the sometimes beautiful, sometimes funny and sometimes fucked up places I have seen and thought "Gee...I really wish I had done something more with my life...."

Is there a message that you hope to spread through music?

I think I have really touched on this question a lot already throughout the rest of the interview, so I'll keep this one brief. We honestly just want people to feel loved, feel happy, be hopeful even if life is throwing shit in your face, and most of all love each other. That, and be creative, be yourself... go out and create something that only you can make, don't try to sound/look/write/be like someone else. Just make art for yourself. From all this, spread the joy you find in doing something you love (It doesn't have to be music, I have met fantastic poets, visual artists, chefs and many other great people through this band), and build up your "scene". Care about the people around you, be daring, go meet new people and support the artists (musical and otherwise) that come through your town. Even if it's just a meal, a conversation, or a floor to sleep on, they appreciate it more than you know.





Interview by Cynthia Lam

EMMURE

How did you meet the other members of Emmure and decide to start a band?

I was friends with Frank for years and we had the same interest in music and shared the same goals as far as just jamming and playing shows. Frank joined EMMURE after he responded to a classified add from Connecticut, looking for a vocalist (before Myspace existed). He joined the band and I soon joined about 8 months later in April of 2004.

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

All the endorsements and support from our label, management, and fans makes us feel like we have accomplished it all. So many tours and so many shows are all definitely big accomplishments, but being ourselves and making music that connects with so many people is the biggest accomplishment.

When Emmure first started, did you expect to accomplish as much as you did?

I never really expected too much. I know that I needed to be on the road and didn't care how I did it. So the drive and ambition we all had outweighed the expectations. We just wanted kids/people to come and jump around and mosh and sing along to the words, not

expecting free custom guitars and expecting all the things we have now.

What has been the best tour you've been on? What made it so great?

Anytime we tour with Hatebreed it is amazing. The guys are real down to earth, legit people that anyone can learn a lot from in life and touring. We had lots of fun times all over the world with Hatebreed so I'd say we have had the biggest ragers with them and Bury Your Dead.

Emmure will be heading to Europe in November - is this your first time going there? What do you expect from the crowds?

We have been to Europe 3 times previously, and this will be our 4th venture abroad. The crowds vary but are always strong and passionate. It's insane to see hundreds of kids screaming all the words so loud.. yet they don't speak English! Awesome.

How would you say crowds differ from place to place? Would you say they differ a lot?

For the most part it is the same. Passionate kids that are so happy to be there with us sharing the experience. Some places maybe only 150 kids, and some over 1,000. Either way it's only the language that really differs usually haha.. and the food.

If you could turn back time and give yourself one piece of advice before you stepped foot into the music industry what would it be and why?

I would prob. just make some small changes to decisions I have made. Off the top of my head I can't think of anything, but as things were to happen I would approach certain things way different now that I have learned and experienced what I have so far.

What goals did you have in mind when you first joined Emmure? Have you accomplished any of these goals? How?

Play heavy music. Be happy doing so.

What is your favourite memory with your bandmates?

ALL the different tours and situations we have been in. I can't say which is the best memory but one was spending 2 weeks in California our first time on the west coast, negotiating and signing our record contract. What a time that was. We are all so excited and talked and talked and partied haha.

Where do you hope to be in the future?

I plan to be rocking all the Arenas in YOUR area!

Chiodos *Illuminaudio*

By Robbs Quezada



Remember back in 2009 after Warped Tour when Chiodos announced that founding member and vocalist Craig Owens was no longer a part of the band? Fans and most likely the band did not know what the future would turn out to be like. Would Chiodos disband or not? Would they carry on without Owens? Luckily in December 2009, ex-frontman and vocalist of Yesterdays Rising, Brandon Bolmer stepped into the picture and in 2010 Chiodos was armed with their new vocalist.

Chiodos entered the studio early in the New Year to record the anticipated third album and follow up to 2007's *Bone Palace Ballet* with new members Bolmer and drummer Tanner Wayne. *Illuminaudio* is a well-crafted album that holds gems such as "Those Who Slay Together, Stay Together" and "Modern Wolf Hair". Bolmer belts out a lovely and equally strong voice for Chiodos 2.0 that is great, nay better, than Owens. Although Brandon Bolmer's voice makes Chiodos even more stronger than before, the rest of the band have progressed musically as the instrumentals of this record are exceptionally powerful. The piano delivered by keyboard-genius Bradley Bell is simply mesmerizing, backed-up with the aggressive pounding of drums and the well-played guitars and bass.

Illuminaudio was definitely worth the three-year wait and lineup change. For

those who have not dared to listen to the "new" Chiodos due to the Craig Owens situation, they are missing out on this spectacular album. But don't worry Craig lovers, D.R.U.G.S (Destroy Rebuild Until God Shows), Owens' new project are currently working on their debut although it's advised to check out *Illuminaudio*. Chiodos are back and certainly know what's up.

Kings Of Leon Come Around

Kings Of Leon have yet again managed to release an album that sounds exactly the same. Not only to their previous albums, but just within the record itself. I'm not saying the songs are terribly bad or anything, they just all are generally equally enjoyable, and equally unmemorable. *Come Around Sundown*, their fifth album, was released October 18, 2010. Claiming to reach back to their earlier roots of music, but to my untrained ears, it sounds like a duplicate of *Only By The Night*.

Come Around Sundown starts out with a song called "The End," how ironic because it's really just the beginning, but if you don't have the acquired attention span, it could be the end of that listening session for you. They're just one of those bands that you feel mutual about. What I'm trying to say is that their not something to get all excited over, but they're worth a listen. I would say their music is borderline Christian Rock sounding. Caleb Followill, the lead singer's, voice sounds so extremely the same in all their songs, which could just be the deal breaker. Unless you have this craving for a slightly raspy, soul-feeling, voice, then maybe it's the deal maker.

I've been pretty hard on them so far, so now I'd like to mention a few of their songs that seemed to have really stuck out for me. "Radioactive" has a little more of an upbeat, sound to it, given that it was their first single released. "No Money," this song also has a livelier essence. My personal favorite, "Mi Amigo" has got quite a catchy little rhythm that puts you in sort of a grooving mood. They're not really music to jump up and down to, but at times very acknowledgeable and respected, especially by Spin magazine, which happened to make them their cover story. So take a listen, decide for yourself, there's got to be some reason why their fame and popularity is increasing so rapidly.



By Stefany Bryan

Sundown



August Burns Red Home

By Robbs Quezada



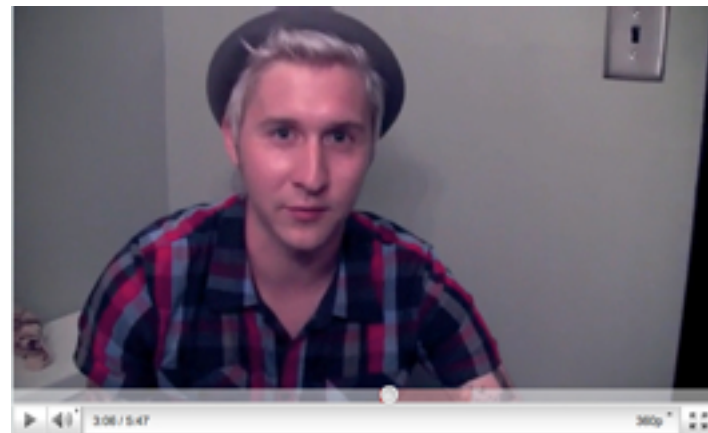
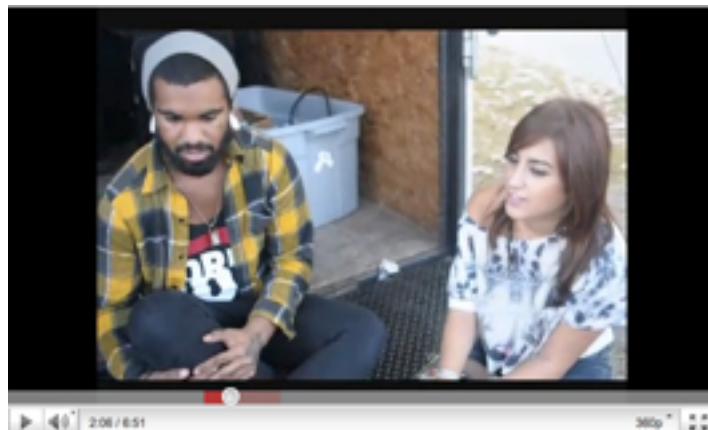
Pennsylvania quintet August Burns Red's release Home, is a compilation of fifteen live tracks recorded at a sold-out hometown show in Manheim in the early months of 2010. The album is also a DVD, in which it contains documented footage of the band's time on tour. Although the tracks are live, the quality is without a doubt extremely strong and as good as the studio recorded versions. This live album is definitely a great achievement for the band as after three full-length albums in about a time period of six years; their fan base is as loyal and abounding with support as ever. The documentary shows viewers how great tour is for the band but the live tracks give the audience a feeling as if they were really at the show.



The music is as energetic as always with the amazing breakdowns and riffs. The fans' screams of joy and worship is indeed what completes the track, as well as vocalist Jake Luhrs, who converses with the audience during the performance. This live album is close to flawless as the raw emotion of August Burns Red's dedication to making good music is made as visible as possible. The DVD captures how the band truly thanks and appreciates their followers in heartwarming scenes such as the one where Luhrs spends time after shows with fans. Ultimately this live album and DVD makes a great example of a great hardcore band of this decade. A band that is sincere and thankful to their supporters, new and old and most importantly, a group of humble individuals.

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