

STITCHED SOUND

Issue #15



BEFORE YOU EXIT

Family Force 5, Ashley Pope, The Suit, Gary Bender, Ocean Is Theory, *+more*

Ring in the new year!

with a new issue!

Crazy isn't it - it's 2011 already. December has finally passed, along with Christmas and all it's lovely holidays, awkward family moments, and delicious dinners. So what better way to ring in a new year than Stitched Sound's fifteenth issue!

Throughout this month our staff pulled together to bring you one of our most anticipated issues! We bring you new segments, exciting news and a look back on 2010. I'd like to thank every single one of our readers.

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

- Cynthia Lam

- | | | |
|----|--------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 3 | Jingle Bell Bash | |
| 4 | Behind The Scenes with Adam Elmakias | |
| 5 | Ashley Pope | |
| 6 | The Suit | 15 Parade Of Lights |
| 7 | Freshman 15 | 16 7 Months Later |
| 8 | The Material | 17 Jaded Hipster Choir |
| 9 | Ocean Is Theory | 18 I The Mighty |
| 11 | Family Force 5 | 19 Conditions |
| 12 | Gary Bender | 20 Unicron |
| 13 | No Second Chance | 21 Lakeview Drive |
| 14 | Before You Exit | 22 Love, Robot |
| | | 23 Album Reviews |
| | | 24 In Retrospect |



Photo & Review by Stefany Bryan

JINGLE BELL BASH

Ever wanted a perfect show, with everyone's favorite pop-punk bands together, sharing the stage? Well not sharing the stage exactly but playing on the same one. Wait, such thing does exist, and it's called Jingle Bell Bash. Hosted by the Seattle radio station, KISS FM, Jingle Bell Bash is an annual concert full of "today's hottest music." This year's concert was on December 4th at the WAMU Theater in downtown Seattle. The doors opened at 3:00 pm, which was already a sign of how intense this concert was going to be. On the floor for eight and a half hours, I'm not sure how I survived all ten bands.

First off was Runner Runner. Not sure what to say about them. They were fine. I didn't know any of their songs, so their performance didn't really impact me at all. Not going to lie, them and Cartel, the next band sounded the same. Plus, their sets were pretty short, about four songs. After those two bands, and what seemed like a really long waiting time in between, A Rocket to the Moon started their set. Yes, they were good, but the majority of people only knew "Like We Used To," since that's the song they play on KISS.

Next was Mayday Parade. Their set was pretty okay, the lead singer was the most energetic yet; running around the stage and jumping and all that good stuff, but me and probably the majority of other people there were distracted by the guitarist's huge head of hair. It was flopping around like some kind of

mop. After them was The Maine, and John Ohh came out with a red plastic cup in one hand and the mic in his other. Classy. They didn't even play any of their Christmas songs, what a disappointment. They were good like they always are, but it was also the same situation as A Rocket to the Moon, people only knew "Into Your Arms" and "Right Girl," the songs on the radio.

All Time Low was after The Maine, and only played songs off of their latest album except for "Dear Maria, Count Me In." Close to the end of the set, I turned away for one second, and some how during that one second, Alex's shirt disappears. Not the most flattering thing ever, but who cares, they were having fun, and so was the crowd. Then, it was The Ready Set's turn. Originally set to play earlier, Jordan played after All Time Low because he apparently flew in from California from and acoustic set. So thanks for not prioritizing Seattle. People seemed pretty into his music, and there appeared to be a lot of enthusiasm despite how dehydrated everyone was.

Eighth up was 3oh!3. Nat had a nice little pony tail going on, and made fun of a bra thrown on stage that was apparently a "half A-cup." Altogether they were actually really fun and energetic. You can tell that they're having fun on stage and that's what made their set enjoyable, even if I didn't know all the songs. Then, there seemed like a really long wait in between them and the "special surprise guest" who wasn't much of a surprise

because Runner Runner accidentally said Boys Like Girls was there. Let's see, their set was okay I guess. It's just that their music isn't really relevant at the moment, and everyone was just anxious for Paramore. They played just a whole bunch of songs that were popular a couple summers ago. Cool, a blast from the past. It was a bit of a relief when they finished.

The crowd started to get antsy, waiting for Paramore. But when they came out, man was it amazing. Just the energy in the crowd sent shivers down my spine. Maybe I'm over exaggerating, but the guy next to me started crying, so who's to say so? Anyways, Paramore made everything worth it. They made the waiting, the cost, the over-heated mosh pit, and the bands that I didn't know any songs to worth it. It was all worth it to see Hayley's smiling face, and hear her amazing voice. Is she not the cutest thing ever?

They played a well crafted set; old ones like "Emergency," and "Pressure" and songs from *Riot*, like "For A Pessimist, I'm Pretty Optimistic," and "Crushcrushcrush." And of course the newer ones such as "The Only Exception" and "Ignorance." At the end, Hayley let on stage an infatuated fan, who took a picture with her with his phone, finished up the end of Misery Business, and also taught Hayley some of his own moves. Paramore was by far the best, and because of this, the concert as a whole, ended on a great note.

BEHIND THE SCENES

with Adam Elmakias



Do you have a favourite lens to shoot with?

I mean I shoot with my 17-40mm the most, but I don't really have a favourite lens just because I haven't used very many of them. I don't really invest much money into my lenses so I'm not too sure what my favourite is. But maybe the 35 f/1.4, I like that a whole lot.

What is your favourite part about your job?

I like to be able to hang out with people, and sort of do my own thing. I have just really grown to love photography, when I first started out I liked it, but I'd laugh at people when they said they put emotion in it but now I get it. At first I was like, it's all business but now I just want to shoot the best.

What tips do you have for young photographers who want to follow in your footsteps?

Start now, even though it's only been four years since I've started, the industry has changed so much that it's probably still rapid, like over saturated. I mean photography is huge right now, because everyone wants to do it, and they can do it so easily. I guess it's a little harder for us. Most people want to do it so they can be friends with bands. I'd say start networking now

There has been a "controversy" about tumblr, and people posting photos credited still stepping on infringement. How do you feel about people using your photos, editing them and posting them online or somewhere else without permission?

I don't care, I wish everyone would do that with my photos, do whatever they want. I mean I put them out, I do what I want with them, and I feel like if somebody else wants to do that, then cool. I have no problems with it and I don't really mind them not being credited, I feel like if somebody doesn't put a watermark on it or put something on it to prevent that you can't get mad at people for doing that. It's definitely on the artist to protect themselves. You can't expect thousands of people to listen to your rules, that just doesn't really make sense. I like when people post my photos online.

Will you be doing any more workshops in the future?

The next DVD that I'm putting out is going to be a combination between a workshop and a DVD, not only in content but also in how it is viewed. I've been trying to actually work with the people who have asked rather than just giving it to them and that just being the end of the work. So it would be like online stuff that they can do with me hopefully. They want to work with me ideally if they like my work so it's hard to do workshops everywhere. Hopefully I can do one down the line and everybody can come.

Hello readers! We are going to be starting a new segment in our issues which brings you closer and more familiar with the people behind the scenes at your shows, bands, and photos.

We recently got a chance to do an interview with photographer Adam Elmakias and discussed tips, shoots, and usage of photos by others. Become more familiar with the guy behind many fantastic pictures that you see often!

How did you get to where you got today?

I started off in Wisconsin just shooting at local shows and started networking from there. Started reading about shows, working with different PR agents to get passes to shows and things like that. I kind of eventually set myself with a "manager", just someone who helped me out in the industry and he sorta got me in and introduced me to a lot of people. Then everything just started snowballing and getting bigger from there. Now wherever I am that's how I got there.

Would you say that knowing people is one of the biggest parts in it?

Yeah, that's probably the only part. That's pretty much all it is, I always tell people to sort of network now and learn whatever it is they want to do along the way. The networking is the part that takes a while and you can't always speed it up or slow it down.

Who are your biggest inspirations photography wise?

My school guidance counsellor who got me started in photography. My friend Matt who helped me out a lot. Just people that I talk to mostly that help me everyday. It's not like I look up to something, I don't really follow anybody.

What inspirations did you have behind the lens bracelets?

The first one, the 50mm was straight from the lens but the rest was like a bracelet mashed down into a little area that represents it. I sort of just wanted something to wear, and other people started liking it as well and it just kicked off from there. I didn't really expect it to, but it's cool.

Who has been your shoot so far?

The favourite shoot I've done, I can't even release the photos of, but I did a press shoot with Tesito which I love the photos from, but I can't even release them. We sat in a desert in vegas for like eight hours and it was really fun.

ASHLEY POPE

Interview by Sarah Lozano

So growing up did you write a lot of songs just for fun?:

Not really songs but I did write some poems. I remember one in particular, it was called Dizzy Gizzy and it was about my puppy. haha!

What themes do you mostly write about?

I write about real life experiences whether it be about myself or someone I know. I take all of the emotions I am feeling about a certain subject and then turn it into lyrics that tell the story.

If you had the chance to work with any artist who would it be and why?

Wow that's a tough one. There are so many artists that I truly admire and would love to work with. The first person that came to mind was John Mayer. He is an incredible songwriter and his lyrics are absolutely amazing.

If you had to compare your vocal style of anyone who would it be?

I never really compare myself with other artists. That would probably be for everyone else to listen and then decide. My vocal style definitely came from my vocal coach though. Her name is Marie Hardway and she taught me everything I know.

When listening to your music what feeling do you want people to get?

I just want my music to touch people and hope that they can feel what I am singing about. When a fan tells me that one of my songs or a certain lyric helped get them through something or inspired them in some way that makes me incredibly happy.

You're the older sister of Cassadee Pope, vocalist of Hey Monday, what was it like growing up for you?

Growing up with Cass was always fun. We went to the same school all the way up to High School so we spent a lot of time together. Of course typical sisters, we bickered now and then but we were always very close.

Would you ever record a song with Hey Monday?

Of course I would, that would be awesome!

Can you give us an inspirational quote that you think people should live by?

This one is mine and I live by it.. "Karma is a bitch, so you don't have to be". For inspiration my favorite quote is from Eleanor Roosevelt, "The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams."



Photo credit:

THE SUIT

Interview by Cynthia Lam



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

I don't do much of the songwriting anymore, Greg and Dustin do a majority of it. I'd say my favorite song is "The Way That We Fall" and I think they're pretty proud of that song. Its about overcoming the negative in your life and moving forward towards positivity, putting the past behind and looking ahead.

What do you find it the most challenging thing about being in the studio?

Getting solid takes, and staying focused haha we have a lot of fun in the studio, and we're really picky when it comes to the way things sound.

What does the future hold for The Suit?

December 3rd - Ernie Ball Battle Of The Bands @ The Key Club in Hollywood, CA. Touring, two christmas songs online/on iTunes on November 22nd and releasing a new cd next summer possibly!

How did you become friends with the other members of The Suit and decide to form a band?

Greg and Dustin were in a band called Castro when they were going to college, Joel and I had jammed and played guitar in high school, and Richie I met when his old band and my old band played a show or two together. Our ex-guitar player Karl had a house that a lot of people would hang out at almost 24/7 and he knew Dustin and Greg, so thats how we all met, and we decided we wanted to play music and tour.

When you were a kid, would you ever guess that you'd grow up to be playing music? What did you want to be then?

I wanted to be a professional football player. I had an idea I may get interested in it, because I am from a very musical family. It really didn't set in until i figured i wasn't going to be tall enough to play in the NFL, so I picked up a guitar.

What has been the hardest thing for you to overcome? How did you overcome this?

Well, the hardest thing I think we face is just distributing our time. We all have a lot on our plate day to day whether it be work, our families, or carrying out band tasks, just finding a balance where we can delegate and prioritize things to keep our wives/girlfriends, friends, family and jobs satisfied.

What are your thoughts about illegally downloading music?

Its a price that the unsigned artist has to pay for record labels over charging for CDs. Broke college kids who love listening to music and exploring music can't pay 14 dollars for a 10 song cd. It stinks, but when you're trying to promote yourself in any sort of way possible, it kind of goes along with it, you have to accept it, because its probably not going to go away. Hopefully those pirates really like your music, so they'll pay out of pocket to support you on your next release.

Do you see this (illegally downloading music) being the downfall of the music industry? Why or why not?

Not really, it just puts the power into the artists hands. Physical CD sales are good for touring, and playing shows, but most unsigned bands don't have physical cd distribution through out the US, or their home country. I'd like to venture a guess that most unsigned acts have their music on iTunes, or somewhere online, so its in the hands of the consumer to pay or download illegally. I don't think its the downfall of the music industry because artists will always find a way to make money, and touring will generate a large portion of revenue to keep bands afloat.

Is there a current trend or fad in the music industry that you like or dislike? What is it?

I'd say lack of melody? i think that bands are focusing on heaviness and breakdowns more than they are at writing good songs, and also knowing their craft as far as songwriting.

As a musician, do you ever get writers block? What do you do to overcome this?

Yes, just keep on jamming and you'll play past the block, keep trying things until it sounds right.



FRESHMAN 15

Interview by Cynthia Lam

How did you meet the other members of Freshman 15 and decide to start a band?

We all met through friends bands we have toured with! Our bassist Davey was in Red Car Wire, Rob was in Pull The Pin and Dave was in We Are The In Crowd! So we are a super group of defunct members! Ha!

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

I was 7 when I first picked up a tennis racket to pretend to play guitar to Kids records and I was 11 when I picked up a guitar. And I've been playing the same three chords ever since!

If you were to describe Freshman 15 in one word what would it be and why?

Fun. Like no joke. On stage we just eff around! We will punch each other in the ass and pretend to give each other oral sex? Why? We are gay. Second reason? It's fun.

Are you excited for any shows coming up?

We just got added to the Vans Warped Tour on the Ernie Ball stage and I could not be

more excited! It's been my dream for years to be a part of it and I finally get to.

What is your favourite song to play live? Why is this?

Our California Song. I would say it is out most well known song at this point on our career. Kids will sing their heart out and it gives me chills.

Have you pulled any crazy antics on stage? What happened and how did it go?

We have a long history of tour pranks. We were on tour with our friends in The Years Gone By and as the drummer was playing we took apart his drum set piece by piece until had only a kick! It was amazing.

What do you like seeing from the crowd while playing a show?

Insanity! It's a rock show.. I want to see jumping, singing, kissing, orgies! Ya know... The stuff dreams are made of.

So Freshman 15 released a new Ep "Talk Of The Town" in August. How would you say this differs from "Throw Your Hands Up For One Night Stands"?

We went for a slightly more "mainstream" sound I guess. But when we release a full length the pop punk stuff and will be there and better than ever!

Did you encounter any new challenges while recording and writing this EP?

Not really! The studio part of being in a band just comes easy to me. 1 take tops.. I'm awesome!

Describe the EP in one word. Why did you pick this word?

Nonexistent. Ha It was pulled due to legal reasons! You will see new material quicker than you can say "Soggy Tube Sock"

What does the future hold for Freshman 15?

The members all working as gas station attendants! The end.



Interview with Colleen D'Agostino Interview by Sarah Lozano

THE MATERIAL

How did the band start?

Jon and I (Colleen) met during the last week of high school. We started writing music together but a few months later he left for tour with his band at the time, and I left to get my music degree at San Diego State University. While in San Diego, I met our original drummer, Noah, while working at a surf shop. Eventually Jon moved to San Diego, and the three of us started writing songs together. The rest is history!

You guys have a new album coming out next month, what was the recording process of that was like?

The recording process was long and tedious, but fun. We recorded with our good friend Brian Grider (who has recorded our last EPs as well) and he just built a new studio in his home. We lived in his giant house during the two months it took to record the album. It was pretty great because we got to wake up every morning, and go down to the studio and just start recording! Definitely the best recording process I have had thus far.

Are there plans for tour to promote the album yet?

We have been promoting like crazy via the internet for the past couple months, but when the album releases on 1.11.11, we have a slew of magazine interviews, radio interviews, CD release shows and Hot Topic acoustic performances to help promote the release of our new album.

The band has a music video for the song "Before This Ship Goes Down", can you explain the story link and who's idea it was?

I actually came up with the idea for the video shortly after writing the lyrics. I could always see how it would play out in my head, but it wasn't until I met the director, Matt Silver, that we were able to get the ideas onto film. It was a really fun experience to act in the storyline of the video, as well as produce it. The story is really about a couple that gets caught in the day-to-day routine and finally decides to leave it all behind in an effort to save their relationship.

Can you sum The Material up in one word? Why that word?

The Material is driven. I chose the word driven because we are constantly moving towards the next goal and we refuse to give up. We have done everything on our own as an independent band and I am proud of our perseverance when times are tough.

How do you guys separate yourselves from other bands with female vocalist in the Pop-Rock genre?

People often compare us to Paramore, but honestly I think we are completely different—they are more pop, and we are way edgier. Don't get me wrong, I love Paramore, but we are not trying to sound like Paramore. I think the comparison is just a by-product of the fact that female lead singers are still somewhat of a new thing in modern rock music.

Who's an artist that you can listen to on a bad day and make everything better?

Tough question.. there are a lot of answers I could give to that question, but I would have to say The Receiving End of Sirens. They aren't really a band anymore, but I still love their music. Their music takes my bad mood and turns it into a contemplative one.

What's are a few of your favorite lyrics from your songs? What do they mean?

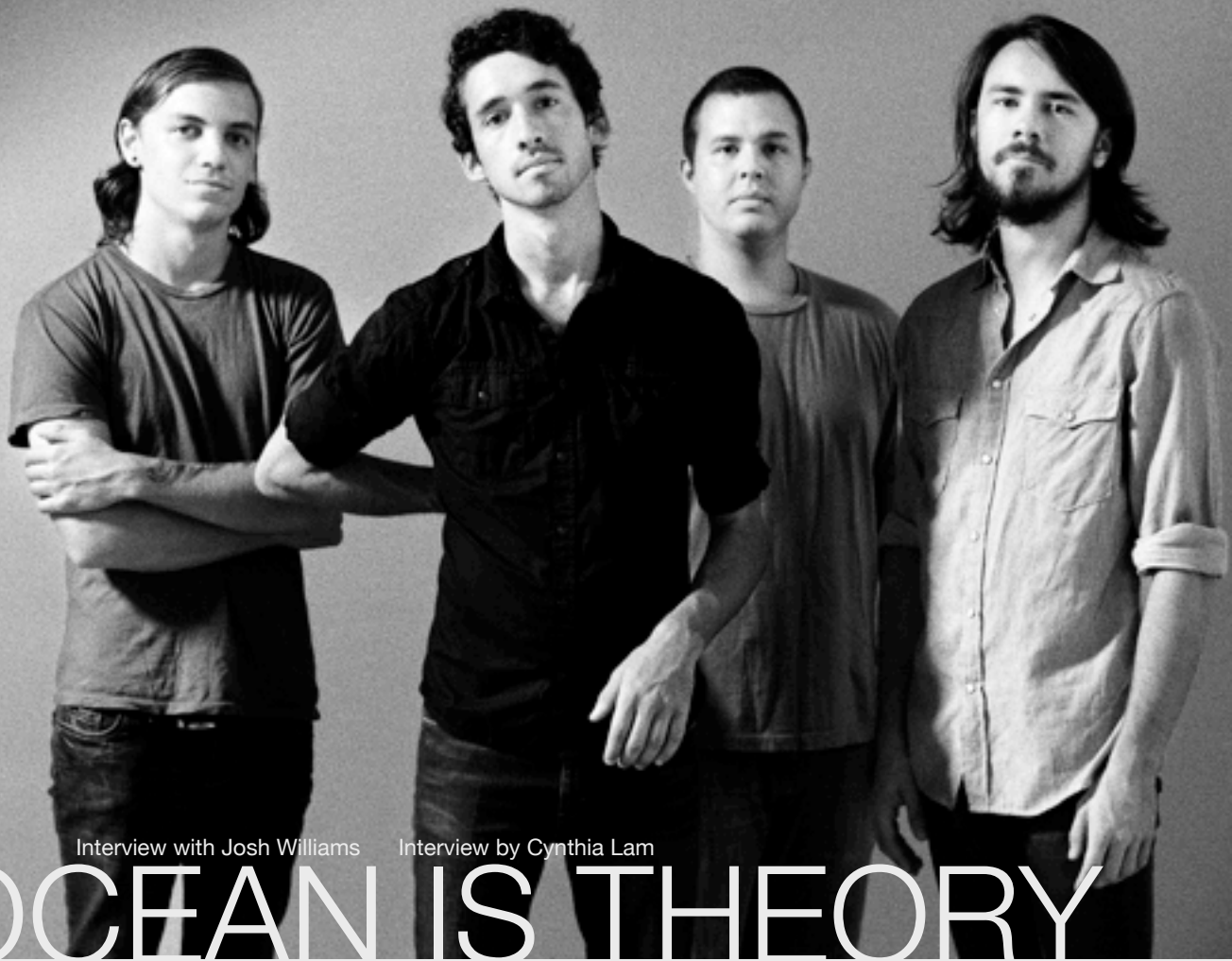
"Does she know just how to whisper in your ear the way I do? Does she catch your eye from a distance, standing in a crowded room?" That line is from our song No One Has To Know. It's a song about betrayal, but I just always liked the imagery involved. You can just see a scene at a party with a guy and a girl, can't you?

What's been your biggest accomplishment as a band so far?

I would say one of our first accomplishments is still one of our biggest. We got to perform live on MTV right after our first EP came out in December 2007. Seems so long ago, but it's still one of my favorite moments as a band.

Last question, If the Material becomes one of the biggest bands ever what do you promise your fans?

Our fans have stuck by us from the very beginning and we are proud to say that we have a lot of great friendships with the fans that come to our shows. We have taken the time to get to know them on a personal level and we promise to continue those relationships, as well as give them the best music we can.



Interview with Josh Williams

Interview by Cynthia Lam

OCEAN IS THEORY

How did you meet the other members of Ocean Is Theory and decide to form a band together?

We started in the summer of 2007, right before our senior year of high school. Nick and Kevin were in a band with my friend Alex. Alex also played in my band at the time and both bands would play shows together.

Each band lost a few members, Nick and I talked back and forth about combining our bands, and it was born. Clay actually messaged my band, looking to join, and we kindly turned it down, but then we were introduced through mutual friends, had Clay fill in last minute for a show, and had him a part of the group immediately!

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

I've actually known, without a doubt in my mind, since 7th grade, that I wanted to sing and play music for a living. I remember recording demos on cassette tapes from a cheap karaoke machine that my brothers and I got for Christmas. Since then, there has been no "plan B". This is just it.

What triggered this?

I'm not entirely sure, because no one in my immediate family is musical, but I started loving cheesy pop bands in 4th grade, and actually started a little boy band with some classmates, which quickly ended after an embarrassing debut performance in Miss Lauen's music class. Then in 7th grade my grandpa gave me an old Silvertone Sears guitar that he bought on the day

my mom was born, and I fell in love from there.

How would you describe Ocean Is Theory (sound, members, & music) using only one word? Why did you pick this word?

That is the hardest interview question ever ha, I'd have to say.... fun?

Not that our music is necessarily always happy, or that it's ever whimsical, but for me, this is fun. Playing is fun. The guys in my band, we're crazy, it's super fun, all the time, and yes, for an outside listener, I'd say some of the tracks on the upcoming LP could be described as more of a "fun" sound than we've had in the past.

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What is your favorite memory or the funniest thing that has happened while you were in Ocean Is Theory?

I will probably never be able to forget the "water ballooning" excursions we used to take via car, on tour, at night after shows. They were exciting, dangerous, hysterical, and a few of the more memorable trips led to high speed car chases in the night. Legally, I don't think I should give any more details to this story.

If you could give yourself one piece of advice before stepping into the music industry what would it be and why?

I would want emphasize that it all comes back to good songwriting. If I can write the best songs out there and songs that connect with people, everything else becomes a lot easier.

What are your thoughts on illegally downloading music?

It's definitely stealing just as much as shoplifting is. The obvious thing though, is it's not something that's ever going to stop. So I definitely think the time of artists wining about it should be well over. I do still try and buy records on iTunes or Amazon mp3 (I've been using that a lot cause it's cheaper!).

I hear people talk about how they think HBO channels should be free, etc, and people download movies all the time now. What the common folk don't think about, is that if all their entertainment were free, there would be next to no budget to create more entertainment. Our label spent a lot of money making our new record, and TV shows I love, like Dexter, take a ton of money to create. It's just an unavoidable twist that we've got to work around now and this new decade is going to have a lot of changes in how things are run.

Do you see illegally downloading music being the downfall of the music industry? If not, what are your thoughts on people saying that the industry is slowly falling.

Well, there's no two ways around it, I think it has definitely hurt the industry. Sales aren't the same as they used to be, so studio budgets go down, and some labels seem to have the mindset of throw a bunch of bands against the wall and see what sticks, which puts a bunch of crap out there.

In reality, there's ups and downs of it. As far as major labels and the industry goes though, it's a four letter word.

How important is it to connect with your fans? Why is it important to you?

After writing good songs, for me, that's on the top of the list. I don't just want fans to be numbers and blank faces that I never meet. Part of why I do music is so I can impact people. We aren't just doing this for ourselves. I want to interact, meet, and love on anyone and everyone I can meet through this.

What is your preferred social networking site? Why?

I prefer Facebook, but I do have a Twitter as well. I'm on Facebook a lot, honestly. It's the best one out there.. Myspace is dead and Twitter is just public texting and people trying to sound important. I enjoy keeping up with my friends on Facebook and seeing what they're blogging about, or posting pictures of. I did enjoy the recent movie as well!

Is there a message that you'd like to spread through music? What is it?

Absolutely. And if people don't always get it through our music, then through our attitudes, actions, and conversations with people. I know that the world is a letdown sometimes and even when things do go as we hope, accomplishments or experiences don't seem to really make us feel whole.

But, I believe in grace, faith, hope, and love, and Jesus was a lover of all people. He loves everyone unconditionally.

What do you hope to accomplish in the future?

I hope to be writing songs and releasing music for a long time. I can't wait for our first opportunity to tour overseas, and I just hope to impact people.

FAMILY FORCE 5

Interview by Sarah Rutz

SS: You guys always put on such a dynamic, high-energy, unique show. Is there anything you do before you play that gets you amped up?

Chap Stique: We usually watch Rocky IV, feed ducks, and play red-rover. From time to time, our schedule doesn't allow it, so we just watch Xanadu play video games. Once, we drove the van in circles while trying to play Jenga. Fatty won, so we never played again.

SS: Imagine we're on twitter right now. The trending topic is #tourstories. Give us your own #tourstories!

Chap Stique: Several years ago, Soul Glow Activatur (our lead singer) introduced me to a Jacksonville crowd by saying that I was really good at drawing dragons. The truth is, I can't draw anything...not even circles or straight lines. After the show, an astonishingly southern girl walked on the stage with the biggest marker I've ever seen in my life. She yelled in the harshest of voices, "I got two huge arms and I want dragons on both of 'em!" I told her to close her eyes while I drew the crappiest two dragons of all time. I tried to lightly feather the marker while I was drawing it so she would imagine that a masterpiece was being made. When she opened her eyes, she yelled, "This is AWESOME!" There might've been a few explicative in there, but I didn't think I should repeat them.

SS: Any albums that have been on constant rotation for you lately?

Chap Stique: I can't stop listening to Paper Route's Absence album. It's magical, and so is Ultraviolet Sound's new stuff. I'm also really into From Below by Edward Sharpe and the Magnetic Zeros. Sea of Cowards by The Dead Weather and

Treats by Sleighbells have been playing on my iPod pretty regularly, as well. Although it's not the newest record in the world, Season of Poison by Shiny Toy Guns is still blowing my mind. However, I've mostly been listening to old stuff like Simon and Garfunkle, Jimi Hendrix, The Police, and Yes. I just moved, so I listened to a ton of music while I was sorting and arranging!

SS: If you weren't playing music, what would you be doing? Any interesting hobbies/passions that you have?

Crouton: If I wasn't playing music I would be a hair dresser, and I think I would be very sad haha.

SS: What are the best and worst parts about touring?

Crouton: The best part about touring is when you get 2 play and you see that one kid out in the crowd that knows every song by heart and doesn't care what anybody thinks of him or her and just sings 2 the top of there lungs ... I was that kid. the worst part about it is being away from your family for a long time.

SS: What's the writing process like for the band?

Nadaddy: Our writing process can start many different ways. Sometimes it begins with nothing but a beat lyrical hook, and other times we start cold with a simple concept and the song just writes itself. We continue to massage the songs and rewrite until every time we hear it we're jumping up and dancing. If we aren't freaking out about it, then we just keep working, or move on to something else. For this upcoming record, we have taken more time off and have been able to focus more on perfecting each track we're working on.

SS: Which do you prefer more: writing songs or playing shows, and why?

NaDaddy: I think a healthy balance is the key here. When we spend too long playing shows, we start to miss the creative side, and vice-versa. This year I think we've hit a nice balance of both. We've scaled back the number of live shows we've played this past year with the intention of using that time off to work hard on the next record. As a result, we've been able to work at a smarter and more efficient pace during the writing process. We've been able to write a song, let it breathe, come back to it, and then rewrite it to make it better. As for the live side, we've been able to step our level of stage production this year as well. Our live show has always been our jewel and it's important to us that we always raise the bar each year to give out loyal fans the most exciting and memorable experience possible.

SS: How is The Pageant Tour going so far? What made you want to do a Christmas-themed tour?

Nadaddy: The Pageant Tour has been a huge success already. All the fan response has been overwhelmingly positive and we have some great bands out with us right now. All the VIP's dancing on stage with us, the costumes, amazing Christmas songs, I couldn't be happier. Last year we were all resistant to even doing a Christmas album in the first place, but as soon as we started working on it, all those apprehensions went out the window. It's been so much fun to actually play a version of a Christmas song you've heard all your life in a way that we actually want to hear it! It's given all of us a fresh look at some great songs that sometimes get lost in the repetition of having to hear them each year. We love it!



GARY BENDER

Interview by Sarah Lozano

Photo by Catherine Powell

STITCHED SOUND Issue 15



How long have you been writing and recording music?

I've been writing and recording music in some form or another (band or solo) since I was 15 years old.

Can you describe your writing process?

It's actually quite simple. It all usually comes together after a single line or a lyric is written and then from there I start to form a melody around the lyrics I have. Every now and then I work in the reverse and have a distinct melody stuck in my head that I want to work with, but usually it all stems from my lyrical content.

What is one of your favorite lyrics that you've ever written? What meaning does it hold to you?

In all honesty, my lyrics are what I hold most dear. You're literally letting complete strangers into your personal life (which can be scary as Hell.) But I've said this before and I'll say it again, I don't write lyrics just to put words in a song. Each line all must mean and convey something important. So in that aspect there's a few lines that I've written that even now when I hear them I'm like "Good job Gary!" One of my favorite lines actually comes from a brand new song called "The Artist & The Poet," and it goes.. "She always wanted to pen what it'd be like to share a kiss in the rain". He said, "I've seen it in movies and heard it in songs, but our lips could start hurricanes." I suppose it's because it was an actual conversation I had on a car ride with an amazing girl, and I just decided to say screw it and put it in a song (and I guess it worked out as that girl is now my girlfriend). It wound up being the staple lyric for the entire song. Literally after that line was done, I felt that the song was complete and I was going to be happy with it no matter what.

Who are few of your biggest influences in the music industry?

My influences stem from all genres. From punk rock to hip hop, to pop to metal, I'm a huge fan of all styles and sounds of music. They all help set moods, play on emotions and so much more. But if we're going to try and single out artists or other performers I'd say huge influences would include John Mayer, Kris Allen, The Spill Canvas, Blink-182, Green Day, Jimmy Eat World... there are FAR too many.

How do you feel about artist comparison? Does it help the artist or does it hurt an artist to be compared to someone else?

I think it can be a double edge sword. I personally have no problem being compared to another artist- so long as they are talented. But comparisons are inevitable. No ONE artist is unlike any other anymore. Most are carbon copies of others just marketed and sold in a different way. There is a breathe of fresh air in some of the indie artists that are up and coming. But overall, I don't feel being compared to another artist will kill one's individuality or reputation.

What do you want people to see in you from your music?

At the risk of being redundant, I'd hope that they'd see an honest, fun loving guy who plays music because it's what makes him happy. Performing and connecting with people through my music is rewarding in itself and I hope I get the opportunity to continue to do what I love and have a damn good time doing it.

How do you take bad reviews, when you get any?

Surprisingly enough I take "constructive criticism" pretty well. Namely, because there is no critic or bad review that could ever compete with my own personal evaluation of my performance. I'm well aware. I'm not perfect, and I take every critique as a potential opportunity to better myself and my music. Even when I feel confident about a performance or recording that doesn't mean it can't be improved. You can always continue to grow and evolve as an artist, and if you can look past the blow to the ego that tends to come with a bad review, that's what they can offer. That being said, it's always nice to hear that people think you rocked.

Are you the type of person that likes to be involved in the music industry no matter what? Like say if performing doesn't work out for you, do you see yourself producing or doing artist management?

I LOVE music more than anything. It's my one true passion that will never fade. As my manager could tell you, management just isn't my forte. It's hard enough to manage my personal life, let alone some one else's career...yikes. Outside of being a performer though, the only job I would want within the music industry would be a songwriter for other musicians. If I was asked this question years ago I know my answer would have been "No way, I'm not gonna help someone else become rich and famous off MY talent." But with age comes maturity, and I've realized that I may be able to do what I love (behind the scenes) and still be happy that my songs could be heard and enjoyed simply through another medium.

The Holidays are coming up soon, what is your favorite Holiday jingle?

My performing debut actually came from me singing a solo in my grade school's Christmas concert. For some reason my music teacher saw something special in me, and urged me to try out. I sang "Rockin' Around The Christmas Tree." I ultimately got the part and I sang it for the first time ever in front of 300 people in the 4th grade. It's been music ever since. So that holiday song will always be close to my heart. However in recent years I've become a huge fan of "All I Want For Christmas Is You."

If you become one of the biggest artist in the scene, whats one thing you promise all the fans that have been with you from the start?

Good music? I hope that's enough. I'm not sure I'd be able to give out free beer and candy at every show. No, but in all honesty, I'd promise to be the guy that I've always been. Just a sincere and honest songwriter who writes what he feels for the right reasons. If you're into it, awesome! If not, I'm sorry. I'll never be able to please everyone, but I'll also never pretend to be anyone other than myself.

NO SECOND CHANCE

Interview by Bianca Delicata



ANDY FORD WWW.FLICKR.COM/TR7

What was the most complicated part of your most recent tour?

Most of it! We had the worst luck, broken Sat Nav and cymbal stands before even playing the first show, broken guitars for the next subsequent shows and then our van broke down in Holland on the last day - It couldn't be fixed for 4 days and we were stuck there - resulting in two of us nearly losing our day jobs. We even got stuck in traffic on the way home and missed our channel tunnel train back to the UK!...We came home over 600 euros lighter as a result but it was still worth it!

In what ways does music inspire you?

Music inspires us to believe that anything you want out of life is possible if you are willing to work hard enough. It pushes us to reach our goals and it's got us through some really tough times. Without music, we certainly wouldn't have visited all the places and countries that we have in the past year and made the friends - Some will be our friends for life.

What is the story behind "Facebreaker"?

Well, the song is about doing what's necessary to stand up for your friends and family.

Not so much about a life experience but its about the lengths we are willing to go for, for the ones we love.

What's your favourite instrument that you own?

Our drummer Ian owns a beefy 8 string Ibanez guitar, we dont use it in No Second Chance but its certainly a beast of an instrument!

What bands do you personally listen to, and how do they influence your work?

There's hundreds really but mainly made up of hardcore bands with a raw or energetic sound - Our very early stuff was based a lot around bands like Bury Your Dead and Liferuiner and more recently bands like First Blood, Terror, Reign Supreme, Knuckledust and Your Demise have had an influence - We usually try to take the attitude or message portrayed by the music we listen to and try to translate it into something different.

What genre would you consider No Second Chance as?

Hardcore through and through.

When did you begin taking music seriously as a full time job?

Probably before our first ever show! We had a ton of shows lined up before even playing the first one and it's been crazy ever since.

How does your music reach out to teens, or your target audience?

Not really sure how to answer this one accurately but we just play the music we love and our hearts and souls go into No Second Chance - This hopefully shows in our live performances and that people can relate to it.

What does No Second Chance hope to bring in 2011?

More of same! We are focussing on playing more European shows in 2011, which we're already well on the way to doing with 2 European tours and various one off shows/weekenders. We are also currently in the early stages of booking a US tour and well underway with writing our next cd - 2010 has been an incredible year for us so we aim to top it in 2011.

Interview by Catherine Khom

BEFORE YOU EXIT

myspace.com/beforeyouexit
facebook.com/beforeyouexit
twitter.com/beforeyouexit

Have you changed the band's name before?

The band name Before You Exit was pretty much the first name that was thrown out there and everyone agreed on it right away. Later we found out that the initials spell out "B.Y.E" and we thought that was awesome too.

What inspired you to make music together as a band?

We all sort of took after our parents in a musical sense but artists like John Mayer, Red Hot Chili Peppers, and Boys Like Girls were also a big influence on us to start making music.

What are your favorite and least favorite venues? And Why?

We just recently had our first ever national tour so it was the first time we had ever played the venues outside of the state. Every venue, show, and crowd was unbelievable and we are so grateful to have been given that opportunity.

How was your first concert compared to the concert you performed now?

The first concert we ever played was in our front yard to some of our friends. Those days we were playing almost all cover songs besides one or two original songs. Now we're playing all original songs to rooms of people. But even the shows in our front yard were really cool because we were still playing the music we love to a crowd of friends. It still feels the same way today because we consider all of our fans our friends.

What is the biggest challenges your band had to face and how did your band overcome it?

We haven't run into too many challenges but as of right now we're all doing

online school so that is a challenge we still deal with everyday like every other kid.

What advice do you have for future bands?

We're pretty much new to all of this so I don't know how credible our advice is. The only thing to do is to work hard at it. Practice, play a lot of shows, and bring friends out to come see you. If you want something, go after it.

What was the last thing you bought?

Gas with Connor's credit card.

What is one word to describe yourself?

Would the other members in your band agree?

I would describe myself as the youngest and I'm pretty sure the other members in the band would agree.

What is the most embarrassing moment you experienced while touring?

The last night of tour was band prank night and it just so happened that the show was in our hometown. First they shut off our sound and played the song 'Banana Phone' as we stood there on stage. If you haven't heard the song, I'm sure you will understand how it was a prank when you hear it. Later on during our set Alex and Jack from All Time Low walked out and told us to stop playing so they could sign autographs. As we got to the ending of our last song, people from all the bands and crew ran on stage and started taking pieces of Thomas' drum set. Not only did they take his drum set, but they took Thomas. They then threw all the rest of us into the crowd after taking our guitars. This show was crazy and it was a great way to end the tour.

What is your definition of the word "music"?

Anything that can be put together in rhythm, and sometimes with melodies, to make sound.

What were some things that helped you along the process of becoming a band?

The support from family is the biggest thing because they're the ones that give so much to support us.

What are the five must haves to bring when you are on tour?

This one's easy. Phone, laptop, food, guitar, and one pair of clean clothes.

What band or artist would you love to perform on stage with them, at this very moment?

It'd be really cool to play a show with Green Day or Blink 182. Both have massive fan bases all over.

How did you, as a band meet and how long have you known each other?

At the age of 13, Braiden met Connor from youth group and they were playing music together there for a couple months before they started the band. Braiden had also known Thomas from school for a while. The three of them got together and it really clicked. A year later Connor's brother, Riley (me), came in and the band was completed. We will of been a band for four years in May.

PARADE OF LIGHTS

How did the band start?

We actually played in a long time band in 2006. We played around for awhile; we had some cool stuff going on. We played this show one time and I actually dislocated my knee in the middle of the set. I was out of commission for a month and a half. So we all kind of took like touring gigs and stuff, because we most momentum. Anthony played for Metro Station; I ended up playing for Hellogoodbye, Matt played for 30 Second to Mars. So we did a lot of touring and we kind of got sick of it. So we were like "Let's just go for it" we got the band back together. And we've just been playing out since January basically.

How would you describe the bands sound?

Huh, I don't know. We're a pop band. We very 80s' influences and Early 90s' stuff too. We just want to write pop bands, but do it originally.

So what's been the bands biggest accomplishment so far?

We've done a lot of cool stuff. We've been on MTV like the real world and stuff. We were on Keeping Up with Kardashians. In Vegas we got a lot of the buzz with going on with the radio station Mix 941. They showed us a lot of love. We won the battle of the

bands for Mix 941 then we went on to play their radio festival.

What's the Las Vegas music scene like?

It's not alive really. There's a lot of hardcore bands and stuff, but it's really small. There's a couple of cool bands like Imagine Dragons, is a really cool band from Vegas and obviously the Killers came out Vegas they're a great band. We're trying to kind of put a band-aid on it I guess and bring it back to life.

Can you describe each band member in one word?

Matt is crazy. Randy is loveable. Anthony is dad. And I am...painintheass. (Pain in the Ass)

What's your least favorite part about recording?

Well I'm super anal, so having to vocal takes over and over again drives me out of my mind.

Who are a few of your favorite artist?

I love Ryan Adams. I love psychedelic furs... hum, who else do I love. U2, I love U2. I'm wearing a U2 t-shirt and my friend just looked at me like I'm an idiot

What's one of your favorite lyrics you've written?

One of our songs is called "Just like falling in love." I really like that lyric, because I think all the greatest pop songs are basically clichés that haven't been used before, not that it hasn't been used before, but it something familiar and everyone can relate too it's an original saying. So I think "Just like falling in love" is one of my favorite lyrics

Were do you see Parade of Lights in the next five years?

I don't know. We have a lot of goals. We just want to be on the road and have a solid fan base and just want to play a thousand fans in every city and just be touring and writing great songs and putting out records. I mean, I think everyone's dream is to kind of be the arena rock band, but the industry is kind of damaged right now and we're just trying to make the best of it. I mean the fans are the most important thing. We just want to be able to have a career and put out a lot of records and play for people for a long time.



7 MONTHS LATER

Interview by Bianca Delicata



What bands do you personally listen to, and how do they influence your work?

We're all pretty different in our favorite bands....Chris enjoys everything from Anberlin to Matchbox 20 to classic rockers like Bon Jovi. Adam is into Angels and Airwaves, Third Eye Blind and Jimmy Eat World. Dave enjoys a good bass player..Kings of Leon, Mutemath and Red Hot Chili Peppers. Nick likes Minus the Bear, Rush and whatever we tell him to like :).

What genre of music would you consider 7 Months Later?

We believe we're alternative/pop punk. But we bring a different spin to it. Just listen to our guitar work. We try to write music with great form, plenty of instrumental work and try to showcase all the different sounds we have in our heads and are trying to get out. Heck, there are some bluesy riffs that sound like Slash.

Do you consider yourself being in a band, a full-time job?

Not yet. We're all pretty young and still in high school. We practice,write and record every week. Right now as we prepare our next release it's like working Double Time. We've got 7 songs in the can, 1 more to hear next week. Then we'll go in and do final mixes on all 8 songs. Then send off to get mastered, finish the artwork and then go to print. Then plan the release event, set up our Spring tour and then get ready for the ride of our lives in Summer 2011. So never mind, it's pretty full time these days.

How does your music reach out to teens, or your target audience?

Our target is teens 12-24 right now. Who else to relate to than other teens. We love it when they learn the songs and sing them at our gigs, make youtube videos and support us every chance they can. We think the lyrics hit home with relationships and things they are dealing with while the music gets them moving. So far it's working out real well for both us and the fans.

What does 7 Months Later hope to bring in 2011?

Funny you should ask. We're currently negotiating our first record deal with an independent label out of New York. It's definitely happening and we're doing all the legal stuff as we speak. Once "Time to Decide" is released and support it on tour, we'll continue writing and progressing and put out a full length cd with the record label. Whether we can get that out in 2011 is questionable but you never know.

What was the most complicated part of your most recent tour?

We haven't actually toured yet. We've played dozens of local bars... some great events and festivals like the Florida Music Festival. We've also played the Hard Rock Live Orlando, House of Blues Orlando and opened for Sugar Ray and Fastball at one of Florida's most renowned Concert Series. We do have a tour planned with a Spring 2011 leg and then the entire Summer we'll be on the road supporting our newest release "Time to Decide" due out February, 2011.

In what ways does music inspire you?

Music inspires us as it is a way to express ourselves and relate our life experiences to others. We love music... we love to listen to it... we love to play it and we love to share it live. Whether we're driving, hanging out or spending time with friends and family, there is always music involved.

What is the story behind "By The Light"?

"By the Light" was our debut EP and the story goes like this. We have all these ideas and haven't put them on a cd yet...so we saved up our money from playing gigs, contacted some friends we met at Starlight Studios in Orlando Florida and asked them to record and produce our first cd. Then we just wanted to get our music in the hands of the fans as the bought both digitally and on cd at gigs. We really learned a lot during the process and you'll hear the result in our second release which we also recorded at Starlight Studios.

What's your favourite instrument that you own?

Chris love his Gibson Les Paul Classic. It's a black beast and he plays it at every 7ML gig. Although Adam plays guitar and keyboards, he's recently fallen in love with his Micron synthesizer. Dave doesn't leave home without his Fender Jazz bass and Nick is the drummer so he comes to practice every week with some new toy...this week it's a sampling pad.



Interview by Cynthia Lam

JADED HIPSTER CHOIR

How did you come up with the name "Jaded Hipster Choir"?

It was back in high school, and it sort of came about one day after school. I was talking with my drama teacher about albums and stuff, and I noticed it was getting late. I told him I always have choir practice at 7, and I should probably get going. He didn't believe that I was in choir, and he just sort of jokingly said, "What kind of choir to you go to, a jaded hipster choir?"

Would you say that you differ from other artists and bands who are considered "in your scene"? How?

It's pretty weird to think about it. When I first started sending to my music to blogs, people sort of started to lump me into the chillwave thing but I think since then I've diversified quite a lot from like the simplest things to these weird pseudo-classical-rave songs so yeah, I guess I differ. I mean everyone is so different we're all sort of together because we all appreciate each other's music, you know?

What influences or inspirations do you draw from?

Definitely Owen Pallett. I remember seeing him at like 15, and being totally blown away it was just him in this big theater and he was doing the most insane looping I'd ever seen before and I was just like yeah. Since then I've listened to his albums and EPs religiously. I've listened to his latest full-length Heartland, like once a day.

Has Edmonton's local music scene influenced you in any way?

The first show I ever played was at a noise-open mic, which I think permanently affected how I think of music. I'm a much bigger fan of how crazy a track can get now than I was

before, haha. Not to mention, Edmonton is home to one of my favourite bands ever, GOBBLE GOBBLE, which is this like monster-rave group headed by Cecil Frena. they're live shows are like the craziest thing on the planet. its specifically designed to get you to sweat like you've never sweat while dancing before.

So how is Jaded Hipster Choir's writing and recording process like?

I usually don't write lyrics at all. I'm no good at them. For Pill Weekend, Franny did all the vocal work and lyrics. but it usually happens in a huge burst. I usually end up writing 10-20 basic loops and then I weed out the ones I don't think are up to snuff. About 5 or 10 are left and then those are practiced non-stop with my live set-up, so I know they work and then if they do, I bring all the original samples into my computer, and produce the "studio" versions from there.

While writing music what challenges do you encounter? How do you overcome them?

My creative approach is really similar to manic depression, actually! I usually get so hyper creative I just start banging out shit like no tomorrow, and then I hit a total block. Then I get really depressed and mopey, and no one wants to be around me, haha. But I'm learning how to balance myself out more. Usually when I hit a wall now, I just start focusing on the production aspects of songs. making things sound cleaner, dirtier, or whatever. trying to make different parts stand out.

What is your favourite song that you've written? What is it about?

Production wise, I'd have to say "Don't Stop The Party On My Account" which is a cover of an Owen Pallett song by the same name. It just has crazy amounts of auto-tune and trombones and wacked-out vocals 3 octaves too high just sensory overload. In terms of playing I'd have to

say Glowing Solomon because the live version is 1000x different than the original its a lot simpler, to the point, brash.

If you had to describe Jaded Hipster Choir in one word what would it be and why?

Grandma-booty-shaking. Grandma, because I'm pretty addicted to sampling classical concertos and symphonies and the like, booty-shaking, because I try to spin those samples into something interesting and danceable. Like for this remix I'm doing for Houses, I'm just using the drums and vocals from the original, and I've built the rest of the track from Brahms Violin Concerto in D-Major.

What sparked your interest in music? Was there a specific show or event?

I don't think it was ever just a singular thing that made me want to do it as more than just like a passing thing. I think it was more of a gradual thing, like getting addicted to gambling or hard drugs would be, you know? Like, a slow entry into it, and then you starting getting better or doing more of it until your headfirst and seeing the Virgin Mary dancing to Rihanna, you know?

What would you say is your biggest accomplishment?

Finishing Pill Weekend. For me, that album was frustration central every little thing that could possibly go wrong while making an album, happened during that record, so much so I almost gave up completely, but whatever. I made do, and thats important.

What does the future hold for Jaded Hipster Choir?

I'd like to get big enough to go do some festivals like CMJ or SXSW in the future. Probably making better music, too.

Interview by Bianca Delicata

I THE MIGHTY

What was the most complicated part of your most recent tour?

Well, everything went pretty smoothly actually. The only hick-up was on the way to LA our van like, jumped out of nowhere while I was driving it. It ran fine after that but long story short - our transmission is now dead and it looks like we may be looking for a new tour van.

In what ways does music inspire you?

I think for me, other music is one of the best sources of inspiration. Obviously, being musicians, we are all music lovers. There is nothing quite like the way a song can hit you right where it hurts. Even giddy with excitement about how dope a line or a part was. Moments like that are when inspiration hits.

What is the story behind "Modern Medicine"?

Modern Medicine is an older song written shortly after high school. It mainly was me writing about the internal struggles I have with modern medicine. How it has become a multi-Billion dollar industry. How people pay off politicians. How much of the time the side-effects outweigh the benefits but so long as a profit is being made, who cares. The idea that there is a cure for cancer being hoarded because cancer treatments make millions. The fact that the legalization of weed will abolish countless random pills some people take and in turn struggle with the side effects that the unneeded chemicals bring. The bridge is about a girl who "wasn't insane till the medicine came." Sometimes listening and analyzing could provide a cure over randomly and carelessly prescribing drugs. However, I believe the latter takes place sometimes and that's a sad thing.

What's your favourite instrument that you own?

My favorite instrument I own is my guitar

because its the one I feel confident with. If I owned a piano or knew how to play it proficiently my answer might be a little different. Now that you mention it, I need to bust out those harps.

What bands do you personally listen to, and how do they influence your work?

The bands I listen to change. I often find myself becoming obsessed with an album or a band for a period of time. However, the true ones stick. Like Coheed and Cambria or Thrice. That being said, I think inspiration is drawn from separate phases and bands I was obsessed with. The most recent being Pierce the Veil's new album "Selfish Machines." I think if you listen for it you may here a little bit of that influence in our new material. As for the bigger picture, lyrically and conceptually my biggest influences are probably Claudio Sanchez, Ben Gibbard, Conner Oberst, there are many others.

What genre would you consider I The Mighty as?

Old I the Mighty, like the stuff that's released as of now, would probably fall under the genre of indie/alternative.....maybe with hints of progressive rock regarding some song structure. New I the Mighty, like our material that will be released in 2011 is a step towards a little heavier and more progressive sound. There are still elements of indie rock and singer/songwriter inspired parts that will hopefully set us apart from the thousands of other bands out there that may sound something like us. I like to think we have a somewhat original thing going for us. Then again, doesn't every band say that?

Do you consider yourself being in a band, a full-time job?

For sure being in a band is a full time job. At least taking it seriously is. You can always play music and promote locally and say you're in a real band....but its thinking outside the box and

figuring out how you take it to a state/national/international level that's the tricky part.

Formulating plans, taking risks, taking hits, building hype then concentrating on not letting it die. There's a lot more that goes into trying to be in a band and making it a career than most may think. Its dedication. It also really helps to form a team of supporters around you who truly believe in the music, the message, and the product. Luckily, we've been fortunate enough to find some people like that.

How does your music reach out to teens, or your target audience?

Our target audience is probably teens - college grads. I think we reach out to them by being as real as possible. I don't believe our music is shallow or easily digestible. I think for a lot of our songs you need to dig into them and read the lyrics and find your meaning in it. Some are more straight forward stories, others are drawn from real events. Either way every song has real emotion conveyed and I think that's something relatable about our music. I don't like the idea of dumbing down lyrics so the masses can understand them. I like to respect the intelligence of the listener. Let them put in some time or draw their own conclusions. Most of my favorite bands are that way.

What does I The Mighty hope to bring in 2011?

Well, our hopes are high. Hopefully, we'll join the family of a credible label signed and start touring the country for the remainder of the year. Hopefully our buzz continues to grow and blossom into something beautiful. Hopefully, our fans continue to be as loving and engaged and supportive as they have been. Hopefully, we'll get to play a festival. Hopefully, our next EP or album release will be well received in the media spotlight as well as our fans...Hopefully....well that's probably asking enough isn't it. I'll leave it at that.

CONDITIONS

Interview with Alex

Interview by Cynthia Lam



What is Conditions all about? Like, why did the band start, is there a sole purpose?

We grew up playing in various local bands around Richmond, VA and all became friends. When those bands were done, we came together and started Conditions for one last effort at avoiding college haha.

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

If you read Brandon's lyrics, he definitely has a lot to say and a lot that we collectively feel strongly about. There's a lot in our songs about growing up and learning things for yourself, and being your own person by looking for the things that truly matter in life.

Do you ever encounter any challenges while writing music? How do you overcome them?

There have definitely been times where we've attempted to get in "writing mode" but nothing is coming out. The best thing to do in that situation is to not force it, take a break, and come back in a day or 2 with fresh ears.

What is the writing process for Conditions like? Is it collaborative or not?

It is collaborative, but almost all of it stems from our guitarist Jason coming up with a riff or a shell of a song, bringing that to practice, and the rest of us chiming in to finish it. We normally finish the music, demo it out, then give it to Brandon to write lyrics to.

Which do you prefer - recording or touring? Why is this?

I can't really choose one because one wouldn't exist without the other. I love getting in the creative mode and being holed up in a studio for a while. It's extremely gratifying to come out with the finished product and share it with people. It's even more gratifying to go on the road and find people that have really latched onto it.

So about a month or two ago Conditions was on the Vultures Unite Tour. What was this experience like?

It was great! We've been friends with Versa for a couple years now so it was very cool to head out on a full run with them. We became great friends with the guys in Anarbor too so the entire tour was a blast. There were a ton of great shows and we covered a lot of ground that we hadn't hit before, so it was awesome.

Which city has been your favourite to play in so far? What makes this city so memorable?

That's hard to pinpoint because there are a ton of shows that the crowd makes it an awesome experience from us, but I think as of lately I will choose Austin, Anaheim, Seattle, Denver, Toronto...the list could go on and on. I really remember shows in cities that I love, so not only the show was great but the city itself was a really fun spot.

Are there any cities that you haven't played that you'd like to? Why?

I'd definitely like to venture into more of Canada, and definitely head to Australia and Japan. We've gotten a good amount of interest from those spots and I've always wanted to see that other side of the world.

What should fans expect at a Conditions show?

You should expect a REAL band that sounds pretty much exactly like our record does. We are very energetic and try to get the crowd involved in having fun with us.

What has been the funniest thing that has happened while you were on tour?

There have been a TON of funny moments for us because our group of guys is very entertaining. One situation that was terrible at the time but is really funny in retrospect now is getting our van towed in Hollywood. We have a running joke of saying "oh, the van's gone..." to each other, but it never actually came true until a couple of months ago. We managed to get it back fairly easily (aside from the \$300 it took to get it out), and after the fact is funny to look back on.

Do you have any plans for 2011?

TOUR! We are planning to stay as busy as possible and get out to as many spots as we can to support our record "Fluorescent Youth."



Interview with Courtney Laplante and Lee Henwood
Interview by Cynthia Lam

UNICRON

How did you come up with the name Unicron?

The name comes from a character in the old Transformers cartoons, its a giant transformer that eats planets. Courtney's little brother came up with the idea before our first show.

What made you decide to pursue a career in the music industry?

It was really the moment we realized that we could have a career making music, and that people were responding positively to what we were doing. And the way we see it, if we can make a living by doing something that we love, you really can't top that.

Were your family and friends supportive of your choice to be in a band and tour?

Most definitely! There were a few words of concern before our last trip when we travelled western canada in the middle of winter in our ghetto van without snow tires. But other than that, everyone has been really encouraging and supportive

How do you feel about your current accomplishments?

We're stoked on the stuff that we've done recently like putting out our EP and doing a couple of tours, but now we've done those things, we're looking forward and we are really excited about what we're going to do in 2011.

What is the most absurd thing that has happened during a show?

Is there a specific show that sticks out to you? What makes it so memorable? Pushups in the mosh pit is definitely one of the coolest things, if you've never seen it, go to your next show and during the heaviest part of the bands set, just bust out some pushups, easiest

pushups you'll ever do!

Has age ever been a barrier for Unicron?

Oh yea, we've finally reached the point where it has stopped being an issue for us. Up until Jackson graduated high school last year, we've always had at least two of our members in high school, making it pretty difficult to be fully committed to both time wise and financially, But now that we're all on the same page, we're ready to move forwards and we know that all of our work over the years is going to pay off.

What inspires you musically and lyrically?

Musically we get inspired by a lot of different things. As a band we all have really diverse musical preferences from hip hop to hardcore to lame top 40 music and so on. And what inspires us to make music is definitely the reaction that we get from people when they see us play. Lyrically, we're actually pretty girly, go figure... Infused with little bits of manly anger.

So *Powerbomb* EP was released on November 30th. Are you happy with the feedback that you've gotten from it?

Yes! We're really stoked that it's being received so well. We put a lot of time and effort into that EP and we worked to develop those songs and our sound for a really long time, so it's awesome to see people appreciate it. Also, that EP is what helped us get hooked up with Outerloop management, and they have been helping us out in a huge way since we signed on with them!

What was the best song to record on the EP? Why?

I'd have to say that our cover of "I gotta feline" by the Black Eyes Peas was the most fun to record, we all got in the vocal booth and messed around and we played around with a bunch of

different sounds and we actually really liked the results. Coincidentally that is the one song that we left off of the EP for copyright reasons. But you can download it for free on unicron.bandcamp.com

In your opinion, what makes a good show?

All it takes to have a good show is people getting into the music. We've had a few shows that have been awesome despite small turnouts just because people are throwing down. That being said, a good turnout always helps and it never hurts to have a kick ass sound system with plenty of subwoofer power. From the band it's pretty simple, be tight and play with energy, and get people into it

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

We have quite a few... Let's see. Soulja boy, Jason Derulo, Lady Gaga, Journey (well they're not that guilty), two of our members like Blessed By a Broken heart, if you haven't heard them, look it up and you'll see why they're guilty !

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

Beyonce, cuz that ass is bangin'.

What's your favourite pickup line?

"That's what she said.... " It's low percentage as a pickup line but high percentage for getting laughs.

Where do you see Unicron in the near future?

On the cover of the rolling stone and in our own private jet... is that too much to ask? But realistically, we'll be touring, recording and living the dream. Ideally we'll be doing some bigger package tour.



Interview by Cynthia Lam

LAKEVIEW DRIVE

How would you describe Lakeview Drive (the band and members) in one word?

Why did you choose this word? Well if I have to put Lakeview Drive and its members into one word I guess I would say "funny" we take what we do very seriously, its our lively hood. but we have so much fun and were always joking around.

While starting out the band, what goals did you have in mind? Have you accomplished them yet?

I have accomplished many of the goals since the day I started. I wanted to be a professional band with a tight sound and an amazing live show. so far we are killing all the above. my biggest accomplishment is getting picked up by major management.

Who are your biggest inspirations, and how have they influenced you?

My biggest influences are my family, past girlfriends and as far as music goes I was inspired from everything to screamo to the noises you hear on the beach when your sitting there at night.

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

I do but I don't at the same time. I usually try to keep it where everyone can enjoy it but as a band we always try to attack a larger market of kids.

What is your favourite song that you've ever written and what is it about?

My favorite song is a song I'm working on right now thats going to be on the new record "Ladybug" I wrote it about a girl named Lauren. I was head over hills in love with this girl but I got greedy and messed it up. This song is my way of bringing the memories back . If not for here then bringing them back for me.

Are there any shows that you've played that stick out more than others? Why is this?

Yes I did a fly out show in Seattle with a band called He Is We. The kids there were awesome. But it was the first time I got to play in front of my stepmom. She is a big supporter in my life along the side of my parents and rest of my family. A pretty cute Canadian chick

grabbed my goods while I was singing haha. Crazy Canadians.

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

Yes, I almost fell of a speaker when I was playing in Seattle.

What do you like seeing from the crowd while playing a show?

Well since I play pop rock, I love to see people dancing and singing.

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

Fighting, it gets so many shows shut down. They're wasting the other kids money.

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

Love is very real, but its not always happy nor sad.

What does the future hold for Lakeview Drive?

The sky is the limit. We want every kid in the world to have us jamming in there ipod.

LOVE, ROBOT

Interview with Taylor Schwab Interview by Sarah Lozano



Photo by Alira Alvarez

So how did the band start?

Love, Robot started as a three-piece hardcore band with Jon, Matt, and a friend playing drums. They decided to make the switch to a more pop oriented style of music and picked up Alexa a little while after that.

Where did the name come from?

The name was something that Jon came up with. It's a play on the irony of love coming from something without emotion such as a robot.

Did you guys play in other bands before Love, Robot? Did any of them have a totally different sound from Love, Robot?

As I said Love, Robot started as a hardcore band so the style we play now was a bit of change for Matt and Jon. Sean and I played in an indie rock band before branching off to our own separate hardcore and indie projects respectively before joining Love, Robot. Anthony was in his own hardcore band before joining us as well. A lot of us have roots in hardcore bands, which definitely influences our sound now.

You guys have a music video for the song "Thing You Do" what was it like filming that?

Incredible! We spent a night from about 8 pm to 4 am in a retro diner and then the next night was spent mostly underwater at a YMCA. It was all really exhausting but well worth it.

For an unsigned band can you tell what labels your looking at?

Well, there are the obvious labels at the top of the realm indie labels such as Fueled By Ramen, Fearless Records, and Hopeless Records, but we're by no means limiting our search to those labels. There are a lot of great labels out there and we want to find one that we'll really feel at home with.

If you could put Love, Robot in one word what would that be?

SPICY!!

What L,R lyric do you think speaks to you the most and why?

"It's all or nothing and we're in this together" from Eleven Eleven because it really describes what we're doing with Love, Robot. We're trying to make it as a band and of

course, we're in it together as a band of six best friends.

What's your favorite song to play live?

For me it's a soon to be released song called "Melodies" because it lends itself very well to stage performance.

Can you tell us something we'll be seeing from Love, Robot in the next few years?

There is definitely new songs and music videos on their way soon! Also we plan on taking over the Earth.

If Love, Robot get's to be one of the biggest bands ever, what's one thing you promise your fans?

There are so many things... I'd like to have small personal shows still from time to time and of course, Love, Robot brand hot sauce.

Plain White T's

Wonders Of The Younger

Review by Catherine Khom



The Plain White T's has finally have a new album out, *Wonders Of The Younger*. The power pop/alternative rock band with leading front man, Tom Higgenson with lead vocals and acoustic guitar, De'Mar Hamilton with drums and percussion, Dave Tiro with rhythm guitar and backing vocals, Tim Lopez with lead guitar and vocals and Mike Retondo with bass and also backing vocals. This Illinois band, has received so numerous amounts through their myspace and pure volume page, because of their outstanding lyrics, that I personally I'm fond with. This new album, showed a different side, to the band. The band's newest hit single, "Rhythm of Love" was sang by Tim Lopez instead which led fans to get a better understanding of this remarkable song with the music video attached and laid back style of a guy trying to impress a girl he likes. This album has much more significant lyrical songs that is very expressive and imaginative in each song. I really love the songs which they provided in this album, I wouldn't want to change anything about this album, it perfectly fit's the message their trying to address. Therefore, that the days in life is very precious and don't have to always plan things and that "just go with the flow" sort of speak. The songs are very laid back and at times upbeat which gives a central vibe which upcoming fans would love to hear.

Stereos *Uncontrollable*

Review by Cynthia Lam



It was just two years ago with Stereos formed and started making their name in the Canadian music scene. After appearing on disBand in 2009, releasing their debut self-titled album, and touring all across North America they have come to release a new album *Uncontrollable*.

The difference between their self titled and *Uncontrollable* isn't very prominent. One could listen to both albums and not realize that they were separate albums. Although *Uncontrollable* sounds similar to their self-titled one can hear that Stereos has matured and grown from one album to another. Stereos is known for their use in autotune, which isn't always a negative thing, but at the same time I feel as if there is an overuse of it. Sure it enhances the song, and the vocals but let's face it, Pat Kordyback can sing, so just let him! *Uncontrollable* is a step up from the last album in the autotune factor compared to their self titled.

Uncontrollable is filled with upbeat songs that you could find playing at your favourite nightclub. It is filled with classic party tunes such as the high energy "Uncontrollable" and "Girls In The Club (We Got It)". If you're heading out to a party with your best friends, look towards *Uncontrollable* as the soundtrack for your night!



IN RETROSPECT...

2010 has been a great year for Stitched Sound and it's staff members. First off, being able to start it all up again, and also getting to know each other and spread the good word of music.

Bianca Delicata

How do you think this year has been for Stitched Sound?

I think personally, Stitched Sound has evolved so much over these past twelve months. New staff members, more photographers, great relationships with bands, has helped SS rise up and really catch the attention of many teens and young adults. I'm really glad to be a part of this staff. I've made some great friends and explored new genres of music that I never thought I'd like.

What has been your favourite issue and why?

Oh gosh, I'm horrible at picking favourites. I guess my favourite issue is probably either the March issue (with The Artist Life on the cover) or the February issue (with This Century on the cover). The March issue is one of my favourites, because I was so proud that a local band was on the cover of Stitched Sound, and that I had the chance to interview them. The February issue was also my favourite because it was the first issue I had participated in. Looking back, I can't believe how simple, and typical my questions were!

Who's your favourite band is that you've interviewed?

My favourite band that I've interviewed was either Four Year Strong or Dear Zim. The dudes of Four Year Strong were so down-to-earth and awesome, it really helped me calm my nerves. I'm a fan of FYS so it was absolutely a memorable experience. As for Dear Zim, David was quite the comedian. His sense of humour definitely made the interview experience much easier and thrilling.

Catherine Khom

This has been my fourth month with Stitched Sound, I feel that Stitched Sound is a part of my family now. Literally, I've met so many people along this journey and I can't wait for the next couple of months. This year has been really amazing, because I got to overcome some fears but also discovered my love for music and photography through Stitched Sound. Also, going to concerts and meeting new people opened my eyes to a possible future career in the music and photography industry. My favorite Stitched Sound issue is Fairline issue, because that really captivates Fairline's hopes and future goals and gave me a better understanding, of the band and now I'm a huge fan of their music! Through Stitched Sound, my favorite band to photograph is Versaemerge, Anarbor and The Summer Set, because they were such amazing performers and to be able to capture those moments in the hands of my camera, was incredible and was what I loved to do. The favorite band I had to interviewed was Before You Exit because their one of the rising bands that I cannot stop listening to, and their music is purely the future pop/rock band of all time.

Cynthia Lam

How do you think this year has been for Stitched Sound?

Well, since Stitched Sound started up this year again, I'd like to say that it's been a fantastic year. I mean we were able to get the whole "issues" idea going. I've talked to some people who have said that they found one of their new favourite bands through our issues which just makes me happy. I think that it's grown a whole lot and all the staff members are the most amazing people.

What has been your favourite issue and why?

Definitely issue nine and ten. I can't pick. Issue nine featured Pierce The Veil on the cover and the whole issue was just packed with great material, about Warped Tour and what not. Issue ten was another one of my favourites because of the interviews that were included in the issue. Also I'm happy that I was able to help promote The Word Alive's new album *Deceiver* and hopefully bring more readers closer to the band.

Who's your favourite band that you've interviewed?

Pierce The Veil. Those guys are always great, fun, and just all around hilarious. I had the chance to do an in person interview with them at Warped Tour and it was just one of the highlights of 2010. I got to talk to them about *Selfish Machines* and Warped Tour. This is completely irrelevant but they are also wonderful to see live.

Sarah Rutz

Top albums/EPs of 2010:

The Upsides - The Wonder Years
What Separates Me From You - A Day To Remember
Enemy Of The World - Four Year Strong
Selfish Machines - Pierce The Veil
Real Talk - Man Overboard
The Hearts of Lonely People - Isles & Glaciers
The Zombie Ep - The Devil Wears Prada
Recovery - Eminem
My Dinosaur Life - Motion City Soundtrack
Ø (Disambiguation) - Underoath

Most Played Songs:

Empty Sighs And Wine - Isles & Glaciers
Sticks & Bricks - A Day To Remember
Inside Of You (Acoustic) - The Maine

Most Anticipated 2011:

Before Their Eyes
All Time Low
Forever The Sickest Kids
blink-182.
Taking Back Sunday
D.R.U.G.S
Hit The Lights
Set Your Goals
The Wonder Years

Best collab:

Love The Way You Lie - Eminem feat. Rhianna

Best Live Show:

A Day To Remember. Hands down, these guys know how to put on one hell of a show. However, Forever The Sickest Kids always puts on a great show, too.

Best Tour:

Toursick — A Day To Remember

Artist Of The Year:

A Day To Remember

Cynthia Lam

Top ten albums of 2010:

Selfish Machines - Pierce The Veil
Deceiver - The Word Alive
What Separates Me From You - A Day To Remember
Cardinology - Good Charlotte
There Is A Hell - Bring Me The Horizon
Danger Days - My Chemical Romance
Black & White - The Maine
Be Human - Brighten
Streets Of Gold - 3OH!3
Do Overs and Second Chances - Go Radio

Most Played Songs:

Epiphany - The Word Alive
Give It To Me - The Maine
World War 24 - Ryan Adams

Most Anticipated 2011:

All Time Low
The Summer Set
Panic! At The Disco
I See Stars
D.R.U.G.S.
A Skylit Drive

Best Collab:

I Hate The Holidays - Mat Mutso ft. Tyler Carter.

Best Live Show:

A Day To Remember, The Devil Wears Prada, Bring Me The Horizon, and Pierce The Veil.

Best Tour:

Toursick 2010

Artist Of The Year:

Pierce The Veil

Any comments? Feedback?

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And also to all of you who are reading this!

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