

STITCHED SOUND

Issue #20

MAT MUSTO

Almost Hero, Scream Infamy, The
Krays, The Shivers, and more!

Fires upon fires.

Not good.

Yeah, so many of you have probably heard of the disastrous fire that happened in Slave Lake. It's such a pity, and being from Alberta, I loved Slave Lake, it was just gorgeous and most of the people I encountered there were nothing but nice. There was also another fire up by Fort McMurray that spread insanely fast and wide. Then today, while I was driving home from school, what else do I see but solid grey smoke bursting up from a neighborhood? It's crazy, and it puts a downer on the whole summer-time, bon fire thing. Plus many people have lost their homes and

Stitched Sound is an online magazine that brings you the latest news about upcoming and distinguished bands. We do this through interviews, journalism, reviews, updates, and photography. Keeping the mood light and fun is something we love to do. Whether it's through an intriguing interview, simple update, or complete issue, we strive to bring you news and updates about the fast growing music scene today.

Cynthia Lam

Anyway, that was a complete irrelevant subject, but it's something that has been happening lately. This issue is pretty short, our shortest so far, but it's short & sweet! Featuring the most amazing Mat Musto on the cover, and interviews with some great bands. I'm sorry that this issue is shorter, but with finals and school coming to a close, things are getting a bit stressful.

- | | | | |
|----|---------------------|----|-------------------------|
| 3 | Almost Hero | 11 | Scream Infamy |
| 5 | The Krays | 13 | Julian Velard |
| 7 | Heartstop | 14 | Mat Musto |
| 8 | The Shivers | 15 | Accidents |
| 9 | The Greater Heights | 16 | The Boy And His Machine |
| 10 | Autopsy | 17 | The Gallery |
| | | 18 | Reviews |



Interview by Catherine Khom

ALMOST HERO

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

Chris: I, Chris Beloud, started a solo project band and called it Almost Hero. It was an acoustic project so I tried a few names like, Acoustic Hero, Almost Acoustic, and Acoustic Almost. Finally I put together Almost Hero and it meshed well with my writing. When it turned into a full band we all agreed to keep the name Almost Hero and sort of give ourselves a comic book theme.

Growing up in the Arcadia, how has the music you grew up with influenced you?

Chris: 7th and 8th grade I started listening to My Chemical Romance, Good Charlotte, Green Day, Taking Back Sunday, and Boys Like Girls. I always loved the type of pop/rock genre. Through high school I discovered the huge world of pop/rock starting with All Time Low and We the Kings. Eventually I found out about all the underground pop bands and mainstream. It influenced my writing and love for good music.

Andrew: I actually grew up in Glendale CA, and when I was little my dad used to always play old 80's rock bands. Not sure how it influenced me but I'm sure it had to.

Brandon: As a child I listened to a lot of classic rock like led zeppelin and the doors and a whole bunch of others so I think that the drumming that I grew up with gave me the style I have today.

Daniel: I was never really influenced growing up because the music I only listened to were songs on the radio. So I didn't know that much music until I meet Chris, Brandon, and Andrew that's when I really started to like the Pop/Rock genre because I finally knew about it.

Did you ever thought you would be a musician five years ago? What are some goals you have for 2011 and the future?

Chris: 5 years ago, I had been playing guitar for a few years already and just started writing, I never had any interest to become a lead singer, but my mom always told me she could see me as a lead singer. In 2011 I hope to work my ass off along side with my band to earn us a Record deal and hopefully get on a small/big tour as an opening act. That is the highest of goals I can set for myself.

Andrew: Yes, I always thought of myself as being a musician for the rest of my life. Music is my passion and I plan on sticking to it for as long as I live. Some of my goals for 2011

and on are sticking with Almost Hero and seeing where that takes me in my life. I'm hoping for the best and I really believe that Almost Hero will take off at some point in time.

Brandon: Actually as a child my dream was to be a rock star because my dad was a drummer as well but later on I realized it would be nearly impossible to find people id mesh with and have it actually work out. Fortunately I met the whole band and ever since the first practice I realized we all clicked so well and it could possibly happen. I believe I speak for the band when I say that I really would love to tour and see every part of the world. It's actually an obsession between all of us to the point where whenever we try doing something such as throwing a paper in a trash can we say that if we make it we tour.

Daniel: Honestly no I never thought I would be anything close to a musician but always wanted to learn an instrument when I was a kid but I never had the chance. In 2011 I hope to get much better at bass and just for us as a band to keep working and improving to make it to the top. I hope we get signed from a great Record label, start touring the world and just live our dreams together.

If you could take road trip to anywhere in the world, where would it be and what do you plan to do while you are there?

Chris: Colorado, Long board down the mountain roads in the Rockies.

Andrew: If I were to take a road trip it would be to Bass Lake in northern California. That place is awesome. I would wake board and inner tube all day.

Brandon: I'd like to take a road trip to New York, it looks really interesting, and I'm really spontaneous so I wouldn't have anything planned.

Daniel: I would take a tour around the world and just would want to play music to the whole world.

If you could do a collaboration with anyone in the world, where would the venue be, and who would be the lucky person you would chose and why?

Chris: Alex Gaskarth, at the House of Blues Anaheim or Hollywood, I choose him because people would definitely show up to see him, and he is probably my greatest human inspiration on earth personality and musically.

Andrew: If I could do collaboration with anyone it would be with Rebecca Black.

Daniel: Zack Merrick at the House of Blues because every since I started bass I looked up to him.

What upcoming news is up next for you and the band? What is it like for us fans, to a day in your life with you?

Chris: With the release of our EP, we are trying as hard as we can to get out there and to get signed. So expect bigger shows and more of our presence on the internet. We wish we could just take any fan of ours wherever you may be on earth on a big boat and go for a fun fishing trip on a weekend in the summertime. Unfortunately we aren't that cool. A day with us is usually full of activities that are not planned. This and going to school daily, we are all High school Students.

Andrew: We just released an EP called Still Kids Still Reckless, and we have a few potential shows coming up. And as for a day in the life with Almost Hero, we have a video for that coming up soon that will tell all....

Brandon: We recently just filmed a music video and that should be coming out soon! If you were to be with us for a day, you might not like it a lot because we live off of inside jokes and they're completely not funny at all.

Daniel: Well we just released an EP and just got done filming a music video should be out soon. We just hope to get bigger and more shows. A fun random day and half the time you won't know what's going on.

How many instruments do you play and what experiences of music did you have growing up? What is the first song, you played by instrument?

Chris: Drums were the first instrument I ever wanted to play, but I never got a drum set due to living in a Town House. My parents signed me up for Piano Lessons and this began my music life. My dad has played guitar since he was 16 and one day while I was a 3rd grader I grew the balls to ask him to teach me a song. That song was Dammit by Blink 182. So I was Pop/Rock/Punk at heart.

Daniel: I only play bass and didn't really have any music experience growing up. The first song I learned was Into Your Arms by The Maine.

Andrew: I play Piano and a little bit of guitar. I usually don't even bring up guitar because I am a beginner. The first song I have ever completed to learn on the piano, I think was Yankee Doodle.

Brandon: I primarily play the drums, I can also slightly play guitar and bass but I suck. I don't really remember the first song I played... I was only three when I started.

What inspired you while writing your EP, Still Kids, Still Reckless?

Chris: I had about 10 songs written at the time, we had to choose the best suiting 5 for an EP. The inspirations behind the songs are Girls, Heart Break and being a Kid.

Brandon: Mostly the music I listened to as a child and especially for kids, the song hot for teacher!

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

Chris: I don't fully understand this question, but I going to answer it anyways. Music has made me think a lot about how the way things work. I like to dive deep into an Artists lyric to feel the way they feel every time they sing the song. Correct me if I'm wrong but every time I listen to Alex Gaskarth sing Jasey Rae, I can feel that those words are more than just a song and it was a situation in his life that was life changing. Things like this make me think every day and just through someone else's words, come many emotions pouring out of me.

Brandon: I've seen a lot of people telling us that they can relate to the lyrics or they just really love the music so that makes me feel great!

What are some of your favorite memories of last year 2010?

Chris: Brandon's family has fishing Yacht down in Marina Del Rey California, which is right next to Venice Beach. Summer 2010 we had a 3 day weekend there with the band and we spent all day and night on bikes riding between Venice and Santa Monica getting tan and chilling.

Brandon: My favorite memory is when the band road bikes down Venice and all the way down the bike trail, It was a great experience and it really bonded us.

Daniel: The times I spent with my best friends either playing shows or just hanging out with them.

Andrew: Being in Almost Hero has made some of the best memories of 2010. We have come so far and done so much that it seems like that it doesn't seem like one year. I could write a book on the memories we had that year and wouldn't trade them for the world. Without a doubt none of them would have been possible without my best friends Brandon, Chris, and Danny.

Any last words you want to add and shout outs to anyone or fans?

Chris: To any fan we have out there, it is mind bottling that you take any interest in us and honestly we want to find each one of you and give you a big hug and kiss and share a drink. You guys mean the world to us. We will work our asses off until we achieve our dreams and can finally get on the road to meet you guys in your hometowns! We don't want to be just a picture on facebook; we want to be your friend! Love Chris.

Interview with Johnny Kray
 Interview by Cynthia Lam
 Photos by Colleen Bellise

THE KRAYS



As a kid, what first sparked your interest in music?

I grew up in a house full of music. My grandfather was a timbalero and band leader. My uncle is a rock guitarist. They both rehearsed in the basement of our house, so there were always instruments around and jams going on. My uncle was really into Kiss, this being the 70's, and I loved them as far back as I can remember. Peter Chris was definitely the first drummer I emulated.

Who are your biggest inspirations musically?

I think I wouldn't be a singer if it wasn't for Glenn Danzig. I like just about all his work, but I was just becoming a teenager when I heard the Misfits, and I thought it was great. He makes the voice like a separate instrument, and his timing and phrasing is great. Musically there are so many inspirations, and I discover more all the time. I'd say, right now, I'm fascinated by Iron Maiden's 2003 album *Dance Of Death*. Great song topics, great vibe, great technicality, but done with a sense of ease. Then there is Manu Chao, for his soulful socially conscious

energy and brilliant songs. Also Tom Waits for his mad, original ideas and great delivery. Those are especially inspiring to me right now.

The Krays has been a band since 1994. During this time, have you noticed any big changes in the music industry?

I'm not sure. As an industry, I have never paid much attention. I do notice that the underground doesn't hold as much sway anymore. Doesn't seem like punk shows, or club shows in general are as attended as they were 10 or 20 years ago. Maybe it's the structure of the business that has squeezed the life out of it, or maybe the public in general just doesn't have the appetite for underground music anymore. Or maybe it's just laziness, to go out and search for new artist that you may like.

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

If record sales are the only indicator, then maybe it is the downfall. I personally think it's great. I discover lots of great bands and artists by downloading. When I find what I like, I go buy it. People used to dub tapes

years ago. Is that any different than downloading and peer to peer trading? I know I've personally bought a ton of stuff after discovering a new artist, or an album from an artist that I was unaware of until I downloaded it and tried it out.

You will be releasing a new album 'Sangre' on May 31st. Would you say that it differs a lot from past albums?

In some ways, yes, it is very different. It's a longer album than any of our previous, which means we ended up with a larger variety of sounds and songs than before. Some are faster and meaner, and a few have different parts that change abruptly and bring the song to a new place. We have a few sung in Spanish as well, which is new for us. The point of view of a lot of the songs has changed too. It's less about my own personal trials and passions, and more external. The writing is about people and events I discovered and felt strongly about.

Continued >>

What is your favourite song from the album, and what is it about?

Well, I love learning about history, and as you read things, you see how sometimes events from hundreds of years ago have tremendous impact on things now. My favorite track is called "A Race Towards The Morning". It has some of my favorite lines on the album. One is "(they) Erase knowledge of a system put in place and centuries old. Ancient monies, bloodlines fixed, and always storing what they stole". It's about how I imagine many people alive and long dead who are well aware of the long line of history. There are rich families in the world who have been rich and influential for centuries. That's a long time to have your say and be a major player in the world and human events. It's like a different type of dictatorship. It's kind of frightening. I guess it's just a slightly paranoid view of the world, and history. I blame reading late at night, haha.

Are there any songs on the album that you think may shock or throw fans off guard?

Yes, a few, but one in particular. I really got into this artist named Guillermo Portabales. He was a singer from Cuba who started making music in the 1930's. He played a style a Cuban music called guajiro. A guajiro in Cuba is a country person. In Puerto Rico they are called Jibaros. The music is basically played by a singer, a guitarist and a bongo player, and it can be very haunting and beautiful. I fell in love with it, mainly

because it reminded me of the music my grandfather used to play when I was a kid. In Puerto Rico, we have aguinaldos. It's similar. Anyway, I think it's great stuff, and Guillermo is one of the best that I've discovered. One night I wrote my own Guajiro song. It's called "Mundo Perdido". I like it a lot, and I feel it goes with the overall theme of the album, so there it went, right smack in the middle. Some might think it odd, right in the middle of a predominantly blazing record is this slow acoustic lament, sung mostly in Spanish. I think it's great. If punk is about anything, it's about heart felt songs sung in earnest. That's exactly what Mundo Perdido is. Just done without speed or raging guitars. Sometimes you don't need all that, to make an impact.

Could you describe the album in one word? Why did you choose that word?

I think we did that with the title, Sangre. It can be taken in a few ways I guess. It's blood that sometimes connects us. It's also divided us, and a lot has been spilled, in conquest, or in the name of progress. That's mainly what the record represents. To learn about events, to uncover them, as many people do try and do, so we can learn from them. The world has been an interesting place. It'd be better if we learned to go through it without all the trouble of repeating our most horrible mistakes.

Are there any local bands in the New York scene that you really like? Who are they?

There are. As of right now, I enjoy the band SpEd. They have a different approach to how they play punk. It's more theatrical in a lot of ways. So far, they base the band and their songs on the idea of being in Special Ed. Songs about throwing rocks at girls, or Sister Eileen, a nasty nun that was an actual teacher the singer had. Funny stuff. I love watching the blackout shoppers play. They just blaze through their set, the bassist in a ski mask, the singer done up almost like the uni bomber! I also think two man advantage puts on a hell of a show. Hockey inspired punk. I like how these bands have their own take on how they put on a show. It's not all anger and angst. They are all great live.

Are you planning any tours or shows in support of the release of 'Sangre'?

We have a record release show booked for the 11th of June at Club Europa in Brooklyn. That should be great, lots of great bands. SpEd's in there. We do want to travel a bit, and play some of these songs out live. A trip to California is on the table. Not sure where else, but we will be out a bit, here and there.

What does the future hold for The Krays?

I'd like to play as many of these new songs out live, and see what people make of them. I think the band is really tight right now, so I feel confident we can really bring it out, and give people a great show.



Interview by Catherine Khom

HEARTSTOP

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

Music has helped us get through experiences throughout our life, be it good or bad. It is a creative outlet for us. It's definitely a great form of expression for us. Bands from Led Zeppelin to Coldplay to the Chili Peppers have inspired all of us musically, and we definitely credit them for getting us to do what we do.

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

All of us share the same dream. We dream of the opportunity to travel the world and share our talents with our fans, friends, and family.

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

All of us definitely have the drive to play other instruments. Jake and Tristan have dabbled at the drums and Joe has always been interested in picking up the guitar.

Describe your song-writing process, if you had only five minutes to describe this process, how would you describe it? How is it unique or different from others?

There is no definite song-writing process for us. For example, in some cases we'll have somebody bring an idea to the table and we will collaborate. Or, at times we have just locked ourselves in our home studio and have had songs almost write themselves.

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

The hardest part for us was finding a group of

guys that shared the same interest and good chemistry. When you spend so much time with each other, it is important that there is a good dynamic present. We feel like we have that now.

There are a lot of band feuds that leak out to the public, how do you all feel about how popular bands handle their problems and feuds with other bands?

With media being such a huge force nowadays, its easy for feuds to make the headlines. That said, it is common for bands to feud, and in our opinion it can in a lot of cases be productive. Pride definitely gets in the way with artists and when artist's are so proud of their craft conflicts can arise.

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

We all use performing as an avenue for us to escape the world and do what we love. We look forward to getting on the stage especially when days aren't going our way.

What are some goals you have for the band?

Our goal is to continually move forward and advance our sound and our imprint on the music industry. The three of us all share the same goal, but may have different ways of getting there. That said, having three different opinions gives us an advantage.

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

We would love to perform at Six Flags. Mainly because we know how terrified Jake is of roller coasters and this would be a perfect chance to force it on him.

What are some of your must haves for 2011 and why?

An occasional meal at the Olive Garden. But definitely a new Jacuzzi.

What are some plans you have in store for 2011 and what is one true quote you live by and explain why?

In the beginning of this year we released our Sampler that has two of our new singles on it. In early summer we plan on releasing the music video starring Carmel Electra for one of the tracks on the Sampler titled "Just Like Goodbye". At the end of the day we are just focused on moving forward and progressing as a band. A quote that we constantly refer to as a band has to be one by The Beatles. It is a quote by John Lennon always telling his band that they are headed "To the toppermost of the poppermost"! This quote is inspirational for us, specifically because of all the hardships that bands go through.

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

We believe society as a whole wants all of these shiny things. It's only natural for the music industry to flaunt these things because it is such a general want in so many people these days.

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

Aside from music, the three of us grew up dreaming being professional athletes. Yea, that turned out to be an unrealistic one.

THE SHIVERS

Interview by Kelly Arias Photo by Scott Rudd

STITCHED SOUND Issue 20

First off, how did the band meet and get started?

The band was formed in 2001 in NYC by 3 friends.

Your new album More is set to release on May 10th. What is the process like when creating and writing a new song?

Songs come while walking down the street. So taking long walks is the way to write a song but you never set out to write them.

What was your favorite part about recording the album?

My favorite part was when I opened the back door of the cottage we stayed in down the street from the studio just outside of Manchester, UK in Mosley and there was a goat right in front of my face! I love goats!

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

Rock n' Roll

What are some of your musical influences?

I really like a current singer called Cass McCombs. Really great songs. I also really like Billie Holiday.

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

I would probably want to collaborate with Michael Jackson because he was a musical genius.

I understand that you guys are on a coast to coast tour. What city are you most excited about playing and why?

There's something i really like about LA. I'm excited to see places I haven't seen before, like Salt Lake City. I hear there is a real scene there.

What is your favorite part about playing shows?

The sweat. Also, when someone comes up to you afterwards and tells you they drove a long

way to be there or you made them cry/laugh/dance.

Are your family and friends supportive of the band?

All of my friends are because of the band. If it was not for the band I would not have one friend and that is being serious. So it's a good thing.

What would you say sets you apart from other bands out there?

I think what sets us apart from other bands out there is that we're willing to take the long, hard road in order to keep our integrity. Most bands these days are quick to sell out and do some trendy crap. We're sticking to doing what we want to do and not trying to sound like anyone else and hope that people catch on. It's a risk and one that can be proven by the fact we've been around for a decade with no real commercial success. It means we're in it for the long haul and we're going to do things our way.



THE GREATER HEIGHTS

When The Greater Heights first started did you have any goals you hoped to accomplish?

We really just wanted to make music that we enjoyed. With so many different influences and different backgrounds from each member things just started clicking. Getting "famous" was never really a goal we just love playing music and want to do what we love.

What makes The Greater Heights different from any bands who would be considered "in your scene"?

We like to think we're a little bit edgier than other bands in our "scene." We play in drop C tuning which is typically used by hardcore and metal bands which gives our pop sound a little bit more punch. we also like to blend harder elements into our music while keeping it upbeat and catchy. Our influences span the whole spectrum of pop to hardcore and everything in-between, and we think that comes through in our music.

Can you describe your bandmates in one word? Why would you choose this word?

The one word that can be used to describe everyone in this band is definitely "dedicated." Everyone has such a love for music and what were doing. It's so hard to find a group of people who can unite with a single goal in mind, and our band is definitely made up of those people. It's not easy being in a band these days, and even harder to try and make a name for yourself, but the members of TGH are definitely in it for the

long haul. We do it because its what we love to do.

Have you had to face any tough challenges in your musical journey? What did you do to overcome them?

TGH has definitely had its fair share of challenges. We've gone through several member changes, name changes, relocations, just about anything you can think of. Every member of our band has had to make sacrifices, several of which who packed up their lives and moved to san diego just for the band. That's what we think really bonds us and makes us more dedicated. Our journey hasn't been easy and its only the beginning. At this point we're pretty sure the world could throw anything at us and we'd be able to handle it.

Looking back, if you could do something different what would it be and why?

Honestly, we don't like to say everything happens for a reason, but everything that's happened to us so far, good and bad, has led to where we are right now. I don't think any of us could ask to be in a better place at this point. Things just keep getting better for us, and it's all due to the trials that we've been put through.

You have a couple shows lined up as of right now. What should fans expect at a The Greater Heights show?

A great time! We're all about having fun on stage! Having fun is our main goal, and we hope that comes across when we're on stage. We

also love to meet and interact with our fans. Come talk to us at a show, we love to talk to everybody!

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

One time in Arizona we blew the power to the venue about 30 seconds into our set. Our light setup was just too crazy for them to handle

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

would have to say just don't be shy! We love to meet our fans so if you wanna talk to us, just come up and say hi!

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

Chase your dreams no matter what. If you want something bad enough and are willing to work for it, nothing can stand in your way.

Does the band have any plans for the summer?

We've got a lot of big plans! We really wanna start touring more and getting out there. We just got booked a show with Forever the Sickest Kids and Anarbor in June. That should be a really fun show. We also just launched our Youtube channel so we're gonna start doing weekly video blogs and updates.



Photo by Saskia Schilten Interview by Cynthia Lam

AUTOPSY

Answers by Chris Reifert

Your new album 'Macabre Eternal' will be released on the 31st of May. What was the process of recording and writing this album like?

The same as always. We went in with the goal of recording an album that sounds like Autopsy, smells like Autopsy and would cause the end of the world as we know it. Wait a minute, Harold Camping beat us to the punch on that last bit. Haha fucking ha! We wanted to and therefore did write our heaviest, darkest and most deathly material to date. We drained our minds and souls for this beast. Lucky for us, they replenish themselves on a daily basis, so there you go. Turn it up to inhuman volume levels and let the grave inhale your life force like the finest joint that money can buy. Or just sit in a corner and drool, whatever works best for you.

Did you encounter any new challenges while writing this album?

Nope, it's an Autopsy album through and through and we knew exactly what we wanted. Is it what you want? Hmmm, I dunno, but it will heal all your ills guaranteed! Don't believe me? Why not? Where are you going? Come back! I have so much more to say! Ok, fine, it's your loss. I do believe Sanford and Son is on somewhere in the world and I have a pressing engagement.

What made you decide to release a special limited edition vinyl before digitally/CD?

That was Peaceville's idea to be honest. As

long as folks get a chance to obtain the format of their choice at their leisure, that works for me. We tried to press them to put it out on good ol' 8-track tape, but they vetoed that brilliant suggestion. For the younger readers, 8-track tapes were a format that was somewhat popular in the 70's which was truly lame and stupid. I had quite a few KISS 8-tracks as a young fuckling, but even then I knew they sucked. Not KISS, but the tapes. KISS still rules!

Would you say that Macabre Eternal is a big difference from 'The Tomb Within'? Why or why not?

No, it's not a big difference, just a better and heavier outing. We purposefully save the best stuff for the album. There seemed to be no sense in Macabre Eternal being the inferior sibling to The Tomb Within.

Is there a message that you'd like listeners to get through the album?

Yeah. Buy it. Buy it now. Buy extra copies for your neighbors. Especially the ones you don't like. It's the least they deserve.

What is the most important thing you've learned during your time in the music industry?

Watch your ass. There's always someone wanting to fuck it against your will.

Are there any tours or shows planned for Autopsy that you are excited about?

If there were any tours planned, I would definitely not be excited about them. I would be filled with dread and paranoia, rather. Regarding shows, there are a few that we have scheduled that should kick some ass indeed. Scattered events of awesomeness are much more appealing than being on the road not knowing when you'll be able to eat, sleep, shit or shower next. For us, anyways. There are plenty of gluttons for punishment out there who can do that stuff if that's what does the trick for them.

As a band, what is the biggest challenge that you had to face? How did you overcome it?

Everything we do is a challenge, but as long as we remain in the metaphorical driver's seat, all challenges can not only be met, but decimated. Never say die, keep it brutal and don't take any shit from anyone is our philosophy if we had to choose one.

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

Just thanks to all who have kept us out of the grave. We are not just doing this for ourselves, but for YOU as well. If you've read this far, give yourself a pat on the back or a rousing toast of whatever does good things to your brain. Cheers, chunks, blood, guts and insanity to everyone! Over, under and out!

SCREAM INFAMY

Interview by Cynthia Lam Photos by Tina Michaelides



Can you tell us about how Scream Infamy all started out?

Josh: The band started out with James and I jamming when we first started playing our instruments (guitar and drums), and eventually we wanted to do something serious so we asked Greg to play bass. He'd never been in a band or played bass, but he was passionate about music so we knew he'd fit in. We also need a second guitarist, and Pablo was the new kid at school who was into music. Everything came together over a few months.

Is there a meaning behind the band name?

Josh: It means to kind of, call out someone who's in the wrong, which is the theme of some of our songs. We've gotten mistaken to be a 'screamo' or metal band before, which kinda sucks.

Pablo: It's like pointing out the wrong people who and Infamy means to be well known for wrongdoing.

I understand that you guys are all pretty young and still in school. Has age ever been a barrier for the band?

Josh: The only barrier is that we can't play 18+ shows, and if we play certain venues, our friends and fans can't get in cause of age. Apart from that, we work around age issues by helping each other out with getting to shows and practice.

Pablo: Yeah, I've had to take some time off performances in order to catch up on schoolwork, but hopefully from now on I might be able to do some more shows.

Growing up in Sydney, are there any local bands or artists who have influenced you?

Josh: The first bands I got into in the local Sydney scene were My Future Lies, and Short Stack, who have grown significantly since I first discovered them at a venue called the Gaelic. Since then, I've discovered a load of other great stuff that influences me too; so much talent in the Sydney music scene. But those were the bands that made me want to be in a successful local band.

Pablo: I actually wasn't aware of the local music scene until I joined the band and started to perform at band competitions. But some of the amazingly good bands I've been introduced to during this time that inspire me include Stand for the Fallen and Dreams of Leaving.

How would you describe the "sound" of Scream Infamy?

Josh: It's very influenced by pop punk, probably more stuff that was popular in the early 2000's, like blink 182 and Simple Plan. We have happy hardcore elements to our music as well, with breakdowns and such. We're all influenced by a load of different music, we're all into something different.

Pablo: Our songs are very fast paced, and we try to incorporate hooks into our songs to keep them catchy and easy for people to sing it along.

Do you ever get into arguments as a band about songwriting or anything like that?

Josh: We get into arguments all the time, mostly about random stuff like who messed up what par after a show haha. There's never been anything really serious that has nearly broken us up, we're all pretty close so little stupid things are pretty insignificant.

Pablo: Well, when to tend to hang around with people for a while you tend to get into an argument or two. But most of the time we just joke around, like we tend to make fun of one another rather than actually criticize one another.

What is your favourite thing about each of your bandmates?

Josh: I love the humour and inside jokes we all share, and that we've come so far with each other. We've all grown closer and bonded over the time we've been together, it's been great.

Pablo: Just the connection we've made in such a short time, we joke around a lot and it's always to have people you can mess around with just to escape the seriousness of life once in a while.

You have just recently released an EP in January, and a single this month. Are you happy with the feedback that you've got?

Josh: We got a load of feedback for the EP, some positive, some negative. The EP was pretty sloppy, it was a home recorded production so we didn't expect any major radio airplay or anything. The feedback for the single has been 100% positive, we recorded it with a guy named Marcus Bridge from Stand For the Fallen, amazing musician and really great at recording too. We're hoping to get an even better response with our next CD.

Can you describe how a *Scream Infamy* song is written?

Josh: Our songs are written mostly by me, then we change them around a bit when it comes to the rest of the boys learning them, especially with Pablo's guitar parts and James' drum fills. Songs usually develop a lot over time, like originally a lot of our songs were really poppy, but they've gotten heavier/punkier over time. We change stuff around a lot live. A lot of our new material is being demo'd at the moment, we want to get things perfect on this next release, but keep it sounding natural too. Pablo's also started writing some stuff for our next release, which I'm pretty stoked on.

Pablo: Well as Josh said, the song writing process usually starts with him and can get

altered with ideas introduced by Greg, James and I when we go over it in band practice. Lately, I've tried to write some songs, but my biggest problem seems to be actually finishing songs, I can start them but never can manage to finish them off, so that for me can be frustrating.

How would you describe your live shows? Any crazy antics?

Josh: Lots of dancing, jumping, and making fun of each other and the crowd. We're pretty energetic when it comes to playing live, we like to make a good impression on people who've never heard us before. Crazy antics that I can recall include Greg and Pablo playing soccer with a water bottle, Greg and I running off stage to participate in a circle pit as well as serenading people from the crowd. We love getting that crowd dancing or moshing.

Pablo: At our last show Josh mucked around a bit too much and ended up on the floor, so I responded by kicking him for a bit, I don't think he liked that too well haha. But it's always the best when we can see people singing back our songs or just participating cause when you're part of a local band, you don't tend to get a lot of feedback, but when you do it's really motivating.

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

Josh: Our music is about having fun, and being happy in life. We all feel alone or betrayed at some point, and hopefully kids relate to our music and know they aren't the only ones. We also love when people can relate to our songs. The best therapy is when kids are singing your lyrics back to you.

Pablo: For most people these days, as well as myself, music is a form of escape for people, for musicians and listeners. Musicians express their feelings and conflicts they battle with in life, and because music can be so relatable to anyone in any situation, the listeners can empathize with that. So if our music can act as an escape for anyone, I'm more than happy if we can provide them with that.

What do you hope to accomplish in the future?

Josh: We want to get a management deal, record deal, all that fancy stuff and hopefully tour the world when we're done with school! This band is my life and I'm willing to work as hard as I need to to make it happen. If we can sustain ourselves working in the band, I'll be content.

Pablo: Touring with the band would be awesome, it's always good to play a show with the guys, and to do that for a living would just be the best. It would be great to see how the friendships we've made throughout the time in the band grow and expand over time.



JULIAN VELARD

Interview by Cynthia Lam

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

I started writing songs at age 16. It was just a way of coping with myself, making sense of my emotions. It wasn't till the end of college when I really thought about making a career out of it. I think it was the realization, plus the feeling of getting on a train and going to work a real job. I did that for the first couple years and it definitely spurred me on. I never wanted a day job.

Who would you say are your biggest musical influences?

I try to learn something from everything great, in movies, literature, comedy, and music. The big one for me would have to be Dylan, The Beatles, Stevie Wonder, Elton John, Billy Joel, Elvis Costello, Randy Newman, Harry Nilsson, and believe it or not, Steely Dan.

Was music a big part of your life while growing up?

I went to a performing arts high school, so yes. I've been every day since I was 14.

You recently released a new album called 'Mr. Saturday Night' on April 4th. Are you happy with the feedback that you've gotten from the album?

Yeah it's been amazing to read all the positive reviews. Really makes the process worthwhile.

Is there any songs on the album that you are really proud of? What are they about?

My two proudest moments on the album are probably "Fellow Americans" and "Another Guy's Song". One's a sarcastic take on imperialism, the other's about a life of piano bars.

Where do you draw inspirations for songs?

I don't know where they come from. If I did, I can tell you, I'd go there a lot more often. It comes in the strangest ways, and it's different each time. Really just requires me to keep all my sense open, and let the moment happen.

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

Be prepared to spend a lot of time banging your head against the wall, don't quit your day job, and make sure to have fun. It is a precarious profession.

Is there something like a 'life motto' that you live by?

Bathing is a lonely business - John Geilgud

Are you trying to spread a message through music?

Not really. If anything, it's don't take anything too seriously. Especially my music.

What is your favourite thing about music?

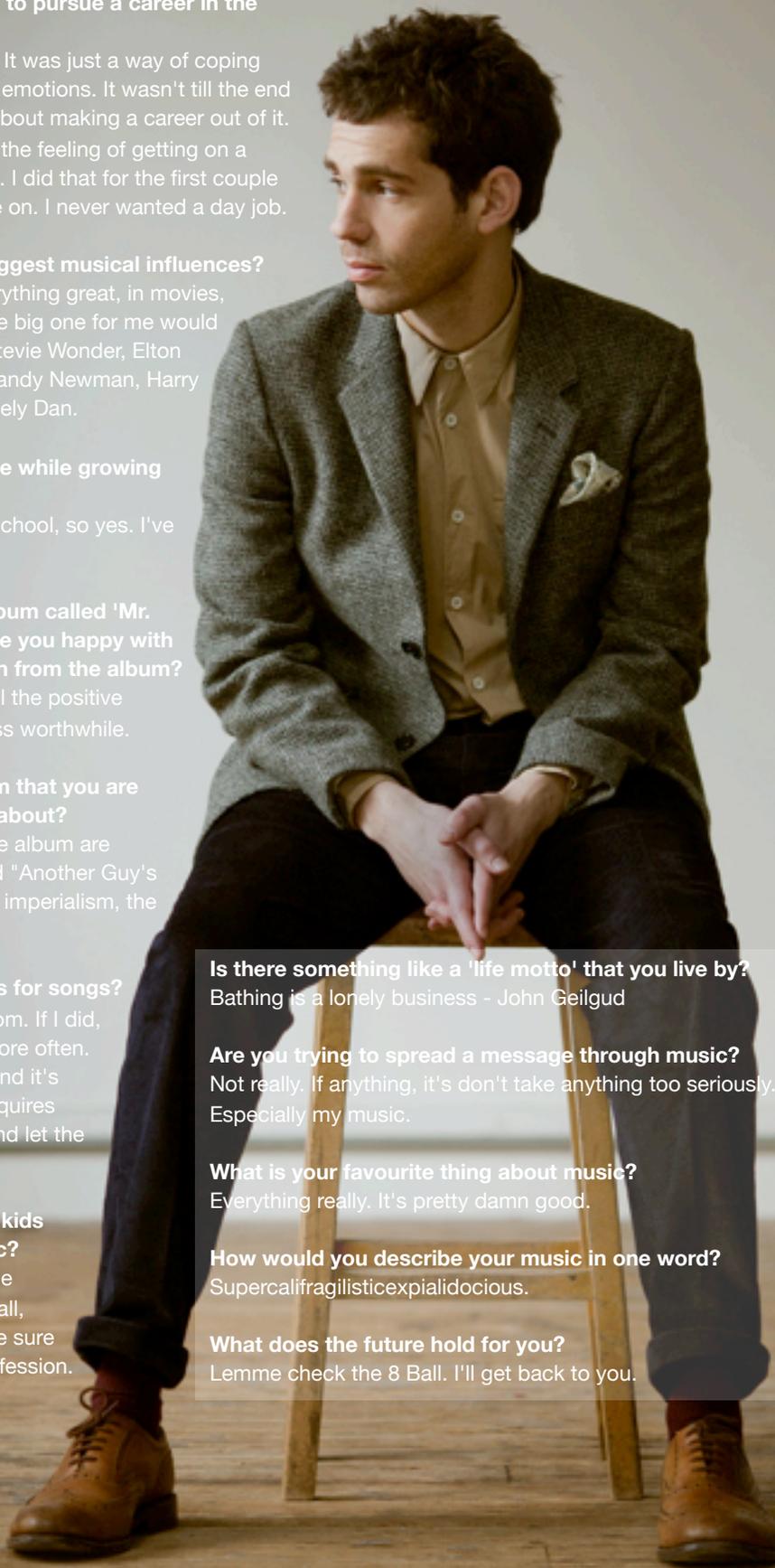
Everything really. It's pretty damn good.

How would you describe your music in one word?

Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious.

What does the future hold for you?

Lemme check the 8 Ball. I'll get back to you.



Interview by Bianca Delicata

MAT MUSTO

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

I was about 5 when I started begging for a drum set or a guitar, My parents got me a guitar from a family friend and I learned the whole third eye blind CD. It was the greatest exploration in my life next to bubble tape at the time. I believe my music career already took me where I want to be, All I ever wanted was to write a song and know that people actually listened to it, and now that there are amazing people writing me emails about how my music has changed / helped them in their path.. that's completely fucking insane to me. I am so blessed.. I hope things continue to roll, but if everything stopped right now I would be content knowing that there are people who love me for my art. It's beautiful & moving.

If you could listen to only one album for the rest of your life, what album would that be?

Still Third Eye Blind... Or Acceptance: Phantoms, Death Cab for Cutie: Plans, Kid Cudi: Man on the Moon, or Coldplay: A Rush of Blood to the Head.

You refer to your fans as "cubs". Where did the nickname derive from?

I sometimes take on the alter persona "Blackbear". Sort of a nickname, so I call my fans my cubs, cause I love them like my family.

Who is your biggest inspiration, and how have they inspired you?

Everyone inspires me, I'm easily influenced by people, movies, art and expression. My mom plays a big roll she's a heavy supporter, my Dad plays a big roll, he's not so much a supporter until recently. God, God concepts, spirituality, every hater & girl who did me dirty, waking up on rainy days, waking up cold, good coffee, classical/jazz vocal blend music, good vibes, solid people, trust, distrust, good books, good food, strangers, a smile from a stranger, drugs, conversation mainly. I talk to a lot of people and I'll stop in mid sentence and be like.. "I'm gonna write a song about that.. ". Pretty much anything genuine or real. Real recognize real.

How do you feel about your fans coming together and making you something as great as an appreciation book for you?

Like I said, my fans are my family. I might make a cub appreciation book and let all my fans bring something to the shows and sign it, then get it printed and sell it. Sometimes I just stop and feel like crying because I'm so blessed and I worked so hard, but I still feel undeserving.

Describe yourself in three words!

Spiritual. Lover. Hustler.

Your recent exposure on Tumblr has helped you gain a larger fanbase. Did this sudden gush of attention surprise you?

I was super surprised. Tumblr is my favorite website! I wake up and read it like it's my newspaper while I drink my coffee and reblog

a million things. I'm so stoked people appreciate the things I like. I'm looking for some new awesome blogs to follow so if you have a tumblr and you are reading this, message me and let me know!

When you began making music, what goals did you hope to achieve?

I hoped to play a big festival where I would sing a song and stop in the middle and the crowd would just applaud, that was my visual dream going into this. I hope to achieve that one day.

Thanks for the opportunity Mat! Can you tell us anything about Year of the Blackbear?

Year of the Blackbear is being mixed and I'm working on a release date right now, its a 4 song EP, full band. I love love it so much, my favorite material coming out. I'm also gonna give away each individual song before it drops on iTunes, because I believe music should be free to everyone. If you decide to get it on iTunes and support me, then you're the shit and I love you and I appreciate it so much! I hope you guys like it. It should be coming out early June.

Thanks for giving me the opportunity to further explain my existence. Means a lot! PEACE LOVE TOGETHERNESS UNITY SWAG.

ACCIDENTS

Interview by Azaria Podplesky



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

Just a really good time. We have loads of energy on stage and slowly but surely we are noticing our crowds getting more and more into the action. We tell people to “come party with us” as opposed to “come see us play” for that very reason. We’re there to have fun, so the audience should be too.

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

Money. Straight up. We all have jobs and work hard to get by on normal life. Being in a band is expensive. Having a day job also makes it difficult since time off is generally unheard of.

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

Since we’re all a little older for musicians (mid to late 20’s), we’ve had our experiences in being in other bands and have learned so many lessons. Accidents is a very professional and mature operation, and we have a really strong sense of business and where this band needs to go and where we want it to go.

What moment in Accidents history are you most proud of?

The band celebrated our first birthday on May 12th, 2011; fans brought us cakes, and we made a load of new fans who wanted our autographs. It was a surreal moment, we all felt like rock stars. We are honored to have such awesome people come out and support us.

What's next for Accidents?

We are saving up for our full length album, which we feel is going to show how our song writing has tightened up and become what we feel is the future of our sound. We are working super hard at the moment to get this record out by fall. There is definitely a tour in our future as well; but again, that takes money.

How did the members of Accidents meet and decide to start a band?

It’s a long winded story of how we all came together; in a nutshell, through a mixture of old friends and craigslist ads and chance meetings at bars, Accidents was born.

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

There is actually a lot of music in Northern VA; most of it is singer/songwriter and indie music, but there is a small little punk scene that seems to bring out quite a few kids. Since most of us had been in other fairly popular bands before Accidents, creating a buzz and following didn’t take much work.

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

We describe ourselves as “punk inspired.” Not all of our songs follow a punk formula, but you can hear aspects of it in everything we write. We take other styles of music that we like and incorporate them into our music, whether it be metal, pop, grunge or whatever else have you.

Who are some of your musical or lyrical influences?

Accidents is composed of 5 very different people when it comes to musical interests; but we can certainly tell you one band for each member: John (The June Spirit), Andrew (Leatherface), Nicole (Bad Religion), Dan (GWAR), Paul (Iron Maiden).

What was it like writing and recording Drowning?

By the time we had the funds to record our EP, we had about 8 or 9 songs written, it was just a matter of picking which ones we wanted to represent us. We feel that Drowning is a collection of songs that represents how we can remain “genre-less” and just write and record songs that we think sound good and have fun playing. Recording Drowning was a fairly short process; we had played these songs so many times by the time we got into the studio that it just went by like clockwork.

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

John is an amazing lyricist and has always had a knack for presenting an undertone; for example “Devastation in the City of the Queen” sounds like a song about being a pirate, but it’s actually about a girl who blames who she is with for being an alcoholic.

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

We really have not travelled at all; All of us would love to make it out to California at some point. New York and Chicago would be awesome as well.

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

Again, this answer varies based on our tastes. However, with where we are now and how our song writing is going, I think Rise Against would be a really good fit for us since they also have a tendency to write punk songs with different genres affiliated with them.



Interview by Cynthia Lam Photo by Justin Howard

THE BOY AND HIS MACHINE

How did you meet the other members of The Boy And His Machine, and what made you all decide to start a band?

The band actually started as a solo project with just Ron and developed into the band that we are now through a few member changes. Christian and I went to college together and our old bands used to play together, Ron used to design t-shirts for my old band, and Tom played in bands in the area and grew up with Christian and Ron.

As a kid, what did you want to be when you grew up?

When I was a kid after the firefighter/police officer stage I always wanted to be a bartender, and still do honestly, but by the time I was 12 or 13 I was certain I would be in a band my entire family is very musical.

Do you have any special hobbies or hidden talents?

I can tie a cherry stem into a knot with my tongue and besides music I've always been an athlete.

You released two brand new songs on your purevolume two weeks ago. Are you happy with the feedback that you've gotten so far?

Most definitely, Josh has always been a huge supporter of our band and has given us great opportunities to showcase the new songs or material that we have and we couldn't be more thankful for that. As far as the fans response, I think these songs are what people have really been waiting to hear from us and I feel like that

is kind the same for us as a band as well. But its always about progression for us and I'm really excited to see where the new music goes as well.

What is your favourite song that you've written?

That's such a tough question, my favorite song that we've written is defiantly "Straight Through the Night" that song to me is just very well constructed and was a big turning point for us musically, but my favorite song to play is one of our newest songs "Down and Out" just because of the energy/newness that it has.

What inspires you lyrically and musically?

I can't really speak on behalf of the lyrics but I know that Ron writes a lot of the lyrics based on real life situations that we or our friends have had to deal with. And that's something that I really love and respect because every song isn't about some girl or other trivial stuff. Musically I'm inspired by everything, but warm weather for some reason really has a way of getting me going.

Which do you prefer: playing shows or recording? Why?

I actually prefer recording because I actually went to school for it and I love getting sounds/gear.

Being from the New York area, are there any local bands who have really influenced you?

I think there is always going to be influences whether it is intentional or not, as far as in our local scene though I can't really say there was one specific band that has influenced our band because all four of us listen to completely different kinds of music.

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

I don't really think we are that kind of band, but we just want people to have fun and enjoy themselves through our music.

Are you guys planning any tours for the near future?

Always, we have a lot of out of town shows lined up for the summer and right now are working on solidifying a summer tour. Details will be posted as soon as we know when/where.

Where do you expect to be in about two years?

Hopefully a full length deep on a US label that feels the same way we do about music working on a follow up, while being out on the road constantly doing what we love.

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

I just want to say thanks so much for reaching out to us and giving me a chance to ramble about our band and for everyone else to keep an eye/ear out for more new music and tour dates coming very soon.

THE GALLERY

Interview by Bianca Delicata



Your most recent album, *Come Alive*, was produced by Warren Huart. How was this experience?

We had a really awesome time in Hollywood recording with Warren. We learned a lot about each of our roles in the band. Warren had great ideas for the stripped-down, raw sound that we were looking for in the first place. We had a blast with everyone at the studio Warren works out of, Swinghouse Studios.

Where do you draw inspirations for songs?

We each have a lot of different musical influences that contribute to the style of the music, but our various life experiences and interactions with friends and family fuel what we write about, our worldview determines how we deal with those situations.

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

We've dealt with themes from death to love to loss, and often more than once, but each song is about a unique situation with unique details.

Are there any plans for a follow-up full length album?

We are always writing new songs, and *Come Alive* is still itself pretty new, but we would love to get working on a full-length album soon. We're working on getting the proper financial backing to start a new project.

What would you be doing if you weren't in *The Gallery*?

We've all started, but not all finished college, and the fields we were studying (business, teaching, and design) would probably end up being our jobs. I was a design/art major, and though I do actually use those skills quite often for the band as well, I'd probably be working at some print or design company.

What separates *Come Alive* from *Island Road*?

Island Road was something we did to just get some new songs out there. We were in school at the time we wrote and recorded those songs, so we were balancing the work there and songwriting. We feel like we've grown quite a bit in our songwriting and playing since then with *Come Alive*. We always have slightly different influences for each release, but we feel like we're

getting towards a more raw and authentic sound with the new stuff we've written.

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

Beatles of course, but a few of us have seen artists like Tom Petty and Bob Dylan, who would have been incredible to see in their "prime". I'm a fan of some even older music, like jazz and blues, so artists like Miles Davis and John Coltrane would have been pretty awesome to see play.

Do you have any plans for a Fall/Winter tour?

We are currently working on new songs, playing around New England when we can, so our plans for the Fall/Winter are still a ways off in our minds at this point, haha. We would absolutely love to tour, though, if we got a worthwhile opportunity to do so.

Is there anything else you'd like to say to our readers?

You can buy *Come Alive* on iTunes and other similar places, and hopefully we'll have more new songs for you all soon. Thanks very much for having us!

Sleeping With Sirens

Let's Cheer To This



By Jenna Young



Let's Cheers To This is the second full length album from Sleeping With Sirens. The post-hardcore group from Orlando, Florida released the album on May 10th, 2011 through Rise Records. Kris Crummett, worked with the band to produced the album; he has worked with bands like Dance Gavin Dace, Alesana, and Oceana.

There's no doubt that the bands first full length album, *With Ears To See And Eyes To Hear* was a memorable album. However with *Let's Cheers To This*, the band had been through a ton of changes musically, which were for the better. Lyrically, the band has matured; Kellin's writing is both personal and relatable.

The album opener, "*Do It Now, Remember It Later*" is a catchy song about living in the moment and dealing with the consequences later, it maintains the sound that Sleeping With Sirens fans are accustomed to. "*All My Heart*" is the love ballad from the album. It takes a turn away from the pop-punk feel and creates a softer acoustic love song.

Certainly, there are many standout tracks form this album. The band has grown into a more pop-punk sound, while keep their post-hardcore roots, with songs like "*Who Are You Now*", "*Tally It Up, Settle The Score*", and "*Let's Cheers To This*"

La Dispute & Koji *Never Come Undone*

By Laura Hennesey

Never Come Undone combines elements of La Dispute's hardcore influences with blues and indie rock vibes for those days when you can't decide what to listen to. The final track, *Biomusicology*, incorporates some classic gang vocals, and it works well. Overall, *Never Come Undone* took a leap of faith from La Dispute's typical style but the risk paid off. Koji and La Dispute prove that their music can mesh with others but still stand out.



Title Fight *Shed*



By Laura Hennesey

An album reminiscent of Polar Bear Club's *Chasing Hamburg*, Title Fight brings an impressive hardcore album to the table. Though many of the songs are short, as per the band's usual style, they hit you hard with Shane Moran's guitar backing up Jamie Rhoden's vocals. "*Safe in Your Skin*" slows down the album for two and a half minutes, but it picks right back up with *Where Am I?* For their first full length, Title Fight managed to stay true to their sound and create a variety of songs, but even though it was an impressive album it didn't manage to push any envelopes. Recommended to fans of bands such as Jawbreaker or Bayside, get your copy of *Shed* and wait in anticipation for the band's next musical release. Hopefully they can push the boundaries a bit further next time.



This Century *Sound Of Fire*

By Catherine Khom



This Century, a band who has been getting worldwide hits is the most down to earth bands you'll ever meet! I recommend you all, to get yourself a copy of *Sound of Fire* and originality is the key to this band. This Century dropped with a bang this spring with their full length album, *Sound of Fire*. It includes their amazing hit single, "*Hopeful Romantic*," with sweet ballads and added vocals sang by others in the band for "*Money Honey*" gave the song more uniqueness and let fans into who they band really are. I particularly praise this album, it's worth every penny of it. The drums performed by Ryan Gose gives the lyrics to come alive. Alex Silverman and Sean Silverman demonstrates how the flow of the song fits perfectly well with lead vocals from Joel Kanitz. This album went over my expectations, and the lyrics became very inspirational. The newest song, that fans will receive most attention will be *Young and Useless*, this song led to immediate perfection. If you ever see them perform live, consider yourself to be the lucky ones, if you get a chance to meet them, welcome to the TC family! This record is the best performance for spring.



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A Special Thank You To:

Bianca Delicata, Sarah Rutz, Ashley Forrester, Azaria Podplesky, Cahterine Khom, Imani Givertz, Juliette Chagnon, Stefany Bryan, Dannielle Corey, Sarah Lozano, Kristyn Neal, Laura Hennessey, Madison Bass-Taylor, Kelly Arias, Sarah Bergen, Taime Guido, Jenna Young, and Robbs Quezada.

Also to Almost Hero, The Krays, Autopsy, Fresno Media, Heartstop, The Shivers, The Greater Heights, Scream Infamy, Julian Velard, Mat Musto, Accidents, The Boy And His Machine, and The Gallery.

And also to all of you who are reading this!

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