

STITCHED SOUND

Issue #23

AUGUST BURNS RED

The Venetia Fair, There For Tomorrow,
Falling In Reverse, and more!



Summer is over... school starts

This past summer has treated Stitched Sound pretty well, I've got to say. We've had so many opportunities, not to mention that we were able to launch our new website, and all that jazz. Always sad to see it go.

Most of our staff members are returning back to school this fall, whether it be for their high school or college years. It'll be a challenge once again to balance these two things out along with other commitments, but I'm positive that we're going to do this perfectly.

This is our biggest issue to date, and I'm really proud of every single interview in this - I think that we did a pretty great job. My opinion though, haha. We did quite a few interviews with artists on Warped Tour in this issue - be sure to check it out!

I don't know why I always write this little blurb, half of you probably skip this anyway - ha! But it's fun I guess. (:

Cynthia Lam

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Interview by Cynthia Lam

THE VINYLs

How did you meet the other members of The Vinyls and come to be a band?

The Vinyls started under the premise of writing songs with honesty. We grew up in a good time for music. (90's alternative and all "sub-genres" of punk rock were major parts of our upbringing as musicians) Dave & Drew have been writing songs together for almost 6 years now and they had been looking to put together a new project. Rick had filled-in on drums for a mutual friends band one night in New Brunswick, NJ and ended up talking to Dave & Drew that night. Shortly after Dan & I were thrown into the equation. (I was a friend of Rick's and had known Dave & Drew from prior bands, and well, Dan is Rick's younger brother haha) Everything came together really quickly and just clicked.

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

To be completely honest I don't think any of us expected to be here at all. Drew & Dave were in an experimental rock band, I was singing for an ambient/emo band, and Rick and Dan were playing in separate pop bands. To be where we are now, I feel like it's been a complete 180 for a lot of us but it feels way more like home. This is definitely where the 5 of us are supposed to be.

What goals did you have when The Vinyls first started?

We didn't particularly set out any huge goals as a band aside from keeping things honest and returning to our roots. Everything has been fairly short term, such as, "write the songs, record the songs, release them, play this show, play that show, write these songs...etc" haha we try to keep things simple and really just push to make sure we do the best possible thing we can for the band. Our next set of goals is to start playing out of state and write for another record, whether it be an EP or a full length, we'll see when that time comes.

In your opinion, what is the most important thing to keep in mind while trying to pursue a career in the music industry?

The most important thing is to know there's going to be ups and downs no matter what. Just push on through with what you're doing. Believing in yourself and bandmates is the biggest thing you can do.

Who are your favourite bands to play a show with?

We've had the great pleasure of being able to share the stage with bands such as The Dangerous Summer, Breathing Blue, Set It Free, The Graduate, Like The Stars, Gates and so many more. I can personally say my favorite bands to play with are the ones that surprise you. By that I mean the band that's on the bill no one has really heard of and steals the show. I love finding out about new music and seeing a great band putting on a great live show is the best part about it.

How would you describe a The Vinyls show in one word?

Energy, because we do our best to keep things fun and energetic while we're playing. The whole point of playing a show, is to play a show! You have anywhere from 20-40 minutes to put your best foot forward and be like "hey! here we are! enjoy yourself!" Looking back on videos of us playing live you catch us moving around and smiling a lot, which I personally think, speaks volumes.

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

Disrespect each other and/or the bands. How are you going to go to a show and the entire time turn your back to the band, talk, start a fight, or at the least, cause a scene. Dramatics are overrated. It should be a time to enjoy yourself and let go with the music.

What inspired your new music video "American Dream"?

The video was done by our good friends over at Infrared Films. There were a handful of different concepts, but in the end we decided to do the most stripped down version and let the song speak for itself.

Did you face any challenges while recording the video? What was the experience like?

Aside from the concepts, scheduling conflicts were a huge, huge, huge thing haha You have 8 people trying to get situated while trying to schedule a space for long enough to shoot a music video. Want to talk about stress? haha In the end it turned out to be a really fun and great experience.

What are ways that fans can help promote The Vinyls?

The best way our fans can help us promote is to just spread the word about us! Whether it be to "share" our page on Facebook, Twitter, Tumblr, wherever, come see us at a show, or even just to give your friends our CD. Anyway of spreading the name is the best thing they could possibly do.

Thank you so much for the opportunity! Is there anything else you'd like to add?

No, no, thank you! This has been an awesome interview and we were so happy to do it. Everyone should check out our "Extended Play" EP on iTunes as well as our recently released new songs on our Purevolume(purevolume.com/thevinyls), Facebook(facebook.com/thevinyls), and through our friends at Positive Collective via their summer sampler(<http://positivecollective.bandcamp.com>) We'll also be sharing the stage with The Dangerous Summer & I Call Fives at Webster Hall in New York City on August 30th, Hope you guys take a listen to us and we hope to hear from everyone soon!

CRYSTAL KID

Interview with Frank Interview by Cynthia Lam



What makes Crystal Kid different from other artists?

We've got better tans and phenomenal stage energy!

What first sparked your interest in music and made you decide to pursue a career in the music industry?

It all started with the Pop and Rock music movement that was coming from the US and the UK in the mid-90's, from Michael Jackson to Oasis. The music from those artists really resonated with us, from there our decision to pick up an instrument and emulate those sounds was imminent.

Can you describe your music in one word? What would it be and why?

Multifaceted. We like to think of our music as a fusion of the best of the 70's, 80's and 90's all rolled into a 2000 package.

Crystal Kid has accomplished quite a lot. Turning back time to five years ago, would you ever expect to be where you are now?

We try not to think too much about the past.

Instead we would rather focus on the present in order to thrive in the future.

In your opinion, what is the most important thing to keep in mind while being in the music industry?

If you truly believe in what you are doing, keep at it. Everything else will eventually fall into place.

If you could turn back time and do something differently, what would it be and why?

We are both big soccer fanatics, being from Brazil soccer is in our blood. Charles would have ended up playing for Barcelona and I would have ended up playing for Real Madrid.

Being from the Calgary area, were there any local artists who have influenced you?

Not musically, but there are a few artists whose work ethic we admire.

What would you say is your biggest accomplishment?

To have improved our songwriting to the point where we can casually listen to our own recordings and go "I'm proud of what we've done!"

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

Yes, we want the world to learn from every experience in life and share the positive ones.

What should we expect from Crystal Kid in the future?

Our new EP "The End Of The Beginning" will be out this fall. Also, make sure to check out our upcoming tour schedule, we might just be playing your town!

Is there anything else you'd like to add?

Love one another and like our Facebook page at facebook.com/crystalkid and follow us at twitter.com/crystal_kid



WHITE WIVES

Interview with Chris2 · Interview by Cynthia Lam

PHOTO CREDIT: PHOTO BY DUSTIN RABIN

What made you decide to start *White Wives*?

Honestly, my friendship with the other musicians in the band, and their songs. Roger is someone I've known for a tremendous amount of time, I've watched him develop as a song writer. *White Wives* is just an experiment gone well. See what Roger would do to my music, and see how I could fuck up his.

When starting out, what did you find were your biggest inspirations?

Aside from each other. Musically, Pixies, Nirvana, Guthrie, Young, Dylan. Ideologically, the provo movement.

Are there any goals that you had when this project first started? Did you accomplish any of them yet?

Accomplished doesn't do it justice. We have far exceeded our goals. The goals were write a song, play a show. We've released a record, and done a number of tours and had people react amazingly to our music.

Can you describe to us the song writing process for *White Wives*?

Most of the songs are brought in with a fair amount of structure in place. But we make sure that everyone has a thumb print on the song. We love when we're playing live and we can see heads searching for where the sounds are coming from. That's when we know we're on the righteous path.

Did you find that while recording and writing *Happeners*, it was very different from recording an album with *Anti-Flag*?

It was pretty different. Some of it was premeditated. I mean, there is no reason to start another band if its just going to do the same things. We want the bands to be different. Then they can both exist on their own.

How would you convince someone who has never heard of *White Wives* before to listen?

You know that new sound you're lookin for!?!? check this out! And hold a phone towards us playing.

What is your favorite song off the album? What was it written about?

Probably, "Grow So Wild & Free". Its mostly commentary on being in a band with social conscience, and trying to reconcile that with selling t-shirts, cd's and fighting to put gas into a van to get city to city.

If you could turn back time and make music in any decade when would it be and why? Either early 90's or early 2000's. I'm hoping its cycle is every new decade. Ha.

To what extent is the internet a useful tool in helping *White Wives* grow as a band?

Absolutely. However we try not to push too much. We love just disseminating bits of information. Making it not necessarily a challenge, but something that you want to work to find out more about.

What does the future hold for you?

Who knows. We love our record. We're going to work diligently to make it find its way to peoples ears.

For more on the band go to:
www.wearewhitewives.com



Interview with Angel Interview by Catherine Khom

BRIGHTER THAN 1000 SUNS

What is like to perform on stage with the band and fans singing to their every word of your songs?

It's almost indescribable. It's already an incredible feeling to be on stage doing what you love most, but interacting with the people in the audience on that deep of a level is almost an honor. I can't think of anything cooler than that.

If you could be any super hero or cartoon who would it be and why?

Jane Lane from "Daria". Because she's a pretty awesome artist.

What song would you want to be your next single to be and why?

I'd have to say "Crossing the Divide", mainly because it's one of the more recently-written songs, and I think it best represents where we are musically and lyrically.

If you were to plan out a music video for any of your songs what song would it be and what would the video be about?

I have to be honest here - I'm not really good at coming up with stuff like this. I'm more apt to say something ridiculous, like pick "Warcy" and then have the whole video be all the members of the band riding around on a peg acorn (c'mon, a unicorn/Pegasus hybrid?) with big scepters, shooting laser beams at giant single-cell organisms from space...

What are some things you do before you get ready to perform live?

I like to drink some Throat Coat tea, play my PSP, and laugh at whatever shenanigans Matt is getting into.

What is your description of music and why do you think others should listen to music more?

Honestly, everyone responds to music in different ways and to different degrees. I could never say to someone, "You should listen to more music," because for them, music might not hit them on a gut level like

it does for me. I've experienced numerous occasions where I've tried to show someone a piece of music that was very powerful to me only to have their reaction be disappointingly lukewarm.

What is some exclusive news coming up for the band? Any news you can share with fans?

Well, we have the album coming out this autumn which we will be on tour to support, and as we mentioned on our Facebook page, we'll be shooting our music video, so that's all pretty big news. We're not really at liberty to be spilling the beans about anything else yet, but rest assured there are some big plans in the works!

What is one meal, you can have over and over again from what place?

Honestly, the best restaurant I know of is Randy's kitchen. I could eat a big bowl of his split pea soup followed by a monstrous plate of his vegan macaroni and cheese every day of the week and you'd never hear me complain!

What are some goals you want to accomplish this year of 2011?

Well, the year is almost over, but with the album release coming up so soon, I'd mostly like to start off 2012 knowing that our music reached as many people as possible, and of course get one more good long tour in before the year is out. Oh, and manage to not get our trailer stolen a second time.

How has your music taste changed from five years ago till now?

I was listening to a lot more pop-punk stuff five years ago. I haven't really been into that as much lately. While I still see the immense value of a well-written pop song, and I still go back to that for a great backdrop to a sunny day, I'm more in a state of mind now where I'm interested in discovering more intricate, progressive-minded music.

Growing up, what were some local bands you grew up with and what are some memories you had with them?

Most of the locals when I grew up were mid- to late-90's hardcore bands. It seemed like where I grew up, the hardcore scene flourished around that time when it seemed to die off everywhere else. Some of my best memories go back to just hanging out at these really stripped-down shows with my friends in our gigantic Jnco jeans and Airwalk sneakers, getting wailed on in mosh pits, and trying to stay warm in the mostly non-heated "venues".

What are some of your plans you have for the fall? Any surprises?

Everyone should keep their eyes peeled for our tour dates! They will be coming soon! Very soon!

Out of all the songs, you performed which is by far your favorite and what connection do you have towards that song?

I'd have to say "A Creature Bred on Hunger Made Food For Hungry Gods" for this one. Message-wise, that song is to me the most powerful as it deals with something that I feel quite strongly about, and that's the song in which I feel I'm able to bring the most energy to the stage.

What are some of your favorite bands you looked up to and would you ever considered going on tour or doing collaboration with them? Why or why not?

The band that ultimately changed my life in a musical sense was Rush. Fully discovering their music forced me to listen to and play music in a completely different way from how I used to experience it. Would I want to tour with them? I don't know. I'm not sure we'd really fit with them stylistically. Would I want to collab with them? Almost certainly, if for no other reason than to bring a different flavour to our music. Besides, I'd love to just sit down with those guys one day and pick their brains.

What is one thing you dislike most about performing live and what is one thing you love most about recording music?

I love almost everything about performing live. There are minor annoyances from time to time. Sometimes there are shitty promoters and venue owners, sometimes the venue is seriously lacking in the power department and we end up blowing a fuse. But for the most part, I enjoy it all. One thing I despise, however, is the fact that my ears are quite small and in-ear monitors can be quite the hassle. I love the isolation and the ability to hear everything, but they make my ears itch, haha! As far as what I love most about recording? For me, there is nothing more intensely emotional than when the parts are all recorded and you sit down to listen to all the songs to give them a once-over. Practicing and performing these songs is a great way to connect with them and experience them, but few things really match the joy of knowing that I helped to create something that is so much bigger than myself.

Any last words you would like to say to all your fans?

Nothing I say in this interview can be considered "last words". We plan on being around for quite a while. Our last words won't be coming for very long time. Is it time for a haircut?





Interview with Dani Nolden Interview by Cynthia Lam

SHADOWSIDE

What makes Shadowside different from other bands that you may be compared to?

Usually and first of all, the fact that I'm a woman, since we are often compared to bands with male vocalists. Every once in a while we are compared to bands with female singers but people just point out the fact that we sound nothing like them at all, be it a good or bad thing, we have a very strong identity which is even more evident on the new album. We're a high energy Metal band with lots of catchy melodies, angry and heavy guitar riffs. I'd say we are heavier and more modern than most melodic, traditional bands, however we go for a lot more melody than extreme or modern bands so I'd say we are in the middle of both worlds. We like both so we just do what we like best out of each.

You will be releasing a new album on August 30th, can you tell us about the recording process for this album?

The whole process was easy and a lot of fun, I don't think I've had this much fun recording an album before. It was just simple for everyone in the band because we were all very excited to bring these songs to life. We all like the direction we took on this album since we started writing it so there was nothing to fight or to think about when we were recording, we

were focused and knew what we wanted everything to sound like so we just had to sit there, do our best and enjoy doing it. No pleasing anybody other than ourselves and no one unsatisfied in the band. Fredrik Nordström, our producer, was always completely in control of the technical part so we were also sure we'd have the sound we were expecting and it turned out that we left Sweden with the best Shadowside material to date.

Where do you draw inspirations for the lyrics and songs?

I usually just let life inspire me. My own, my friends, news on TV, movies. Everything I do or see that makes me think is probably going to become a topic for one of my lyrics. Inner Monster Out is very introspective when it comes to lyrics; I went deep in my own personality and thoughts and played with it a little bit like on Angel with Horns. A few friends of mine like to call me that because they say I can be sweet like an angel but I was also capable of being extremely "evil". That's probably because I can never tell when a guy is hitting on me so they think I'm playing with them when in fact I have no idea they're interested (laughs). So I just took it to an extreme and thought of a character that would do that intentionally... screwing with someone's head, especially when that

someone puts all their hopes in that person. The song basically talks about both sides of people, the most basic human nature. For the music, I just let it come to me. I can't force it for some reason but I believe the same things that inspire the lyrics end up inspiring the songs too, they are just two different ways to express it. The songs that are fun are usually written when I'm in a good mood while the darker ones are when I'm sad, serious or have something important on my mind. The ones that are dark and fun at the same time are when I'm being myself... a little evil, but just a little bit, in a good way (laughs).

Is there a concept that you'd like people to grasp through this album?

The concept would be that we are all "screwed up" somehow. We all have something weird, something crazy and something we don't want the world to know about. I wrote about personality disorders, fears, hopes, escapism, domestic violence, it's a journey through a person's head and when you do that, it's not always pretty. There's a little bit of dark and a little bit of good message in this album. I like it when music makes a difference in your life, whatever that may be.

continued >>

What is your favourite song off the album?**What was it written about?**

My favorite has got to be Angel with Horns, but I already mentioned it... I love them all, this is so hard! If I have to choose one... well, I can't choose one (laughs). I'd go with Waste of Life and Habitchual. Waste of Life is the most aggressive song on the album, it's intense from beginning to end and I love the energy in it. I was allowed to use my voice in lots of different ways and it was very interesting to experiment like that. That song is about how most people are manipulated by the powerful ones and go with the flow, without questioning anything. They just take it... we all just take it because we simply don't have a choice sometimes. Like sugar is bad for you, but the freaking sweetener is also bad for you. Or when you have to vote for president and you don't want any of the candidates available but there's nothing you can do... one of them is going to win. Whatever is said on the news, we take it. Do we question ourselves, do we wonder if what we're taking as facts have been manipulated? It sounds all a bit paranoid but if you think about it, it could all make sense. Habitchual is intense in another way... it's a "painful" song. It's about addiction and the despair of someone struggling to get rid of it. I tried to sing that despair, it's a mid-tempo track but still very heavy, very melodic and with a lot of feeling.

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

No, not at all... we just write to please ourselves. The reason for that is because if we are not happy with it, then how can we tell people to listen to us? We could just follow whatever the trend is to make some fast

money or maybe to find acceptance easier but how would we convince anyone that way being on stage not happy with what we did? We would never be happy copying a formula, even if it was something we love to hear but we want it to be ours... our creation, our thing. In the past, our goal was to please the majority of the band members but this time we decided we would please every single one in the band. We have very different tastes and influences in the band and if we manage to make music that we all enjoy, then lots of different people may like it too. We did that so we are happy... we like so much what we do that it's contagious when we play live (laughs).

What is a special talent that you have that might shock our readers?

I'm not sure if it would shock anyone but I almost became a professional soccer player. That's what I wanted to do before going for music and I gave up the sports career for the band. I played for Santos FC's youth team and when training and band rehearsals started getting in the way of each other, I chose music.

What first sparked your interest in music?

Rock and Metal music changed my life completely because I thought it was perfect when I first heard it. I was a child with anger management issues and listening to Metal made me calm down. All my anger would go away while singing, screaming... or just headbanging. Then I started seeing bands play live and I just fell in love with that world. That energy of the crowd screaming together, the feeling of being in one big insane party just letting go of all your demons. That's when I decided I wanted to be a singer. My parents

introduced me to that world with Queen when I was still a child, right after Freddie Mercury passed away and then they made me learn how to play the piano. I quit because I was too lazy to practice but the love for music never died.

Since then, would you say that your taste in music has changed at all?

No... I learned to like other things but what I loved back then hasn't changed. That's stuff like Queen, Deep Purple, Judas Priest, Iron Maiden, then Skid Row. Nowadays I like also more modern bands like Disturbed and Rammstein and stuff that aren't related to Rock at all.

Do you have any plans for touring in the future?

Nothing concrete yet, but we sure want to tour! We're the type of band that has to be heard live because on top of the music, you get to experience our insanity as well (laughs). So we definitely want to visit all countries we've visited before and hopefully add some more places too. After the Inner Monster Out is released, we're definitely going to look for shows and play everywhere we can.

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

Thanks for the support first of all! I just hope you all like the new album Inner Monster Out and Angel with Horns video, we had a great time preparing that material for our old and new fans alike. I believe it's going to be a surprise for everyone so make sure you play it loud!



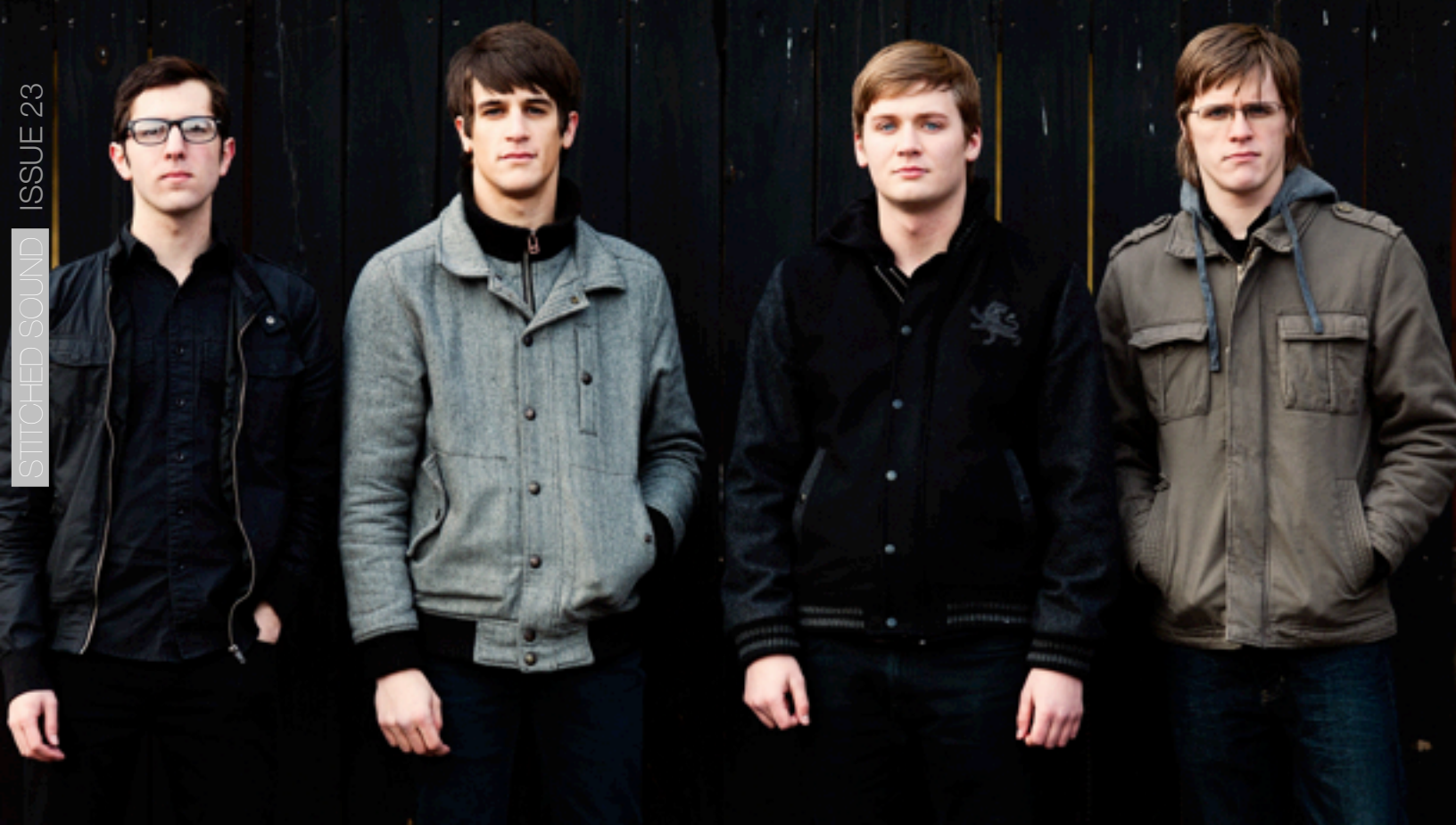


Photo by Sara Renee
Interview with Jeff Gingrich Interview by Catherine Khom

CALCASKA

What are some reasons why music is so important to you? Who/what influenced you to pursue in the music industry?

I've been playing cello since I was 7 or 8, so it's always been a big part of my life. I'm not positive if there is a specific moment where I decided I wanted to do this, I guess it happened somewhere between Billy Joel when I was 2 years old, and when I heard Blink 182 for the first time when I was 10. I think it was just meant to be.

Everyone has dreams, if you could make one of your dreams come true, what would it be and why?

Well, It would probably (and almost most obviously) be higher levels of success for this band. I feel something when I play in front of an audience ready to hear our music, when I know the songs can affect people's lives from some unrelated incident in mine, and that's something I'd rather not lose.

What instrument would each of you would love to learn how to play and perform live at?

Let's be honest; I really want to learn bagpipes. I'm not sure how they would fit in

with Calcaska, maybe I would just have to have my own personal recital.

Describe your song-writing process. How is it unique or different from others?

We let it happen. If the song takes too long or we can't really agree on something, it gets pushed aside. Some of the songs were written and nothing changed, some songs demos are drastically different than the recorded EP versions. Whether I write the back bone to the song or if someone else does, everyone comes together in the best interest of the song and we collaborate accordingly.

What are some challenges you had to face when you started to form the band and why?

Originally we were all in other local bands and it was hard for everyone to lose the creative aspects they had before (Blake and I in a hardcore band, Jullian and Ian in a post-hardcore, progressive band) to come together to make Calcaska's sound. As time goes on, we become more aware of each other, and of Calcaska as an entity.

There are a lot of band feuds that leak out to the public, how do you all feel about how popular bands handle their problems and feuds with other bands? What do you think is the main reason why the feuds even began?

I really don't have much experience on this subject, or knowledge for that matter, however I think it's extremely important, professionally, to keep it out of the public eye. It's understandable to not like another artist or have an argument with a band-mate but things don't need to be spread to unrelated parties, either via word of mouth or social networking sites (especially.)

How do you handle having a bad day but still having to perform?

On a bad day, I definitely feel more solemn walking up on stage, and I make sure I spend a little more time alone before we play. Usually that gets my mind off of other things (at least enough to focus on performing,) and then playing makes me feel great.

What are some goals you have for the band?

On a small scale, we are definitely looking to sign with the right label. Yes, we're all on the same page goal wise, and those goals come from seeing what bands we look up to have done.

What amusement park would you love to perform at and why did you chose this amusement park?

I've heard that Six Flags is the place to play at. I've only ever been to two amusement parks before and I couldn't really envision bands playing there. So until I see Six Flags, I'm not sure!

What are some of your must haves for 2012 and why?

I saw a picture online of The Killers recording in the studio earlier this week, which is extremely exciting. Also, I really enjoy the band "The Temper Trap" and would love for them to release new material. I've been terrible keeping up with what's new. Every day I get a little further back into 80's mainstream rock and U2, but I thoroughly enjoy being lost there.

What are some plans you have in store for 2012 and what is one true quote you live by and explain why?

We are hoping to be at South By South West (SXSW) this coming year, and to just keep moving forward. I don't really live by any quotes per-say, but I think it's important to try to be the best person you can by loving people, loving life, and noticing the beautiful things that go unnoticed. Of course I'm always working on myself and am a long way from anything.

What is your favorite hangout that you wish every state should have and why is this hangout the one you chose?

I'm happy anywhere where there is a decent sized lake. That's really all I need! There's nothing like being out on the water.

Why do you think newcomers only want the fame and have the superficial "big cars and rolls of money" lifestyle and why do you think the music industry has gone this far to now?

With that lifestyle, the songs produced, and what the industry is looking for, I think passion is gone from most of that music. It's a quick fix or a good time, not something real. Newcomers to the mainstream music scene are picked by the industry to be that way, because unfortunately, that's what sells the most singles on itunes. Of course there are exceptions.

Have you ever thought of performing by acting, film or theatre before? If you had to choose one this very second what would it be and why?

Acting would be fun, but as time has shown, it's difficult to hold a relationship with that profession.

What were other dreams you thought of pursuing as a kid up to your teen years and even now? And describe the dreams you had and why?

Oh gosh, there were a vast array of different careers ranging from racing motocross professionally, to being an Astronomer. I only remember those two and the oh so cliché "Rock Star."



TRUTH IN TRANSIT

Interview with Graham
Interview by Bianca Delicata

I understand that just recently the band has parted ways with Phil (bass) and Dan (drums), but as one chapter ends, another one begins. Will any new members be joining the band anytime soon?

Luckily enough for us, we do have two new members lined up. Check in at truthintransit.com for an official announcement.

Can you tell us the brief history of the band?

The band started last August after I was kicked out of my previous band Our Own Ghosts. Originally, this band was supposed to be a solo project, and I had written several songs with the intent of finding a backing band. After I started playing with several of my close friends (Dan Smith on Drums, Phil Mazzola on Bass and EJ DiPasquale on Guitar), I decided we should all be writing and working together, I wanted them to feel invested. We parted ways with EJ as he began to focus on Specialized Auto Mechanic school (of which he is doing incredible at) and welcomed in James Smith on guitar who quickly became one of my closest friends and an excellent song writing partner. We recorded our debut EP "En Route" in the winter of 2011 and released it in the summer of 2011. Recently, James and I decided we needed to make a change on drums in order to progress the way we wanted to, and Phil didn't agree and decided to part ways with us. We are all still on good terms, Dan and Phil are starting a new project with EJ so watch out for that.

I believe that your En Route EP was released in May 2011. Do you plan for a follow-up full length to En Route?

I don't think we'll have the budget for a full length, but we plan to go back into the studio early next year to record another 5 or 6 song EP.

Describe your show, visually and musically!

Our live show is in a state of transition right now. We hope with our new members our live show will have a lot more energy and interaction with the crowd without sacrificing too much musically. We also try to make sure all of the harmonies we have on record make it into the live show WITHOUT a backing track. We do make minor changes to each of our songs to accommodate different things as well. All in all, we try to keep the crowd engaged and involved in any way possible.

Do any of you have hidden talents that fans and readers may find shocking?

Other than singing like a girl? I'm told I'm a good rapper and I'm amazing at Minesweeper.

Are you embarrassed or encouraged when you hear all these new artists with tons of editing and auto-tune used on their songs?

Mostly embarrassed. At this point, it's rare that auto-tune won't be used to some degree in modern recordings, but doing so to the point where it basically requires no work or talent from a vocalist really cheapens the quality of the music to me, not to mention it sucks out the natural feel of an individual's voice. My favorite singers in the past few years have been singers that have that natural feel vocally. I feel listeners can connect more (especially emotionally) to singers that they can feel rather than singers that are pitch perfect, clean and over-corrected. Don't get me wrong, I find myself singing along with some Top 40 songs, but they are hardly inspiring.

En Route was your debut release, yes? How was the experience of going into the studio and recording your first EP? Were you anxious for the reactions and reviews of critics?

For most of us, it wasn't our first time in the studio. James and I say all the time that being in the studio is like a mini-vacation. From 9 – 10 AM

to sometimes as late as 2 – 4 AM all you do is play music. All day, you're just fine tuning, tweaking, picking different tones and perfecting parts. We had a lot of fun with each other and our producer Brad Franklin who's a great, funny and hardworking guy. I think we were really anxious to see what people thought because of how proud we were of this EP and the music we had made. This band was and is a lot lighter, musically, than most of the bands we've been in prior to. The reactions and reviews we've gotten have far exceeded our expectations, we've had a handful of honest reviews that have luckily been kind.

Is there anything you would like to see in the crowd during your show?

Seeing people singing along and having a good time will never get old to me. I'd love to see more people singing, dancing or pointing their fingers in my face along with the lyrics if possible. As much as I hate to associate our music with sadness, we've also seen some people get emotional during a couple of our songs, and it's an honor to think that something that we wrote touched someone that deeply. I would love to see people being unabashed about feeling something from music, good or bad.

Is there anything we can expect from you and the band in the remaining months of 2011?

We've got a bunch of awesome shows coming up with Hawthorne Heights, The Dangerous Summer and This Condition in Late August and Mid-September. I imagine we'll be spending a lot of time getting the new guys up to speed with everything. We plan to take a couple of months off to write and demo some new songs to hopefully get into the studio sometime in the spring of 2012. We've already started working on new stuff so we hope to keep that going and put out new music as soon as we can.



Interview by Cynthia Lam

THE VENETIA FAIR

Just recently, you released a new EP called "The Pits" filled with five rather spectacular songs. What inspirations did you have behind them?

We wrote probably 9 or 10 songs about a terrible winter we all had while we were writing our album when we felt like we were spinning our wheels and goin' nowhere. We don't like to not be touring, but we took a few months off and spent 10 hours a day in a storage space behind a liquor store beating our heads against the aluminum trying to write. Eventually we all got depressed, some of us developed some pretty real but pretty funny i'll-deal-with-this-problem-later kinda alcoholism (that they maintain to this day), all of our girlfriends left us because we were miserable people to be around, and we lost our bassist because he's going to space.

How would you say that your new release differs from your last album *The Circus*?

Working on an EP is very different than working on an album. An album has a theme and pacing and flow and *The Circus*, in particular, included a concept piece that made up the majority of the album. The EP is must less structured. The songs stand alone and have no purpose beyond being great songs. We also

tried to focus on making every part within the songs sound catchy and interesting enough that we didn't have to rely on little gimmicky transitions or bizarre structures to make them sound fresh.

The Venetia Fair is definitely unlike anything that I've ever heard. When the band first started did you aim for a specific sound?

We generally try to aim for a different sound for each song. When we started, I would sit with our old drummer and just throw out a tempo, genre and feel, he'd write out 10-20 seconds of music, i'd step in and make my final notes, we'd bring it to the band, and then turn it into a song. We knew that we could pretty much tackle any genre we wanted and that if we had the different members of the band play it (or sing it) they way they like to (loud), it would sound like us. So we tried out a lot of different things pretty fearlessly. We write slightly differently now that we've had some member changes but the idea is still there. Every song begins with a concept, a feel, a genre instead of a guitar riff or melody.

When was it that you knew you wanted to play music and be in a touring band? What sparked this?

My mom has this flyer saved that I made in Corel Print House on my PC running windows 95 that says "I'm starting a band. So far, I'm the only member. Call this number if you want to be in my band". I was maybe 6. I didn't play any instruments at all.

So you guys played quite a bit of dates on Warped Tour. What was this experience like for you?

Exciting and exhausting. We did Warped Tour pretty goddamn hard. We weren't letting any opportunity make new fans slip by so we were out in the sun all day talking to people. The best part was having the opportunity to convince them that we were actually worth their time. We'd throw headphones on 'em, they'd be into it, they'd take a chance on wandering by our stage and then we got to show them what we were really all about. We try to put on the best, most over-the-top live show we can so we really turned some heads at Warped Tour and we watched our crowd grow as more people stopped to see what was goin' on.

Was there any new challenges that you've had to face while on Warped Tour as opposed to other tours?

Warped Tour has almost nothing to do with the type of touring we're used to. Touring is a lot of downtime. Long drives, waiting for your set time, etc. Warped Tour is literally zero down time. We'd wake up at 8 or 9, eat a hurried, bad breakfast, set up our tent, promote our set all day, play, eat something canned for lunch, sell CDs and merch for the rest of the day, pack up around 8, barbecue, shower out of a bag, leave by 10 or 11 PM, drive 8 or 9 hours, repeat. Sleeping happens while driving. But we came prepared, and we're not pussies, so it was fine.

Did you attend Warped Tour as a kid? What is your favourite memory?

The first warped tour I went to, I watched Goldfinger put a twinkie in their drummers ass, watched Alien Ant Farm (Smooth Criminal had just come out and they were rockstars) but then I never heard of them again, and I bought a Homegrown shirt that I thought made me look awesome. I guess that year was pretty big for bands with big cover songs. I also had no idea who maybe 80% of the bands were because I was like 13 years old and just wanted to watch Sum 41. Then I saw Rancid and thought they were so cool that I pretended to like their music even though there's no way I could've really liked it. But I guess that's what Warped Tour is all about when you're 13. (Note: I am old).

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

There are so many things leading to the downfall of the music industry as we currently know it that I think it would be an oversimplification of a problem to choose just one. I mean, I believe in the protection of intellectual property and all that, but I also believe in business. People are going to steal your songs because its easy and free. Its too difficult to appropriately police the issue, so you better have something else of value to offer people that they will pay for. Cable TV used to try and charge per TV and would cut your cable splitters if they saw them. Eventually that made no sense. So they had to find new things to offer people that they WOULD pay for. Better service, premium channels, High-def, etc. The music industry is still trying to figure out where money is and how they can rework their business model to get it. 'Cause it's not coming from record sales. iTunes provides

a great service. So they make some money. Good. Record stores make you physically go to them and sometimes sell you 9 songs you don't want just so you can buy the one you do. So that's not a very popular service anymore. Sorry.

In your opinion what is the most overrated thing about the music industry?

I don't know, I feel like bands do a lot of pandering, which seems like a waste of time to me. Let the record labels be the machines that just create bands that pander to the current trend in order to make money. They can probably do it a lot more efficiently. Bands are supposed to be artists, the ones making the NEXT thing not the current thing. They should be the inventors, not the assembly line. I know this is a totally idealistic and naive outlook, but I just feel like the industry should try and compartmentalize and specialize a bit more. I don't know why there are bands struggling to make it that sound just like a million other bands that have already made it. Leave the mass production to the professionals, try and make something new that will later be mass produced. I guess that doesn't perfectly answer your question... its fine...

What should we expect from The Venetia Fair in the next couple of months?

We've got a couple months of touring ahead of us, East Coast then Canada then the whole country. So we'll be around. Then we come home and finish that fuckin' full length...

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

Sorry I talked so much. The Venetia Fair is weird and loud and old.

ALIVE IN STANDBY

Interview by Cynthia Lam

ISSUE 23
STITCHED SOUND



When was it that you first knew you wanted to play music for a living? What sparked this?

Playing music for a living has always been a dream of ours since we're young. Just seeing other bands being able to have fun while making a living really sparked it.\

What sets Alive In Standby different from other bands?

We all come from very diverse musical backgrounds from classical guitar and piano and whatnot. We also listen to a lot of different kinds of music which weaves its way into our music. Plus, we are a young band which helps us relate and connect with our fan base which is around the same age as us.

You released a new EP called Dream Status. What is the EP all about? Is there a concept for listeners to grasp?

Dream Status is not really a concept album per say, but the overall message we have as a band is to stay positive and keep a good attitude on life. You won't find any negative or destructive lyrics or profanity for that matter on the EP.

Are you happy with the feedback that you've received from the EP so far?

We are very happy with the feedback from the EP so far. It has all been very positive and the fans have showed so much support. We can't thank them enough.

While writing music, do you aim to create a certain "sound"?

When we write music, (and it sounds cliché), but we like to write whatever we think sounds awesome. If we're happy with the song, then we feel like we've accomplished something great. We always try to incorporate anything original think we can think of to set us apart.

What inspires you lyrically and musically?

Lyrically, our influences stem from relationships, personal experiences, and etc. Musically, our influences range from all kinds of musical genres.

As a musician do you ever encounter "writers block"? What is your best solution to getting past it?

We sometimes run into writer's block but we overcome it by taking a short break from our instruments and coming back to it later. We might go see a movie or go bowling, then get back to work.

What has been the most challenging thing that you've had to face as a band? How did you overcome it?

The most challenging thing to face as a band is getting our name out there. The music scene here in Michigan is not as thriving as it was 2 or 3 years ago. The hardest part was drawing a new generation kids into shows. Thankfully, through playing countless shows, the internet (Facebook), DJQ Artist Management, and with help from sponsors

like Stheart Clothing and Rockstar Energy, we've recently been more able to get our name out there.

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

Illegal downloading hurts artists, but we wouldn't say it's killing the music industry.

Is there anything that peeves you off about the music industry these days?

What really peeves us about the music industry is how people tend to look before they listen. Some bands become successful off of some gimmick or a certain attitude on life or a movement BEFORE being concerned with their songs or musicianship.

What can we expect from Alive in Standby in the future?

We are going back to the Zoinga Recording Studios in Royal Oak around mid-October with our producer and engineer, Mick Maslowski. We are also looking in to shooting a music video for one of the songs off the EP.

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

We'd like to thank all the fans for all of their love and support. They're helping us to make our dream come true and they're the reason we do this. We love you all so much!!! Be sure to check us out on Facebook!



Interview by Bianca Delicata

THE HUNG UPS

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

Music was everything to me when I was young, I (Josh), grew up in Wyoming so there was very little to do. Most nights were spent just drinking beer and spinning Screeching Weasel. I learned how to play power chords and immediately wanted to start a band.

I understand that your most recent album is Dawn Of The Deadbeats. Can you tell us a little about the album?

Yeah, its our third full length album. It contains what I consider some of our best songs. The album refers mainly to the dead end life of a punk and the shitty battles you face while growing up. The songs are much more complex than our on previous albums.

Do you have any fall/winter tour plans?

Yeah, we plan on touring through Nevada and California. No set dates yet, but prob December or January.

How did you come up with The Hung Ups? Who thought of it?

I (Josh) came up with the name and the whole band itself. I recorded all the songs for our first album myself and posted some songs on Myspace. Soon people were really digging it and saying they wanted to buy the album. I eventually got some pressed then recruited a band.

Has age ever been a barrier for the band?

No, we are all close in age, and old enough to play bar shows, so its never been an issue.

What were your first impressions of the other members in The Hung Ups?

Me and Chuck played in a similar band prior to the hung ups, he also played in other bands with Chris and Tyler so we all just came together based on our love for 90's style pop punk

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

90's style pop punk. Fast catchy melodies with raw vocals.

When was it when you played your first show as a band? What were your thoughts before you went on stage?

April 17th 2010 at Blue Star Coffee, still have the flier on my wall ha ha. Before we played, definitely nervous but we received a great response.

Anything else you'd like to say?

Download our EP four songs for free at www.thehungups.com



Interview with Matt Greiner

Interview by Cynthia Lam

AUGUST BURNS RED

Growing up, how big of a part did music have in your life?

Music wasn't a big part of my life until I went to a Christian festival called Creation in 2001. I went with my best friend (and former ABR bass player), Jordan Tuscan, and we ended up only enjoying the bands on the Fringe stage; the heavy bands. Zao, Living Sacrifice, and P.O.D. were the bands I fell in love with and came home with cassette tapes in hand. When I started playing drums in 2003 I realized music was going to always be a part of my life and that God had given me the gift of playing drums and writing music.

What was the first instrument that you learned to play, and why did you choose this instrument?

I learned to play piano when I was 11 and took 4 years of formal lessons before quitting to play drums. My mom thought that learning to read music and performing were important attributes for me to learn and find passion in. I liked playing piano but always had a better sense of meter than melody.

Would you say that you have grown musically since you first joined August Burns Red? How?

When I started playing in ABR, I knew only what I had taught myself in practice and the little I had seen and heard at local concerts.

We started touring full time in 2006 and I suddenly became surrounded by other musicians for weeks at a time. I began to realize what was effective musically in a live setting and realize what it took to be a good musician, both in the studio and in the live setting. I think the most obvious point of growth for a musician is to find his/her creativity. Recording our latest album, *Leveler*, gave me a new found confidence as a musician and allowed me to realize how far I've come since our debut album, *Thrill Seeker*!

What was the biggest challenge that you've had to overcome as a band? How did you overcome it?

Losing members is always the hardest. As we were trying to establishing ourselves with the release of *Thrill Seeker*, we headed out on our first full US tour. Our singer, Josh, realized that touring wasn't something he felt completely comfortable with and decided to return to school. Finding someone to properly represent your band and be the 'voice' of the other members is very tough. We tried out at least a dozen vocalists before finding Jake and realizing that he was the man for the job.

You recently released a new album *Leveler*. Are you happy with the feedback that you've gotten from this album?

Yes, I'm very happy with the feedback thus far. We played 3 new songs on Warped Tour this summer and were amazed at the huge circle pits, chants, and intensity with which the crowds responded to the songs. I know that as a band we are most excited about the growth in musicianship and lyrics on *Leveler*!

Is there a concept behind this album for listeners to grasp?

I was reading Isaiah 26 last year when I read about God being the 'Leveler that makes level the road for the righteous.' *Leveler* is a spiritual record with lyrics about pain and death and also revival and redemption. God has the final say. He is God, He is good, and our faith and hope lies in Him. Even though all may fall and return to the dust of the earth, our hope lies in God to be the calm after the storm.

What makes this album different from your past releases? Is there anything specific?

I think the dynamics of *Leveler* set it apart from our previous records. I've never recorded drums with ABR that let up and groove the way they do on *Leveler*. The clean/soft/slow parts are coincidentally my favorite sections of the record.

What is your favourite song off the album? What was it written about?

My favorite song is 'Divisions'. It's a song I wrote about the guilt in seeing a friend suffer and feeling hopeless to help them. The song screams at God, asking Him to explain redemption. I like the raw feeling of the song and the authenticity of the words.

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

I don't think it's the most ideal way of acquiring music but I'm not flexing my muscles and pointing my finger at anyone either. Rather, I think it's important to focus energy figuring out how to work with the ever changing music industry. I don't think the music industry is failing in any sort of way due to the world wide web of downloads. I'm all about embracing it and realizing that it's a reality!

August Burns Red was on Warped Tour 2011. What was this experience like for you? Did it differ from your previous years on warped tour?

Warped Tour was incredible this year! We knew loads of musicians and crew going into the tour and essentially spent the summer with them at 'summer camp!' I loved being in a bus and having the luxury of seeing so many beautiful locations across the US!

Which do you prefer - playing shows like Warped Tour or playing indoor shows?

I like both environments. Obviously outside shows lack the 'smoke and mirrors' of an indoor show and thus don't have the same level of intensity as a club show. However, who can complain about playing for thousands of incredible fans everyday and soaking up the sun in 48 different states?

What, do you think, is the biggest challenge for musicians to face while on Warped Tour?

I think the transportation from show to show is the biggest difficulty about being on Warped Tour. We had the luxury of a bus

while some of our friend's bands were doing the 20,000 mile tour in a van and trailer. Playing a show in the heat after having minimal sleep on an over night drive is a challenge. I admire and respect the bands that pulled it off!

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

I have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and that is my priority, my passion. Everything I do is a reflection of that relationship and, seeing as music is such a powerful medium, I write and express my faith in Christ in a way that others can relate to. I hope that our fans enjoy the musical content behind ABR but also realize the authentic faith that we carry in our hearts.

Where do you expect the band will be five years forward?

I have no idea. We have our itinerary planned out into 2012 and no further. We will continue to write music to the best of our ability and hope our fans will appreciate and enjoy it with open arms!



FALLING IN REVERSE

So you released your debut album *The Drug In Me Is You* about a week ago (from the interview date). Are you happy with the feedback that you've gotten from it so far?

Yes. I've seen it go up the charts and stuff on itunes, and it's crazy. Everyone seems to like it.

You're playing your first few shows as a band [on Warped Tour]. How has the turnout been? Did you expect that?

Yeah, the shows have been crazy. The first day coming out, [there was] a crazy amount of kids, it's been a great turnout. I think we've expected it.

Have you seen any crazy things from the crowd yet so far?

Kids throw up bracelets and stuff, and we're tripping up on stage.

What is one thing you love that kids do at shows?

I love when they end up doing circle pits.

Growing up, did you attend Warped Tour?

No, I'm from the UK so I've never had Warped Tour. This is my first [Warped] and I'm playing it. It's fun!

To what extent has the internet been useful for the growth of FIR?

When Ronnie was in prison the myspace and stuff like that, the kids could check out what's going on with Ronnie and such, so it's been really helpful.

So since most of the songs were written by Ronnie in prison, how did that change the recording process?

Everything was in Ronnie's head, pretty much. He would drum on his knees, have the guitar parts in his head and stuff, and we would put it all together just from his head.

Do you have any plans for a tour coming up soon after Warped?

We have quite a few tours coming up after, it will be nice.

If you had to describe Falling In Reverse in one word, what would it be?

Epic, because it just is [laughs].

We were able to catch up with Ronnie to ask him a quick question as well.



How do you feel about fans that have stuck with you through your time in prison?

I really appreciate it, to all the fans. I didn't know that that many people cared still, and more people care now than the time when I was in prison. It's pretty gnarly. I'd like to thank everybody, thank you very much!





Interview with Rick Jimenez Interview by Bianca Delicata

THIS IS HELL

How was the recording process for Black Mass?

It was awesome. We love being able to work with Tomas Costanza and the entire crew at Killingsworth. We were able to get the sounds we wanted and nail everything down the way we wanted and get it all done in a timely fashion while having a blast doing it.

What are some goals you have for the band?

On a grand scale, world domination, the ability to go to any WWE show for free, the chance to join the Yankees at any point that I feel like, that type of stuff. On a realistic scale, I just want to be able to continue writing and playing music and touring throughout the world. Having a good time doing it while being able to make ends meet. I would like to be able to open people's minds with our music and lyrics and play our part in bridging the gaps between hardcore, punk and metal.

Have you thought about which song off of Black Mass will be the next single?

We chose Black Mass to be on the internet first because it's the title track and the haunting intro was perfect for the initial launch of the allrisefortheblackmass.com teaser site. As far as which song we give out next, it's up in the air. It's hard to view songs as "singles" for us because we're not always guaranteed the option of doing a video and even if we do, that usually doesn't mean anything more than a youtube video existing. There is no 7" singles really anymore or CD singles etc.

Where do you draw inspirations for songs?

Lyrical songs come from life. Cliche answer but its true. Very rarely do I even feel the urge to write about something that isn't relevant or related to my life or experience, let alone actually going through with it. The injustices I

see based around race, sexual preference, ethnicity and the like played a major part with this album. Grudges and disputes both new and old as well. Musically the inspiration was all over the place. I've been listening to a ton of thrash and crossover so obviously that shines through. I was brought up and learned to play guitar with metal and thrash and crossover so it was a lot of fun really letting those influences come to the forefront.

The album cover for Black Mass, from what I believe, is the Statue of Liberty surrounded by snakes. Can you please explain to us what is the meaning or significance of the album cover?

In a nutshell, without giving away too much or ruining anyones interpretation of the art, the concept was to show the degradation of what our society holds dear and how things that are symbols and pillars of purity have all been corrupted. Everything has become an evil version of what it once was and what it initially stood for.

What advice would you give to youngsters who want to start writing music?

Write music, play music, get good at your craft... don't go to college if you don't actually want, don't let everyone tell you you must get into the 9-5 job routine to survive because you do NOT need that. Life is difficult without steady money but its not impossible. You have to give up the certainties provided by the "grown up regular life" but the rewards of playing music are far superior. You should live first and foremost, instead of getting into the work to live, live to work bullshit.

How old were you when you became interested in music? Do you believe that your music career will take you far in life?

I've never NOT been interested in music. My first memories of life are based around music. My first favorite band was Def Leppard based on the Pyromania album. That came out in 83 i believe... i was 3 years old. Music has taken me all over the entire world so far and I've lived 31 years without working a boring routine job. That's pretty far already in my opinion. Will I ever make a ton of money or become famous? Doubtful. I'd love to make a ton of money but it's not the reason why I do this and its not really a goal. Like i said earlier, if i can make ends meet and live while doing music, I am very happy about my position in life.

What is the Long Island music scene like? Was it hard to gain attention when This Is Hell began?

The scene here is a bit more closed off than other scenes. Unfortunately thats becoming a bit of the norm throughout the country. With the influence of the internet, the distinction between different cities scenes are slowly fading away. There is so much "these few people in the world say this band is cool and this one isn't so we just follow their lead" going on and less "I like this band and that band and will support them despite what the tastemakers say." That thought process is bullshit. What's even worse is that the people that fall into the trap of following the leaders NEVER think they are doing that. It's painful talking about that type of thing with people that are in that mindset and they have no clue they are falling into that shit. Pathetic fucking sheep.

Are there any cities or countries you haven't visited yet but would love to play in?

Any place we haven't been yet, we want to go to. Hopefully this coming year we will be able to make places like South America and the far east a reality!

THE WORD ALIVE

Interview with Tony Pizzuti
Photo & Interview by Cynthia Lam



You've been in bands before The Word Alive, how would you say the musical styles differed?

My first band when I was thirteen years old was like a punk [band]. It was Short Bus, and we were twelve/thirteen years old and a pop punk band. It was Chris, Andrew, Garrett, me. We went on from that band to The Kerosene Kids, which was a pop punk thing. We went from there and changed our names to The Seasons Company, which was an indie rock kind of band. I wanted to play heavier music so we had to part ways and I went to Calling Of Sirens with Zack. That's how Zack and I first met each other, I was about sixteen years old. We were in that for a couple of years, and then I went back to pop punk with this band called Clouds Take Shape, a pop punk band that had a girl singer. ... at the end of the day I was like you know what "I want to play metal", I like heavy music. That's when Zack gave me a call.

Watch the full interview with Tony [here](#).

Would you say that you've grown musically since you first joined the band?
I think we've all had, definitely.

What was the biggest challenge that you've had to face as a band?

Just getting used to each other's personality. We've gone through a few member changes. Now we feel pretty comfortable but we still have to get used to people's moods. That's probably the biggest challenges more than anything.

Growing up, how big of a part did music have in your life?

I've always loved music but when I turned twelve years old that's when I first started learning guitar. I learned a lot of Blink 182 songs. I took guitar lessons for two months, but I didn't really do well being taught by someone, so I took initiative and taught myself.



Interview & Photo by Cynthia Lam

THERE FOR TOMORROW

You guys released a new album called *The Verge* in June. In what way has the band evolved from *A Little Faster* to *The Verge*?

The period between the first & second albums had some very pinnacle points for a band. Much of our time during tour was spent just learning from our experiences we were taking in around the world. We began to play in places we only dreamt of playing just a few years ago. We began to realize the true nature of our band & I started to really come into my own as a lyricist/writer as well.

What was it like being able to work with Michael Elvis Baskette?

Elvis was the best possible fit for how we wanted to go about producing this album. We didn't know this before working with him, but it was so smooth how the process went. He helped bring the best out of us, much like the invisible 5th man of the band, as opposed to dictating.

Did you face any new challenges while recording this album?

Not really. The whole thing came together pretty dream-like. We easily get caught up in being overly selective, but this time around we didn't want that.

What does 'The Verge' mean? Is there a concept behind this album?

The phrase just captures what happened & what we were thinking when making the music. We felt as though we were approaching something insanely great, but we had no idea what that was. There were no pre-conceptions going into the studio, so there was no clear image of what

we wanted the end product to be. It just came. Yes... came.

Listening to the album I can tell that you have developed musically. What made you decide to go in a new direction?

The sound of the album is the sound of us letting go. We needed that. It's helped us solidify what TFT is, or get closer to that anyway. If you over produce & get caught nit-picking, you start erasing the raw magic that comes from musicianship. Then you start to sound like a Katy Perry record. We might do that on the next one though, cause we wanna get rich.

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

Ahhhh, this question! It has definitely been the game changer for all of music & game changers are not downfalls. No one knows yet. As soon as the new formula is figured out & re-programmed, internet piracy may be a blessing. Who knows.

What are the biggest challenges that you've had to face as a band?

We've realized that in order to be what we want to be, we have to always be inspired. If we're not inspired, we back off & hold some bait out so it'll come back. This is what happens to many artists & creative people. They get discouraged because they're "greatest work" isn't appreciated, so they dial back & create kids bop tunes or something of the like. We hope to not create kids bop tunes. Just NOW that's what I call Music compilations.

This past summer you played on the Vans Warped Tour. What was this experience like?

It's crazy to see what is taking place, but change is very necessary. Let's just say, the last thing you would think should be popular is popular & the things you think should receive endless praise, you might as well stop praising. It's a learning experience to see what kids these days react to. Our fans KILLED it though. Amazing experience.

Are there any specific dates or shows that stood out to you during the tour? Why?

Uniondale, Hartford, Pomona all had that real extra feeling involved outside of just having a lot of people there. There were a lot of die hard people there. AND we didn't play at the same time as ADTR, which is always nice. Love those guys, not just because they murder everyone on Warped, but because they're actual homies.

Growing up, did you attend Warped Tour? What were some of your most memorable moments going as a fan?

Playing the Orlando date as a 14 y/o in 2004 was pretty incredible. We were all massive fans of quite a few bands that were on the bill that year. We snuck in to the back area & played the BBQ un-announced. That was pretty bad-A.

Do you have any plans for the fall?

We're heading out on tour with our good friends Mayday Parade & You Me At Six. Shall NOT be one to miss!

Therefortomorrow.com or die!



Interview by Azaria Podplesky

KELSEY

ASHIBBS
TOGRAPHY

For those us of who don't know, who is Kelsey?

I am bad ass girl that likes making people dance provocatively when I perform. I like adventure, glitter, pink lipstick, Frank Sinatra and all things dangerous.(i.e. explosives and fire arms... although I do not promote the use of these things without professional supervision). My music can be described as a mash up between dirty, dirty sexy time and the amazing feeling of being on a hot sweaty dance floor in NYC at 3 AM.

Growing up, what sort of music did you listen to?

My parents raised me on Frank Sinatra, Andy Williams, The Beach Boys, Queen, Def Leppard, Genesis and Led Zeppelin. I liked the Spice Girls a lot, too.

Did you always want to be a musician or was there a certain person or moment that pointed you in that direction?

I knew on a day in Kindergarten and I came to "Show and Tell" dressed as Madonna from the "Like a Virgin" video...

What was it like performing on Warped Tour as a solo artist?

It was really fun. I had my crew, Tru Fam, DJ Be Real and Mike "Sugar Tits" Seahawk with me on stage so I was not alone. Every show was a party!

Was it difficult to draw a crowd each day or did you find that people really responded to your music?

Some days were great... I'd turn around and see three or four hundred people getting down. And then on some days I felt like I was

performing for myself....or the one creepy guy lurking from far away!

What would you like an audience member to get out of your show?

A work out. I also want them feel sexual tension. I want them to forget about their cell phone, their boyfriend/girlfriend, their BFF's boyfriend/girlfriend and DANCE. Even if they are bad dancers.

Warped Tour is notorious for pranks between performers: tell us your best prank story.

We had quite a few pranks on our bus this Summer. My group was traveling with a band called, The Body Electric. I took every opportunity to use my Air Soft Gun and shoot those guys when they would least expect it. I enjoyed myself. That's not really a prank.

How do you feel about the comparisons to Ke\$ha and Katy Perry?

When I was in my band, Kelsey and the Chaos I was constantly being compared to Paramore. Now that I'm solo everyones saying I'm a Ke \$ha/Katy Perry clone. I'd like it a lot more if I was being compared to Hall & Oates. But I'll get over it. In all seriousness, it doesn't bother me those women are great artists!

If you could share the stage with any musician or band, who would it be and why?

I'd love to get on stage with that band Foster The People.... That way I could "attack" Mark Foster and make him my boyfriend. Same goes for Jared Leto in 30 Seconds to Mars. If I could get on stage with BOTH of them at the same time.... then it'd reallllyyy be a party!

What's the biggest challenge you face as a musician in today's world?

I think finding away to use all the new technology and social media and to use it towards your advantage. There are so many people with music on the internet you really have to make yourself stand out in order to get noticed.

What would you be doing if you weren't performing?

I'd be flying planes in the air force.

Do you have any advice for aspiring musicians?

Work hard. Don't give up. Don't take no for an answer. Wear as many sparkles as humanly possible.

What moment in your history as a musician are you most proud of?

This summer on the Warped Tour was pretty amazing. So many people knew me from my band and came to watch my new show. I was so proud of how people reacted to my new music. It's rewarding to meet fans. Everytime I meet a fan it is a very proud moment for me! I was also proud I only fell down on stage one time! This is a RECORD.

What can we expect from you in the future?

More music. More tours. I can tell you what you CANNOT expect from me also... and that is a nude photo leak.

Anything I forgot to ask or that you would like to add?

Find me [here](#). "Like" the page and you'll get first access to photos, music, behind the scenes videos and commentary on everything from what I ate for dinner to what bar I fell down in drunk last night. PEACE OUT!



Interview with Ted Bowne Interview by Catherine Khom

PASSAFIRE

If you were to bring three bands you looked up along side on a upcoming headlining tour, who would it be and why?

We have actually chosen a couple bands to go out with us on this upcoming fall tour. For the first part of the tour we will be joined by the electro-rock band Jimkata from Ithaca, NY. Jumping on the second half of the tour will be a very progressive reggae/dubstep band called Tatanka from Denver, CO. Both bands have come up on our radar in the last few years and we have been following their growth. We felt they were the best candidates for the tour. There will be a few local openers that we have played with in the past as well. We are very stoked about the line-ups for these upcoming headlining dates!

What are some positive impacts based on music throughout your life?

I have so many great memories of being a kid and seeing/hearing my family play music together. My dad plays piano and my mom is a singer. My three older half bothers (who's mother is also a singer) play guitar, bass, and drums and all of them sing as well. My mom's father was a jazz drummer and her mother sang in the church choir. My dad's father was a piano player in the army and entertained the troops overseas in Guam during his duty in WWII. I have absorbed all of this in my genetic code and have been impacted greatly by all of it. The other members of Passafire also have a lot of family musical influence. I mean.... Nick and Will are bothers. Mike's bother is a keyboard

player too. What more can I say. It's in our blood.

What was it like perform live with the crowd cheering you on?

The crowd is always a key part of the performance. If the crowd is "going wild" (as they say) then we tend to go pretty wild ourselves. If there is a decent crowd but they are not really moving or "cheering" then it's hard to get into it. I can recall shows where there were only about 5 people in the crowd, but they were having a great time and we were able to play a good show because of the good energy from those 5 people. The size doesn't matter as long as it feel's good... right?

What are some of your favorite summer memories of 2011?

I can honestly say that I caught Bad Rabbits' set almost every single day of Warped Tour. Before we went on the tour I had researched the other bands on tour to see what I was into and who I was stoked to see. Bad Rabbits were by far my favorite and the first day I saw them live I was hooked. My favorite memories of the summer were the days when Bad Rabbits played later in the day when the sun was going down and everyone in all the other bands would gather around the Skullcandy stage for an all-out dance party. They are a great live band and I recommend checking them out as soon as you can.

If you were to be cast in any movie, what would the character be and why?

I would probably be cast as the voice of Kermit the Frog if they did a "Muppets in Jamaica" movie. I would love that. Kermit is my favorite muppet and I can do his voice pretty well. I'd actually be really into doing voiceovers/music for a muppet movie!

How can you describe your music to others and in what way does your music stand out from the rest?

Our music is our own unique take on the rock/reggae style made popular by bands such as The Police, The Clash, 311, Sublime, Pepper, Slightly Stoopid, The Expendables, and many more. Though we do take influence from these bands, we have developed a sound that stands apart from the rest because of our attention to detail. We are very particular about how the structure of the songs come together and our vocal harmonies are carefully constructed. We incorporate a lot of effects in our music and one could say that we have a heavy dub influence as well. We use a lot of rhythmic delay effects on guitar, keys, vocals, drums, and even bass. Will (bassist) uses the most effects I've ever seen a bass player use and I think it's awesome!

What are some of your inspirations that came through your songs?

I am inspired by a lot of things. It's hard to mention everything. I could see a sign on the side of the road that makes me think and all of a sudden there's a song brewing in my head. Usually when this happens, I grab my Blackberry and make a note of it right away and come back to it later when I've had time to really think about it. It's fun to go through my phone sometimes and read some of the ridiculous things I write down, but sometimes it's something really interesting and I can take the time to dissect that thought and make it into a song. Like I said, it could be anything. If I had to list them.... Love, art, science, politics, family, psychology, nature, adventure, surfing/skateboarding/snowboarding, and other people's music are my main inspirations.

In the recording studio, what usually happens in a day in the life with Passafire?

We are very productive in the studio. When we make an album we draw up a big chart listing the songs from top to bottom and the instruments across the top. Then we go through and systematically check off each part as it gets recorded. Usually we will spend a few days on each instrument and pepper in a few vocal sessions throughout the process once the main structure of the song is laid down and edited. It's very important to break up the vocal sessions over time so we aren't singing all day one day and blowing out our voices. Paul Leary (the producer on *Start From Scratch*) was very good about keeping everything organized and on schedule. The first day of vocal tracking he had me print up all the lyrics to all of the songs so he could make notes on which phrases needed work, which word (or words) were unnecessary, and which parts were right on. I thought this was a very cool technique. I learned a lot from Paul in the studio. He's an excellent producer!

Who came up with the band's name of "Passafire"? What is the story behind it?

I guess I came up with the name Passafire. I had just read the Bob Marley biography "Catch A Fire" by Timothy White and suggested that we call the band Passafire since we are taking a lot of influence from the music of Bob Marley and The Wailers and trying to translate it into something more modern and relevant. It also refers to the energy that is "passed" back and forth between us and the crowd every time we play. We have always been a very crowd-friendly band and like I stated earlier... the crowd is a key part in making the show good for us. If there is a steady flow of energy in the room, then Passafire is in full effect. The name is also a play on words. People often think we are called "Pacifier" because it's pronounced the same way, but when they see the spelling they go, "oh.... I get it!"

Do you think there are more opportunities if you move or travel to a different country/ state? Why or why not as a band?

We have a lot of great markets all over the US. Florida, Texas, and Colorado are three places that have been really good for us over the years. California is also an amazing place to play also because of the popularity of our style of music in the area. I don't think we will be leaving Savannah any time soon. It's the place where the band was born and it has treated us well since the beginning. It's a beautiful city to come home to and after living there for the last nine years, it feels like home. Nick and I met as students at the Savannah College of Art and Design in 2002, and started the band in early 2003. There's a lot of history in Savannah for us and we feel a certain attachment to it. If I move anywhere, it will probably be back to Ocean City, MD where I grew up. You can hear more about my

thoughts on this topic in the song "Miss You" on our upcoming release "Start From Scratch." Check it out!

What are some advice you can give to other future bands who are starting out?

If you are trying to make it in today's music industry, you have to tour. You can't make a name for yourself by playing shows close to home all the time and just promoting on facebook. Write some original music, record a decent sounding record, and get it into the hands of every one of your friends and make them share it with their friends and so on. When you call a club to book your band, don't be cocky. Tell the promoter that you are just starting out and you are willing to take any open date that they can offer you, even if it's a Monday night. If you play in college towns, people will still go out during the week to see your band... if you promote the show well. Use facebook to promote all of your shows and get people to share the link to your event page so that you can spread awareness about the shows, get people in the door, and impress the club owner so you can book more shows there in the future. You got to have merch too.... People love to be able to buy a t-shirt if they like your band. I know I do!

What is your favorite childhood memory?

Wow, that's a tough question. I feel like I had a pretty great childhood. I miss the times when all of my skater buddies and I would get together and skate all over town together. It took up most of our free time. I went to Woodward Skateboard Camp when I was 13. Meeting all of the pros that I watched in skate videos all the time was the highlight of that experience. These guys were celebrities to me and my friends and getting their autographs and getting a picture with them was SO cool! It reminds me of those days every time someone wants my autograph and/or a photo with me. Life is funny. One day you're on one side, and the next you are on the other. Regardless of all that... I will never forget how fun it was to skate with my friends when that was all there was to do beside go to school.

What is to come for Passafire? For this fall and winter?

We are about to release our 4th studio album *Start From Scratch* on September 20th. We will be doing a headlining tour from September 14th to November 5th covering most major cities in the US and then some. The tour dates are all up on all of our sites and pre-order for the new album is in full swing. We are very excited to do our first real headlining tour where we got to pick out the support bands ourselves. I think our fans will like Jimkata and Tatanka a lot. No plans for winter 2012 yet, but we will keep everyone updated for sure!

Thank you so much, for being a part of our issue, we appreciate it so much! Any last words you want to add and shout outs to anyone or fans?

I'd like to give a big shout out to everyone on our team. Chase, Jason, and Cory did a great job on Warped Tour this year and I'm positive we couldn't have done it without them. This fall we will have two new members of the crew. Chad on lights and Ernie will be our new guitar/drum tech. We are looking forward to having these guys join the crew and go on tour with us! Thanks to Evan and Ryan for everything and thank you StitchedSound.com for doing this interview! I hope I could shed some light on the subject! *Start From Scratch* drops on September 20th. Buy it! I dare you!

BEHIND THE LENS WITH IMANI GIVERTZ



For this month's Behind The Lens, we caught up with one of our own photographers Imani Givertz! Be sure to check out her [website](#) and read her [bio](#)!

While you're capturing a model, or a musician, about how many times would you feel the need to take a picture to find the "perfect shot"?

It all depends on the model and what type of emotion I'm going for. Say I'm going for a sad photo... I'll take 10 frames sometimes but by the 11th, I'll catch perhaps a tear after talking and telling the model to think. It all really depends.

Before you publish your work online, do you have it critiqued by someone else, or do you just go with what your heart tells you is right?

Just gotta go with what feels right.

What would you not photograph?

I would never want to be involved with photographing anything at involved animal abuse. No pink ponies for me!

What's your take on teens today becoming more and more comfortable with photography and professional cameras?

I think if you're extremely passionate about photography at a young age, then great, go for it! I've seen photography and cameras being taken advantage of daily in the teen world. There's a difference between doing something you love because you love it and doing it because everyone else is doing it. Other than that, I think it's a wonderful thing and art for people who are serious about it and are doing it for them and not for their peers.

What is your advice for kids who are wanting to start out in photography?

If you love it, if you want to pursue it, if you feel for it; go for it. It's such a wonderful escape and a wonderful way to see the world through a lens. Never be afraid to do what you love.

How do you feel about people posting your photos on tumblr?

If they keep the watermark and give credit to them, then that's great! I'm flattered. If you take it too far by re-editing, claiming, and removing the organic credit, then it frustrates me. But you gotta pick and choose those battles, right?

Are there any photographers that you look up to?

I have always loved Dirk Mai's and Gage Young's work. I look up to them as humans and as artists in every way. Also, I have a huge camera crush on my friend Sam Cannon. I love her work so much!



RATING CHART

★ TRASH IT ★★ STREAM IT ★★★ DOWNLOAD IT ★★★★★ BUY IT ★★★★★ KEEP IT



★★★★

The Hopeless Records signed band, **The Dangerous Summer**, based from Ellicott City, Maryland released their sophomore album *War Paint*. Every track off their new album is original and different from their first album, *Reach For The Sun*. The lead singer **AJ Perdomo**, handles bass and vocals which gives insight to the band on a whole new level. Once I listened to this record, the feelings and emotions, as you can tell, was pushed and demonstrated beautifully through the beats of guitar from **Cody Payne, Bryan Czap, and Tyler Minsberg**. The smashing single, “Good Things” have fans the hype everyone was looking forward to and is still a perfect jam to listen to.

by Catherine Khom

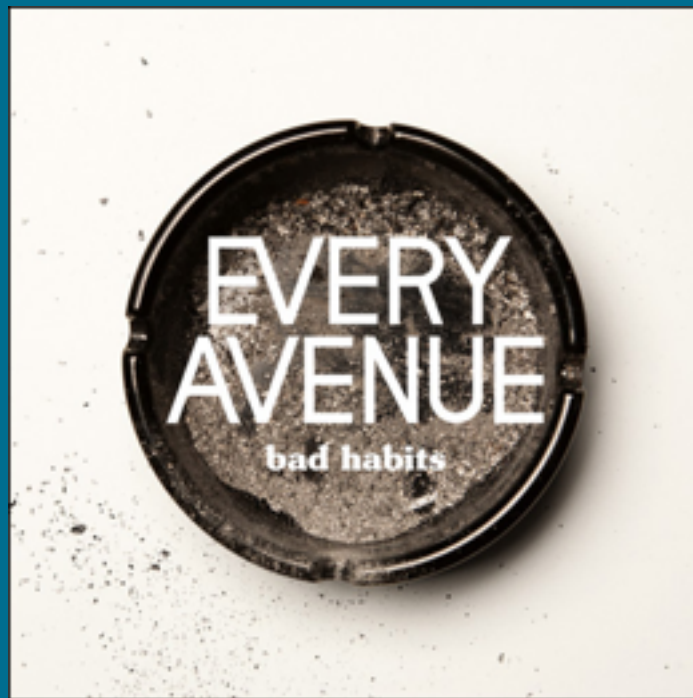
The 5-piece band from Michigan didn't exactly pull through to all their fans with their latest album *Bad Habits*, not having released anything since 2009, with their full length *Picture Perfect*. The 11-song album *Bad Habits* was released on August 3rd and is the bands 4th full-length album. They have also produced 3 EP's.

Many fans are saying that this is a different genre change for **EA**, and they're not sure what to think about it being more of a rock and roll album then a pop punk album. This album really shows what the band can do, with the instrumentals and vocals within each and every song.

The album title *Bad Habits* truly fits the album, with almost every song being about bad habits that people go back to, especially track 4, “Fall Apart” with the lyrics “I want you to fall apart like I did, you to hurt for all of this, all the pain you put me through, I wanna hear you say... I don't deserve you.”

On a bad note the song “No One But You” and “Hit Me Where It Hurts The Most” seem to be too auto tuned and seems to be trying to go into more of the rock and roll genre. For the record, **Dave Strauchman** has a voice and can really sing, this kind of auto-tuned music ruined the album. Many other songs off this album as Sputnik Music says is “Strauchman doing a sappy attempt at being Elton John.”

Nonetheless, even though this album may not have pleased all of the same fans, it may have brought them into a new genre that they were hoping to reach out too.



★★★

By Sarah Bergen

AD SPACE!

We are now offering advertising spaces on our website and in our issues! Choose from half page ads, full page ads, or a small banner on our website, and more. We will also be offering help designing the ad's as well.

Since the hosting and keeping the website up and running does cost quite a bit, we decided to start this off so we can help both YOU and US!

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All the bands, managers, publicists, and labels that we've worked with in this issue.

And also to all of you who are reading this!