

# STITCHED SOUND

Issue #26

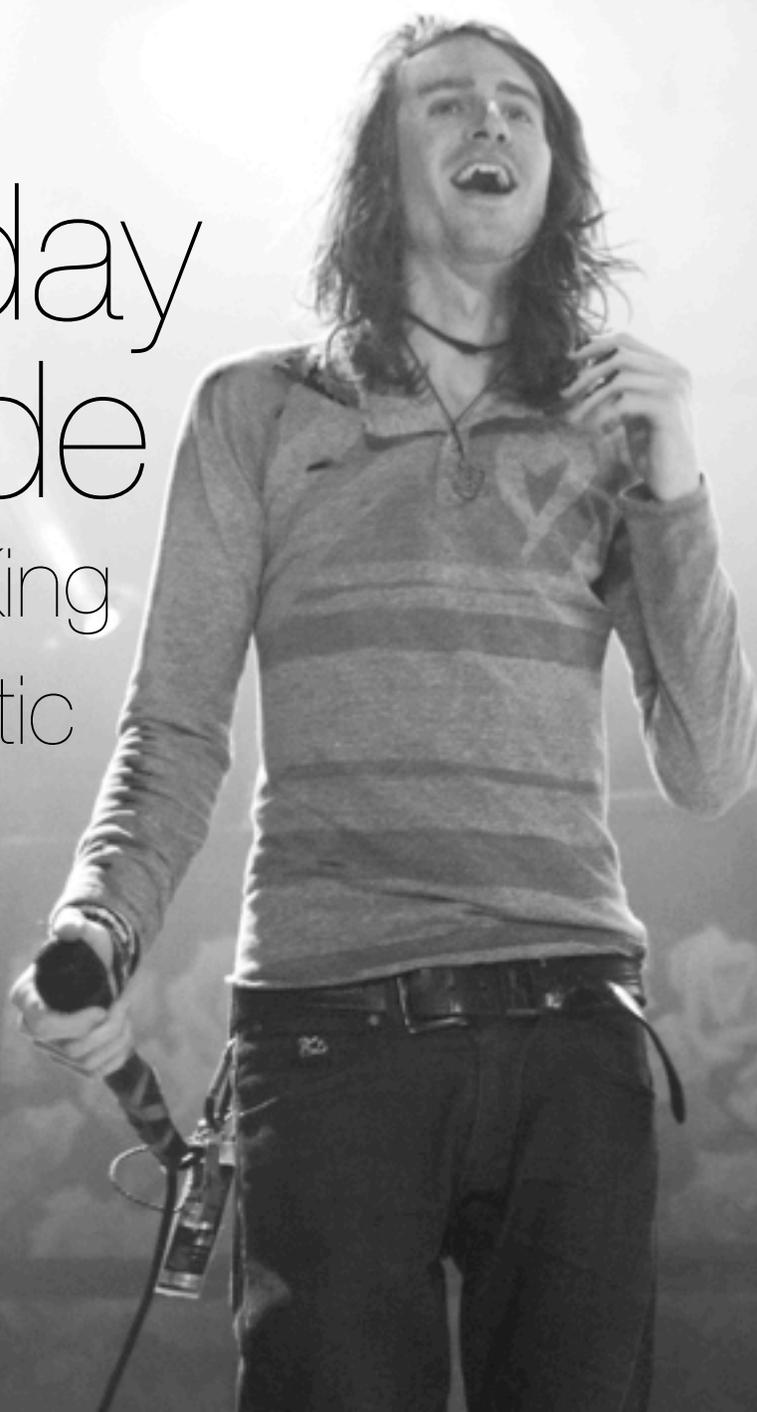
## Mayday Parade

Redlight King

Twin Atlantic

Skyway

+ *more*



# It's your fucking nightmare.

Please pardon my obscenity, haha I've been on a huge Avenged Sevenfold kick ever since Uproar Festival. Great, great band. They really inspired me a lot musically and also with my photography.

Anywho, I hope you guys like this issue - it's filled with quite a bit of interviews. We got to talk with Glass Ghild, Mayday Parade, The Final Chapter, and more.

Also, I'm here to announce that we will be releasing our first ever print issue which will be coming out on January 1st, for more information check back on our website! We're super stoked to see one of our dreams coming true.

Thanks for reading this! If you take the time to anyway... haha.

Cynthia Lam

- |    |                    |    |                   |
|----|--------------------|----|-------------------|
| 3  | Redlight King      | 16 | Era 9             |
| 5  | Silver Snakes      | 17 | Down To A Science |
| 6  | Twin Atlantic      | 18 | Tori Blake        |
| 7  | Par 6              | 19 | Through Arteries  |
| 8  | Glass Child        | 20 | The Hotel Year    |
| 10 | Set Your Goals     | 21 | Skyway            |
| 11 | The Final Chapter  | 22 | Behind The Lens   |
| 12 | Life After Liftoff | 23 | Reviews           |
| 13 | Mayday Parade      |    |                   |

Interview with Kaz Interview by Roxanne Asthenia

# REDLIGHT KING

**Growing up, what influenced you musically? Is there a certain band or artist who sparked your interest in music?**

My dad listens to a lot of Blues so I listen to a lot of Blues when I was really young. Johnny Hooker, B.B King, Robert Johnson, Little Walter, Big Walter. I also had a John Lennon record, a Beatles record. There was always music around my house growing up. When I was in high school, I listened to a lot of early 90s Hip Hop and then I started to listen to more Rock when I got older. I'm influenced by a bit of everything. I was always more of a song guy, I didn't listen to records so much but I love making my own playlists.

**What first made you decide to want to become a musician and do this for a living?**

I don't think there's anything else I would rather do to be honest. I think maybe at the end of the day, it was decision by default (laughs). I had a lot of iron in the fire and I was good at a few things, I was a fighter and I sing. I tried to have a career in fighting and music at the same time and music just took over.

**Do you find that the way you were brought up influenced you greatly as a musician?**

Yeah! It influences the way I write songs, definitely.

**Is there a theme or concept throughout your latest album "Something for the Pain" that you would like to share?**

There's definitely a concept and the concept is very simply that the songs are real and relatable to my own life. I don't think there's any daylight between my lyrics and my music and myself. This record especially was something necessary, something I needed to write.

**Do you have a favorite song off the album and was there a song you felt was the hardest to write?**

I think the song that was most difficult to write was "When the Dust Settled Down" and the song that started off for me was "Something for the Pain". Every time I listen to it, it's still fresh to me. It's the lead song off the record. That song sparked the whole project.

**Where does your inspiration to write music come from?**

It comes from all around. I'm fortunate enough to travel the world and have a few different shots at life. People around me inspire situations and stories, I write songs about the human conditional and I like to tell stories.

**You trained in Judo for the Olympics. How did not making the Olympics team affect the way you wrote music?**

It didn't affect the way I write music at all. I mean knowing what failure feels like and stuff, it is a real unfortunate thing for all of us and I think that sparked a few songs in a general discontent for how we feel about life but that's part of life.

**If you could perform with any musician dead or alive, who would it be and why?**

Oh man, I don't know, there are so many good musicians. I'd still like to play with Neil. Neil Young would be sweet. It's hard to say really, I was a huge Johnny Hooker fan so that would be neat.

**You are currently on tour with Everlast. What has it been like for you so far?**

It's been a great experience. It's just been amazing connecting with the audience. Being on tour with Everlast and having mutual respect for one another have given our band confidence to go out there and do our job every night.

continued...

**What are some shenanigans you guys get up to on tour?**

We have this thing called "Sprinter Fever". When you're doing long drives in a huge truck, it's called a sprinter. Our sprinter, we named him Moose. So after Moose goes for about 4-5 hours, it starts to get a little nuts and hell breaks loose and we start to crash the sprinter. There are always 1 or 2 things a day that are memorable. Julian our guitar player is really good at citing examples of that stuff whereas for me it kinda flies by but we're having a great time. It's all rock and roll.

**Is there a country or place you would really like to visit and play a show?**

We often talk about Japan because a lot of the bands we tour with think it's great out there but I would say this is our home, we're from here and this is the most important. Our songs are most relatable to people from America

and Canada so we haven't thought about it too much. We have been approached possibly to play in Afghanistan which is something I would love to do. One day we'll go play for the troops and give back.

**What inspired your music video for "Bullet in My Hand"?**

The video was inspired by my grandfather. He was in the Polish Air Force. He was the squadron leader and he flew The Lancaster Bomber. The song was also inspired from World War II and I just thought it would be cool to intertwine the concepts of us having a performance video with a little story of characters going through hell but decide to go out and keep fighting.

**What is a hobby that you or anyone in the band has that people might be surprised to learn about?**

I would say hot rods although I don't think people would be surprised to

learn about it because I'm a hot rodder. There is only a little bit of time when we're not working and I take that time to work on my motorcycle and I'm working on a hot rod right now, It's called a Lincoln Zephyr. That's my only other passion. Jules is a musician through and through, he and Ken just like to chill out so I don't know, you'll have to ask those guys.





Interview by Azaria Podplesky

# Silver Snakes

**For those of us who don't know about Silver Snakes, tell us a little bit about yourselves?**

We are a Rock band from Los Angeles that plays like we are still in hardcore/punk bands. Our debut album came out on August 30th via Siren Records and we recently got back from our first tour in support of it.

**Is it hard to gain a following in an area like Los Angeles where so many people are trying to "make it"?**

It's broken into so many different "scenes" out here that it's hard to tell. We have really made it a point to stick to the crowd that we are familiar with and so far it's been really good for us as a band. We have been able to play "indie" shows at nice venues as well as some pretty diy punk shows in garages and other spaces. The response and "buzz" i guess has been steadily building and i feel like we are definitely on track at the moment.

**You have all been in bands before Silver Snakes, including Horse the Band, Cathedrals, and Bleeding Kansas. What experiences gained from your time in those bands did you bring to Silver Snakes?**

Without a doubt it would have the be the energy and the work ethic. There is an energy in Punk/hardcore that is hard if not impossible to replicate. Since we all come from that background it naturally makes it's way into our performances. The "Diy" work ethic has also been a big advantage that we've brought with us to this band. Instead of waiting around for managers, labels, shows etc to find us, We're doing our best to promote ourselves, book our own tours and work very closely with a small indie label to get our first record out.

**On the band's Facebook page, Mixer and Engineer Roger Camero is quoted as saying recording your debut album, Pictures Of a Floating World, was "a great experience in**

**keeping things natural and organic." Can you elaborate on how the process was natural and organic?**

I think most people would agree that "Rock" music has become pretty stale in the last few years. Their isn't anything raw or natural about it for the most part. The recordings are all so over produced with everything from Sound replacement to Auto-tune and sequencing. We wanted to go against all of that and just record a straight forward Album without any fancy bells and whistles. Not to say that we wont experiment more in the future but for this first record we just wanted to present ourselves accordingly.

**How many songs did you record for Pictures Of a Floating World? How did you all decide what songs made the final cut?**

We recorded 11 songs and decided to keep 10 for the release. The 11th song just didn't really fit in too well. We knew which songs would make the cut but since it took me so long to finish the lyrics, it was hard to decide on the order since it's meant to be a Time-line of sorts.

**If Silver Snakes could plan their perfect tour, what other musicians or bands would be on it and why?**

If we are being real : Touche amore, Sainthood reps, Colour Revolt and us. Friends and bands we look up to. If we are in fantasy world : Lack, At The Drive In, Engine Down and us. It would be nuts!

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

An immediate desire to listen to our record. I'd hope that we are interesting enough live that people would go home and at least stream our record on Spotify or pick it up on itunes so they could dig deeper into what we're doing.

**What's the biggest obstacle you've faced during your time as a band? How did you overcome this obstacle?**

Booking our first tour was definitely a challenge. It took a ton of phone calls, Emails and help from friends but we got everything finalized a few days before we left. Luckily we haven't faced any bigger problems than that.

**If you could give your pre-Silver Snakes selves a piece of advice about being in a band or the music industry in general, what would it be?**

I'm honestly really happy about what we've done and what we have planned for the future. I was stressing really bad over writing for this record and i wish i would have relaxed a bit more and just enjoyed the overall experience of making this music with friends but i guess that happens. We are still in our infancy so to speak, I guess now would be a good time to start getting advice before we go off to try and do bigger things.

**What moment in Silver Snakes history are you most proud of?**

The day the record came out! So much went into it. We worked really hard and had some crazy deadlines for everything but it was totally worth it.

**What's next for Silver Snakes?**

We are doing a string of shows in December with our good friends Run With The Hunted from arizona. We are writing for a 7" and possibly a split and planning out a tour that will cover March and April of next year. I'm also trying to get a vinyl release of our full length before spring 2012.

Check out the Beagle Freedom Project! <http://www.beaglefreedomproject.org/>



[FACEBOOK](#)

[WEBSITE](#)

[TWITTER](#)

[“FREE” VIDEO](#)

Visit the band above

Interview with Craig Kneale Interview by Cynthia Lam

# TWIN ATLANTIC

## **Growing up in the UK, how would you say that the local music scene influenced you when you were growing up and when the band first started?**

Yeah, most definitely. When we were growing up we'd go and see bands we'd read about in magazines or see on television and if there was ever a Glasgow band supporting you'd instantly have this connection with them and follow them because you'd have more chances to see them. And then when we first started the band the local scene was all we had really, and you'd end up playing with like-minded bands that inevitably influenced the first few batches of songs that we wrote.

## **If you could do something differently on the path of Twin Atlantic, what would it be and why?**

I think we should definitely have more samba and reggae influenced songs so we could make some solid money as a band on a cruise ship.

## **Can you pinpoint a crucial part in your musical career that really helped push the band forward?**

I think it happened at the very, very start when we decided to practice 4-5 times a week minimum and put the band first before university or our jobs. We had the work ethic then and we haven't ever really lost that, I think that's what continues to drive us forward.

## **You just released a new music video for your song "Free". What made you decide to work with Howard Greenhalgh?**

We just liked his treatment the best and he'd made music videos in the past that we were big fans of, like Muse's 'Plug In Baby'.

## **What was the inspiration behind the music video?**

It was all Howard's inspiration really, we were mere puppets at his disposal. He had a really great directional style and got really into every take, he'd be this polite well spoken man between takes and then be shouting at the top of his voice once the camera started rolling.

## **Is there a concept behind this song? What was it written about?**

The song itself is about the feeling that I think everyone has to feel free in their life. Everyone has different things in their life that they can hopefully use as their escape from the doldrums of everyday life and music has always been that way for the 4 of us so it was kind of a way to express that I guess.

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

I don't think there's a particular message that Sam tries to spread through the music, I think he just tries to write honest songs that people can hopefully relate too. We all believe in what he's writing about so I think that comes across in the music.

## **How big of a part has the internet been a useful tool in regards to the growth of Twin Atlantic?**

At the start of the band it was integral to getting our music out there, when Myspace was still a bustling empire we all used it frequently to get new demos online for people to hear and interact with the first batch of people that started to get interested in the band. Nowadays it's infinitely quicker for people to find out what you're doing by using Twitter and Facebook than reading about you're doing in a magazine. And cheaper!

## **What is your favourite social networking site to use to connect with fans?**

I myself am not so good at the whole social networking thing, it freaks me out for some reason. Ross is our resident Twitter master though, I think he secretly loves it. He talks for hours about 'trending' and 'hash tags'. Bloody loves it.

## **If you could play a show with any band or artists who would they be and why?**

I would die happily if we ever got to play with Pearl Jam, purely from a selfish point of view as I would probably get to watch them from side of stage - I'm a massive fanboy, I would maybe even throw my pants at them. And if I was side of stage the chances of hitting one of them are much greater.

## **Lastly, what can we expect from you in 2012?**

Lots more touring by the looks of it and hopefully we can squeeze in recording a second album at some point too. Oh, and I'll be trying to grow to the height of 7 foot over the course of the year. Wish me luck, I'm 25 and have been 5 foot 10 since I was 16 but I think I can do it.

# PAR 6

Interview by Azaria Podplesky

## For those of us who don't know about Par 6, tell us a little bit about yourselves?

Par 6 is a pop-punk band from the Albany/Schenectady area that consists of Steve Cohen, Zack Bartnicki, Tony Chiarella and myself, Anthony Agresta. We have released our debut EP "Don't Worry About it..." which is available on itunes. We have also toured all over the Northeast and Midwest with the bands Floral Terrace, Lights Out and The Getaways.

## What's the Schenectady, NY music scene like? Is it hard to gain a following in an area where so many people are trying to "make it"?

The scene is very diverse! There are tons of awesome bands in tons of different genres! This means to establish yourself locally it takes a lot of hard work and effort. I feel our breakthrough into the local scene was when we were given the opportunity to open for Mayday Parade in the spring of 2009.

## How do you all stand out in a music scene full of pop punk bands?

Our sound definitely helps us stand out. We have a very classic pop-punk sound that can be compared to bands such as Simple Plan and Sum 41, which isn't too common in the Albany area.

## What was it like writing and recording Don't Worry About It? Was it hard to

## choose which songs ended up on the EP?

Recording "Don't Worry About it..." was a great opportunity and experience for us! Our producer Tim Lynch was absolutely phenomenal and knew the sound we were going for. We give him a lot of credit in helping us progress as a band. The EP came out better than we could have ever hoped!

## Having performed two years' worth of concerts, have there been any embarrassing on stage moments?

We were playing a show in Burlington, VT and convinced our singer/lead guitarist Steve, to put his guitar down and do standing vocals during the final chorus of the set. Hilarity ensued and I still laugh till I cry every time I see the video... which of course is saved on all of our computers.

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

I personally would love to play Phoenix, AZ! I have family there and visit the area frequently. I also would love to tour the UK and eventually Japan!

## What would you all be doing if you weren't in a band?

Honestly I'm not sure! I can't imagine what we would be doing with our lives if we weren't playing music. We love it more than anything in the world. If I had to guess, I'd assume we'd all be working full time in

some dead end job and hating every second of it.

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

Deciding whether to order Chinese food or pizza after practice.

## If you could give your pre-Par 6 self a piece of advice about being in a band or the music industry in general, what would it be?

Keep your head up, love your friends, work hard and expect the unexpected because anything could happen!

## What moment in Par 6 history are you most proud of?

I'm gonna go with the release of "Don't Worry About it..." we're all super proud of that EP! The CD release show was amazing, our friends and fans seemed to love it and we were able to tour off of it! Oh and I sent it to Jaret from Bowling for Soup and he tweeted at me the next day saying he loved it! You can't really ask for much more!

## Anything you'd like to add?

I just want to say thanks to everyone who's came out to a show, listened to our CD, bought a t-shirt or just supported us in general! You guys make it possible for us to keep doing this! Your support means more to us than you could ever imagine!



# GLASS CHILD

Interview by Azaria Podplesky

Your name is Charlotte Eriksson but you also go by the Glass Child. How did you come up with that moniker?

The Glass Child comes from when I was younger. I was a quite observing and quiet kid, and I never really trusted anyone. People said that it was as if I was living behind glass – they could see me but never really reach me. When I was 14 or 15 I wrote my first song and it was about that and my inability to let people in and was called the Glass Child. I feel comfortable behind the name now, I think.

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

No I got into music very late, like around 14, 15. Before that I barely even listened to music. But when I “discovered” music and how it could make troubles, weaknesses and even pain into something beautiful, I was just hypnotized. The feeling when you hear a song, and it feels like everything is exactly the way it's supposed to be. Those words together with that melody makes even the most broken thing into something beautiful. That's what got me hooked, and I knew I wanted to spend my life creating those moments.

What made you move from Sweden to London at the age of 19?

First of all I wanted to live alone with my music. I needed to leave Sweden and my memories behind in order to become who I wanted to be. But also, because you can't dedicate your life to music the same way in Sweden as you can in London. There are no venues for smaller bands where you can play, and no one really cares about art that much. In London there are venues everywhere and you can play every night if you want to. And there are artists and songwriters from all over the world here, and everyone are so passionate about their art and they believe in it so hard. It's just really inspiring.

What was it like writing and recording *This Is How Ghosts Are Made*? How did you go about choosing what songs went on the EP?

I write songs all the time so when it came to just choosing 5 songs it was definitely hard, but I wanted to have 5 songs that represented this year in London. Everything I've learned, felt and who I've become, and I really think that those songs reflects exactly who I am right now. I'm really proud of this album and I'm so excited to let people hear it.



**How and why did you go about starting your own record label, Broken Glass Records? What, if any, challenges have you faced as a record label owner?**

I decided to start my own record label because I want to have 100% control of my music and my career. I don't ever want to compromise myself, and this way I can do everything in my way, the way I want to do it, without anyone telling me what's good enough or not. It's definitely the hard way to go since there's a lot – a lot – of hard work, and it really takes dedication to get your music out the same way a bigger label can, with expensive marketing-campaigns etc. But it's definitely worth it. And I'm learning so much every single day by doing everything on my own, and that also makes me appreciate every little achievement so much more since I know I did it all on my own.

**Do you feel that running your own record label helps you to understand the industry side of the music business more?**

Absolutely. I've been forced to learn everything as a go and I've made a lot of mistakes, but I'm learning every single day. I think the way the industry looks today, it's important to understand everything that involves in being an artist. Everything from the recording/producing-part to the whole business part. Otherwise your losing pieces of your art in all those people that have to be involved, and my music means so much to me for that.

**You self-produced your first EP. Did you do the same for This Is How Ghosts Are Made? If so, why not use outside help?**

I did yes! Except for one track, Best Part Of Me, that I produced together with Jason Wilcock, who's produced bands like You Me At Six and We Are The Ocean. I loved working with Jason, but I want to produce most of my music myself because when I write, I have such a clear image of how I want it to sound. The production is just another way for me to express myself and the feeling and I'm trying to create. I really enjoy the whole producing and

recording part and I've learned so much by doing it myself.

**How would you describe your sound to someone who has never heard any of your songs before?**

Ah this question is so hard. All my songs are so different, some are raw and acoustic and some are bigger alternative pop-ish. But I'd say real, honest, raw and maybe a bit cinematic.

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

Oh there are so many! I was in New York a couple of weeks ago, and that was just breathtaking. My biggest goal right now is to go on a tour in America next year, and hopefully some festivals in Europe too.

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

I think the longer I do this and the more I achieve I prove people wrong, but the hardest part is when people don't believe in you. When I moved to London and said that I wanted to spend my life doing music, a lot of my closest friends and family laughed at me and just thought I was immature and a naive dreamer. But I think I learned somewhere on the way to see that as motivation instead, and fight even more to show them what you're all about. But opinions are always hard and everyone's got them.

**If you could give your younger self a piece of advice about being a musician or the music industry in general, what would it be?**

I'd say, don't turn to the industry or "professionals" asking if you're music is good enough. You're not writing music for them, and they haven't been what you've been through and they can't relate to it, that's why they'll reject it. Instead, turn to the real people, those who are like you and can relate to your music – your real fans. The industry "experts" aren't the ones you want to spend your time on, your fans are. The industry won't be there for you in the end – your fans will.

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

Probably when I reached #2 on the Swedish iTunes-chart with my song "I Will Lead You Home" in September. That was just mindblowing. I released it as a charity-single for the cancer-organization "Young Cancer", and all the money went straight to the organization. I'm really proud of that.

**You've accomplished so much at such a young age. What's next for you?**

My next aim is to go on tour, and just hopefully tour all next year for as many people as possible. I also want to get involved in more charity-projects, and then hopefully release my first full-length in the end of next year. But first my second EP "This Is How Ghosts Are Made" December 5th!

**Anything you'd like to add?**

I'm giving away my first EP for free at [www.noisetrade.com/theglasschild](http://www.noisetrade.com/theglasschild), and don't miss my new EP in December. Also, I'm answering every message/tweet I get on tumblr, twitter and facebook so come and talk to me! [www.twitter.com/justaglasschild](http://www.twitter.com/justaglasschild), [www.facebook.com/theglasschild](http://www.facebook.com/theglasschild)



**WEBSITE**

Interview with Matt Wilson  
Interview by Brittany Daly

# SET YOUR GOALS

**You guys just finished the 'Pop Punk's Not Dead' tour, how were the shows and overall turnout?**

PPND was the best tour we did this year in every way. Tons of friends, great crowds and solid turnouts.

**Your latest album *Burning At Both Ends* just came out a couple months ago, now that you've done some touring on it how do you feel about the feedback so far?**

We're pleased with how the album has been received and how consistently popular the songs have been with our listeners. When you believe in something you've been a part of creating, convincing other people to follow suit tends to come naturally.

**Are there any new songs you're especially proud of?**

I'm especially proud of "Happy New Year" and "Product of the 80's" because, although different, I think we really took a leap of faith with this record in terms of sound and style. "Happy New Year" and "Product of the 80's" are testaments to the extremities of that statement, being on opposite sides of the genre's spectrum.

**If you needed to choose one Set Your Goals song to represent the band, which song would you pick and why?**

I would choose "The Fallen" because to this day I think it's our most well-written song musically. Even the lyrics are representative of one of the greatest challenges our band has

endured and all the trials and frustrations we overcame that went along with that experience.

**So you guys have been on Warped Tour quite a few times, including this past summer, how did 2011 differ from past years?**

2011's Warped didn't have as many acts that sounded similar to us as previous years we've done, but I think that worked to our advantage. We had bigger crowds, bigger signings, and sold more merch. While we didn't have as many friends on the tour when the Summer began, we still had a great time and made plenty of new friends.

**Unlike a lot of bands you're often associated with, you guys have toured with some pretty heavy bands. How are tours like that for you guys?**

It depends on the tour, really. We'll have our own draw on any tour we do, but some of the earlier tours we did with bands like Animosity and The Warriors seemed to mesh a little better than some more recent tours with metalcore bands. We'll do Warped Tour and it will be great but then earlier this year we did a tour with Parkway Drive, and although we'd done Warped with them, their audience was not too accepting of our music. However, we did an August Burns Red tour right after that and for whatever reason, our reception was much better from their audience than PWD's.

**These days it's harder for bands to retain a relevancy in the music scene and tour full time. What's one thing you think fans could do more to help out their favorite bands; other than buying their music?**

Simple things like attending shows when a band comes to town, "liking" or "following" them on social media sites, and buying merchandise are a huge help to artists, more so than many people may think.

**If you had the opportunity to work with any musician who would you want to work with?**

Brian Wilson of The Beach Boys. Besides the fact that he is the creative force behind The Beach Boys, I think it would be an incredibly eye-opening and interesting experience to work on an album with him as a producer or contributor. I think I could learn a lot from him.

**Do you think the times of having "generation defining" bands are over?**

No, but I do think that the bands/artists that define generations in modern day are extremely difficult for me to respect.

**2012 is coming up pretty quickly, are there any plans for next year you can tell us about?**

We plan to hit Mexico (and South America if all goes well) and do a proper full US headlining tour. Hopefully trips to Europe and Australia are in the cards too.

**What's one message you really want to leave the world with?**

The world would be a much better place for every living being if everyone paid less attention to their own selfish desires and followed their conscience a little more.

**If there was a book written about Set Your Goals existence, what would the title be?**

"We Regretfully Decline: The Protective and Self-Destructive Secrets of Set Your Goals Exposed"



Interview by Sarah Lozano

# THE FINAL CHAPTER

## **How did the band start?**

Mid-2010, Hayden and Jake were part of an early line-up wanting to make metal. After an unsuccessful first gig, and a few early line-up changes, we have our solid ensemble comprising of Jake Barnes – Vocals, Joe Scoltock – Drums, Brady Deeprise – Lead Guitar, Harley Castletine-Jackson – Rhythm Guitar/Backing Vocals and Hayden Thomas – Bass.

## **Did you really know what kind of sound you wanted when you started?**

We originally started with a post-hardcore outlook (Hard rock with some screaming) but with the varied influence of new members, our sound evolved into what we have today, a mixture of metal styles. We try not to pigeonhole ourselves, so we write what we like and what sounds good, not just a particular genre.

## **How does The Final Chapter compare to other bands in its genre?**

As far as 'our genre' is concerned, we try not to write following a particular

subgenre. This allows us to write a variety of songs that, while are all metal, don't all sound the same. We also focus on performing – we're sick of seeing bands get somewhere and stand and play songs for half an hour. Every night we're gigging, we're putting our hearts and souls into.

## **Who are a few of your musical inspirations?**

As a band, we love Bullet For My Valentine, Asking Alexandria and Avenged Sevenfold, although between us, our influences cover Blink-182, Enter Shikari, Papa Roach, Bring Me The Horizon and Lady GaGa. A varied mix, but we believe that comes across in our sound.

## **What's the best part of being in a band?**

Playing new venues and meeting new bands. Also, we've been getting a lot of fan love, which we appreciate!

## **Do you ever see yourself being part of the music industry side of things? (Producing, mixing etc.)**

Jake does all the production and recording for our demos, and is aspiring to go into recording as a profession, but TFC is the most important thing in his eyes. It has also interested Brady and Harvey but they're just hell bent on becoming full-time, professional touring musicians.

## **What does music mean to you?**

Everything. We live for our music and it's got all of us through some rough times respectively.

## **What is The Final Chapter's main goal for wanting to do music?**

We all get off on the thrill of performing and that feeling of doing a gig and having fans sing our lyrics back at us.

## **What will we be seeing from The Final Chapter soon?**

Our EP which we've been working on in the studio, our live show playing our new tracks and hopefully, some touring.

# LIFE AFTER LIFTOFF

Interview by Cynthia Lam



**Growing up how big of a part did music have on your life?**

Music has been a huge part of our lives. From early on all of us started playing and making it a priority to expand our musical endeavors.

**Turning back time five years ago, would you have ever expected to be where you are now?**

No, we had no idea that we would be doing this five years ago. It was a different surprise and we are thankful everyday to be doing this.

**There are quite a lot of big heavier bands that have come from Ohio such as The Devil Wears Prada. How has the local music scene there influenced you when the band first started?**

The local scene has never been a huge influence on the band, even when we first started. We have always marched to our own beat and we have done what we believe in.

**Can you pinpoint a select moment that was a really important part in Life After Liftoff's timeline?**

The biggest moment was playing the 2011 Cincinnati Warped Tour after we won the Ernie Ball Battle of The Bands.

**If you could turn back time and do one thing differently, would you? Why or why not? And also, what would you do differently?**

No, we would not do anything differently because it has made us who we are as a band.

**To what extent has the internet been a useful tool in regards to the success of the band?**

The internet has been extremely useful for us. We are able to connect with our fans on a bigger degree. We love to get on our social media pages everyday and let our fans know what we are up to. The internet has also allowed us to sell our music digitally which ultimately reaches a bigger audience.

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

We love to send messages through our music. Our overall concept is 'if you can change the world around yourself you can change it everywhere else.'

**You guys are currently playing a couple of shows on the East Coast. How have the shows been going so far?**

This weekend we are heading out to New York and New Jersey. We are so excited to make new friends and fans out on the East Coast.

**Have you ever pulled any crazy antics on stage? What happened?**

That is our live show in general. We are always lively and entertaining the second we step on the stage. We like to show our fans a good time with the most high driven energy.

**Do you have anything planned for early 2012?**

We will be releasing our follow up EP, which will be announced after the first of the year. We will also be on tour throughout the Midwest!!

# MAYDAY PARADE



Interview by Cynthia Lam   Photos by Ashley Osborn

We caught up with Derek Sanders of Mayday Parade to talk about their new album, how far the band has come, and what's in store for the future. Read the interview below!

**What has the feedback been like so far from your recently released self-titled album?**

Everything has been wonderful so far. It's been great, most of the reviews I've read and comments online seem to be pretty positive. That's just like icing on the cake because more than anything we were really happy with this CD and we're really proud of it, we love it. The positive feedback, kids at shows singing it with us, that makes it even better. It's awesome.

**Describe the differences between this album and your previous ones.**

It's a whole lot different. With the last album it was a big learning process for our band and we were on a major label for the first time. They had us to co-writes and such. The whole thing was a very cool experience, it was neat but there were some frustrating things about it. We kind of had to end up compromising a lot of things along the way and in the end we had an album that there were songs that we loved, but we felt like we could have made a better album. With the new album, the self titled one, we just sent in, the five of us in a beach house in Florida and wrote the whole album, then recorded it. It was a way that worked much better for our band. The album is a bit more genuine and you can that we care about and love it.

**Where do you draw inspirations for songs?**

We spend a lot of time on the road, the majority of the year, and we have acoustic guitars so we sit and try and work on song ideas and just get a bunch of ideas together and then we'll bring the ideas and work on them as a band. Most of it is just about life experiences and for this album the past two years of my life and the people who have had a big impact.

**If you had a chance to record with any artist or producer who would it be and why?**

It's hard to say. In my mind right now I kind of want to keep going back to Kenneth [Mount] and Zack [Odom] just because there's no gamble. We know what the experience will be like and that it will be a great one because it's so awesome to work with those guys. I think we plan on hopefully going back with them.

**Some musicians and bands find it tricky because people tend to judge them by the song title. How do you come up with song titles?**

We honestly try not to worry about it too much and just kind of name it whatever we want and kind of have fun with it and that's why we have a lot of the long song titles.



**How many songs don't make onto your albums?**

It depends, a handful, anywhere from five to maybe ten songs that don't make it onto the album. Some of those have ended up becoming other songs or b-sides like "Terrible Things" and "Amber Lynn", songs off of Valdosa EP.

**You're currently on the Noise Tour. How has the turnout been so far from the kids?**

It's been great, there's been a lot of people coming out to every show. People are singing along to the new stuff and that's a great feeling. So many people are still coming out to see us, to support us, hang out and it really means a lot to us. We've been in this band for six years and it's kind of inevitable that one day there will be a decline. So far it hasn't really happened and hopefully we can keep doing this for a long time.

**At the Anaheim date of the tour, you were giving away bracelets while performing. Is there a story behind that?**

We just have these bracelets that say Bangarang on them, and a lot of people don't understand what that's from so we decided to explain it on this tour and just have fun. Bangarang is from the movie Hook which is my favourite movie. We used to say it and joke around with each other before every single show we played.

**Have you pulled any tour pranks yet? Any that you plan to pull on the other bands?**

Not any pranks yet but I'm sure there will be on the last night in Jacksonville. We tend not to go too wild with it, we try and do funny stuff. Sometimes it gets too intense. It's always fun but sometimes it can compromise the show a bit.

**What is your favourite thing to do during your downtime on tour?**

It depends, read, play video games, play guitar or mess around. Hang out with the people we're on tour with, there's always a lot of stuff to do. We stay pretty busy throughout the day. There's normally a lot of things we have to do but on the downtime it's always nice to chill and relax.

**Do you find that running on a specific schedule hard?**

Our schedule now actually isn't so bad because we're touring in a bus so you get a good nights sleep every night and you don't have to drive and we stay pretty busy throughout the day. We like being busy, it feels like we're working hard and accomplishing stuff. It really isn't so bad compared to the earlier years of touring when we were in a van.

**If you could turn back time and do one thing differently what would it be and why?**

I honestly doubt that I would change anything. It's really hard to say, you never know how things could have turned out and you never know which decisions were good or bad necessarily. You shouldn't regret things too much and I think we're in a really good place and wouldn't change anything. We need to make those mistakes to learn.

**What can we expect from you guys in 2012?**

Probably just a lot of touring. This album has just come out in October so it's still pretty new and I'm sure we will be on the road both in the US and Internationally.



# ERA 9

Interview by Sarah Lozano



**How did the band start?**

Guitarist Jona and drummer Marco, the founders of the band, recruited Joe, Phil and Eric through online ads and networking at gigs. Wanting to make original music, we decided to shy away from playing covers and began what is now known as ERA 9.

**When the Era 9 first start out was it for fun or about serious music making?**

We've always been very serious about our commitment and dedication towards our music. We definitely have lots of fun doing what we do; however, our main goal has always been to make music our career.

**What's the biggest compliment you've ever received?**

I think that in today's music industry you can change, model and correct pretty much anything in studio. The compliments we are most proud of are the ones regarding our live performances.

**What song do you feel really tells people what Era 9 is all about?**

"GOODNIGHT" represents the common musical influences of all 5 members of the band. Essentially, it represents ERA 9's sound.

**What is Era 9's place in the music industry, what is your reason for wanting to make music?**

It's kind of hard to explain. Music is a common passion of ours. It allows us to show the world how we feel through our songs.

**Do you feel like peoples taste in music really express who they are, or should we not judge other based on what bands/artist they like?**

In the end, we believe you should not judge a book by its cover. We all have very diverse musical tastes that you would not be able to guess just by our image. People may express themselves through music in ways they can't in everyday life. Music could be their escape.

**What are 3 goals Era 9 really want to achieve in the future?**

We have many goals but the top three would be: going on a world tour, having an album go platinum and winning a Grammy Award.

**At what moment did you know that you wanted to be a musician?**

This would be different for each member. For all of us at some point in our lives, we realized that music was not just a background soundtrack. It was predominant in our lives. At some point, other musicians inspired us and music went from being a hobby to being a passion.

**Last question, what are we going to be seeing from Era 9 very soon?**

We have a lot in store. We're working hard to reach new heights in 2012. As for the details, you will have to stay tuned on [www.ERA9.com](http://www.ERA9.com)



Interview by Cynthia Lam

# DOWN TO A SCIENCE

**Having only been a band for a little while, are you proud of all that you have accomplished so far?**

Yes we are very proud. The past year and a half has flown by and looking back we've done so much. We've released an EP, we have our own merchandise, we've played with so many great bands and built a fantastic fanbase. And now we are ready to make another EP and a music video. When we started out we had no idea that we'd be doing this well as a band a year and a half down the line.

**What goals did you have when you first started the band? Have you accomplished any of them yet?**

First and foremost our goal was to make good music. Music that wasn't just generic and run-of-the-mill but was actually fresh and stood out from the usual stuff you hear. We pride ourselves in our songwriting and we are delighted with the songs written for our last EP and even more excited about our newest songs and our next record.

**When you were growing up, who were some of your biggest influences?**

As musicians we all have traditional rock influences ranging from the heavy metal of Metallica and Iron Maiden right across the board to the pop-punk of Blink 182 and even poppier Mcfly. Our sound as a band now though is more narrowed down to the alternative rock and pop-punk genres. Bands like Paramore, Fall Out Boy and YMAS.

**As a band, what is the most difficult thing that you've had to overcome?**

The hardest thing to overcome is being a 'small fish in a big pond'. There are so many bands out there all competing for the same thing and want to be heard. And being a fairly new band we have so far to go just to catch up with bands that have been doing it longer. It's a work in progress so the challenge has by no means been overcome yet. We know we need to keep working hard writing good music, playing shows and building our fanbase to get where we want to be. It's going to be tough but we'll definitely give it our best shot.

**While writing music, have you ever encountered "writers block"? What is your remedy?**

**We've never** had it bad to be honest. Sometimes it's tough to come up with new stuff but luckily at least one of us has always been able to bring something good to the table when needed. Long may this continue!

**If you were to describe Down To A Science in one word what would it be and why?**

Fresh. Because we have a modern sound yet we make sure our music is original and we never 'rip off' other bands.

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

The song we are all really excited about is a brand new song called 'Ghosts'. We plan to record a fully produced version of the song and also shoot a video for it. It was written in the

memory of one of our late relatives so means a lot to us but is also a great showcase of our ever evolving songwriting ability. We can't wait for people to hear it.

**What makes Down To A Science different from other bands that you may be compared to?**

What DTAS have that most other bands in our genre don't have is a female frontwoman that plays guitar as well as being the lead singer. Since Paramore became huge, so many bands with female lead singers have emerged but hardly any of them have a complete frontwoman like Emma that plays guitar and sings in the band.

**Do you still remember playing your first show? Were you nervous at all before it?**

Yes we all remember it well. A Friday night in the town of Walsall. Lots of friends and family there. We played a 7 song set of all covers and the first original song we wrote 'Falling Faster'. We were all very nervous but it went well with no problems so we were happy with that.

**If you could turn back time and do one thing differently what would it be and why?**

We honestly don't think we'd do anything differently at all! We are happy with where we are right now so we must have been doing things right so far!

Keep in touch with us on our Facebook and Twitter and tell your friends about us. 2012 will be a massive year for DTAS. A brand new record, music videos and a whole lot of live shows across the UK. You don't want to miss it!

## TORI BLAKE

Interview by Bianca Delicata



**I understand that you have yet to release a debut album. Do you have any future plans (at the moment) to release a full-length or EP?**

It's definitely in the works! I've been very busy in the studio and writing a ton, and I can't wait to get more music out for my fans.

**Do you have a specific message you're trying to send?**

I love making music that makes people want to move...makes them feel free. Also...I think being normal is boring. If you're a little left of center, if you dance to a different beat, go with it! I definitely try to convey that in my music.

**What can fans expect to get out of one of your shows?**

Energy and passion! I've been performing solo all over OC for years, and I'm working with a full band right now. One of my favorite things is interacting with the crowd and really including them in the songs. My main goal is to get everyone dancing!

**I believe that fashion is another one of your passions. Are there any current trends that you love or absolutely hate?**

I pretty much always dress how I want regardless of the trends. There are days when I roll out of bed and feel like dressing like a dark porcelain doll in thigh hi's, and days where I'm just kickin' it in a pair of Vans.

**In your opinion, how would you say that you've grown since you first started writing music at age 12?**

I think lyrically, I've grown the most. When I was 12 I definitely didn't have as much life experience and my hooks and topics weren't as developed. I'm always trying to grow as a writer and a singer and I love writing from an honest place.

**Were there any local artists from O.C., California who have influenced you in a big way?**

For sure! I am obsessed with Gwen Stefani - she was born and raised in Fullerton, CA in OC. Her individuality and unique voice and character definitely inspired me growing up.

**Can fans expect a full U.S. tour in 2012?**

A lot of fans have been asking me that same question on my twitter! I would love to do a full U.S. tour, it would be a dream come true.

**Do you have any pre-show rituals that you do? Or things to do to get you pumped up?**

I usually jump around and dance like a crazy person...followed by vocal trills and warm ups. I always drink hot herbal tea with honey and I try to meditate and use powerful positive thinking in the moments right before I go on stage.

**Thanks Tori! Is there anything else you'd like to say before finishing this off?**

Thanks so much for having me! Check out my new song "Fall in Love" it's up on iTunes and my official Facebook music page! <http://www.facebook.com/toriblakemusic>

# THROUGH ARTERIES

**When Through Arteries first started, did you ever expect to be where you are now?** Definitely not, but at the same time, we knew we wanted to be, and we took the correct steps and worked hard at becoming what we are today!

**What was the local music scene like when you first started the band? Would you say that it has been a huge influence on who/where you are now?**

Well that's a long story! Haha, but we have only been around for a year, so its generally the same now. Local bands come and go, but you know, its the same. The influence the local scene had on us though is that we knew we wanted to reach out past our hometown, into the national level, which we're beginning to do now!

**Can you pinpoint a select date/event that was your biggest moment for Through Arteries?**

You know, not really. We are still looking for our biggest moment I would say, and the beauty of this band is that we probably always will be. Though if I had to pick just one, Joey Sturgis would be it. He is the man.

**How did you meet the other members of Through Arteries?**

Zach and I have played in bands together in the past, so he was the first person I asked to join when I started Through Arteries. I had known Carl for a long time and he was doing merch at shows for us anyway, so we offered him a spot in the band. Kayton and Marcello I met in my adventures in recording other bands, and the chemistry was amazing, so they were natural fits. We all get along really

well too, which I think is on of the coolest dynamics of Through Arteries.

**So I understand that you recently finished recording an EP with Joey Sturgis. What was the experience like working with him?**

Oh my, I could talk about this all day long haha. He is a genius, and I mean that, and he definitely knows what he is doing. He brought out our strengths, and really exemplified them, and he made us get rid of our weaknesses. Not only did he help us produce a better record than our last, but he helped us grow as a band!

**How will this EP differ from your previous releases?**

It is a lot different. A LOT. Our old stuff is very techno/electronic poppy type of hardcore music. The new stuff is more instrument driven, more rock and roll feel to it, and a lot heavier, but still sounds like Through Arteries. We're so proud of the new record, and we think everyone will like it as well!!!

**What is the biggest challenge that you've had to overcome while in the studio?**

Nothing really, I was pretty sick, but I had little to no trouble to be honest. He (Joey) made us come prepared, and so we were. We actually wrote a song in the studio, and its one of the better songs on the record, it turned out really awesome!

**Also, can we expect the EP to be out in the near future?**

Near future? Absolutely! But we don't have a date or exact time period in mind yet.

**You were just on the Thrust Management tour. What was this experience like?**

Being on tour is just an amazing experience, meeting fans in states that are so far away from your hometown is a surreal experience. We can't wait to be out on another tour!

**If you were able to tour with any two bands who would they be and why?**

I'll pick a general consensus of the whole band, Blink 182 and probably. We're dreamers you know? Both for the same reason, because they're a big influence on everyone in the band, we grew up loving them and listening to them a lot!

**What makes Through Arteries different from other bands you may be compared to?**

I really like the audience to decide that for themselves, but I'll explain what I try to make different. We're a metalcore style band, but i have always sung in pop bands, so i feel like i bring a little bit of that pop style, and major key style singing to our songs. And we try to blend a lot of different styles into one (who doesn't) but I think what sets us apart is how we do it. You'll have to listen to the new record and see!

**Lastly, what can we expect from you in 2012?**

Of course this new record we just recorded, more touring, a music video, more videos and updates, just a lot more interaction with everyone. We want people to get to know us as people, personally, not just as "that guy from Through Arteries." Our successful hinges on our fans, and we want to give back as much as possible!





Interview with Sam Frederick Interview by Brittany Daly

# THE HOTEL YEAR

**How and when did you all meet each other?**

We all met each other at different times throughout high school, and had played in various screamo/grindcore/pop bands together. Keeping that in mind, you can figure out how our sound evolved into what it is.

**What were you doing before you formed The Hotel Year (school, jobs, etc)?**

We were all in high school when we started. So a whole lot of nothing besides music.

**How long has music been really important in your life?**

Well I think as soon as we started thinking anything was important to us, we all realized music was a part of it. By that I mean, when we realized that friends, relationships, and the future were important we turned to music to cope.

**What's the main message you want to spread with your music?**

I feel like the biggest thing with this album is to express the stresses of "growing-up", whatever that means to different people. It's mostly that when you are young you have a heart full of adventure

and passion. Then, you start to grow up and see how sucky the society we live in is and most of the time people learn to cope by hardening their hearts and forgetting about the things that made them happy. I guess I just want people to not do that, because then people just become mean and lose touch with their emotions.

**Did your local music scene influence you at all growing up?**

It most definitely did. I think what was cool about our scene was that it had a lot of diverse groups, and they were all heavily supported by whomever came out to see them. For me, being able to see bands that I could really get into and then see my friends bands play with them was really got rid of that feeling that musicians are somehow different than real people. Somehow through that realization it made it easy to experiment with music confidently.

**Your new material "It Never Goes Out" just came out this year, how do you feel about the feedback so far?**

I'm pumped on the feedback. It has been generally good. If there are negative aspects, they are mostly constructive. I have yet to get tired of people telling me

what they think of the music, so I'm happy with it.

**What aspect of the new music are you most proud of?**

Probably that people like it. I mean, I generally enjoy how it all came together. But the only times I feel proud is when people express their enjoyment with the album.

**So far what is the biggest challenge you've had to overcome as a band?**

There really haven't been many challenges we've had to overcome except money stuff. Since we pay for everything ourselves it's not really easy to have a van or good gear or lots of merch. That's mostly that.

**Do you have any specific goals for 2012?**

We should probably release something. But mostly we just want to tour and play for new people and stuff.

**And lastly, give us a reason why people should check out your band?**

I don't really know how to answer this. I feel weird trying to "sell" things to people. But you can do it if you'd like.

**What were your biggest influences while you were growing up? Are there any specific bands that stick out?**

Personally I'm going to say Strike Anywhere, Bad Religion, Blink 182, Descendents and Saves The Day as some of the main influences but mostly punk bands from the 90's and early 00's. As a band we're definitely influenced by bands like New Found Glory, The Movielife, H2O, Lifetime, Bodyjar and any band who has been influential in punk/hardcore

**You guys have only been a band for about three years now. What is the most important thing you've learned?**

Most people are full of shit and will talk it just to hear the sound of their own voice. It's like the people too useless to do anything else in life associated themselves somehow with the music 'industry' (don't get me wrong there's some absolute legends) - don't they know you can be just as useless in a band?! haha but saying that we've been lucky enough to have come across some of the greatest people we've met through music - industry related or not.

**What would you say has been your biggest accomplishment so far?**

Touring Japan with Frenzal Rhomb - that was something you'd never think to do. It was just a great experience, they're top blokes and we got a day of snowboarding in as well, more tours with snowboarding adventures please. We've accomplished so much more than we ever expected we would from the start (we weren't expecting much) so everything that happens now is just a bonus.

**With 2011 almost coming to an end, what would you say is your biggest highlight of the year?**

Easily the 'Fuck The Reaper' tour last October with The Amity Affliction and Asking Alexandria.

Sold out shows, huge venues, great crew and the whole tour just had the most positive vibe going the whole time - it was sad to see it end.

**So I understand that you guys are heading out on a headlining tour in Australia shortly. Is this your first headlining tour? Are you excited to visit any stops?**

We did a split-headliner tour with our friends in 'Word Up!' this time last year for the 'Livin' Large' tour and one with Heroes for Hire in January 2010 for the 'Beer Bongs and Sing Alongs' tour. Both were pretty small but they ruled and we were all mates before both tours so they were more like holidays. I think everyone's most stoked for the Sydney all-ages of this leg (at The Wall), Sydney always delivers for all ages shows and we find they have the best time, Milestones and Apart From This are playing that show too - they both have new material as well and it's huge!

**What is the most important thing for people to keep in mind while touring?**

Not to sook - sooking is band-aids (not my quote but it rules) because it doesn't accomplish anything, except piss everyone off. It also doesn't hurt to use common courtesy everywhere you go - especially towards people putting you up for a place to stay, then again saying that, we haven't been the best house guests in our time haha

**Are you an active participant in tour pranks?**

**What is the most wild tour prank you've seen/pulled?**

I won't incite it but I'll definitely do what I can to help make it worthwhile, I can't really think of one off the top of my head though. Oh! once I unknowingly played a recorder that Dan had stuck up his arse moments earlier - I figured that one out too a little too late haha oh and another time we made a friend of ours smoke pubes and port royale through a bong filled

with two guys' piss (he did it for 60 bucks, a new found glory doorspot and two fireworks doorspots)

**Do you remember your thoughts and feelings before you played your first show? What were they like?**

Don't fuck up... I hope I don't fuck up... I really hope I don't fuck up. I probably fucked up.

**You were chosen as one of AP's hottest 100 bands of 2011. What was your initial reaction to that? Did you ever expect that?**

I did coke until my nose was full and spent the night in the emergency room... nah just kidding, coke's wayyyy too expensive to buy here... it was icing sugar. I definitely expected it though, just couldn't save up for coke in time.

**What are your thoughts towards illegally downloading music? Do you see this being the downfall of the music industry?**

Yes and no, it's such a hard question to answer. Yes in the sense that anyone with a computer and the internet can get whatever music they like without the artist/label getting a cent but no in the sense that it's opened the world to so much more music and it's a much more effective way of getting your music to other cities/countries. I'm not going to whinge about people downloading our music because that would be beyond hypocritical, of course I try to buy as many albums as possible but some stuff you just can't buy and the internet's got it alright. It won't kill 'the industry' but the labels will definitely suffer, have been for years. We've never seen a cent from this band, only put money in so we're not expecting to see any of that money in cd sales. Hopefully more people realise how little bands actually make so the money-hungry can go and leave music for the people with a genuine passion.

SKYWAY  
Interview by Cynthia Lam



# BEHIND THE LENS WITH CATHERINE POWELL



## What inspired you to start publishing your own magazine?

Honestly, it was kind of an accident. Ariella, the other co-founder, and I were sitting in her apartment one night in April and joked about starting a magazine. We had both been doing the music blog thing for awhile and it wasn't going anywhere, so we realized we had nothing to lose. We sent a bunch of emails over the next few weeks and secured eight features for our first issue which launched July 1st. It's still surreal to me.

## What bands can we look forward to seeing in the next couple of issues?

The Maine will be on our December cover, with features on Cartel, Tyler Hilton, Go Radio, Every Avenue and more. For January we have The Ready Set, Pierce The Veil, The Cab, Forever The Sickest Kids, Hit The Lights and a lot more. As far as the rest of the new year, we've been talking to some major labels about working with some really, really big artists. Stoked would be an understatement.

## Can you leave us with some inspirational words?

As cheesy as it sounds, your dreams are worth following. They're not going to come true overnight, but working hard and challenging yourself is what will get you to where you want to be.



## From the first show you shot to your most recent work, what do you think you've most improved on?

Well, for starters I actually know how to use my camera. When I shot my first show I had my camera for all of four days and had no idea what I was doing. I cut off heads, I used my pop-up flash, everything was blurry and out of focus - it was just BAD. I think especially in my recent work I've not only incorporated the basic rules of photography, but also my own style.

## What do you think one of the most important things for kids to work on while doing photography?

I think especially with concert photography it's important to develop your own style. There are so many people doing it these days, and the majority of photos look the same. If you're able to work with your surroundings and create something original, you're doing it right.

## What's been one of the biggest compliments that you have received on your work?

It's always flattering when kids tell me I inspire them to start shooting. When I started three years ago my last thought was that I could possibly encourage other people to follow their dreams. It's an incredible feeling to know I can do that for people.

## Is there a photographer you look up to?

Gage Young is definitely the one that got me interested. I was able to attend one of his workshops a few years ago and it was an experience I'll never forget. The majority of what I know I learned from Gage. In addition, I look up to any of my photographer friends who are working hard and getting great results, like Tom Falcone, Mark Loper, etc.

## What was the hardest part about getting into the music scene?

I was lucky in the sense that I started shooting right before it became "the thing to do." Regardless, it was a struggle. I was fourteen when I started, and as expected, it was extremely hard to be taken seriously. I think a big misconception of my career is that I got lucky and was handed all these opportunities, but that couldn't be more false. I worked hard to get where I am today. I didn't really consider myself a part of the music scene until this past summer when I was shooting multiple times a week, getting huge offers, and going to meetings at record label offices. It's an exciting world, but definitely not for everyone.

## Do you ever get nervous about shooting still?

I don't get nervous as much as I get embarrassed. Lately I've been shooting a lot of larger shows lately, and I'm almost always the youngest one there. All of the older people shooting have these amazing cameras and huge lenses and flashes, and I'm there, barely 5'3", with my 28mm lens. It's really easy to feel like I don't belong there, especially with everyone else staring, wondering how this teenage girl got hired. But then I realize that they're 40 years old and on the same level as me, so the embarrassment wears off rather quickly.

## Your latest project Naked Magazine has published five issues so far which one has been your favorite?

I think so far our October issue with Sierra Kusterbeck on the cover is my favorite. I think Sierra and I had met briefly before that night, but when we were doing the interview we instantly clicked. We ended up talking for two hours and hanging out all night. That story is what makes that issue my favorite. But I think every issue we do gets better and better.

# THE MAINE *PIONEER*

**5 Stars**

by Cynthia Lam



It has been one and a half years since **The Maine**'s last release *Black & White*. Since then they have been on several tours throughout the United States and all around the world. They then headed to the studio where they started writing and recording for their latest release *Pioneer*.

*Pioneer* is the band's third studio album and was released on December 6th, 2011. They worked with producer **Colby Wedgeworth** on the album where he co-produced/engineered/mixed the album.

This album starts off powerfully with the song "Identify" followed by a fan favourite "My Heroine". It is easy to tell with the gnarly guitar intro and the riffs included that they really went looking towards rock n' roll as inspiration for the song. It's got the same catchy riffs and motif going through the whole song. Not to mention the melodies are downright get-stuck-in-your-head material. Although it has that factor, it's a song you won't mind being stuck in your head throughout the school day, when you're in the car driving, and right before you sleep. It's one of those songs you can put on repeat and have it on there forever.

When taking a listen to *Pioneer*, it is more than obvious that this is unlike anything that the band has ever released. While their debut studio album *Can't Stop Won't Stop* contained more pop sounds and generic lyrics and *Black & White* being filled with tasteful yet not quite satisfactory melodies, *Pioneer* really hit the spot. In listening to only the first four songs it is easy to tell that this is one of, if not their best release yet.

The Maine really drew from personal experiences with this album from songs like "Thinking Of You". A very notable track, and one that everyone should check out is "Misery" which has an amazing intro leading into the song by Jared Monaco (Lead guitar), O'Callaghan's voice really shines through. It is really easy to tell that this is a rather personal album for the quintet and it contains songs that everyone can relate to.

John O'Callaghan's voice always stood out above and beyond the rest, well to myself anyway. On *Pioneer*, his voice is just raw, emotional, beautiful, and overall phenomenal. It's so hard these days to find a band who doesn't abuse the power of editing and use little to no tuning on the voice. With *Pioneer*, it is easy to tell that little to no tuning was used on his voice leaving the vocals so wonderfully sang and powerful.

I'm not going to lie, when they announced the album I thought that it would be something similar to *Black & White* (I wasn't a very big fan of the album) but when I first took a listen to *Pioneer* yesterday, I was completely wrong. I fell in love after the first listen and it's been playing through my headphone and on my computer all day.

Overall, *Pioneer* is exceptional. It's definitely the band's best release and captures true emotion in the album. Each song is powerful in it's own entirety and all contribute evenly to make the album more than astounding. As a long time fan, I am absolutely amazed and proud of how well they did. If you haven't already, go pick it up in stores, HMV, Target, Walmart, most stores should have it. If you're more a fan of buying it online then go pick it up on [iTunes](#).

# CONTACT

All inquiries can be directed to  
[info@stitchedsound.com](mailto:info@stitchedsound.com)

Website: <http://stitchedsound.com>

Facebook: [http://www.facebook.com/  
StitchedSound](http://www.facebook.com/StitchedSound)

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/stitchedsound>

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!

E-mail us at [info@stitchedsound.com](mailto:info@stitchedsound.com) and we can provide you with more information about this.

## A Special Thank You To:

Bianca Delicata, Sarah Lozano, Ashley Osborn, Angela Winnie, Azaria Podplesky, Ashley Forrester, Gleann Ignacio, Imani Givertz, Jenna Young, Juliette Chagnon, Kelly Arias, Laura Hennessey, Madison Bass-Taylor, Megan Leetz, Michael Shearin, Roxanne Asthenia, Brittany Daly, Sarah Rutz, Sarah Bergen, Sean Sullivan, Stefany Bryan, Tim Story, and Victor Andrade.

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!

Editor: Cynthia Lam  
Contact: [cynthialam@stitchedsound.com](mailto:cynthialam@stitchedsound.com)  
Website: <http://stitchedsound.com>