

STITCHED SOUND

Issue #17



Falling Awake

Stay, Run For The Skylines, Ally Burnett,
Divided By Friday, Problem Of Time *and more!*

Things that don't stop... snow.

To all of you who live where there is no snow... lucky you. It's March and the snowy streets of Edmonton are still covered in piles of snow. It's frustrating really, and for some reason snow wears me out and makes me a bit lazy. Anyway, back to the topic. March issue! Also known as our Anniversary issue. I'm really proud of everything we've done. Didn't think we'd make it this far, but we have and we're going to aim for the top.

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.

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

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.

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THE TINDER BOX

Interview by Bianca Delicata



How big of a part did music have in your life as you were growing up?

Dominic: The older I get, and the more involved with music I become, the more of an impact it has on me, and not just one kind of music, but all kinds.

Jon: I have always been exposed to quality music from my parents and older brother. I owe them a tip of the cap in kick starting my interest in music and pursuing vocal performance.

Chad: My mother revealed music's beauty to me during my childhood, through songs she sung as well as the introduction of quality artists (e.g. Simon and Garfunkel). I attached myself instantaneously to our family's record player after that; sitting for hours on end listening to the enticing tone of vinyl.

If you could go back in time, what band or artist would you go watch?

Dominic: That's a tough question, but I would have to say Neil Young or Pink Floyd.

Jon: Well if I was absolutely forced to pick one instance to back in time, it would be serving as a crowd member during The Last Waltz performance that comprised of many revolutionary artists from Bob Dylan to Neil Young, and of course the performance orchestration by none other than The Band.

Chad: I would be elated to go back to 1963 to witness Bob Dylan perform his The Freewheelin' Bob Dylan album in its entirety (especially the song "Girl from the North Country"). I consider, though personally subjective of course, the album to be one of the greats in music history.

Where do you see The Tinder Box in a year or so?

Dominic: Having fun making music. Possibly touring.

Jon: I see us as more musically matured and pursuing higher achievements as well as higher musical standards.

Chad: I try not to look ahead too much; expectations can destroy an individual's initial intent. I hope we are just playing and loving every second of it.

How did you come up with The Tinder Box? Who thought of it?

Dominic: Chad came up with it, it's actually an old fairy tale from the 1800's.

Jon: Chad found an ancient fable/fairy tale story book and the story of "The Tinder Box" caught his eye and stuck.

Chad: I spent one summer "flipping" houses. In one house I discovered an old fairy tale book and The Tinder Box happened to be one of the tales. It is truly a unique tale. Check it out.

You released your first EP "These Winds" recently. How was the response from fans? Was it what you expected?

Dominic: So far it's been positive, and it's about what I expected.

Jon: The response is still in the early stages, but it has been nothing but positive – and what I've expected so far.

Chad: I am not really sure what I expected, but the response has been positive to this point.

What were your first impressions of the other members in The Tinder Box?

Dominic: I had known Chad and Jon for a little while before we played together, so we all get along great.

Jon: Prior to forming, we had all begun to know each other quite well so the music part came more naturally.

Chad: Both are "peculiar" individuals, yet I perhaps am the most...ha. I love these two guys as though they were brothers; we are an eclectic three, but we are a cohesive three.

How would you describe your music to someone that's reading this interview now, but has never heard of The Tinder Box?

Dominic: Folk that incorporates a little bluegrass and blues.

Jon: A more contemporary folk-based sound with influences of bluegrass, blues, and older country music.

Chad: Refer to the others' responses for more specific descriptions. I lack any ability to objectively describe musical genres, but I would say Folk Rock.

Which song off "These Winds" would you say is the most meaningful to you? Why is this?

Dominic: "These Winds" because it was the first song I decided to pick up the banjo and give it a whirl. Now it's my favorite instrument.

Jon: For me, it would have to be "How Petty is the Bird." The song elicits powerful emotion from the songwriter that translates into a relatable experience for the listener. And I take pride in my harmony contributions to the song.

Chad: "Our Praise" would have to be the most meaningful to me. Lyrically, it is a struggle of one's desire to understand life's complexity in relation to the willful acceptance of one's unknown fate within the realms of this existence.

Thanks for the opportunity guys! Anything else you'd like to say?

As Chad would say, liveinlove.



Interview by Cynthia Lam

PROBLEM OF TIME

Problem Of Time was first a solo project. What made you decide to turn it into a band?

I always had in mind that this would turn out to be more than just a solo project. Playing live shows with the energy of a full band is something that I love to do, and I knew that was my direction. I was actually living in Europe when I wrote Double Bind, which did not allow me to commit to a full band here stateside. After returning I went right to work recording with Ripple Studios in Virginia Beach, and the resulting album has turned out to be a real asset for attracting auditioning artists that are as passionate about music as I am. In the end there was an enthusiastic response for the band auditions, and I couldn't be happier with the talent in our lineup right now.

When Problem Of Time first started, or when you first joined, did you expect to accomplish as much as you have right now?

I have been writing music for over 8 years now, and this certainly isn't the first time I have recorded something. But music has never been about expectations for me. It has always been about expression and coping, conveying a message through my music that I otherwise wouldn't be able to get across to somebody face to face. Yes I am very stoked about the warm reception Double Bind has received so far. I would say we have a long way to go as a band but i am very excited for the future.

If you were to describe Problem Of Time in one word, what would it be and why?

Universal. Despite all my cheesy concepts and lyrics, problem of time is still about the music. Listeners can connect through the music and translate it to there own life however they see fit or they can just enjoy the sound.

Are there any songs that you've written that are very meaningful to you? What is it and why?

Sure, some of my songs are very meaningful to me. In particular "Too Far" comes to mind, which deals with the complex emotions I felt after the death of my good friend Tyler Trahan (who was killed in the war in Iraq). I tend to write a lot of my music based on difficult situations that I have been through, so each song kind of represents a particular emotional phase of my life. On this album I really tried to capture those emotions and apply them to a unifying concept.

So you recently released Double Blind EP on January 30th. Is there a concept behind this EP? What is it about?

This goes back to what I was saying before about complex emotions and going through a difficult situation, without actually knowing how to deal with it. That's sort of where the name of the EP comes in, Double Bind. I interpret it as being forced to choose between two conflicting issues, but finding yourself incapable of making any decision that would effectively resolve the issue. for example, someone who doesn't have the same beliefs as their family, but by not having those same beliefs they could lose their relationship with them. It seems as if neither choice can really resolve the issue. I think everybody has confronted a double bind at some point in their lives.

What is your favourite song to play off the EP?

I like "Too Far" because of the energy of the song. Every instrument is in your face and the vocal range really challenges me.

Are you happy with the response that you've gotten from the EP?

Absolutely. It feels great to have something I worked so hard on being so well received by people. I have even had positive responses from people that don't normally listen to our genre of music.

Growing up, who were your biggest musical influences?

The Smashing Pumpkins. I got into them really young, and they were definitely the first band that compelled me to actually listen to music. My older brother and I used to listen to them religiously. We'd dream about the world outside of our small town, wonder if we'd ever see it. Billy Corgan was essentially a god to us. Later on in high school my cousin Tyson Stevens, the lead singer of Scary Kids Scaring Kids, was really the one who got me interested in writing/playing music. I would go to his early shows around Phoenix as a kid, then I watched them start to take off, and I was really inspired by that.

If you could play a show with any two bands who would they be and why?

Thursday and Brand New. I really look up to them as bands, and I have been listening to them from their beginnings. I also think our style matches up with theirs pretty well and it would be a kick ass show.

Do you have any plans for touring in the future?

Right now we are just trying to take it step by step, but we hope to start touring as soon as the opportunity arises. In the meantime we'll be playing shows locally.



Interview with Tony Rodini
Interview by Cynthia Lam
Photos by Meredith Truax

NEW COUNTY

What makes New County different from other bands that would be considered "in your scene"?

What makes us different is that we are starting to incorporate an electronic sound to our music, yet still maintain the rock aspect of the band. We want to make our songs relatable to everyone... not just to kids in the "scene", but to America. We have very honest lyrics yet still have fun with the songs and some phrases in our tracks :)

If you were able to travel back time and start/be in the band in any decade which would it be and why?

I would pick the 90s. I have always been a HUGE fan of 90s music. It would be killer to tour with bands like Eve 6, Third Eye Blind, and Everclear. There was just something real about artists back then, and their lyrics and sound represented that realness perfectly.

Growing up, who were your musical influences? Would you say they're the same now?

Growing up I listened to everything. The first CD i bought was Trick Daddy haha. Then I started listening to a lot of 90s bands like Third Eye Blind. My influences have some what changed now. I'm a huge fan of pop music and really have been into artists like Jason Derulo and new artists like Matisse. You can really learn a lot by listening to current music just as far as the melodies go and the topics.

Has the Philadelphia local music scene influenced you in any way? How?

The Philly music scene has influenced us because we grew up a part of it. When we were young we would go to local shows and pretty much grew up following bands like Valencia. From being young and just watching them, to growing up playing with them, we have really learned a lot from our music scene. Just meeting kids who come

out to our shows in and around Philadelphia have been influential to us because we learn a lot from them and we feel like we really have a chance to connect with kids.

How would you describe New County to someone who has never heard of you before?

I would describe us as a fun pop band with a honest lyrics. We don't want to be pigeon holed to being a "scene" band, rather we want people from all over to check us out and get into what we are doing. I would consider our new music a mixture between Tai Cruz and The All American Rejects. We've got a little something for everyone lol.

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So you recently released a new song "Open Up To Me". Are you happy with the feedback that you've gotten from it so far?

We are SO happy with the feedback we have gotten. So much love on our Facebook and twitter from kids, and recently we have been a featured artist on PureVolume.com. The song has received over 1,000 downloads so far and has been the #2 most downloaded song on PureVolume for about a week straight now! So thankful for all our fans who helped spread the word, this is just the beginning of what we are gonna share with you from our upcoming EP.

What was the writing and recording process for the song like?

For "Open Up To Me" it was a particularly different process. We pretty much jammed on a song and had a chord progression down for the chorus. I had coincidentally demoed pretty much the same thing prior to that, so we all had the same idea of where the song was going. We took it into the studio and our producer actually told us we should use that melody and progression as

the verse. After we had the verse down we just wrote the rest in the studio and it all just magically fit together.

Where do you draw inspirations for songs?

Inspiration for songs come from everything in life. Sometimes a song doesn't necessarily have to be about something that has happened to me, but if I have an idea or concept of something that goes on in other peoples lives i'll write a song and just tell a story. Pretty much I try to be as real as I can and write about what goes on in my life. Whether it's about a girl, a friend, a party, whatever, I just write what I feel and let it all out.

Is there anything in the music industry that really peeves you off?

Um I cant say there is one specific thing in the industry that really makes me mad lol. Not everyone out there is evil. If you are a hard working artist and have the right people working hard behind you, I believe you can accomplish anything. Even if the industry isn't 100% what it used to be. It's all good.

What do you think is the toughest thing for musicians to overcome now a days?

The toughest thing for musicians to overcome now a days is just being able to support themselves being an unsigned artist. We are lucky enough to be able to sustain ourselves and pay for recording/ traveling expenses, but not everyone is as lucky. We are so happy with where we are and hope to keep growing!

Where do you expect New County to be in the next year or so?

Hopefully just still growing and gaining fans! Everyone so far has been awesome and I can see our music getting spread more and more out there. Hopefully in the next year or so we will be doing what we love full time, touring, recording, and doing big things :) Be on the look out for our new EP "Sing The Pain Away" which is coming very soon. Thanks!



MY NEW YORK SUMMER

Interview by Cynthia Lam



Do you feel that the internet is an extremely (maybe even the most) useful tool for musicians to spread the word about their music?

Absolutely! It's always expanding and artists are being given chances to be acknowledged everywhere you look.

Are there any problems or anything in the music industry that you disagree with?

Unfortunately, yes. I feel as if mediocre musicians with the right "look" make it over the real talent.

What should we expect from you in the next year or so?

A debut EP, perhaps even a second/third on iTunes, a summer east-coast tour, more interviews/articles, some collabs, and a lot more new music (:

How did you come up with the name "My New York Summer"?

I was at college at West Virginia University just thinking of my band name, even though I was solo. Thinking of a band name is so hard for me, but I really missed my home in NY. I had a good summer going into freshman year of college and I guess that's what influenced me. I missed the summer in New York.

What is your favourite thing about New York?
Pizza!

What made you decide to start writing music?

Ever since I was in grade school I would always write lyrics and imagine melodies in my head. My dad is a pianist and I always wanted to play like him. When I was in 7th grade I got serious about it and wrote a few lines down in a notebook, a few lines turned into pages and so forth.

Where do you hope this takes you in the future?

Not even the sky is the limit. I want to take one day at a time.

Has age ever been a barrier for you?

Absolutely, I just turned 20 this past weekend. Being a 20 year old, solo artist, I need to show people that I can offer something different than the million other kids out there doing this.

What would you say inspires you musically?
People being happy.

Have you ever experienced writers block as a musician? How did you overcome it?

All the time. I just take a few hours away, maybe even days, from writing and do something completely different. I always manage to come back with something better the next time around.

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

That's a tough one! I don't think I have one. It may be a song I wrote called "Beautifully Broken", I took all of the feelings I had about losing my best friend and turning them towards a girl. It's about someone who doesn't really even know who they are. Everything I write has something at least a little personal in it.



TO PAINT THE SKY

Interview by Azaria Podplesky

How did the members of To Paint the Sky meet? When did you all decide to form a band?

Ryan and Jamie met through being in old bands together; later they met Jimmy from another local band. Jamie met Allana at a acoustic private performance for Aiden while he was there promoting his band. They then got in contact a few months later via myspace (back when myspace was cool) and at the time Allana was looking to become more involved in the music scene and TPTS was looking for a new singer.

Seattle is mostly known for the “grunge” era of the 90s. What is the Seattle music scene like today?

The scene is very different now. There are more hardcore and indie bands, but Seattle still has a strong multi-genre musical culture. Post-Hardcore, Dubstep, and Techno are also prevalent in the Seattle scene.

What’s the biggest obstacle you’ve faced during your time as a band?

We’ve faced a lot of obstacles over the last year as a band, probably the most challenging of which has been balancing school, work, and schedules outside the band. We’ve also worked hard to overcome our differences while writing and collaborating together to find our sound.

What was it like recording The Ghost with Wil Francis?

Pretty fucking awesome. It was productive, we learned a lot from him. It really opened our eyes to our full potential, and working with Wil and our

engineer Joel Casey Jones (Blessed By a Broken Heart) really pushed our limits. They helped us make the best sound we could make. They brought us to a level we had not seen yet. Wil and his band Aiden have been a huge influence and inspiration to us as a band and individuals, so we personally couldn’t have found a better fit to produce TPTS.

What’s your favorite song to play live? Why?

Jimmy: Departed. I put a lot of my feeling and emotions into this song while writing on our first tour.

Allana: Memory of a Nightmare, because its good to move to and the high notes are fun to hit live. Also, the fans love to move to this song.

Daniel: Departed because of the breakdown at the end

Ryan: I like “The Ghost” because the lyrics mean a lot to me.

Are there any subjects or themes that are present in several of your songs?

We write our songs as we would write a diary of our lives. The songs reflect our lives, our goals, and our pasts.

How would you describe your music to someone who has never heard of TPTS?

Our music is hard to describe, so we like to say that we are a female-fronted dark pop. We get compared to either a dark Paramore or a girl fronted Black Veil Brides by fans sometimes.

What would you like a fan to get out of your live show?

To feel like they got every penny’s worth of what they paid to come see us.

Any embarrassing on-stage moments?

It’s embarrassing when kids don’t show enthusiasm. We come to a show and give it our all on stage and want you to be excited and moving around with us, so when kids stand there with crossed arms and act unresponsive it bums us out and can be embarrassing. It’s even weirder when the same kids come up to us super stoked after the show.

Who would TPTS love to tour with?

Aiden, Motionless In White, Black Veil Brides, Chiodos, Alesana, or Escape The Fate.

What would you be doing if you weren’t in TPTS?

If we weren’t in TPTS, we’d all be in other bands. Music is too much of our lives to not be working on it. Our lives would all be drastically different without this band.

What moment in TPTS history are you most proud of?

Getting our finished EP back, having the opportunities to work with Wil Francis and Joel Casey Jones, and making fans/friends that like our music.

What does the future hold for TPTS?

We’re finishing writing our full length now, so expect lots of new music in the future and lots of touring in the next year.

DIVIDED BY FRIDAY

Interview by Dannielle Corey

Last November you were signed to Hopeless Records. Congratulations! How did you first initiate contact with Hopeless Records?

Yea! Thanks so much. The past few months have been really crazy for us. Last May we self-released an EP, and a few weeks after that we got our first email from Hopeless and none of us could believe it at all. I think they just found us on MySpace actually, which is pretty crazy now because MySpace is basically dead, but they hit us up, asked if they could hear more and I guess they liked what they heard.

A lot of bands are more interested in self releasing nowadays instead of being signed by a major label. Has a record deal always been a mutual goal of the band's?

Yea I think so. Since we were in seventh grade and started the band, all we wanted was to sign with a label and tour 24/7. I think its great if a band can support themselves by self-releasing everything, but I think there's only so much you can do

without a label, so yea, definitely it's always been a goal for us.

What is the story behind your single, Disappoint: Surprise, and how does it tie in with the music video you made for it?

Jose had been in a relationship with a girl for all 4 years of high school and through out the course of it, he started to pick up on major differences that they had and kind of knew that it wouldn't end well. Basically, towards the end of senior year she broke up with him via text message (which lets face it, is about the dumbest way possible to end a relationship) and so he says he felt "disappointed" but wasn't "surprised". The video doesn't really tie in a whole lot to that directly, but it was a cool idea we came up with and I think it fits the song pretty well.

You've been around for a few years now. So far what has been your most memorable moment besides signing with Hopeless Records?

I think one of the biggest "wow" moments for all of us happened right before we

found out we were gonna sign with Hopeless. We played Cornerstone Festival this past summer, and the first night of the festival we played one of the best shows we've ever played. Our tent was pretty packed and it was one of our tightest performances as a band. That's the first one that comes to mind, but then also playing the NC date of Warped Tour when we were 16 was pretty memorable, and then we played a sold out show in Fayetteville, NC with The Red Jumpsuit Apparatus a few years ago as well.

What draws you to a band and how do you try to incorporate that appeal in your own music?

There's a lot of different genre's that we all listen to, I don't really know how they're incorporated into our music though haha I listen for catchiness and uniqueness!

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How have fans responded to your new EP on iTunes?

I think the response has been pretty good, the only negative things that have been said about "The Constant" are just that its the same CD we put out in May and people are ready to hear new music haha but we're just as excited to release new music!

So far, which album have you felt has been your best and why?

Musically, definitely "The Constant"! I think with every song we write, we progress as writers and since that's our most recent release, obviously I feel like that has the best songs haha Although, we're all really proud of the Christmas EP we put out in 2009! And everything we've released for that matter. We've never been able to really take our time with recording/writing things and I think because of that some of our work has suffered, but we're really proud of everything that's out so far. The new stuff we're working on now is DEFINITELY our best though!

You're touring in March. Are you planning on playing some of your older songs from your other albums?

We're kind of looking towards the future right now so not really actually. Our set is three songs off of "The Constant" and two new songs, one of which is hopefully going to be released as a single in March called "Lost in Limbo"

How long do you generally spend in the studio recording?

Like I said earlier we've never really spent a ton of time in the studio. Our first CD "Maybe in a Memory" was recorded in I think four or five weekends (because we had school on the weekdays), we spent I think four or five days tracking "Too Legit", and then six days doing "Holy Nights and Snowball Fights". "The Constant" was a weird process, we spent four days on two songs, two days on one song, and three days on another song. So we haven't spent a ton of time in the studio before, but we're hoping to for our next release.

Aside from music, what are some other hobbies you have?

We all just hang out a lot really haha We watch a lot of movies, and Al and I are big into Call of Duty. We all live together in an apartment so there's never a dull moment

What can fans expect from you in the near future?

Since the Hopeless announcement was made, we've made it really clear to our fans that we just want to come see them as much as possible. Our plan for 2011 is just to tour non-stop. Yesterday our manager told me we have 50 dates booked between now and the end of April, and their just planning on booking us even more. We love playing live and hanging out with everyone who comes out to the shows, so we're just gonna do that as much as possible and hopefully we'll have an EP out in the fall!



Ingrid Stone Photography

Interview by Cynthia Lam

FALLING AWAKE

Falling Awake is a four piece pop-punk band from Orange, California. Started in 2009 (formerly known as Good Question) they have made their place in the southern california music scene. They have played shows with bands such as Anarbor, We Are The In Crowd, and more. They have also been recording a new EP in the past few months. Their EP "In A Bad Dream" will be released on March 15th, 2011. We got a chance to catch up with the band and talk to them about their new EP and future plans.

Growing up in the southern Cali area, has there been any local bands that have influenced you?

Nick: This would probably have to be the Offspring and No Doubt.

Cale: I pretty much listened to Blink 182 growing up.

Alex: My American Heart really influenced me. I saw them on the front page of MySpace back when I was in 7th grade and I saw they were from San Diego. I thought they were so close and they were doing something they loved doing so why couldn't I?

Chad: Oh yeah, definitely. I always try to listen to all the up and coming bands around here. But as far as influencing me, I try to branch out far and create my own sound.

Formed in 2009, been a little more than a year for Falling Awake. Are you happy with all the accomplishments that you've made in the past year?

Nick: Yeah, now that I look back on them I'm very happy with what we've accomplished in such short time.

Cale: Yeah, we've grown and changed a lot more.

Alex: Ever since we changed our band name back in August 2010 we have gotten a lot done. People are finally taking us seriously.

Chad: It seems a lot has been accomplished with us. Like more than we deserve but yeah, its been a lot of fun. Very happy.

When the band first started what did you expect to accomplish? Was it as much as you have now?

Nick: I expected us just to be another lame garage band, but we really broke outta that scene and are now getting more recognition.

Cale: I don't have the mind set of only being in a band to get big and famous, I'm just doin it cause I love music and making music and if we happen to get big then I'm all for it. No rush for me. We've accomplished a bit but we're still tryin to do more.

Alex: I didn't know what to expect. I've always wanted to at least get on iTunes, as small as that may sound. Now that we're about to accomplish that, my next goal is to get Dr. Bieber to enjoy our music and cure my fever.

Chad: When I first joined, I just wanted to jam out and play shows. We've done way more.

So you have a new EP called "In A Bad Dream" coming out on March 15th, 2011. What three words would you use to describe this EP?

Nick: IN YOUR FACE!

Cale: Fast, Fun, and Friendly. (Just like the Target slogan)

Alex: In your face.

Chad: Our Own Style.

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What is your personal favourite song off the EP and why?

Nick: Seven Things" because we all took part in writing it.

Cale: I like them all but I like "Daydream" cause it sounds the most like the kind of music I listen to.

Alex: Its a tie between "Ripped Off", "I Drive, She Pays", and "Seven Things"! "Ripped Off" is my favorite song to play live, "I Drive, She Pays" I love lyric wise, and Nicks vocals on "Seven Things" are my favorite part of the EP.

Chad: "Alibis". Its a lot of fun to play..

What made you decide to have Nick sing certain tracks and Cale sing the others? Was there a specific reason?

Nick: Eh, probably because we have different styles of writing.

Cale: We write our own songs and have different styles so we sing the songs we feel comfortable singing.

Alex: No clue. It kind of just happened. Lately, Nick has started singing a lot more and with that he's really able to get the crowd going.

Chad: It's not really me, they just sing the songs that they write.

What is this EP all about?

Nick: It's a page in the yearbook of Falling Awake; it helps the listener see things the way we as a band do.

Cale: Getting our shit out there.

Alex: Everything that goes on with us. We never sit down and say "okay, this song is about how my mom wouldn't let...stick with that concept" or whatever. Usually Nick and I will text each other lyrics and build off of that or he writes a riff and comes to practice and we'll sit and do acoustic and think of lyrics all together.

Chad: I don't think there's a true meaning.

Falling Awake recently filmed and release the music video for your song "Ripped Off". Can you tell us about that experience?

Nick: Haha it was a new thing for us, but we all adjusted to it pretty easy, and it was free!

Cale: It was amateur and not that professional but it wasn't bad for a firstie.

Alex: I was really nervous. I had like five people watching me play my bass by myself in the mud pretty much...I didn't like them watching ha. But overall, it was a really good learning experience.

Chad: Ha, it was interesting. We shot it in like a day. Oh, and during the shooting, Cale's car got stuck in mud and we all had to push it. It was very sloppy.

Were you happy with the feedback that you got from the video?

Nick: Yes! We got a lot of good comments on the video except for this one douche bag...

Cale: Yeah, most people liked it.

Alex: Definitely. When I saw it was uploaded I posted it to my Facebook and within the first hour I got 23 likes on it. I was really glad people actually watched it.

Chad: I was. I thought it turned out cool and so did a lot of my friends.

If you could play a show with any band(s) who would they be and why?

Nick: Anarbor, Nirvana, Incubus, and the Red Hots/ because these bands were the pioneers of Rock n' Roll in my eyes.

Cale: Definitely Muse, Brand New, and Blink 182 because they are my three favourite bands.

Alex: You Me At Six, My American Heart, and Envy On The Coast so I can die happy.

Chad: New Found Glory. They put on such a great show and they just seem like a ton of fun. I love their energy.

What has been your favourite song to play live?

Nick: RIPPED OFF!!! It's the most energizing song in our set.

Cale: It's a tie between "Alibis" and "Ripped Off" cause they pump me up.

Alex: "Ripped Off". Theres so much energy in that song and the bass line is really fun.

Chad: Probably "Alibis".

Does the band have any plans for touring?

Nick: Well we best be gettin our asses up in Northern Cali this summer for a lil tour.

Cale: Any tour we can get on we'll take.

Alex: We don't have anything set in stone but we do plan on it!

Chad: I'd like to. I think we might be doing a West Coast tour in the summer.

If you could turn back time and re-do anything what would it be and why?

Nick: Just to go back and play as many shows as possible.

Cale: Not let Nick get born.

Alex: Not write some of the songs we wrote... some of them I just shudder at the thought haha.

Chad: Play all our shows with in-ears. I speed things up way too fast without em.

What should we expect from Falling Awake in the near future?

Nick: Top 10 VH1!

Cale: Hopefully hearing us on the radio or something.

Alex: More music, more shows, more videos, merch, everything!

Chad: Just some new songs and shows. Also look out for F.A.'s full-length album.

Interview by Azaria Podplesky

SCARLET GREY

How did all of the members of Scarlet Grey meet seeing as your backgrounds are so varied?

I always wish we had a better answer for this question... I mean, it's totally wild and fortuitous that we did find each other, but the circumstances aren't really all that romantic. The most fun origin story is Alix's... Alix, who is from Germany, was dating my girlfriend's younger sister while they were both living in China... They moved back here to the US all the while we were looking for the perfect synth player/vocalist... who better than a boy born from Kraftwerk? I guess I can attribute the rest of us meeting to the cosmos... That really doesn't sound like me at all haha... Pass the kombucha.

Is it difficult to be a band in Los Angeles, where so many people are trying to "make it?"

I really wish we weren't from Los Angeles to be honest, but it's just where the stork dropped me off. LA is really paradoxical because it's the place where everyone wants to end up but the last place any band wants to be from. It's way more of a competitive, 'crabs-in-a-barrel' type of environment as opposed to the nurturing scenes we hear bedtime stories about. I mean, we've been extremely lucky to have

found such a devoted and beautiful group of people who set the foundation for The Grey Family, but the outlook on music in this city is awful. It's almost seen as kitschy to go see a live rock and roll concert. And if you're a band... not only are you competing with every other band from LA and every other band from somewhere else, looking to make it in LA... but you're also competing with bars and movies and clubs etc. It's really rough. But The Grey Family is proof that it can work, but it's tremendously rare to have people at your concerts and it's even rarer to have people who sing all your words back to you. We're extremely lucky. I will say that it's sharpened our sense of survival for sure, but it's not worth the negative stigma that comes from being an 'LA band' and the money that it takes for your fans to come and see you. So to answer your question, yes it's difficult... But it's been a lot easier lately.

What was it like recording *Fancy Blood*?

Fast haha... The whole record took us essentially 8 days to make. We recorded all of the basic tracks live in one day at Paramount studios in Hollywood in that really big cave room. Not because we were trying to be impressive or anything audacious like that, but because it's seriously all we could afford. We did all of

the remaining overdubs, guitar solos, synths etc., in the next 2 days at Keith's studio. The next 2 days were for my vocals and harmonies... then we had a big group vocal session day with a bunch of our fans, which was an awesome experience... I see what question 4 is, so I'm not going to talk about that yet haha... And then we mixed it in a day and half at Paramount again. Seriously it was a blur... I'm finding it hard to recollect a lot of the specifics of that time because we were so consumed with what we were doing, which I guess is really all you could ever ask for while making something... The hours we kept were anarchy... We would start at Keith's studio every day at 6pm and we'd finish the next morning at 10 am. Also, to add to the chaos... We were offered the AFI tour while we were making the album, so we knew had to finish everything and get it printed to make sure we had "Fancy Blood" in time for those shows. It was beautiful reckless abandon and I'm so happy that's how it had to be. You can create anything great when it's comfortable.

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How did the collaborations with Davey Havok and Jade Puget come about?

Davey and Jade are two of my closest friends, so the actual pitching of the idea to them wasn't the hard part... The scary part is it's the perfect opportunity to find out what they really think of your music. Because here's the deal... Davey and Jade are unbelievably great people and wonderfully supportive friends, but you also know going in that they're not going to be a part of something they don't think is good... So it's scary to ask these intensely influential artists to be a part of your \$2,000 record, even if we are close friends. It's weird because in life, that dynamic doesn't exist... If I'm making cupcakes with Davey or if I'm on a double date with Jade, the fact that they've sold millions of records and inspired so many of the songs my band wrote in high school never comes into play... It's just hanging. But when you're asking *Davey Havok* to sing on your record it feels a little different than just asking your friend Dave to sing on your record. It's so silly... But I will say that they started it! They asked me to sing on *Crash Love* a year before that, so it was only fair.

What was it like recording with the two of them?

It was totally great and totally different. Jade was out of state when we started making the record...so I just sent him the stems to *Fancy Blood* after we had finished the basic tracks. I basically just gave him complete freedom to do whatever he wanted, which is really an unspoken thing... I mean, let's be honest... Jade's going to do whatever he wants anyway. He and I had messed around with a bunch of non Scarlet Grey songs before this, so we had already established a working relationship...I mean we both kinda knew what to expect from each other. What he had sent back to us was so incredible and so much more than I could've hoped for. Sounds like a stock phrase, but it's true. You can't really hear all of the intricacies as much as I wish you could, but there is A LOT happening in that song. I feel like, 88 tracks of stuff are in there, which is pretty lavish for an unsigned band to be trying to pull off. And our drummer Keith produced the whole record, so it was cool to get this outside production perspective on one of the songs. I love how it came out.

Davey was a little different... I wasn't trying to squeeze him into the record for any nefarious purpose as some might have assumed, it was just really the missing piece of the puzzle. I was originally singing the "*Hold on to me*" crescendo, but when we were listening back to it, it was SO much of my voice in so many different dynamics that the combination wasn't giving me the visceral pay off that I was originally hoping for. It was then suggested that somebody else do it... Maybe Keith or Alix?... And then I remembered Davey was going to be in town that weekend... He was flying to LA to finish the Blaqk Audio record and since our drummer Keith was engineering the new Blaqk Audio record, we could just have Dave sing it during one of the sessions... The timing was right, the part was perfect for him... it was fortuitous. I tailored the part a little bit to suit his delivery and on the Sunday morning before we mixed the record, he came in and sang the missing parts of "*The Sky & I*." It was seriously such an incredible day and really the only destiny for song. I seriously cannot imagine the song without him.

How would you describe your music to someone who has never heard of Scarlet Grey?

Pop with dirt under its nails.

Do you have a favorite song to play live?

"*No Boys in the Ballroom*." It's just an extremely cathartic song for me to sing and to have sung back to me. But I will say lately, both "*Fancy Blood*" and "*The Sky & I*" have also become contenders. To be honest, it still moves me every time, I see every person in the room singing every single word with me. I still can't get over it... I mean, that's always the hope when you write songs like these... That your audience is going to connect to them the same way you do, but I'm always extra tough on myself. Most of the people I've met in my life don't really get me as a person, so how the hell is an audience supposed to connect to what I'm saying? So of course I still find it stirring and truly humbling whenever I actually live it. The Grey Family is something to behold, I'll say that.

Any embarrassing on-stage moments?

Haha hopefully most of my embarrassing stage moments are behind me... I realize just by saying that out loud I'm tempting fate, but honestly I can't remember the last truly embarrassing thing that's happened to me while we've been playing... Some of our earlier songs might qualify as embarrassing, but nothing that will really haunt me. Aside from the tiresome "you're a faggot" moments I've had to suffer through early on, most of my onstage life has been pretty pleasant.

What would you be doing if you weren't in Scarlet Grey?

I'd be a chef. Definitely.

What moment in Scarlet Grey history are you most proud of?

There have been a lot. I mean, every fan interaction is rewarding and amazing in its own way. Whether it's somebody's first time *getting* us or somebody's 20th time coming to see us... or if I get an email about helping someone through a difficult time in their life... or if somebody's tattoos words I wrote on themselves or if somebody's child is singing our songs, etc... the experience is always unique and always gratifying. I mean, I think a big part of what we do is being there for people. It's seriously a family. We don't see our fans as numbers or people to market to... It's a dodgy musical climate right now, and that sense of community is something that I think is really important and rare. I want music to be there for The Grey Family the way music was there for me when I was a teenager. Music is with us during the most intimate moments of our lives and I feel like I have a responsibility as someone making music for people I care about. So the moment in Scarlet Grey history that I'm most proud of is the inception of The Grey Family... I knew then that we were a part of something special and that we had a responsibility to take care of our audience in a way that hadn't really ever been done before. It's still the thing about this band that I'm the most proud of.

What does the future hold for Scarlet Grey?

Well, we have been writing the new record. We have 26 songs as of today and a few more on deck. But before we start piecing together the album from all of these parts, we're going to record a single that we're going to give away to everybody for free. We have an opportunity to work with one of our favorite producers ever, Dave Trumfio (My Morning Jacket, Wilco, Billy Bragg, OK GO, Built to Spill etc.) and we're going to take it. So this Sunday we will be in the studio recording a brand new song as a gift for all of the people who have been supporting us for so long. After that, hopefully we'll have figured out all this label nonsense so we can get back on the road and see everybody.

STAY

Interview with Anthony Rainville
Interview by Cynthia Lam
Photos by Christine Bartolucci

When Stay first started did you ever expect to accomplish as much as you have today? What did you expect to accomplish?

It's funny because I feel like when you start you're so invigorated and stoked to have something new that you expect to eventually achieve the world. You have to be confident so it feels really normal to expect that you're going to do everything you set out do. At the same time, after doing it for a few years I think I'm still really humble about all the things, both large and small, that we've accomplished. Did I expect to achieve more than I have by now? Definitely. But have I been consistently blown away by each achievement or awesome thing we've gotten to do as we've been doing it? Absolutely. It's definitely about the process for me as much as it is the end result.

How would you say the band has grown in the past year?

In the past year we've added some new friends, supported some of our favorite bands on tour, sold out shows at home, and wrote, recorded, and self funded our first ever LP. I think that's pretty stellar growth and I'm really proud of what we did this year together. It wasn't easy but we did it. And I'm even more excited for this coming year especially on the touring front. I can definitely see us doing it even bigger and better this year as we hit the road and release our new record in April.

While writing do you aim for a specific audience? Why or why not?

Sometimes. But I think overall our goal as writers is to reach as big of an audience as possible so it's less about

focusing on a certain demographic and more about focusing on the song and how it will reach the broadest audience possible.

So you have a new album "American Cherry Bomb" that is set to release this spring. What was the writing and recording process like?

The writing and recording process was really similar to our last two releases where we had Andrew writing the majority of the music and then we would kind of split the vocals between the two of us. For a few months leading up to the recording we made demo's of all the songs as well as some that didn't end up making it. I think for me personally it was definitely the most challenging thing I've done musically if for nothing else than the sheer amount of songs that have to be written while still maintaining consistent quality per song. It also has to be cohesive as an album which is also a challenge. I think ended up writing half of my vocal parts while in the studio so it was definitely do or die while we were recording. Lots of cold nights in the van and Andrew's car outside the hotel finishing up parts haha. The recording process was really fun on the days I knew what I was doing and then super stressful when I didn't. But overall an awesome experience.

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Do you think there are any songs on the album that might catch fans off guard?

I think lyrically almost everything might catch some fans off guard. Songs like Motor City, Machine Gun Summer, and The Rocket Boys might throw some people off at first but I really think they'll dig them. None of us were interested in making something safe this time around. We wanted to take some risks and give people something they might not necessarily expect from us. I think it also comes down to constantly trying to keep it fresh for ourselves and our fans as well.

What is the new song "Motor City" about?

Motor City is kind of my reflection on a prior relationship and some of the more sexual aspects of it. I'm in a band and I don't have as much time to see the opposite sex as most people do so most of the time I'm kind of driven by my own sexual fantasies. The song was kind of centered around the idea that I'm kind of basing most of my sexual existence on these memories or fantasies that aren't actually real life. The chorus vaguely details a variation on one of those fantasies and the verse is me kind of imagining this life other life where I'm with someone I can come home too.

What inspires you lyrically?

Everything that happens in my life inspires me. I love all kinds of movies so I've probably inherited have a lot of my romantic notions from them and that's shaped part of who I am which also shapes the lyrics I write. I think the relationships I have romantically and with all my friends and my band also influence my writing as well as, of course, all of the bands I listen to and love. Being in a band can be a

huge struggle as you do it and the music industry kind of sucks right now so it's also a source for inspiration.

Stay will be playing the 2011 Never Say Never festival. Are you excited? Any bands that you're excited to see?

Absolutely! We're all really stoked to be playing and I know I'm really excited to see Neon Trees, All Time Low, and our friends in You, Me, And Everyone We Know!

What shows do you have coming up that you are excited for?

I think I'm just really excited to tour in general but I'm most excited for Never Say Never Fest. It's got such a great lineup and a bunch of our friends are playing!

Where has been your favorite place that you've visited on tour?

What made it so memorable?

My favorite place to visit on tour so far has been FL. On one of the recent tours we did we had like four dates there and every single show was incredible. The kids were awesome and we got to spend a day on the beach which was fantastic!

What is your favorite pickup line?

"Hey does this bar napkin smell like chloroform?"

Where do you expect to be in the next year or so?

Hopefully still on the road, releasing a new record, being sort of financially stable? (maybe?!), and hopefully playing bigger and bigger shows.

GASOLINE HEART

Interview by Stefany Bryan



What made you want to be a musician?

I was always surrounded by it. My dad and all of my uncles were always in bands. My family would have halloween house parties and just set up all of the equipment in the kitchen, a giant dance party would start up. I just always looked up to my family and the fact that they played music made me want to do the same. My dad used to sneak me into bars at 13 or 14 years old to go see bands play. I never really thought I'd be a touring musician or write songs

How did your band form?

How bands usually form: friends, booze and middle aged angst.

How would you categorize your music style?

There are so many genres these days. I write the songs & then my band makes them sound good. Rock N Roll, a little punk in ethics, sometimes a little bit jammy. I would call us Post Rock. I am just joking.

Who are your musical inspirations?

Ask anyone in the band and you may get a different answer but I think what we would agree on would be The Clash, The Replacements, Bruce Springsteen & Neil Young.

What's your favorite thing about touring?

Listening to Howard Stern on the radio during those 7 hour drives.

Where has been your favorite show that you've played at?

I love playing Seattle, Orlando, Atlanta & OKC.

How often do you write music?

I do not write all that often. I try not to force the issue. I pick up the guitar every day but if I do not feel anything I put it right back down.

What are your future plans for you and your band?

The future is unwritten.

ALLY BURNETT

Interview by Cynthia Lam
Photo by Paperdoll Photography

How big of a part did music have on your life while you were growing up?

Music was everything for me growing up from the time I was 4 years old. I moved a lot, so it was really my only constant.

What was the first instrument that you learned to play? What made you want to learn that instrument?

To be honest, I focused primarily on my vocals. I was too busy doubling up on both school and community choir and theatre programs to even think about taking on another instrument!

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

Yes and no. I've always known what I wanted, it's just different when it actually happens. For example, there was always that goal of landing my music on MTV, but I certainly never imagined I'd get to write a theme song for one of their shows. It's interesting to watch things take shape and see how your hard work pays off.

What goals do you have planned for the future?

World takeover! Haha In all honesty, I tend to be a bit ambitious but I'm one of those

people that truly believes I can do anything I set out to do.

What inspires you lyrically and musically?

Real life. Every ounce of heartbreak, happiness, sadness, confusion, angst, etc can be translated into music. I take what I've gone through and what I feel and try to make sense of it in a song. I'm not one to make things up for the sake of cranking out music, I prefer to write with honesty and true emotion so that I'm always connected to it, so that it's real.

Can you describe your sound in one word?

What would it be, and why?

I can't really describe anything in one word. I'm a wordy person. I'll blame that on writer in me! I prefer people listen to my music and make of it what they will.

You released "It's Not Me (It's You)" in December of 2010. Are you happy with the feedback that you've gotten so far?

I am. I also released "Heartbreaker" just a couple of weeks before that and was happy with the response to that as well. I think releasing new music is my favorite part of it all. I love when I finally get to share what I've been working on. It's fun.

What advice would you give to kids who want to pursue a career as a solo artist?

Know that it's not easy, it's never going to be easy and expect to work your butt off to get even the smallest reward. I see a lot of people that come into this business thinking they can Justin Bieber it, throw a video on YouTube and have a lifetime of fame. It doesn't work that way, and to be honest, it shouldn't. Hard work and a little patience will get you everywhere.

What is the toughest thing that you had to overcome in your musical journey? How did you overcome it?

As a woman in a male dominated industry, I've got to work twice as hard to prove myself and be taken seriously. It's one thing to be a female artist, it's another to be both an artist and a business woman. I do pretty much everything myself and I put a lot of work into my career. There are a lot of stereotypes and misconceptions to fight off, but I power through it.

What does the future hold for you?

I'm not quite sure, I don't have a crystal ball readily available at the moment.





AVIAN SUNRISE

Interview with Bryan Wehrkamp
Interview by Bianca Delicata

How big of a part did music have in your life as you were growing up?

Music became more and more integrated into my life as I grew up. I started taking piano lessons in 2nd grade so that I could play percussion in the Elementary band program (it was a requirement). I hated lessons, especially since I couldn't read sheet music at all! I remained a part of the band program all the way through high school and it was during these years that I started fine tuning my ear for the types of music I like. I went from liking punk rock to rap to country and all sorts of other genres in between. The last 2 years of college is when music became central to almost everything I did. This is when the band started and I to this day I am so thankful for that.

If you could go back in time, what band or artist would you go watch?

As Tall As Lions -- they just broke up recently; had I known this was going to happen I would have travelled a decent distance to see them.

Where do you see Avian Sunrise in a year or so?

We are all very hopeful that this full length album we are recording at the moment brings us to touring full time as well as some national and international recognition. Yes, we do have high hopes -- but we also believe that with the faith, hard work, and determination we have in

what we are trying to do with this music - that the album will reach the people it is intended to.

How did you come up with Avian Sunrise? Who thought of it?

The name was a collaborative effort -- Our band is based on the freedom to be as unique and creative as possible -- Avian being associated with flight and the feeling of freedom that comes with it, and Sunrise representing an untouched canvas much like the start to a new day.

You released "Memories and Melodies" not too long ago. How was the response from fans? Was it what you expected?

The response was very good! We felt that it was progressively different song for us -- and it was just a tiny taste of what is coming with this full length album. As far as it being what we expected; we just hope that the people that have heard it enjoyed what they were listening to. That is gratifying enough.

What were your first impressions of the other members in Avian Sunrise?

These four individuals have become my best friends -- it is funny how that works, but I love being around them. We are all learning new things about each other on a daily basis and I am loving every second of it. As for first impressions; easy to get along with was the

common theme since we all shared such a passion for music.

How would you describe your music to someone that's reading this interview now, but has never heard of Avian Sunrise?

We have dumbed it down to simply Piano Rock. Haha, but we try to be as 'epic' as possible - dynamics, melody, and ambience are also a huge part of our sound.

How would you describe Avian Sunrise's live show?

We try to replicate what you hear on cd as much as possible while adding little things here and there to spice up the different live shows. It is one of the things we are very proud of to this day. With all of this new material, we cannot wait to throw together a brand new live set that people will enjoy.

Thanks for the opportunity guys! Anything else you'd like to say to our readers?

We are thankful that you wanted to take the time to interview us, Bianca! For all of the readers, a new full length CD is on its way in a few months so please stay in touch with us as we will be continually updating our major websites: www.facebook.com/aviansunrise and www.myspace.com/aviansunrise . God bless!

Interview by Cynthia Lam
Photo by Maria Peachock

RUN FOR THE SKYLINE

MDphoto

What made you decide to start writing/playing music and get into the music industry?

We've always had a strong interest in music and we've all been to concert, seen how much fun they have on stage and always kind of wanted that same feeling of being able to do something you love and have people enjoy what your doing.

Would you say that you had any big challenges you had to overcome while being in the music business? What were they, and how did you conquer them?

Yes, if anyone knows the band from before or has followed us at all, they would know that we have had a lot of different members. our most recent drummer, Dave Felger, decided to leave the band only 5 days before our CD release show in Cleveland. We had no clue what to do, everyone we called said they defiantly couldn't learn 8 songs in 4 days. We turned to our good friend Keith Zeitler, drummer for the band North Shore, and he came to the rescue and learned all the songs perfectly for the show. He was just a fill in thought. Our current drummer is Micheal Kauffman and he's doing excellent.

So you recently released Pull String, Go Boom in December. Were you happy with the feedback you got so far?

We have been very satisfied. It just recently went on itunes, but we've sold many copies at

our shows and off our online store, and now that its on itunes, we're getting a great response online as well.

What was your favorite song to write and record on this album? Why?

It would definitely have to be the album titled track, Pull String, Go Boom. It's a very unique song in itself but its got to be one of our best. It's a song that doesn't repeat itself constantly and it has some different parts than our usual songs. It's also our heaviest song so we can really get into it live at shows.

Do you prefer playing shows or being in the studio? Why is this?

They are both an awesome experience in its own. The studio is where we can have fun and get our songs finalized, but playing live is where we can play our songs and have everyone enjoy us doing it. If we had to decide, we would say playing shows because when we are on stage it just us and our natural selves. We don't choreograph moves or plan anything that happens so everything we do live is just how we are.

What is the craziest thing that has happened to you while playing a show? Any embarrassing moments?

One of the craziest thing would have to be when we played at a local bar and we had over an hour for our set to play. We ask for any request and someone shouted out a song and

we played it like they said, but someone else yelled a song they wanted to hear and it wasn't the song we were playing. The drunk guy slapped the girl whose request we played and a bar fight started right on the middle of our song.

What is the best (or worst) tour prank that you've pulled off?

Well this wasn't on tour, but our favorite prank is from when we recorded our first EP, Chris slept late everyday and he wouldn't wake up the second day and we were running late, so James tipped the couch he was sleeping on. He woke up so angry but we still reference it.

What are your thoughts on illegally download music?

None of us illegally download music, and none of us are for it. We encourage people to buy all their music and pay for it because if everyone did, the bands wouldn't need as much money and they could charge less for merch and ticket sales. But if people absolutely have to illegally download our music, at least they are putting forth the effort to listen to us.

Do you have any plans for touring in the future?

We just recently got a new van and we plan on touring up to New York and and down to South Carolina this summer once we get a new trailer. For more information on that we'll keep everyone updated on our Facebook page.

MIRACLE MAX

Interview with Tyler
Interview by Bianca Delicata

How big of a part did music have in your life as you were growing up?

Music has always been a part of my life. My dad played in bands until a little after I was born, and even then was still pretty involved in the 80's christian rock scene. I have memories of dancing around in my footie pajamas right in front of the stage at a Bloodgood sound check. So I guess I never lived in a world where music wasn't highly valued and appreciated.

If you could go back in time, what band or artist would you go watch?

Wow, that's a tough question. I'd want to say the Beatles, but in the era I'd want to see them I think it was pretty impossible to hear them over the screaming girls.

Where do you see Miracle Max in a year or so?

I have no idea where I see Miracle Max. I know we'll still be making music, but we're in the middle of a shift right now so it's kind of unclear what we're going to be sounding like. I don't think it's going to be too far off from what we've done, more like a natural progression as we become better musicians and songwriters.

How did you come up with Miracle Max? Who thought of it?

Miracle Max is named after Billy Crystal's character from the Princess Bride. We wanted to come up with a name that people automatically associated with something

positive, and who doesn't like that movie? Apparently some people hate it, but I've never met any of them.

Congratulations on being featured in AP magazine! How did that exposure help you as an unsigned band?

I'm going to be perfectly honest about the AP thing. First off, we were very humbled and grateful to be chosen. It was great to finally get some recognition for all of our hard work. As far as the attention that it brought us, it didn't really seem to have a noticeable impact. Sure there was a brief spike in web traffic, but even that was pretty minimal. It's pretty disheartening to think that today's youth have little interest in looking for new music and taking the time to go beyond what they hear on the radio or see on the cover and feature story articles. I've actually had people come up tell me the recordings sounded low budget, like they were demos or something. And I'm thinking, compared to what? That over produced stuff on MTV? Not everybody has the money for all that kind of stuff. Don't get me wrong I don't have anything against bands with record deals, it just makes me sad to think that's how kids judge music nowadays.

What were your first impressions of the other members in Miracle Max?

Hahaha, that's funny. Honestly I liked them all right off the bat, but for different reasons. Scott was super excited to talk about skate punk and weezer, and convinced me to make

the music I wanted to make instead of what I thought would be popular, so he was in. Sam looked like a rock star from day 1 and played the crap out of this rented drum set we were using for auditions, so he was in. Kevin rolled into auditions wearing this really awesome New Found Glory tshirt and could pretty much play the main riff from every song I've ever loved so he was in too.

How would you describe your music to someone that's reading this interview now, but has never heard of Miracle Max?

Miracle Max is high energy poppy punk with geek rock synthesizers. The lyrics usually play out like stories, and we like melody.

How would you describe a Miracle Max live show?

A Miracle Max live show is a high energy sing along. We jump around a lot and try to carry the energy from the first notes until the "thank you goodnight". There's usually a joke cover song thrown in at some point.

Anything else you'd like to say to our readers?

Pretty pretty please go check out our Self Absorbed EP, it's streaming on a few sites, and if you can't afford the small fee for it on itunes, send us an email and we'll hook you up with a download. We really just want people to listen to it, and give it a chance. Oh, and if you like it, tell your friends and help spread the word. Thank you, goodnight.



Interview by Cynthia Lam

SKYHAWK DRIVE

When Skyhawk Drive first started did you expect to accomplish as much as you have?
No not at all haha. We hoped for it but we were just kids playing punk music in a basement.

Is there anything that sets Skyhawk Drive different from other bands and artists out there?

I think with our last EP Center Stage Shout Out there wasn't really anything too drastic that made us different than most bands out there. We were pop punk with a synth player haha. We're working on a new album though and this new style we're headed in is going to be different than a large majority of bands I think.

When the band first started did you aim for a specific genre or age group? How about now?
Yes we did. When we started we were all between the ages of 16 and 18 so we naturally just wanted to appeal to our age group. Now we're all between 18 and 21 and our music is maturing with us. We hope to reach older kids and adults now as well as teens.

What is your favourite thing about each of your bandmates?

My favorite thing about Ridge is that he's my brother haha and he's pretty good at piano and writing so that's cool, my favorite thing about Josh is that he's a pretty funny guy and a good drummer, and my favorite thing about Kris is that he's an all-around awesome dude and he stays positive when things get stressful so that helps the rest of us keep our cool. All of the guys are really awesome dudes though and we're all pretty close.

How did you feel about "Their Dance, Your Chance" being blown up on the internet? Were you expecting this at all?

Not really haha we definitely hoped that people would like it but that song got more hits than any of our other songs ever I think. It was a pretty awesome surprise to see that happen though!

So what are your thoughts about the internet and the way it can spread the word of music fast?

I am really thankful that we live in an era where it is so easy to get your music out there! Before it was just completely about getting radio air time and putting your money in that and hoping that people would hear your one song. Now bands can connect with their fans online and share music so much faster than before. They have the ability to form a connection between fans now too because of the internet and I think that really helps kids get the music and see the artist for who they are. I used to be against kids downloading our album for free but honestly it's like free promotion. If people are getting our music and they like it they are gonna come out to shows when we hit their town. The internet is a really good tool for any band!

What are things that peeve you off in the music industry?

We've gotten a taste of the industry side of things and I guess what I don't like most is arrogant business people that just wanna screw bands over. We've seen this happen and met people like this but that bothers me when someone from the industry is totally focused on milking a band for money rather than helping them grow and succeed.

So you have played shows with bands like Family Force Five, Thousand Foot Krutch, and more. What was this experience like?

It's always such a great feeling when we get to share the stage with bands who have accomplished what we hope to one day. It's always great to watch their shows and learn from what they do and try and apply it to our band. You can learn a lot by just watching bands and how they interact with the crowd and with each other!

Who are your favourite bands to play a show with? Why is this?

Our friends Yesterday Is Waiting and Langley are some good bands to play with! They are great dudes and really a lot of fun to hang out with at shows!

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

Absolutely! We want people to know that they are special and that their lives do have meaning. There is a God that loves them so much and He just wants to be there for them! There is so much crap that gets into people's heads these days and so many people are struggling with cutting, drugs, drinking, depression, porn, etc. we just want people to know that no matter what they've done or what they are going through there is a loving God that wants to lift them up.

Do you have anything planned for the rest of 2011?

We have a lot planned for 2011! We're gonna be working with Ben Kasica from Skillet on some songs for our new album! We've been writing for the past couple months and this new CD is hopefully going to hit people hard (in a good way haha). We've grown out of the pop punk scene and this album is going to be way different and we're really excited about the new direction it's going in!

I See Stars *The End Of The World Party*

By Sarah Lozano



While they've been given a red flag for having being the genera of Electric Hardcore the Michigan natives I See Stars are here to prove everyone wrong. In their sophomore album "*The End of the World Party*" these boys have tighten all the loose bolts from their first album and have balanced their music style to come out with a sound that is 100% all their own. It's pretty hard to sum this album up in one word. The opening track 'The End of the World Party' sounds like some electric zombie cheerleading music that might not sound too appealing, but its very I See Stars. The second song 'Over It' is going back to the very basic electric indie rock feel like Owl City, with surprisingly seemingly no auto-tune added to vocalist Devin Oliver's voice. The album has a few tracks with a very early 2000 feel with a hit of 90s Punk. In their song 'Home for the Weekend' you can hear some inspiration from bands like Blink-182 and Good Charlotte, but they make it there own. In the most anticipated song off the album 'The Common Hours II' (a continuation from their 'The Common Hours' off their first album "3D") has a interesting classical dark feel to it in both lyric and music, which makes it stand out the most to me in this album. The ending track 'Pop Rock and Roll' is like the title suggest very Pop Rock & Roll of course sticking with their signature hardcore break downs with clear screams provided by Zach Johnson. "*The End of the World Party*" by I See Stars is sending out a clear message that they have found their place in the music world, and that place is the one they created. "*The End of the World Party*" is one of the most original albums that has come out in a long time and is the start of a new style in the music industry.



D.R.U.G.S.

By Bianca Delicata



Destroy Rebuild Until God Shows (also known as D.R.U.G.S.) was formed by Craig Owens, (ex-Chiodos member) along with Nick Martin, Matt Good, Aaron Stern, and Adam Russell. The band was formed in late 2009/early 2010. Destroy Rebuild Until God Shows' first album, *D.R.U.G.S.* was released on February 22, 2011. The album includes eleven post-hardcore songs.

The band had released "If You Think This Song Is About You, It Probably Is" as the first of many singles on the album. The song runs a fast beat through your ears, making your heart race. The razor-sharp lyrics such as "Did you get sick of the shame? Did you lie on your back like a whore?" are as dangerous as an untamed lion. The album is a mixture of post-hardcore and pop-punk songs. Songs such as "Laminated E.T. Animal" and "I'm Here to Take the Sky" send a rush of happiness and energy through your veins like a favourite fix. The album ends off with the rebellious anthem, "My Swagger Has A First Name".

With the high expectations and standards that were set by fans, record labels, and critiques, the album is a hit. *D.R.U.G.S.* is an album that can be listened to at any times. It withholds different emotions and feelings that can escape you from reality.



Falling Awake In A Bad Dream

By Cynthia Lam



On March 15th, 2011 the southern California based band Falling Awake will be releasing their debut EP *In A Bad Dream*. This EP features five intriguing songs that will capture your mind. Having being a band for a little bit over a year, they have already played shows with Anarbor, The Right Coast, and more.

In A Bad Dream starts off with the band's single "Ripped Off" (which they have a music video of out now... check it out!) which introduces the listener to what Falling Awake is. Although it may start out sounding like a typical pop-punk song once the vocals start it is clear that Falling Awake is doing something different. Perhaps it's the lack of the high-pitched over-autotuned voice, but Nick Beaty's voice goes perfect with the music and melodies. The song that sticks out the most to myself is "Alibis" which is the perfect song to get the listener hyped up. Through this EP it is easy to tell that Falling Awake is an extremely talented band. Be sure to pick up *In A Bad Dream* when it comes out, I promise that you won't regret it. If you are in the Southern California area be sure to catch Falling Awake when they play a show near you! Look out for them in the future as they are guaranteed to make a mark in 2011!

Stereotype, or type of music? by Stefany Bryan

We find ourselves making fun of it all too often. And yet, secretly we all want to be part of this. It is our ultimate desire deep down. No one admits it, but we want to be associated with this genre of person. It's only human nature to put things in categories. To label what we see. Trying to make the world clear; distinct, with straight forward answers. Our brains are unable to comprehend something that blurs these lines.

Indie, what is it? We use it like we know the meaning. We all envision some specific clothing, or hairstyle that falls under this category. It's turned into my brown oxfords, and your handmade feather dangling in your hair. But really how do you define it? It's impossible to. Indie is short for individual. An individual has no specific look.

It's something that people think of as a style, when really it's more than this. The word is ambiguous.

We don't like being called it, because for some reason it's a bad thing, but at the same time, we think it's cool because we all work so hard by wearing floral dresses, and having our hair fall long and wavy to look like that perception of what others collectively call indie. To be what indie actually is, no one has to work hard, no one has to try. Being oneself is the most pure example of individualism.

Categories are just a figment of our society's imagination. It's something we create subconsciously or maybe consciously. Just because it's natural doesn't mean that people need to be labeled. It shouldn't matter what kind or person someone looks like. Indie is the beginnings of judgment.

Then, there's the music aspect of this word. The idea of knowing bands before everyone else, and once they've made it big; they're not worth listening to anymore. So the earlier you know a band's music, the more indie you are. It's looked at like a competition and we measure "indie-ness" like we measure age or height, once again turning it into something simple, when in fact, it's vastly more complex.

To fully understand the concept of being "indie," we must open our minds and accept that it's not clear-cut. Indie at times doesn't exist, but individualism does, and being an individual is not caring what others think about your clothing choices, or what music you decide to listen to. It's not submitting to different groupings or classes. It's staying true to oneself and not trying to be anyone else. It's liking a band for their music not how famous or non-famous they are. This is the closest we can get to what indie is.

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A Special Thank You To:

Bianca Delicata, Robbs Quezada, Sarah Rutz, Catherine Khom, Kristyn Neal, Kaitlin Tachibana, Azaria Podplesky, Nellie Barsegyan, Stefany Bryan, Sarah Lozano, Dannielle Corey, Ashley Forrester, Ellen Todd, Juliette Chagnon, and Imani Givertz.

Falling Awake, The Tinder Box, Problem Of Time, New County, My New York Summer, To Paint The Sky, Divided By Friday, Scarlet Grey, Stay, Ally Burnett, Avian Sunrise, Run For The Skylines, Miracle Max, Skyhawk Drive, Avian Sunrise.

And also to all of you who are reading this!

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