

STITCHED SOUND

Issue #24



WATERPARKS
NEW FOUND GLORY
AVIAN SUNRISE
LIFE AS A GHOST + MORE!

Oh being swept away in the same old routine

This is a short issue. I'll say that up front. I think speaking on behalf of the Stitched Sound staff, I can safely say that school is getting the best of us. With it starting up again busy schedules have arisen. We do have a lot planned for the next issue though, and we just didn't have enough time to fit it in time for this one. Be excited though!

If you haven't already, you should go and join our mailing list!

Anywho, I don't have much to say. As of right now, I need to go and finish some homework.

But just a small note - have any of you picked up We Came As Romans' new CD yet? It's amazing!

Cynthia Lam
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Interview with Dan Gieckel

Interview by Sarah Lozano

Photos by Stephen LaMarche

LIFE AS A GHOST

While writing Life as a Ghost's debut album "Drifter" did you know what you wanted the album to sound like right away?

For the most part, yes. The entire feeling and sound and reasoning behind Life As A Ghost as a whole. I knew before I even called Nick (Viscovich) and asked him to do this with me.

What was the bands writing process for *Drifter*? Anything interesting?

Well the one thing for me that made this incredible was that we had strived for something before we wrote the record. With the record in mind, we knew where we wanted to go and we were able to take our time writing this. Unlike anything I did in my previous band we took the time to sit and self produce the album. We recorded every song before we went into the Geller cellar to actually lay down the record. Being as we were self producing the record we wanted to make sure we had everything as best as we could get it before laying down the real record.

If you could change one thing about the upcoming album what would it be and why?

If I could change one thing about *Drifter*... gosh, I don't know hah. I mean you are your own worst critic I could tell you 1000 little things I'd like to change. Things no one but me would ever notice. But hey you know what that's what life is about: not just music. Being able to learn from the past and improve on it for the future! (even if it's just for your own mentality / sanity haha).

What's been Life as a Ghost biggest accomplishment so far?

This far we have been very lucky to be where we are. We all worked very hard in previous bands for years, and in just a year to find a great label like eulogy that wants to support our music and reasoning behind it is amazing. To me thus far that's the best feeling.

What are three main goals that the band would like to achieve in the future?

We'd like to get on the right tours and see the country hang out with friends and fans. Head to Europe next year. And also speak to people through our music more so than anything. We wrote with real emotions. Everything I say is a real as real can get and to touch the hearts of people is something I always long to do

What inspired you to do music professionally?

Inspirations come from everywhere for me. One of the first bands I really listened to and loved was MXPX and they made me love and appreciate music. It showed me honest fun for the first time when I was about 12. From there I listened to bands like Saetia and saw the raw emotion they had and how they just reached out to people. I wanted to be a part of that, and hockey (as good as I was) didn't do that for me. They say "You could have went to play in the NHL why would you ever stop?" because it's not where my heart was. I learned quick this industry isn't easy but I'd rather go down swinging knowing I'm doing what I want and love rather than what "they" wanted me to do.

Is making it in the music industry more luck or talent?

Sometimes I ask myself the same question. There are so many bands that have worked so hard and get zero credibility. Then here are bands that go to a great producer bang out a 3 aping demo that they themselves didn't even write and instantly get noticed. To me, that's outrageous. Unfortunately we have examples of both here on Long Island.

Can share with us some of the best advice you've ever been given?

A very good friend of mine whom I knew from my hockey days. Once told me many years ago that I have to stop trying to please everyone around me and start looking out for my own needs. To this day he still needs to remind me of that from time to time. But if you break it down as simple as it is. It makes so much sense

What's keep you wanting to do music, even when times get hard?

The struggles themselves is what keeps me going. Though draining it's times like that you need to use to your advantage and grow from them.

Last question, what do you think the world would be like without music?

The world without music would be a train wreck. So many people use music as an escape, relaxation, healing, happiness, etc etc. that without it we would be without out "escape". Thanks for taking the time to read this!

CRITICS

Interview by Cynthia Lam

What makes Critics different from other bands in the music industry?

Well that's the thing about being different, no band is ever the same.

How has growing up in the Kiama area affect you musically?

I guess maybe not the area but the people around where you live affect you and your music, the scene down here is virtually non-existent just pub bands and buskers so there's not a lot of influence around.

What was the music scene like while you were growing up as a kid?

I wasn't really that exposed to the current scene when I was a kid, I used to listen to whatever dad put in the tape player that we had in the car so it was a lot of The Cranberries, Big Audio Dynamite, Nick Cave and things that he liked. I don't know whether it influenced me but I really like BAD and The Cranberries still, oh and Alanis Morissette

What first sparked your interest in music? Also, what was your first instrument that you learned how to play, and why did you choose this?

The reason I have any interest in music is probably because of my Uncle Boris, he used to come over and visit and play flamenco guitar out on the verandah. I idolised him and just wanted to be like him, that's why I started playing guitar which was my first instrument (apart from the recorder which the whole grade had to learn at school in year 2) and I guess I wanted him to be proud of me.

How big of a part does the band have in your life?

Life and band go hand in hand, I'd say that for most musicians. Whatever happens to you in your life affects your band and vice versa. I don't think I could really scale how big a part it has in my life 'cause I don't do that much when I'm not at shows or band practise, I just game shit loads.

Have you seen any crazy antics from the crowd at your show? What happened?

Depending on the show, the other bands and who's in the crowd it's always different but I love seeing people in a cramped up mosh rubbing sweat on each other and singing along. I've seen some trampling and face-kicking happen though.

You recently released your new album *To The Beat of The Drunk*. What inspired the album title?

Well the title is a bit of a misheard lyric that the band and our manager picked up on ("to the beat of the drum" from A Toast To Like Minds) it's also kinda ironic coz most drunk people don't have any sense of rhythm ha, I don't know what that says about us but the name is open to interpretation, we've spent many a time coming up with different reasons for the name between the band for fun and you can get some pretty stupid ideas flowing.

What is your favourite song off of that album to play live? What is it about?

Hmmmm, to play live... probably "The Flashing Lights Won't Capture Us" or "Wither and Die". TFLWCU is about being frustratingly tied down and bored and then cutting loose with your friends just doing whatever you want and causing trouble, WAD is completely different it's about the pain of betrayal with a bit of a fuck you in it from the lines "I hope it eats you alive, keeps you awake at night, I'm not about to forgive you"

At a Critics show - what should fans expect from you guys?

You could possibly expect people to jump around and get into it or face some brutal comments from centre stage.

While writing music, do you aim for a certain genre or sound? Why or why not?

Nah, I let it flow. Sometimes you want certain parts to maybe take a certain direction but it's stupid to limit yourself by genre etc in writing because you never know what you're holding back.

What do you hope to accomplish in the future?

Lots of things, music and non-music related but I guess one big thing is to get a full length album together that I'm really happy with and getting it out to people. I love the feeling of showing people new music that you've created and are proud of.

Is there anything else I missed that you'd like to add?

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Interview by Cynthia Lam

SOCIAL JET LAG

What were your goals as a band when Social Jet Lag first started? Have you accomplished and of them yet?

When Social Jet Lag first started I think we were all just hoping we could tour the US and record a professional album. It was never about fame and fortune for us. We just wanted to play music and entertain people. As we got older and as we grew in the industry we added more goals, but I'd say that we've accomplished a lot of what we initially set out to do.

In your opinion, what makes Social Jet Lag different from other bands in the music industry?

The nature at which Social Jet Lag blends two completely opposing styles together is what sets us apart. It's an art form doing what we do and I think it helps that we aren't trying to be something we're not. We aren't looking around trying to see what's hot and adding it to the mix. Each member knows exactly what he or she likes and brings that to the table when we write. It's not our female lead singer, it's not our metal riffs; it's the way everything comes together.

You have been a band for three years, and you've already had the chance to tour the United States quite a bit. What is the most important thing that you've learned on tour?

Don't sweat the small stuff. When you're in an independent band you aren't given many of the luxuries that major label bands are given so regardless of what is thrown at you (because there will be a lot thrown at you on tour) you just have to smile, breathe, and move forward.

Do you have any wild tour stories that you can share with our readers?

Hahaha. Not without embarrassing someone outside of the band. Let's just put it this way: tour is a lot of fun. On tour you're broke and

only play for 30-60 mins on any given night so you have 23 hours left of the day to fill up. The question each day is, "What can I do for free to keep me entertained?" That is a very dangerous question.

What is the biggest challenge that the band has have to face while touring? How did you overcome it?

Ultimately, the biggest challenge is ourselves. For a while we traveled in a full sized van, NOT a 15 passenger van. I'm talking a regular, full sized van. It was cramped, dirty, old, noisy, no AC, no CD player, no AUX port, nothing. When you're on the road with 5 other completely different personalities for weeks at a time, especially in cramped quarters like that, things can get hectic and a little tense. Thankfully, we all work and travel really well together but that doesn't mean we didn't have our moments when the gloves came off. The only way to really overcome things like that is to just have the mindset, "This is my family. No matter how tense or awkward things get, I'm stuck with these people (in a good way)." Having that mindset makes all of the awkward situations go away pretty quickly.

I understand that you released your debut full length this year, how has the feedback been so far?

So far the feedback has been great. What's been really exciting is to see everyone outside the US supporting our music. We have a huge Russian fan base and then there are the people in England, Japan, and Argentina that have been repping us hard. Our first music video, Where Did They Hyde Dr. Jekyll?, just took off because of those fans. It's been great. Just great.

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

The overall concept behind the album is that no matter how dark the night may get, the dawn is not far away. We're all about hope. Things can get incredibly bad in life but that

doesn't mean you're defeated. Every song is written from personal issues we've dealt with so hopefully people can grasp each song's message and realize that they're not alone and that things will be ok in the end.

I also understand that just recently you shot a new music video. Can you give us any details about it?

We're actually in the middle of shooting for it right now. It's going great. I can't actually say what song we're doing it for but I can tell you that it is focused on the judgement we feel from others. It's got a "take the plank out of your own eye" kind of vibe. We're really excited about how it's turning out.

What was the filming experience like for you?

The filming experience for this one is completely different than the experience for the last one. With "Where Did They Hyde Dr. Jekyll?", we were all new at music videos. The band, the extras, even the videographer. We were all testing each other out and hoping for the best. With this one, there is a very clear story, a very clear idea, and a very clear look to it. It's just a much smoother and established experience this time around.

What can we expect from Social Jet Lag in the next few upcoming months?

Well, we have a new music video coming out in October, we'll be on the road again in October, and by the end of the year there will be some details about new music. There are also some surprises that will come up here and there. It's going to be a very interesting few months.

Find us on your favorite social networking site! We're there and we talk to you. We've always felt that the interaction between fans and the band is what makes being in a band so great. We're not making music just so you can observe and listen. We make music to reach out to and connect with our fans.

FRIEND OF YOURS

Interview by Bianca Delicata



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

Lynn: We are both very passionate about our music and it is reflected in our live performance. We play our hearts out when we play live and people often remark that we are entertaining to watch. We have a unique sound; I finger pick electric guitar which apparently is unusual (I hadn't really thought about it until was pointed out to me several times), more often than not am singing at the top of my lungs, and Brian brings it all together with versatile beats and backing vocals. And the songwriting genuinely comes from the soul.

Brian: We've used the phrase "lyrical soul grunge" before, and I like that. I would say it's moody, dynamic, heartfelt. Girl/boy. Guitar/drums.

Has age ever been a barrier for the band?

Lynn: This is such an interesting question. In terms of audience, it's hard for us to reach teenagers because we almost always play at 18 or 21+ shows.

Brian: Yeah, if you want to be successful, you've got to reach the youth.

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

Lynn: My dad was (and still is) always singing no matter what he does, so he was constantly walking around the house singing mostly Buddy Holly, Elvis or Simon and Garfunkel songs. Simply being in the presence of my dad's amusing bravado consciously and subconsciously influenced me to use my voice. I joined chorus in high school and had a great teacher, so I learned to use my voice and harmonize. In terms of listening to music, I was pretty much trapped in the clutches of MTV and pop radio until I was 14 or so and became interested in my dad's old records. I discovered music could be poetic and touch your soul when I played Simon and Garfunkel, and it had a pretty profound effect on me. From then on I sought out music with meaning. I was a teenager in the early 90's, and I liked grunge music but didn't get as obsessed with it as my peers. I got obsessed with chick singers like Juliana Hatfield, Tori Amos, Bjork and Ani DiFranco, but I've moved on from them now, though they no doubt had a big impact on me. I dreamed of playing guitar for years but didn't actually pick one up until I was 18.

Brian: Early on in elementary school I played the clarinet. They had someone come to our class to see if anyone was interested in taking lessons through the school and I wanted to be like my friends who played sax or whatever. I picked clarinet because it was the cheapest instrument on the list that wasn't a flute and I thought my parents would be more likely to go for it. They did and I started taking lessons but didn't really know what the shit was going on. My teacher

figured that out eventually and basically told me to shape up. I brought the sheet music and instruction book home and me and my dad basically sat down and learned to read music together. So music went from being a source of embarrassment to one of pride, a pretty big moment for me. I didn't stick to clarinet of course.. by the time I was in high school music was all I thought about. I wanted so badly to play the drums so I bought some sticks, arranged some pillows and notebooks at the end of my bed, pulled up a chair, put on Nevermind and went to town. I would do this nightly, with other records, the radio, or nothing at all. By the time I got my first kit I was ready to roll.

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

Lynn: Simon and Garfunkel and John Lennon.

Brian: Alice in Chains! with Layne Staley obviously.

Where do you see Friends of Yours in a year or so?

Lynn: I see us having learned more about the pesky business side of the music world, and being more savvy in that realm. We will have toured at least one more time and be planning another tour, opened for a well established band so we can gain more exposure (it would be even cooler if we could TOUR with a band like that), and we will have released a full length, and written a bunch more songs.

Brian: Yeah, that sounds about right. Our full length will be on vinyl, and an EP will be just about ready to go. One cool thing is that each year that's gone by so far I've been able

to honestly say that we're definitely better than we were a year ago. I want that to continue.

How did you come up with Friends of Yours? Who thought of it?

Brian: I think I did. We were walking around town when I thought of it. But I was thinking more like, you're at some snooty high society party you somehow got invited to or maybe your rich distant relatives are having a coming out party for their little princess or whatever, and maybe you were able to sneak some friends in and they cause a scene or break something or are loud and some dude in a tux with a monacle or a woman in a poofy gown looks down their nose at you and asks, "Frriends of yours?"

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

Lynn: Another great question. Well, we were psyched because we thought we were an amazing band and we couldn't wait to show the world (the world being a bunch of our friends and some other acquaintances). I remember being well received, but Brian played too loud and I didn't play loud enough, and there were a lot of technical kinks we realized we had to work out. Balancing sound out on stage and making sure you can hear yourself and that it doesn't sound like shit to the audience is something I never thought about until we started playing live. Also, and I had learned this from playing a ton of open mics, people will never care about your band as much as you care about your band, and it takes a few listens before anyone starts to really get into it.



Interview with Brian Wehrkamp Interview by Kelly Arias

AVIAN SUNRISE

What sparked your interest in wanting to become a musician?

I have always had some sort of musical interest and have played percussion and piano all through grade school. However, I didn't start writing music in the spring of 2008. That summer I can remember being at a Camera Can't Lie/Windsor Drive show in Sioux Falls and thinking to myself – this is definitely what I want to do.

Where does your inspiration come from when writing new music?

I try to draw inspiration from anything and everything. As humans we tend to feel a similar set of emotions in given situations. For the most part, I tend to write (at least lyrically) based around a certain type of emotion; and the picture that I attempt to create, if done effectively, will bring someone to their own relatable place with the words and music that is being played.

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

We generally try to meet people at eye-level with positive and hopeful energy in every song that we write. The message with every

song we write tends to vary; but we feel that relate-ability is central to what we are trying to do.

What was the hardest challenge you've had to face since starting the band? What helped you overcome it?

From a band standpoint I would say the hardest challenge each of us has had to face would be finding the balance with everything. We are taking on other jobs to sustain financially, running our own business, attempting to maintain healthy relationships amongst ourselves as well as family and friends, all while making sure that we are enjoying every second of this experience; as we all believe it is truly a blessing. And constantly reminding one another that what we have is something special has helped us overcome any of the obstacles that we have faced thus far.

What do you think are some of the biggest challenges for musicians nowadays?

The more I've looked into different band's back-stories; I'm finding that persistence and determination are probably most important to succeeding as a musician. I always thought it was 'one song' that really just launches a

bands successful career; but it's crazy how long some of my favorite bands have actually been bands. I think with anything you do; whether it's college, working your way up the corporate ladder, or becoming an established musician – these things take time. Sticking it out for as long as it takes is tough when things don't always seem to be looking up; and I think that's the biggest challenge in establishing a career as a musician.

If you could collaborate with anyone who would it be and why?

Oh man, haha that is a tough question. It's hard to think of just one so I'll list a few. I personally would love to collaborate with Jonsi from Sigur Ros – the reason being, I admire him and that band for how progressive, powerful, intricate, and beautiful their music is. I would be curious to see the end result of that collab. Another would be Ryan Tedder of OneRepublic for the simple fact that due to him being such a successful/ amazing writer, the outcome would result in an automatic hit on the radio AND it would be a great song! haha. Lastly, DJ Tiesto – that way we could have a bumpin' club remix of one of our songs.

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

It's tough to single out just one song, but if I had to it would probably be How Love Works on our album Silence in the Sound; for multiple reasons. I favor this song because it really just came together in my head in a very complete fashion, which doesn't always happen. It was both fun and therapeutic for me to have written that song. The other reason would be the content of the song; it is my viewpoint of the before/ during/after of my little sister's suicide. The first verse is my attempt to convince her to hold on and to know that although everything seems out of control; it will get better. The second verse is written in the wake of her death, and how it affected everyone around her so much. Immediately

following the funeral, we cut up her favorite blanket into little squares that each of the family members and close friends could keep in memory of her. The line 'bleeding from ten feet high, watching these grown men cry' is my perspective looking back on the whole thing – try as I may, I still see everything from more of a third person standpoint; almost like an out of body experience looking down on the sadness and tragedy. The third verse and last part of the song is my personal discovery of how integral faith was in getting out of that dark and broken time and seeing light again.

What was your reaction to hearing your songs play on a television show?

It was pretty surreal. The first time was totally blindsiding – we were notified via

email the day the show was to air with our song; but that email went straight to the Junk Mail folder, so we had NO idea it was going to be on the show. All of the texts and calls started coming to us, and goose bumps ensued. We all felt so blessed to have had that happen.

What is your favorite part about performing live and touring?

Performing live is SO. MUCH. FUN. It's probably the most rewarding experience we get. All of our hard work and hours spent practicing pay off when we are able to connect with people in the crowd who are really digging our set. Being out on the road is a blast as well. We all get along great and every day is like a road trip with your best friends – it doesn't get better than that.



How does it feel when you see fans in the crowd singing every lyric to your songs along with you?

As I said in the last response, it is the most rewarding thing we get to experience. It feels incredible to have our original work being sung back to us because those people have enjoyed it. Music has a strange way of connecting and bringing people close; and in that moment I feel incredibly close to those people. It's a feeling of unison or oneness, and it is awesome.

What would your dream tour look like? (I.E. Who would you want to bring along and where would you want to play?)

I listen to so many different bands it is tough to say what a dream tour would be like. If we were headlining, I would probably want to bring along the Icarus Account guys because they are incredibly fun people. If we were part of a list of bands, though it may an awkward difference in music I would say Manchester Orchestra, Coldplay, Brand New, and Sigur Ros. Haha, it would be enjoyable for me to hear those bands every night.

Where do you see the band 5 years from now?

I see us touring and sharing our music with people all over the world, and establishing a living making music. I have big dreams, but I don't think that's a bad thing. Oh, and maybe living somewhere other than South Dakota. That would be nice. :)

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

Thank you for offering us this interview and for continuing to search out and spotlight interesting music!

FROM LOVE TO FORFEIT

Interview with Ash Militsala Interview by Cynthia Lam

How did you meet the other members of From Love To Forfeit and decide to start a band together?

Wesley, Garrett, and myself are all family (cousins). Brennen has been a good friend of ours for quite a bit now. Blood couldn't make us all any closer. We're all like brothers.

What was the first instrument that you learned how to play, what made you decide to learn it?

The first instrument I ever learned to play was the piano. Being in a very musical family, my parents insisted on me taking it for a few years as a little kid. At the time, I hated practicing, and I hated music. Once I got passed the idea of practicing music as a chore, I found that I loved writing it. From piano, to the drums, guitar, sax, bass, and many other instruments, music quickly stole my time and all of my interest.

Being from the Edmonton area, are there any local bands that have influenced you?

I have cousins on my dad's side who have been some of my best friends for my whole life. They also have a band, Bracing For Downpour, and we love working, writing, jamming, and bouncing ideas back and forth from each other. We've worked on different projects together.

What are your thoughts about the music scene in this city?

The music scene here in Edmonton contains a huge variety of artists and genres. We've been involved in Edmonton's all star jazz collectives, concert ensembles and it is really amazing to see different musicians come together to create a colorful music scene.

If you were to describe From Love To Forfeit in one word, what would it be and why?

Changing. We avoid being narrow minded when listening to genres of music. We love to listen and create new flavors of music in each song, which continually makes the songs we write more interesting yet listenable, and fresh.

Has age ever been a barrier for the band?

Age hasn't ever been a barrier with us. Frankly, it doesn't really matter. We all look at each other with a respect for their input, and an appreciation of their standpoint.

Can you tell us about how a From Love To Forfeit song is formed?

Well, one guy will bring up an musical idea, riff, or "nugget" as they're called, and we'll rock it for a bit and we'll all add in our different inputs to make it better suited for a song. Brennen and I bounce guitar ideas back and forth, while Garrett writes his bass foundation on it. With myself being a drummer also, it's really sweet how Wes and I bounce ideas to each other. I'll pitch my ideas at em' and he fine tunes, and creates amazing stuff out of our ideas.

Lyrics are generally written by me, but I like having the other guys' ideas and input also.

Do you have to be in a specific mood to write music? Why or why not?

No, not really. Different moods inspire different atmospheres and attitudes in each song, so there isn't a specific one.

While writing, do you aim for a specific genre or age group?

We don't limit our genre. We understand that you could generalize us as a rock band, but we love incorporating other genre sections in each track. As for age group, we definitely do aim for our generation of youth/young adults. With that said, I would also be so stoked if I saw seniors bustin' out the jig to one of our tracks, haha.

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

Yeah, we want to show people that they are loved in every aspect of their lives. It doesn't matter what circumstances they are facing, we love them, but most importantly, Jesus Christ loves them.

What are some things that you hate seeing from the crowd while playing a show?

Hmm. I've seen a kid sitting in the front row with his iPod in his ears, maybe it was too loud? But I was pretty confused haha. Also, when people are going crazy (which I'm all for) but end up hurting other people.

Have you pulled any crazy antics on stage before? What happened?

We have competitions each show within the band. From the best guitar flip, best camera wink, to the best rig jump (over amp stacks/ keyboards) haha. I've also thought about pranking there rigs somehow, but i'd probably receive a million fists haha.

What does the future hold for the band?

I believe the future holds many things for us. We've had such a blast so far and we keep on making new connections and relationships with awesome people. From rubbing elbows with big time bands such as Switchfoot, different record labels, producers, and management, the sky is the limit.

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

Thank you for the opportunity to chat with you guys. All y'all out there in the world of the interweb better get stoked for our new record, AS LIONS, to be released this fall! Get some previews of it and listen to the album track, AS LIONS! I promise you'll be groovin' to it allll niigghhht looonngg! Check it out here at Listn.to/fromlovetoforfeit & myspace.com/fromlovetoforfeit

IAMDYNAMITE

Interview with Chris Phillips Interview by Azaria Podplesky

How did the members of IAmDynamite meet and decide to form a band?

We met at the end of high school. We are from a small town, so musicians were few and far between. So we started jamming then. We had been in a few bands since, and decided the duo was the best way to go after a previous band broke up.

Growing up, what kind of music did the two of you listen to?

We were both brought up in musical households. When we started with our instruments grunge was taking over music. We always try to listen to new music in all genres.

Did you guys always know you wanted to be musicians or was there a certain person or moment that pointed you two in that direction?

Like I said before, we were raised with musician parents. So it was just engrained into us since we were small. From a young age we both had piano lessons and did band in school. So music always was in our lives.

What is the Raleigh music scene like? Was it hard to gain a following when IAmDynamite began?

Raleigh is a cool area just because of the schools around the area. The music scene is there but not so prevalent as other cities. It's nice to have Duke, UNC, and NC state so close together because it's 3 different bases within a 30 mile radius. Creating a fan base in the Raleigh area was a challenge because nobody knew who we were. We were originally called "Mahoney" and had created a fan base in Michigan, Chicago, New York, and Texas. All the places we already played didn't seem to mind the change, so starting in Raleigh was just something we had to do. It has been awesome getting to know more and more people there.

What was it like going from recording your debut EP with Matt Noveskey of Blue October to now touring with the band? Do you have any memorable tour moments?

Meeting Matt was a funny experience. After being locked in the studio for days everyone gets to know each other fast. We hit it off and since have become great friends. Being able to tour and just work with him in general has been awesome. We all have the same goals and want the best for the band. The best stories are the ones from Matt's family and friends. We have a lot of dirt on that guy now, but we are saving that for when we write our book! Since we are in the middle of the tour, we still are creating moments. So far, the first show we did in Dallas was amazing. We had never played in front of that many people so that was truly a great memory.

IAmDynamite is known for their humorous music videos. How do you guys come up with the concepts?

Our friend Marty "laser" Stano was the creative genius behind our videos so far. We completely trust his creativity and are excited to work with him in the future.

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

We will play with anybody. It does not matter. If we got asked and we could do it...we will. Our favorite thing to do is play in front of people so if it's to 5 or 5000 people... We are in.

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

Fun. A cd, and a t shirt. We try to talk to everyone, and give everyone a sweaty hugs. We also celebrate peoples inability to dance.

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

Chris Martin wants to be an architect. Chris Phillips thought about massage therapy. But we are glad this is working out.

Do you have any advice for aspiring musicians?

Practice twice as much as you think you should, And write good songs. Nobody cares about your sweet chops if you cannot play a fun catchy song.

What moment in IAmDynamite history are you most proud of?

Getting a van was AWESOME! we used to tour in a Scion Xb, so just being able to lay down is something I will cherish forever.

What can we expect from IAmDynamite in the future?

More music, cooler videos, a calendar, and another tour.

WATERPARKS

Interview with Awsten Knight

Interview by Sarah Lozano

Photo by Heather Phillips



How did Waterparks start?

I (Awsten) met Gage on the internet. I thought he was an online predator. I met up with him at a Kohls and it turns out he WAS infact an online predator, but instead of touching me we decided to make a band because my current band was breaking up and his current band was southern metal, so we made Waterparks because we hate metal.

It took you guys a while to pick a band name, how did you guys choose Waterparks and what were other names you were considering?

We took a very long time choosing this band name because we've always had really bad band names, so we weren't in a rush, especially since we didn't even have any music yet and we think it's stupid as fuck for a band to get a name and promote a facebook with no music. Hear that? If you're in a band don't ask me to "like" your band if I can't hear your band. Annoying fucks. We wanted something different than the awful hardcore names that were floating around like the "(Verb) the (Noun)" type names or whatever. We were almost named GOLF because we all hate golf and thought it'd be funny or some shit. I'm glad we picked Waterparks instead. We picked Waterparks because we hate Waterparks. FUCK ARMANDO.

When you decided to start writing and recording music to you really have a clear idea on what you wanted the band to sound like?

Absolutely not. We went in with the idea that we weren't playing any breakdowns but that's about it. Some people called us pop-punk because our first song sounds pop-punkish but the next song should change that view of us for people.

What's your first single "I Was Hiding Under Your Porch, Because I Love You!" about?

A donut eating contest. A women's hot dog eating contest. We almost called the song "How Many Wieners?" A duck racing contest. Owen's mullet. Bacon. Capes. Ghosts. Owen's mullet. Awsten's jeans. Gage's liver. Tommy's aunt Steven.

What are you guys more excited for playing your first show or releasing more music?

Releasing more music for sure. I miss shows, but I love listening to a song and being like "shit, I like this." It's rewarding because we don't really like music very easily. Gage doesn't like our music.

Was there a moment in your life when you thought about just giving up on being a musicians?

Of course we've had to think about it as we've graduated and been faced with the

"real world" or whatever the fuck that means, but we clearly haven't given in since we're still doing this. We're all really dedicated to Waterparks and aren't quitting any time soon. Except Tommy. He's probably gonna quit because he's an asshole.

Do you think making in the music industry is based on more luck or talent?

t's mostly just sleazy bullshit, but whatever.

Who are three bands you'd like to tour with?

I'd like to tour with Ke\$ha, OFWGKTA and The Beach Boys. Maybe my dad would love/ respect me if I toured with Weezer.

What are three goals you guys want to achieve as a band?

Three goals for the band: play a show with Ke\$ha, get on Kidz Bop and be in the soundtrack for Brink 2 if they ever make one.

How do you guys want plan on making all the happen?

Contact the shit out of Ke\$ha's booking people, management, and whatever else we have to do. Submit shit to Kidz Bop submission people until they give up. Shake Walt Disney in his grave until he approves Brink 2 and then work really hard to impress the soundtrack picking people.

What is it like writing and performing with your brother every day?

Justi: I love writing and performing with my brother everyday because it feels genuine ...We work really good together it helps out that we are twins so we are very similar. I wouldn't choose a better partner in crime than my brother.

Sha: Nothing better then working with your brother, for you know that no matter what ,you have each other's back. No argument or disagreement could break this up!

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

Justi: I would listen to pop music and some hip hop. For some reason I always loved commercial music.

Sha: We listened to mainstream music, pop and hip hop. Always a fan of music.

Did you two always know you wanted to be musicians or was there a certain person or moment that pointed you in that direction?

Justi: Well we were always on stage at a young age, our mom put us in fashion shows and plays, so being in front of a crowd was something I always wanted to do. Also we went to a performing arts high school. I loved music it took time to grow confidence in believing our dreams could really happen but after we graduated high school i know we could do it.

Sha: Since we were little I knew we would be on stage, just didn't know for what though I loved acting and didn't know until I was a teenager when I started music and actually became good at it.

What was it like performing with Kelsey on Warped Tour?

Justi: It was great performing with Kelsey on tour, we were rookies she showed us the ropes. The show that we put on together is crazy it is full of energy..

Sha: Tour was the best thing ever, [I] loved every second of performing and commanding the Stage. Kelsey is a fun, wild type girl so everyday we could expect the unexpected performing with her. much laid back type of guy.

If Tru Fam could share the stage with any artist, who would it be and why?

Justi: I would share the stage with Kanye West because I can see the energy and how passionate he is when he performs that's exactly how our show is. Lol just without all of the lights and props that he has on the stage.

Interview by Azaria Podplesky

TRU FAM



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

Justi: Lol like I said we were rookies to the tour life so i didn't really get to pull any pranks but there were a lot of pranks going on around us. People got their heads shaved, and shot at with a bebe guns.

Sha: [There was] a lot of pranks. It was wild. I wasn't part of it though, I'm a pretty much laid back type of guy.

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

Justi: I want a audience member to feel like they know Trufam when they see us perform. I want them to feel that we put our all when we perform. We work hard really hard because music is our life their is no other option. A lot of energy and hard work is involved in our shows.

Sha: Anyone who comes to our show will leave feeling like I just gave them my all .I approach every show like it's my last, that's just how I am. Every show in my head is an MTV Award performance. That's how my mindset is, strange I know.

What's the biggest obstacle you've faced during your time as performers?

Justi: The biggest obstacle that we have was on the Warped Tour because we were so different from what they are use to seeing, so we had to work extra harder to generate crowds but it actually worked out and people loved the shows that we put out .

What moment in Tru Fam history are you most proud of?

Justi: We are most proud of being to come out of nowhere and being able to perform on one of the biggest tours of the summer. It was a great experience. It was amazing to see fans show so much love to Trufam.

Sha: So Far Vans Warped Tour, just the whole experience, hanging out with the stars and being told by them how good we are... best feeling ever!

What's next for Tru Fam?

We are working on our EP right now. We got a lot of new records coming out soon. We are working on getting more shows and building our fan base.. So much going on keep your eye open for Trufam. Check out our new tshirts ((I'm Ultra) coming soon.

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

Justi: I would most likely still be in the music industry as a music manager. I also love football so maybe a sports writer.

Sha: I would probably open my own club and run that. Jersey could use a better clubbing experience, believe me I will still do this once I make some other moves.

NEW FOUND GLORY

Interview with Cyrus Bolooki
Interview by Roxanne Asthenia



Your new album *Radiosurgery* is due October 4th, it seems like you guys are embracing your pop-punk roots on this record. What else can you tell us about the album?

We basically tried to musically like bridge a gap, that's what Chad, our guitar player says. Bridge a gap in this new modern pop-punk, if you want to call it. We're going back to some of the records we grew up on like Green Day's "Dookie" and "Kerplunk" and even The Ramones, The Descendents and bands like that. We put elements of that kind of music and make differences. We're trying to bridge a gap so people can see where the music came from. Sonically, that's what the record is about. Lyrically, it's about relationships and dealing with relationships, that's kinda what we do best.

What was the recording process like?

This time round, it's been a lot more fun I think. That's mainly due to fact that we worked with Neal Avron again. He did three of our previous records, our self-titled record, *Sticks & Stones* and *Catalyst*. Those are actually our commercial successes. Neil's like the sixth member of New Found Glory, it's really easy for us to work with him, Neil can say what he really feels and really give us his opinions.

Was there any pressure at all on this record?

There was pressure but I don't think there was more pressure than in the past. It was more relaxed because we were working with Neil and the whole environment. It's our second record on Epitaph so we're working with the same people. We try not to put that much

pressure on ourselves when we're writing a record, we just write about our lives. We write music we enjoy playing.

What are some stage antics you guys get up to on tour?

It all depends on the tour that we're on. A lot of the times, we tour with bands that we're friends with so that we'll have fun on and off stage. Let's say when we're off stage before and after a show, there's a lot of random trying to find restaurants that we all love. Some of the kids at the shows will know where to go after a show. Sometimes we play pranks on the bands on tour. Set Your Goals are going to be on the Pop Punk's Not Dead Tour. We've toured with them in the past and we've done things like throw smoke bombs on stage while they played. Sometimes jokes, sometimes we hang out, a lot of good times.



You guys filmed the music video for "Radiosurgery" at the Linda Vista Community Hospital where Nightmare on Elm Street was filmed. What was that like?

Oh yeah, I didn't get that because not many people even know what the name of the hospital is, it's just the hospital. It's a really famous place to shoot anything like videos or movies. The funny thing is, our video is not related to surgery or any of that kind of stuff. We used that hospital because there were a lot of halls and corridors. The hallway that we used to shoot our video was made out to look like a hotel room even though it was clearly a hallway. The video for "Radiosurgery" was really fun for us because we had a lot of our friends there. There's a whole bunch of things going on in the background while we play our song and we don't really notice what is going on. It has a lot to do with an old video by The Ramones, "I Wanna Be Sedated". There's a similar concept. It was a really fun video also because the hospital is known to be haunted. I went down with a few of my friends to the boiler room and I swear I heard weird noises.

What's the weirdest thing you've ever eaten on tour?

That was in Japan, like a year and a half ago. I had raw horse meat, like sashimi. It was white, I'm not going to say that it was amazing but it wasn't that bad, the sauce was really good but that was really random.

Growing up, what did you want to be? Have you always known you wanted to be a musician?

No, I didn't think I was going to be a musician. I was 13 or 14 when I started playing guitar and getting into bands, I didn't think I was going to be in a big band or anything but I knew that music is going to be a big part of my life. I was infatuated with everything music. When all of us started this band, our goal was to get this music out to as many people as we could. It wasn't like "hey, we're going to sell this many records." or "hey, we're going to tour here." or any of that kind of stuff. It's been pretty crazy because we've gone way past what we ever expected, like right here, I'm talking to you and you're in another country. I never thought I would reach outside of Florida let alone the US and Canada and now most of the world know who we are.

Do you remember the smallest crowd you've ever played to?

I don't want to say there were zero people but technically there were two people there. This was in 1998. We were on tour in the US and it was in Pennsylvania. There were these two girls who booked a show with us and a couple of other bands. We drove there early in the day and there was nobody there, that's fine and then the two girls who booked the show showed up. One of the bands were naked and next thing you know, there was nobody else filling this place.

What does the future look like for New Found Glory?

We just do the same things over and over. We put out a record then we go on the road and promote them, it takes a year or two to do that and then we repeat the process. Unfortunately right now, I don't know the specific plan for Canada but it's not that far away from us, obviously. There are plenty of countries that we're excited to go to and are excited to see us.

BEHIND THE LENS_{with} MARIA MONGE

by Cynthia Lam

ISSUE 24

Name: Maria

Age: 21

How long have you been shooting?: about 3 years

Portfolio: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/zomgitsmaria>

Who do you shoot for?: foreverseventeenmedia.com

What made you decide to want to pick up a camera and start shooting photos?

Back when I had a point and shoot I would bring it to shows and take photos the majority of the time. I liked how the photos came out, but new that if I went for an SLR and really learned how to use it I could really capture something great. I looked into a good cameras, got advice from a friend of mine who shot shows and went from there.

What makes you love shooting live shows so much? Is there a specific reason?

The lighting and the energy, definitely. I like taking photos of people, but there's only so much you can do with it. At shows the lighting is breath taking and you really get a chance to mess around and capture something different.

Are there any photographers that you look up to? Who?

There are so many; Jered Scott, Adam Elmakias, Ryan Russell, Andy Barron, Joe Perri.

Do you hope to pursue a career in music photographer for the future?

It's just a hobby right now, but if the opportunity arises I would definitely consider it.



Have you ever encountered any crazy situations when you were shooting? What happened?

This one time when I was shooting Artist Vs. Poet, I was taking a photo of Joe K. when he leaned on the speaker in front of him and it landed on my foot. The worst thing was some photographers just walked around it not even noticing. I ended up grabbing the nearest security guard to get it off.

What advice do you have for kids who are new but interested in photographer?

Definitely learn how to use your camera inside and out and bring it with you to any venues that allow it. Put together your best shots and make a portfolio. You can use that as a base to finding a publication or get passes to shoot smaller bands. Don't be discouraged by rejection, just keep on improving and trying your best.



IaM Dynamite SuperMegaFantastic

By Stefany Bryan



IaM Dynamite, a duo originally from North Carolina released their latest album, *SuperMegaFantastic*, on September 13, 2011. Or should I say September132011? This ten-piece LP consists of songs that sound consistently similar. Don't think too hard when listening to it and it could potentially be good dance music... if you're at a middle school dance. Remember: no grinding, and stay face-to-face.

The album starts off with "Where Will We Go" a song equally bouncy as the next, and not to mention having a similar melody as, "Hi Lo." The beats are uplifting and worthy of synchronized finger-tapping to the rhythm. It's interesting for the first couple songs, but after a while the enthusiasm tapers off, and the songs start to merge together.

With easy and simple lyrics, the album covers a wide subject range of songs all the way from songs about friends to songs about girls. Quite a plethora we have here. The vocal range also isn't extremely impressive which gives off the impression of repetitiveness. Nevertheless, the music is fun and energetic. It's safe to say that *SuperMegaFantastic* is KindaSortaGettingThere.

Transit


Listen & Forgive



By Juliette Chagnon

While this is Transit's most impressive release, there are certain flaws on *Listen & Forgive*. This is very clearly a breakup record as a result, the way listeners interpret these lyrics might change on a week-to-week basis. This album might not have some of the lasting power it has for other records. While the album is diverse, from the upbeat jams to the acoustic "Skipping Stone," Boynton's vocals are so consistent that there is an underlying sameness to these tracks. The record never becomes repetitive at all, but it comes to that point.





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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!

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