

STITCHED SOUND

June 2010 (Issue 5)

Hello, Astronaut
Sparks The Rescue
The Plot In You
Cady Groves
+ more



Stitched Sound Changes...

Changes, changes, changes. They all just happen. Stitched Sound experienced many changes since the last issue. These two changes included an amazing contribution to our staff. We kindly welcome Sarah Rutz, Ashley Rollins, Danae Corey, and Haley Miller to our crew. The second is instead of having an issue a month, it will now be an issue every two weeks. This way we can bring more to you guys.

With an issue coming out every two weeks it also pushes us harder and almost forces us to work harder and push ourselves to make everything happen. We really hope that you enjoy this issue, as well as the changes that are taking place, and will take place soon. Thanks for all of your support.

Stitched Sound is an online organization that brings you the news about tomorrow's bands as well as your favourite artists. As started before we do interviews, reviews and soon hope to embark on photography. We want to keep you updated about what's going on in the music industry, wether it's through an interview or update, we strive to let you know what you need to know.

Also, we have a Tumblr, Twitter, and Facebook! Links are at our site under the Contact bar. If it'd be possible and you guys were able to help us promote Stitched Sound it'd be great!

It's always crazy to see how much we've grown and how much we've accomplished. I hope you enjoy reading this, and please send your feedback - negative or positive - to cynniphotos@gmail.com or stitchedsound@googlemail.com

Cynthia Lam

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Meet The Stitched Sound Staff!

Cynthia Lam



What has been your favourite show you've attended?

Warped Tour 2009! Or Taste Of Chaos 2009. '09 was just an amazing year for concerts. There was taste of chaos, warped tour, and blink 182! I think show wise my favourite would be seeing blink 183 and fall out boy but Warped Tour always has that thing about it.

Born and raised in the city of Edmonton, Cynthia's been exposed to music of different genres, and has had a chance to experience Edmonton's tight knit music scene. As great as this city is, the lack of concerts teaches her not to take them for granted. Starting Stitched Sound was a way for her to reach out beyond a band forum, bringing the music to everyone she can. With Stitched Sound and school, she also finds time to pursue her passion - photography. She hopes to pursue writing and photography in her future, or even play music and travel the world!

Favourite Bands: The Maine, Brighten, Before Their Eyes, A Rocket To The Moon, All Time Low, Bring Me The Horizon, Pierce The Veil, The Summer Set, Death Cab For Cutie + more

What made you want to start SS?

It was a couple years back, and I'd always look through Alternative Press, and magazines like that and find out new bands from there. Then after a while I realized there was so much talent that aren't mentioned in the magazines! That's the biggest reasons that I started Stitched Sound. Bands should be getting the credibility and the publicity that they deserve. As well with that we also love working and bringing you updates and news with your favourite artists.

How hard was it to make an issue?

It's actually very simple, lots of copy pasting, dragging the pictures and text around, and voila! When the text and background color doesn't co-operate though...

Where do you see SS in 10 years?

Hopefully still up and going! I hope to move on to actual paper printing one day, but who knows? In the future everything's probably going to be done on the computer.

Do you ever feel like "giving up" on SS?

Well there's definitely been a lot of times where I'm just like "f*ck it." But I definitely love working on Stitched Sound too much to ever give it up!

Bianca Delicata



Bianca is born in a small town named Windsor, in Southern Ontario, and currently resides in Woodbridge, a town outside of Toronto. Bianca has learned over the years to not pay attention to negative comments towards her. She is a loud, sarcastic girl, that will speak her mind, even though it may be rude. She has a slight obsession with polaroid cameras, and Arizona Tea. Bianca isn't very much like her family; she refuses to dress accordingly to the designer brands (out there, at the moment), and also refuses to try to be someone else. She is still unsure of her dream career, but hopes to find it in her upcoming high school work.

Favourite Bands: All Time Low, Fall Out Boy, Versaemerge, Marianas Trench, etc.

Why do you enjoy helping out Stitched Sound?

It's fun as hell. You get to email some of your favourite bands, and ask them fangirl-ey questions. It just began helping out Cynn timer with album reviews and some interviews, 'cause it was only her, at the time. Now we've got a whole staff going on! I really hope Stitched Sound stays on track.

Who would your dream concert consist of?

The bands i first listened to! Fall Out Boy, Panic At The Disco, Cobra Starship, The Academy Is...

How big of a part does music have on your life?

Alot.

What's your favourite thing about Toronto?

I get to make fun of all the guidos and guidettes.

Where do you see yourself in life five years from now?

Graduating highschool, still using tumblr, and trying to contact bands for merch girls/tour managers.

Robbs Quezada



What would be your dream line-up for a concert?

My personal dream line-up would consist of: This Providence, The Maine, Anarbor, Chiodos, The Academy Is, Brighten, A Rocket To The Moon and I See Stars. Basically my favourite bands all on one tour!

Stefany Bryan



Who are your current musical obsessions?

The Maine, The Maine, The Maine!!!! For sure. I am what you call a little obsessed fan girl. I'm the type of person that is willing to do creeper status things in order to better my relations with The Maine. The Maine somehow ends up in practically every conversation, and almost anything can remind me of them. Maybe it's just two lines from a song that someone unintentionally said, or a random person with a band members' last name. Who knows. It's like an addiction, and it's kind of creepy.

How long have you been helping out with Stitched Sound?

4 It has been two months... right?

Robbs Quezada is an interviewer, album reviewer and photographer for the lovely website that is Stitched Sound. Robbs is currently a high school student residing in Toronto, Ontario. Some of Robbs' interests include listening to music, playing piano, reading comic books, drawing, going to concerts, taking photographs (especially live concert shots), hanging out with friends and frequently going to record stores.

Favourite Bands: This Providence, The Academy Is, The Maine, Brighten, A Rocket To The Moon, Cage The Elephant, The Gaslight Anthem, The Summer Set, All Time Low, This Century, I See Stars, Anarbor, The Bigger Lights, Chiodos, MGMT, Tokyo Police Club & Arctic Monkeys.

When did you join the Stitched Sound staff?

I joined the Stitched Sound staff in April 2010.

If you were a crayon, what colour would you be?

If I were a crayon, I'd be the colour purple simply because it's my favourite colour and it's the colour of grape juice which is amazing.

What made you want to become part of the Stitched Sound family?

Well Stitched Sound appealed to me as this awesome online magazine type of thing; as well, the music preferences between some of the Stitched Sound staff are mutual with what I like and overall, I decided that Stitched Sound would be a great opportunity for learning a bit more about the bands we interview, appreciating efforts made in albums with the reviews, appreciating the concert photography that is posted and of course, new friends are made along the way!

Harry Potter or twilight?

Harry Potter for sure!

Stefany Bryan was born in someplace in Korea that she can't remember or possibly pronounce at the moment. She was then adopted by her mom who is from New Zealand and her dad who grew up in Montana. She also has an older brother who is also adopted from Korea. She has lived in Seattle, Washington for her almost 16 years of life, and enjoys it very much. Stefany is a level ten gymnast and has been doing gymnastics since she was two. She works out four times a week for five hours each day. Gymnastics is pretty much everything to her and would be lost without it. She also started playing piano in 2000, and still likes it very much. She likes to edit pictures on the computer, but printing in the dark room is just as fun. She eats too much, and mooches like crazy. Some things she enjoys are, laughing until you pee, burping, and making solid that's what she said jokes. Some games she finds fun are Armenian dodge ball, volleyball, telephone, and queen elephant. She has no idea of how to match clothes, and feels guilty when she spends money. Stefany attempts to be deep, but isn't really, and wishes she had a good voice. Her favorite TV shows are The Office, 30 Rock, The Simpsons, and Family Guy. There's a special type of satisfaction that she finds in making others laugh, which helps on her constant quest to find happiness.

What is your favourite social networking site?

My favorite social networking site is Myspace because I used to make layouts and do coding and edit pictures for a fansite and all that good stuff. Too bad nobody uses it anymore. I don't even use it anymore, but I still think it's the coolest.

Do you play any instruments?

Yes, I play piano, and have for about ten years. I can play a lot of Beatles songs, but I'm no good without sheet music in front of me. I also play a little bass for a band that doesn't do much. I've only had two bass lessons though.

If you had a chance to meet anyone, dead or alive, who would it be?

It would most definitely be John Lennon. He is my biggest hero, not just musically, but in life too. If I did meet him, I'd probably discuss politics, contemplate life and death, and exchange thoughts on religion and God.

Sarah Rutz



What is the most awkward moment you've had at a show?

Probably when Gabe Saporta yelled at me and a friend of mine for not putting our fangs up at a Cobra Starship show. He yelled at us twice until we put our fangs up.

Sarah Rutz is a photographer, writer, graphic designer and music enthusiast based out of (somewhat boring) Northwest Ohio, but it's easy to catch her at shows in Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, and Pennsylvania. She digs all kinds of music and some of her favorite bands include All Time Low, A Day To Remember, Anberlin, City Lights and Sparks The Rescue. She loves to travel and take pictures of everything she sees, because that way she has the memories and a way to remember everything that she's done.

What's your favourite thing about Ohio?

In my area, at least, the wide open spaces. I love being able to drive out into the country and look at the stars without having to worry about them being blocked out by light pollution.

What sparked your interest in photography?

My dad has always been into photography, so when he bought me a camera for my birthday one year, I realised it was something that I really enjoyed doing. I liked the idea of capturing a single moment in a photo and I liked the idea of how photos tell stories.

Are you attending Warped Tour this year?

What bands are you excited to see? I am attending! And I'm really excited about Mayday Parade, because they always put on an amazing show, and also Bring Me The Horizon, because their pits are ridiculous!

What's your favourite thing about Stitched Sound?

I like that it brings the artists to the fans in a fun, creative way, and not just bands that everyone knows about, but also bands that are still getting their name out there. I think that connecting the two groups is important since we as fans are just as influenced by musicians as they are by us.

Sarah Lozano



Sarah Lozano might seem like your normal music freak, but she's a little more than that. She's not just a fan of music, she's a pretty big believer. Being raised in Houston, she was exposed at young age to the local and current rap music scene. Growing it was the pop music that she lived for. When she was older she found her own love for indie and post-hardcore rock. There's no good or bad music for Sarah, there's just beautiful organized chaos. Now she's attending an early college high school in order to graduated college as soon as she can and work in the music industry any she can.

Do you think that Stitched Sound will help build-up to your dream job?

Yes.

Do you run any of the Stitched Sound social networking sites?

tumblr mostly.

If you were in a band, what instrument/job will you most likely play/do?

I'd like to play keytar it seems fun.

What is your part in helping with Stitched Sound?

I think getting more involved in the music is really a big part of why I love it. I find that being a normal fan and going to show wasn't enough for me. When I found out of Stitched Sound, I thought of it as a way for me to learn new music, while also getting support bands in a bigger way.

What are the first three bands (that you can remember) that had helped you learn about other bands?

The Morning Of
The Hush Sound
The Academy Is...

Ashley Rollins



Ashley Rollins comes from the land where the mullets attack. (For those of you who may not know, that's the Dirty South.) Music is her everything. She works at Sony by day and goes to shows by night. She'd rather be in a sweaty pit with her best friends than anywhere else. She loves all kinds of music (except country). Her favorite past times are street teaming and reading. She's convinced that she's going to grow up to be like Sophia from the Golden Girls, and is completely content with that. You can usually find her at the Masquerade in Atlanta, GA.

Who is one band that you have to see before you die?

The Cure

What is your favourite tour/festival that you have attended?

Warped Tour is always an amazing and memorable experience. '05 was the best.

What's the best part about working with Stitched Sound?

Meeting new people and promoting new and exciting bands.

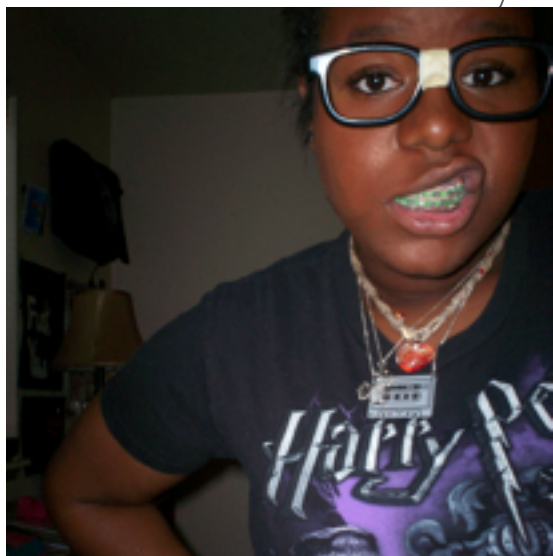
What is the most awkward moment you've had at a show?

Definitely has to be when I took Ant and Trace from Metro Station to Starbucks and Trace would only speak to me and my friend via Ant. i.e. We asked him how the tour was going and he just looked at Ant to answer. I guess that's not technically at a show but we were going to the show. haha

What do you hope to do in the future?

Keep doing what I love.

Danae Corey



Dannielle, 18 years old, grew up around music her whole life. Currently getting a degree in Commercial Photography, she hopes to play drums in a band and do band promos. Aside from drums she also plays or has played a number of instrument in and outside of school. At the moment, she is a studio photographer in Seattle, playing music and attending "as many shows as possible.". Stitched Sound was appealing because of her interest in music and desire to learn more about it.

What made you decide to join Stitched Sound?

I decided to join SS because I live for music and it's what I want to do with my life. I love interacting with individuals in bands and asking them questions about their music.

Where do you expect you will be in ten years or so?

On the road with my drumset, Chihuahua, and camera hopefully.

Who are your guilty pleasures?

As in artists we secretly like? Kill me but I actually liked some of the songs on Miley's cd Breakout.

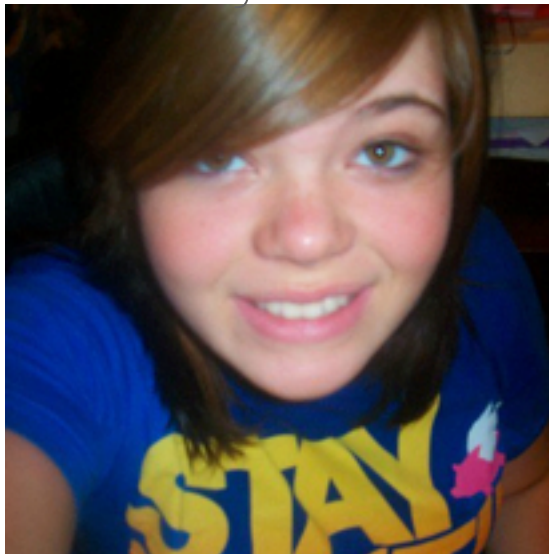
What's one thing you have to do before you die?

Music.

Tell me about your funniest moment at a show?

God. For AP Spring Tour we were right up front at El Corazon. Dave from Every Avenue would not stop hitting us in the face with the microphone cord. Then to top it off, his crotch was in our face half the time.

Haley Miller



What is your favourite thing about Chicago?

I love the city and surroundings. I love going to the zoo there, and just hanging around up town with my friends sometimes. Its a really nice city.

What's your favourite show that you've attended?

Warped Tour 09 due to the fact all my favorite bands at the time played that date, and I started my VersaEmerge obsession.

If you had the chance to tour with any band who would it be and why?

Probably The Maine. They are just really fun people and it seems like it would be a party with them.

What are your thoughts on autotune?

Its interesting. I'm not a big fan really. I think autotune should be left to T-Pain and Justin Bieber.

What's a random fact about you?

I got kicked out of best buy for annoying them to find The Summer Set's CD which they didn't have

WHILE SHE SLEEPS



Who are your biggest influences?

Friends, Family & Good times. We also take influence from music, not so much specific bands but anything that makes us listen.

What makes While She Sleeps distinct from other bands?

We write our music for ourselves, all we are trying to do is create a sound to express the personalities and feelings of each of us.

We're giving the only message we know how to give in the only way we can, through music.

Do you aim for a specific genre or sound while writing songs?

We feel the answer to this question is the same as the above.

What are your thoughts about illegally downloading music?

If downloading music is your only way of getting hold of it, We would.

If you can afford to buy the music you love, then it can only be appreciated.

Have you seen any crazy things happen during While She Sleep's sets? What happened?

A woman once gave birth during our set.

What is your favourite venue to play at?

We love the excitement of a totally fresh crowd. Our favourite venue is anywhere that is new to us.

What's the funniest thing that a band member has done?

Aaran our bassist once lost his marbles. Ask us at a show if you want to find out what happened ;)

How can fans support While She Sleeps?

Give us a chance. Listen to the tracks, read the words and If it makes sense to you, all we ask is for you to stick with us!

Do you have any goals for the future?

Yes, our only goal is to do this until we cant.

Interview by Cynthia Lam



THE PLOT IN YOU

Interview with Landon Tewers

Why did you guys decide to start Vessels?

Well at first Vessels was just something a few friends and I started just so we could keep playing music together. I had joined another band and was touring a lot. So it was just something to do for fun when I was home. About two years later, we put up a new song called "Wife Beater" and kids seemed into it. So my friend from my other band who owns InVogue records asked if I wanted to release an EP just for fun. So we did, and we were stoked on it. Just recently I left the band I was in before, and now we're all doing this full time.

How did you meet the other members of Vessels?

I had been in bands with two of the guys since I was like 14. Once we decided to take it more seriously and play shows on the EP, my friend that I live with Ethan joined on bass, then our friend Josh came in on guitar, our drummer Cole just joined a few weeks ago after our drummer left. He was in Ethans old band. Super good friend of ours.

What's your favourite song to play off Wife Beater?

I love playing Clots live.

What was the songwriting process for Wife Beater like?

Well I do a lot of home recording stuff, so I would just write the songs on guitar and program really simple drum parts to follow along. Then our drummer would come in and do his thing.

Where do you get the inspiration for your lyrics since they aren't generic?

I wanted to do something with the EP that hadn't really been done before. Child abuse, rape, murder, wife beaters, home made abortions, and child molesting hadn't really been touched lyrically yet. Those are real events that happen to real people. The whole EP tells a story about 4 different awful people. All the stories were inspired by people I know, and things they went through.

How does the touring schedules of Walking Edith Park and The Sound of Glory affect Vessels?

Neither of those bands exist anymore actually.

If you could go on stage wearing any outfit of your choice what would it be?

I would wear a tux, with a saw mask, black leather shoes, and a red tie.

Who do you wake up in the morning feeling like?

Clint Eastwood.

Should we be expecting a full length soon?

Depends on your definition of "soon". Within the year 2010, most likely.

What does the future hold for Vessels?

Hopefully some trips to the dentist, and some tours with Slipknot and Gwar.

Interview by Cynthia Lam

HELLO, ASTRONAUT

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

Interview with Jordan Palmer

I didn't have a deep interest in music until I bought my first guitar when I was 13. Before that age, I was really into sports and never even really gave music a second thought. Once I got older, I took an interest in production and engineering. I bought a multi-track recorder to get things started and recorded the bands I was in for fun.

Is there a certain mood or location that you have to be in order to write music?

I usually like to write my music alone in the middle of the night. It gives me time to think about the important things in my life and makes me more able to focus. I find it more difficult to write at other points in the day because things are too hectic. I usually write and record in my room. I'm never really in a specific mood when I write. Some artists can only write when they're upset or angry, but I just write when something comes to me.

What has been the biggest challenge for you to overcome? How did you overcome this?

I think the biggest challenge has been learning to accept where I am in my life. It may seem weird but I have a very competitive attitude and am always thinking about what I can do to be better. Sometimes it gets the best of me.

Did you aim for a specific genre, age group, and audience when you first started Hello, Astronaut?

I never really intended for this to be anything more than just me writing music for the fun of it. Over the past year it has become something more than that. Now that the project is my main focus in life, I intend to target all those who can relate to any part of any song, regardless of their age.

What is your favourite track off "Paper! Snow! A Ghost!"?

I'd say 7ate9. It was the last song I wrote on that album. I think I like it because that's the point when I started going in a different direction with my music. My new music sounds worlds different though.

Who were your childhood hero(es)? Did they inspire you musically in any way?

I can't remember having heroes as a child. As I've grown up though I've continued to look up to my dad. He's always gone the extra mile to help me.

What's the one thing you need to do before you die?

I'd love to go skydiving. I don't think I'll ever have the guts to do it though.

If you could have superpowers what would they be and why?

Flying! I've always wondered what that would be like. I used to have dreams about it when I was little, haha.

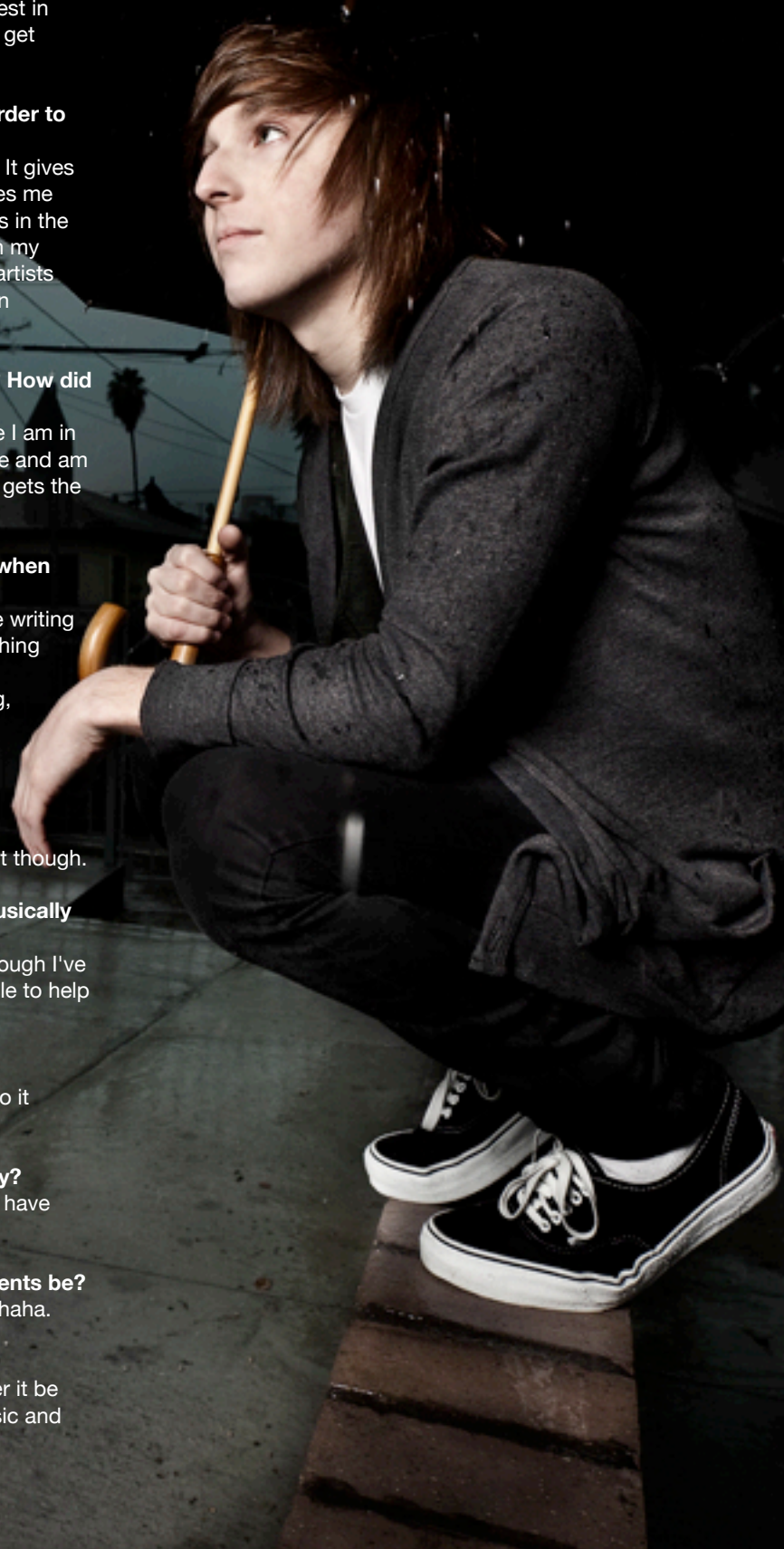
If Hello, Astronaut was a sandwich, what would the ingredients be?

Um, probably something very unhealthy...I have a terrible diet, haha.

Where do you expect you will be in ten/fifteen years?

Hopefully still working with music in any capacity I can, whether it be producing or owning a studio. As long as I'm working with music and following my passion, I'll be content with my life.

Interview by Cynthia Lam



THE JIM IVINS BAND

What is the story behind the name of your band?

Me and Bobby (bass for JIB) were in a pop punk band called Busted Wire for six years, beginning at the end of 8th grade. While I don't exactly think its the greatest band name of all time, at the time it took months to come up with. Once Busted Wire started fizzling out, I happened to have just begun a relationship I was particularly stoked about and out of nowhere started writing very different acoustic-sounding songs for what would become my solo album "99¢ Dreams." Even though Busted Wire wasn't nearly at full speed anymore, I never actually planned on doing anything serious with the songs like playing them in a band or anything. However, I got such an unbelievably positive reaction to the album, much more than I'd gotten with anything I'd ever done so I decided to

form a band. Being that I wrote everything, music and lyrics, I decided not to bother coming up with a band name because it was too hard and I'm lazy haha. Honestly we were just going to be Jim Ivins but Drew (guitar/vocals) said he refused to play under that name and that we would be The Jim Ivins Band. I was more than OK with that.

If you could hang out with any artist, dead or alive who would you choose and why?

Liam and Noel Gallagher from Oasis. Oasis are my all time favorite band and the Gallagher brothers are the last real rock stars in my mind so I would love to hang out with them. Also I idolize Noel Gallagher as a songwriter and I've ripped him off way too many times.

Harry Potter or Lord of the Rings?

I may get shit for this but I'll say Harry Potter. I get a lot of shit because I don't exactly "read" but I can honestly say I read three and a quarter Harry Potter books so maybe that's what puts it over Lord of the Rings. Also because "The Return of the King" refused to end.

How do you balance your music with other obligations?

I usually ignore my other obligations haha

What's your favorite holiday?

Christmas. Easily.

Who is your celebrity crush?

Zooey Deschanel. Damn you Ben Gibbard.



If you could hang out with any artist, dead or alive who would you choose and why?

Liam and Noel Gallagher from Oasis. Oasis are my all time favorite band and the Gallagher brothers are the last real rock stars in my mind so I would love to hang out with them. Also I idolize Noel Gallagher as a songwriter and I've ripped him off way too many times.

2007 was a good year for Pop Rock/ Pop punk music . How did you meet as a band and what inspired you guys to start making music together?

Like I mentioned above, we started playing music together after the enthusiastic reaction to my solo album "99¢ Dreams." Once I had the confidence to really go out and play these songs, I wanted to assemble my dream team band. Jack (drums) is my brother so we've been jamming together since I was in about the sixth grade and since he's the best drummer I've ever seen, getting him in my band was a no brainer. Bobby and I had been playing music together for years in Busted Wire so he too was an easy choice. As for Drew, he was one of the biggest inspirations to me writing the songs for "99¢ Dreams." Drew is an amazing songwriter and he's two years younger than me so when I met him and heard him play me his songs I was instantly jealous that someone younger than me wrote such great songs (Check

him out at www.myspace.com/drewmartinband). I try and top him constantly and I really wanted him in the band so I was glad that he joined. The seeds for this lineup are actually present on "99¢ Dreams," being that Jack plays drums and Drew sings backup vocals on my favorite song on the album, "Run."

How many performances have you done since you started?

No idea but over the last two and a half years we have played Virginia a ton, as well dates up and down the whole east coast, from Boston to Miami. We've opened up for some great national bands along the way as well including Carolina Liar, Parachute, Mae, The Ataris, Carbon Leaf, Cracker, Rookie of the Year, and blueskyreality, as well as getting to record two songs with my idol, Ace Enders from The Early November.

Do you have a preferred genre of music?

To listen to? Not at all. Not just me but I can speak for all the guys in the band when I say that all of us are into different things, from rock to pop to rap to metal (Jack is a phenomenal metal drummer). Right now I've been listening to a lot of The Goo Goo Dolls and Third Eye Blind and Chris Cornell. Also being that its summertime I listen to Unwritten Law and 311 a lot more. Drew just got me hooked on the new Matt Wertz EP and I also highly

recommend the new album from I Can Make A Mess Like Nobody's Business, "The World We Know."

As a band, what is your biggest challenge?

Getting people to give you a chance in a time where there are just SO MANY BANDS. Richmond is a tough town to break when you're an acoustic pop rock band because Richmond is mostly known for hardcore and all things punk rock but we're just building our base like every other band - one fan at a time.

What's the most memorable thing a fan has given you, if anything?

This isn't necessarily a gift but a fan actually wrote a paper about me for a class she was taking in college. That definitely made me feel very cool.

To aspiring musicians and bands, what advice do you have to offer?

Write, write, write. Also don't get discouraged - being in a band is really hard, its gonna take a while to build a following so just play as much as possible.

What can we expect from you in the future?

Hopefully getting signed and taking over the world and everyone's lives in it. For now we're just gonna play as much as we can promoting our newest self-titled EP, which is available on iTunes.

Interview by Danae Corey



VALASKA

Interview with Dave Valdez



How important do you think it is, for bands to keep in-touch with their fans?

It's everything!! a band or musician that is cut off from his fans is like a slap in the face. I think it goes beyond posting a blog once in a while, just answering people personally can make all the difference. You can be a great musician but if you don't speak with fans, they might not stay fans much longer. I can honestly say I have never let a message, comment, anything! go unanswered on my Myspace. In general, I love meeting new people and I have met tons of people through Valaska. I am thankful for the fans that I have, they mean a lot to me and Valaska.

What should fans expect at a Valaska show?

What I expect or hope people will get from a Valaska live show is just a sense of calm and enjoyment. Of course I want to put on a good performance and I have my best friends Charlie, Mike, and Griffin backing me up as the Valaska live band but I don't care about crazy light shows or choreographed guitar spins, if a person can go to a show, take the time to hear my words and just think to themselves "I can relate to that" then my job is done.

Is there anything specific you'd like to accomplish in 2010?

Well.. I am releasing my EP on June 8th, so I want to spread the word on that as much as I can. For the rest of 2010 I just want to get my name out there. That is really all I can ask for, I don't need fame or anything like that. I just want to be known as a musician.

How did you get into playing music?

When I think about when or how I got into playing music I try to think back as far as possible to pin point an actual moment that I started to play music but, it has just always been a part of me. When I was a child I always wanted to be a drummer so while other kids were outside playing at the park, I was inside using pencils as drumsticks just hitting buckets and pans. My parents later bought me a little mini kiddie drumset. Later, my brother's friend trashed my drumset and instead of buying me a new one, my parents just said.. "here is a guitar, try this out for a little bit" that's pretty much my first music related memory.

Who was your childhood hero?

My childhood hero or heroes were basically musicians in general. I was so enthralled with the idea of being a musician that anyone who was one, I felt I could learn so much from them, in so many ways I still believe that to be true. You can learn so much just by surrounding yourself with different musicians.

How has being in a band changed your life?

For me what has changed my life was not so much being in a band but rather, going from being in a band to being a solo musician. I used to be in a band called The Obstacles, I had some of the best times of my life with all of them, all of those guys are my best friends. When the band broke up and I started Valaska, I knew it was going to be difficult doing everything on my own. It has easily been the hardest challenge I have faced in my life. The future of your music doesn't rely on a group of guys, it relies on you.. and only you, thankfully I am a very determined individual.

What was your most memorable moment during highschool?

My most memorable moment(s) during high school were going out on little weekend tours every other weekend or so. I remember anxiously awaiting that Friday morning when all of us would miss school because we were driving 13 hours to Arkansas to play a show just to drive back right after the show to make it back to class by Monday morning. Many people called it stupid and a waste of time but I still look back at them as some of the best experiences I have ever had, plus we still managed to get good grades.. can't argue with that.

What was the best moment in 2009 for Valaska?

The best part of 2009 for Valaska was watching everything come together. I have only been playing piano since April of 2009, I spent all summer locked in my room not allowing myself to get out till I felt I was a decent piano player. Not too long after Valaska was launched in August of '09 I began looking for someone to record a debut EP with and that was when I began speaking with Aaron Marsh of the band Copeland. We booked time in January of 2010 to record the EP. It was one of the biggest honors to be able to record an EP with Aaron.

How long would you like to be playing music for?

I know that regardless of where I go in life, music will be a part of it however, I would like for my music to reach people as long as I possibly can. If there are people out there that want to listen I will always be happy to share my music with them

*When and where was your first show?

Valaska's first show was September 11th at The House Cafe with Treaty of Paris. I had never been more nervous.

Interview by Bianca Delicata

SKIES ALIVE

Interview with Andrew



What inspires Skies Alive lyrically?

For the most part my lyrics are my "side of the story", describing true events in my life. Matt has written lyrics for Skies though, too. He helped me out with some problem areas while we were finishing the "Say It Back EP", and he wrote all the lyrics for the disc before that. I couldn't tell you what inspires his content though.

What made you decide that you wanted to play music?

Well, initially, I believe it was Michael Jackson. Of course, that seems like a really typical answer considering last year's tragic events, but that's the truth. I was six years old when I told my mom I was going to be the next MJ. My goals have evolved a bit since then, but playing music has still remained my main priority.

What in your opinion is the toughest challenge for musicians today?

God, there's so many that I've never bothered to rank them. Differentiating yourself, living up to your recordings, maintaining your integrity, gaining any recognition whatsoever, maintaining your momentum, managing a budget.

I guess, if I had to decide, it would be differentiating yourself. Discovering your own sound and developing your own style is incredibly difficult. It's a long process and some bands never meet their full potential. I know Skies hasn't quite done it yet.

How would you describe Skies Alive?

This question is always really tough. I think of Skies Alive as a rock band, plain and simple. If you would like a more specific description, I implore you to listen and tell me what you think it sounds like!

Who are your favourite bands to tour with?

Come on! That's like asking a parent which kid is their favorite! Since I've joined the band we've gone out with The King & The Thief, Atavan, Danger Is My Middle Name, and Take Cover. Truthfully, every one of those bands ranks as a favorite of mine. The King & The Thief and Take Cover are old friends of ours, we've all known each other since before these bands existed. So touring with them just feels like vacationing with old friends that you haven't seen in awhile. And then with Danger and Atavan, everyone learned so much together on that tour. We made really fast friends, and it was on that tour that a lot of us felt like we were breaking out of Minneapolis a little bit. It was reassuring to meet people from other parts of the country that were just like us, trying to get their music to new places the old-fashioned way.

How have you grown musically since you first joined Skies Alive?

Oh, I've grown immensely since I joined. I came to the band after almost 2 years away from singing. I was out of practice, out of breath, and short on ideas. The guys gave me time to get up to speed. They really gave me a chance, and allowed me room to improve. Of course, I'm not done yet though, either. I

recently began piano lessons and I'm ear training.

What makes a Skies Alive song?

Uh, whisky and ice, and everything nice? I guess, what makes a Skies Alive song is whatever you make of a Skies Alive song.

What has been your biggest accomplishment?

I think our biggest accomplishments would be surviving each others' company for extended periods of time without breaking up, tied with always keeping a full schedule. I am really grateful that Skies is always working towards another task. It's always sad to see a band lose speed, so we are trying to avoid that as much as we can.

If you got to ask one of your heroes or inspirations a question, what would it be, and who would you ask?

I would ask Michael Jackson or Patrick Stump, "When you complete a song, do you know when it will be a hit? Or do you just write your music as you do and find out later that a track has risen to the top of the charts?"

How can fans help promote Skies Alive?

My favorite way to find out about bands is word of mouth. If you like the songs, pass the files to your friends. If you're coming to a show, bring someone with you.

Interview by Cynthia Lam

DAYS DIFFERENCE

Interview with Jeremy William Smith



What made you decide to start Days Difference?

The connection and the chemistry we had when we played together convinced us to start the band.

What is your favourite tour that you've been on?

That's like asking a mother to pick her favorite child. We've loved every tour we've been on. Right now we're with Jordin Sparks for the summer. She's amazing.

If you got to turn back time and give yourself one piece of advice before you took the journey in the music industry, what would it be?

"The band is going to go further than you could ever imagine. Just breathe, relax and enjoy every moment like it's a gift."

What, in your opinion is overrated right now?

Cats. Dogs are so much better.

How much of an impact has the internet have in Days Difference?

The internet is the reason we are where we are. We owe a lot of our success to the internet.

What is your favourite city and venue to play in? Why?

Norfolk, Virginia at the NorVa. It's our hometown venue. We grew up playing there. I love being home.

If you weren't playing music right now what would you be doing?

Answering interview questions.

Did you expect to be where you are now three years ago?

No. I have always had dreams of grandeur and success, but I never expected to learn and grow as much as I have. That's what this is all about, the journey, where the road is taking us next, and I never could have dreamt it would be like this.

Who are your biggest influences?

All those incredible bands on the other side of the Atlantic are our biggest influences.

What are ways fans can help promote Days Difference?

By telling all of their friends about us. Word of mouth is the most effective way to promote anything. Also, they can join our online street team at ddoperatives.com. It's pretty awesome.

Interview by Cynthia Lam

VANNA

Interview with Shaun and Davey



What's your favourite thing about Boston?

Davey: The fact that our family and friends are from there and the music scene. We have a lot of history with Boston music.

Shaun: I like that there's something going on and even though it's a small city, there's a lot to do and a lot of heart.

How has Vanna grown musically since the beginning?

Davey: I think that everyone's grown up and with the newer members over the past couple of years we all have a common goal and know what we want.

Shaun: We've basically combined all our interests and influences and picked out all the things we like and try to put a new spin on what made us originally excited about music.

Have you ever played Warped Tour? What was the experience like?

Shaun: Yeah, we played 3 dates on the East coast last summer and it was unreal. Not only were there lots of fans, but the experience of playing outside and being around so many bands and

industry makes you feel alive and that all the work we're doing is really being noticed. The Boston Warped was unbelievable, playing in front of about 10,000 people in an amphitheater situation since it was our old singer's last show. This year with Davey it should be even better and we have 2 weeks instead of 3 days.

What has been the hardest challenge for Vanna to overcome? How have you overcome it?

Davey: The changing face of the music industry has really changed in the way that bands that just pop up out of nowhere can make a lot of money quick while hardworking bands that have been doing it for awhile with a lot of heart get overlooked.

Shaun: We've seen both types of these bands and we're trying to maintain a steady middle ground. We want to be successful for sure, but we do want to hold onto the reason why we started playing this music to start, and that's the passion that we grew up seeing at shows in this scene.

What's the craziest fan experience that you've had?

Davey: We had a fan one time tell us he wants to wear our skin. That's crazy.

Shaun: Yeah, I agree with that. Everything else seems kinda innocent compared to that one.

What's the favourite tour that you've been on? What made it so memorable?

Davey: I think this tour right now in (Europe/UK) is the coolest. We're just getting to see sites and people that we'd never have been able to see if we weren't touring here now.

Shaun: It's also just humbling and totally satisfying traveling to another continent and seeing people that we've NEVER met singing along to our songs. That's an inspiring feeling.

What does the future hold for Vanna?

Davey: New record, more tours, more facial hair.

Shaun: I think I'm shaving my mustache after this tour.

Interview by Cynthia Lam

CADY GROVES



One of our interviewers Sarah Lozano got a chance to interview Cady Groves at Bamboozle Roadshow.

Check out the interview at:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ucZrLwRQYIA>





Interview with A.J. Novak

How did the members of Disco Curtis meet?

Tanner and I (A.J.) met in elementary school, Garrett joined us in middle school, and we met Brendan in high school. It was funny, Brendan used to be in a band called Cross Town Rivals, and the rest of us were in a band called Outlet. We used to compete each year at the school talent show and Battle of the Bands.

Are you excited to be on warped tour 2010? What bands are you stoked to see?

Yes! It is going to be a blast. We are really excited to see Sum 41. We used to cover their songs at school pep rallies.

What, in your opinion, is the best social networking site to keep in contact with fans?

It seems that facebook has become quite the rage, but we will always be attached to Myspace because it was a big part of the band's development.

Is there anything you regret saying to a fan? Or something that you wish you said to a fan?

One time I thought someone stole a Disco Curtis shirt, when really it was a huge miscommunication. I got worked up and said "Man I just want to punch them in the face." I then found out they were sitting right next to me and they thought the shirt had been a free giveaway.

Are their certain dates and shows that stick out to you?

Big shows are always fun and have tons of energy, but smaller shows are really fun too. It is always cool when people know the words to the songs.

What do you think you would be doing right now if you weren't in Disco Curtis?

I would definitely still be playing music and trying to pursue a career with my drumming.

Who are your favourite bands to play with?

We really enjoyed playing with The Maine and Metro Station (too bad they are not a band anymore!)

What do you like seeing at a Disco Curtis show?

I love hanging out with people that are enthusiastic about what we are doing. I get so much energy when I talk to fans of our music. It makes me feel really special when I know that what we do as a band is making others happy. Regardless of the size of the show, we really enjoy hanging out with our fans.

What are ways that fans can help promote Disco Curtis?

Word of mouth is a simple and effective way of promoting our band. Just let your friends know about us so we can get a chance to meet them at a show!

How long do you hope to play music for?

My whole life. Hands down.

Interview by Cynthia Lam

SPARKS THE RESCUE

Interview with Toby



How much of a part did music have in your life when you were in High School?

When we were in high school, we spent a lot of time in the band room. All of us were involved in the music programs at our schools including high school band, jazz band, etc. We also all had our own bands outside of school, and that's when we started to figure out that this was our passion and something we wanted to pursue as a career.

What has been the craziest tour you've been on? What made it so crazy?

The last tour we just finished with Mayday Parade was the craziest tour we've been on. All the shows were absolutely phenomenal! There were hundreds of kids every night that just wanted to be around live music and hang out, and that's what being involved in a music scene is really all about. The bands we were out with (Mayday Parade, A Rocket To The Moon, and Sing It Loud), were some of the coolest dudes we've ever had the pleasure of touring with, and we definitely got wild and had too much fun.

If you had to describe Sparks The Rescue's live performance in one word what would it be and why?

I would describe our live performance as "frightening," that's actually more of an inside joke amongst us as band members

cause we scare each other on stage every night, but it's only because we rock out as hard as possible. We like to think of ourselves as a really fun live band with high energy.

Do you ever play your own songs on Tap Tap Revenge 3? What's your high score?

I have tried to play both Vampires and Autumn on TTR3...needless to say I am terrible haha. It's still one of the coolest things though! Lots of kids that come see us play live only know us because of that game, which goes to show how something small can go a long way. We are really grateful to be a part of that.

What is your favourite thing to do on days off of tour?

We try to relax on days off, but recently on tour with The Morning Of, we had the opportunity to all go to Disney World in Florida..which was amazing. We also like to hit the beach if it's near by, and maybe play some ultimate frisbee!

What is the songwriting process for Sparks The Rescue like?

Alex usually comes in with song ideas like a guitar lick, or a verse/chorus, and then we run with it. Sometimes songs can come together in a few minutes, and sometimes it takes days.

Did you attend Warped Tour growing up? What was the experience like?

We used to take road trips to go see warped tour in high school, and Alex was in a band that followed warped one year. It's one part of summer that almost every teenage kid looks forward to, so we are very honored to be part of the best musical summer camp this year!

Do you have a message to your fans who are going to see Sparks The Rescue at Warped Tour?

Please come say hi to us at our tent, and come rock out with us while we play! We are going to be hanging out every day trying to meet new friends and hang out with those of you who we already know :)

What's your favourite food to eat while on tour?

We are big candy fans...and unfortunately we are usually consumed by fast food. But when we can save up money and have band cook outs or bbq's, its absolutely heaven.

Does Sparks The Rescue have any plans after Warped Tour?

As soon as Warped is done, we are heading home to begin writing/recording our sophomore release for Fearless Records...we couldn't be anymore excited!

Interview by Cynthia Lam



Interview with Stephen

How did the members of Barely Blind meet?

Most of us actually met each other in middle school. Reid, Brad, and Canaan(original member) started the band when they were in 9th grade together. Will was playing in another band at the time but decided to come jam with the guys and after playing just about every blink 182 song in the book, decided to make the move. Haha. What most people don't know is that I,(Stephen) started a band when I was 13 and played alongside Barely Blind for years. Some of my first shows ever were with Barely Blind, so its kinda funny how things turned out the way they did. If you would have told me when I was 13, that 7 years from now, id be playing in Barely Blind, I would have laughed at you.

What is your favourite song to play live? Why?

We recently wrote a song that is currently titled "The Great White Buffalo". As for now, that is my favorite to play live. We have several others in the works that I have a feeling will be strong contenders.

What should fans expect at a Barely Blind show?

All you guys can expect a fun, energetic, and LOUD experience! Hah. We feel that the majority of shows now a days have a slightly monotone feel to them, so you can expect a different feel than the average show. A good feel!

What, in your opinion is "good" music?

Good music to me, is anything and everything that feels good. I think good music cant be formulated. As long as a song feels great, has a clever structure, and interesting parts, I will most likely argue with you, or debate if you will, if you disagree hah.

When Barely Blind first started did you aim for a specific genre?

I know I can speak for all of us when I say, we are all in a band today because of Blink 182. We never had a specific aim, per say, but we knew we always wanted to be ourselves no matter what. Barely Blind has been a band for 7 years, and I feel like we are just now coming into our sound.

What is the songwriting and recording process for Barely Blind like?

We aren't the kind of band that takes a part to the jam room, and works it out until we produce a song. We work on parts for months, writing multiple songs at once. We are all about things coming together naturally.

When it comes to illegally downloading music, what is your opinion?

I say its better for fans to have it illegally then not have it at all. If you want our cd and you honestly cant afford it on itunes, then by all means, get to downloading.

If you got to live in any decade in the past, present and future which would it be and why?

Id have to say the 60's or the 70's as cliché as that sounds. So many incredible things were happening in music. We are all so influenced by so many bands from that time. No one likes hearing, "Too bad you missed out on rock n roll."

Is there's a message that you want to send through music?

Our last e.p "My Life With a Giant", is about growing up and dealing with all the trials and tribulations in life. A good message can add a lot of flavor to a good record. These new songs are mostly about believing in yourself and just never giving up.

What do you hope to accomplish in the future?

All we can hope for is that everyone will just give us an honest chance. Barely Blind has always been able to overcome every obstacle thats came our way. Every step further we get, the goals keep adding up. I just hope they continue!

Any last words?

Hm, Last words?
#panicattacksarenormal! Help spread the word and check out the music video we just filmed for it at www.barelyblind.com. We love all you guys, and thanks for the constant support!

LAST LETTER READ



What sparked your interest in music?

Rob: For me I not sure I know how to answer that. I've been a music lover literally since i can remember. Even in primary school, i'd get told off for singing whilst working! I guess my love for pop punk was thanks to the likes of Green Day with 'Nimod'. Growing up I was the biggest Green Day fan, and it was thanks to bands like them, Blink 182, Bowling For Soup etc, that brought our band together.

Dane: For me it was it was New Found Glory. I played guitar when I was younger and at 14 wanted to be Chad Gilbert.

How big of a part does Last Letter Read have on your life?

Rob: A massive part. Nearly everything I do, I'm thinking about the band. My work probably hate me for the amount of time i ask off for the band. I was there for a week then asked for 10 days off for a tour with

Quietdrive! Also, being in Last Letter Read means our friends, familys and loved ones have to be very understanding of the time we spend away from them. Being at shows, rehearsals, and recording. They're all amazing with the support they give us though.

Dane: The biggest, it's what I want to do in live, wake up in a new town, play a show with four of my best friends, party, sleep and do it all over again. I have met a lot of awesome people and played with some awesome bands

Who are your biggest influences?

Rob: Ok, I'll try and generalize for the whole band here haha. Fall Out Boy, Motion City Soundtrack, Mayday Parade, The Dangerous Summer, All Time Low, Kids In Glass Houses Relient K, New Found Glory etc, the list is endless.

Dane: Bands would have to be New Found Glory, Rufio, Mayday Parade, Quietdrive, All Time Low, along those

lines. As For people I'd have to say Jon Berry, ex Rufio and now Runner Runner Bassist, if I could be as good as him one day I'd die a happy man.

What was the songwriting process for These Stories Roll like?

Rob: It was difficult, because our old drummer Curt, quit the band halfway thru the writing process. We had a temp drummer help us write and record the drum parts, but basically, it was alot of time spent in our van (before it got stolen) writing with acoustics, and working in the rehearsal studio. Miles Away was written in two days or something silly, Fact.

Dane: Long but fun. Many nights spent in the van (RIP) trying to get them right, but we are very happy with the outcome of our hard work.

If you got to say anything to your fans what would it be?

Rob: Thanks for all the love and support you always give us. I know we've had a bad year, but we're back and stronger than ever, and we're doing our best to play the best shows for you, and write the best songs we can for our next cd, so don't give up on us, cos we're always going to give it our all for you guys! So please buy the new cd, and come along to the shows, sing along, and dance with us.

Dane: Thank you so much for listening to us and coming to see us live! Carry on the support, we love you for it!

Has Last Letter Read gotten negative feedback? How did you deal with it?

Rob: We used to over analyze it, and let it get us down a lot. Now, we really don't take it on board at all. If someone hates our music, or thinks we suck live, thats cool, as long as there are people who enjoy it, that's all that matters!

Dane: The Manchester Metro pretty much just commented on our dress sense from a photo shoot done a year before and didn't even come to the show it was meant to be reviewing, we didn't have to deal with it, our fans left their own comments which we are grateful for!

What is the craziest thing that has ever happened at a show, rehearsal, or practice?

Rob: Nakedness on tour. Going to the movies very drunk whilst recording. Rehearsals are the worst though. Randomly just play in our boxers, or have a huge argument over nothing, which ends in a huge joke. Wait, no, the craziest thing thats ever happened to our band so far is when we got asked to play with All Time Low. Nothing beats that.

Dane: There has been a lot of random and pointless nakedness and turning into a heavy metal band for about 20 minutes in practice. The crazy stuff happens on tour

really.....nights in an airport and sleeping in the car park. Random nights in hotels with Quietdrive and crazy parties in Wales.

What in your opinion, is overrated in the music industry right now?

Rob: Black eyed peas & Justin Bieber

Dane: I don't really listen to a lot of "what's in" right now, just what people recommend me to listen to, which I love, if you like any good bands, tell me to have a listen!

Do you have any plans set for the future?

Rob: Getting our name out there!! Playing as many shows as we can, and generally having an awesome time with anyone we meet. After promoting this EP, we're heading right back into the studio to make another, which will be ready for winter.

Dane: Be in this band for as long as possible and see what I can of the world doing so!

Any last words?

Rob: If you want to chat to us, message our myspace or email us, we always write back, promise.
ps. I love food.

Dane: Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to read this, listen to us, come to a show or even tell a friend. Without you none of what we have achieved so far would be possible!

Interview by Cynthia Lam



JUST LEFT

Interview with Bobby Weglarz



What was it like sharing the stage with bands such as Fall Out Boy and All Time Low?

Everytime we get to play a show with a super established band like All Time Low, The Maine, Sing It Loud, etc. it's always a really cool experience. When you see those bands at like Warped Tour or on TV you see them as huge rockstars, but when you get to meet them, and even get to play on the same show as them, you start to realize that they are all super down to earth people and are just doing the exact same thing you are, making music and playing shows, and hoping that people dig it. Playing with bands like Fall Out Boy and Spitalfield, bands that we really look up to and admire is a little intimidating though. At the same time, both those bands came from Chicago, and played at a lot of the same venues that we play at, so it's cool to think "Well if they can do it, then we definitely can too!"

What do you like to see from the crowd at your shows?

We all love to see the crowd having a good time and going crazy with us. The more fun a crowd is and the more energy they give off, the more energy we can give back. We always try to put on a good, entertaining show for everyone since they came out to see us play, and if the crowd is going nuts and having fun then we know we've done our jobs. We absolutely love the people that come out and sing the songs with us and dance and just have a good time.

How old were you when Just Left started? Has age ever been a barrier for Just Left?

I joined Just Left when I was 19 or 20 I think, but I know Aaron and Bobby have been playing together since they were in high school. Age has only ever really been a barrier when it comes to playing at venues that serve alcohol and have 21 and over shows, because they really don't like to book underage bands, but now that we're all grown up and out of high school we don't have to worry about that anymore

Where do you think you will be five years from today?

Hopefully still sitting in the van with everyone playing shows and going on tour still! Playing music for a living has been a dream of all of ours, and we've been lucky enough to have some success doing it so far. I mean this year is both mine and Timmy's 5 year anniversary of being in the band, and we can't believe it's been that long. The first five years have been filled with some incredible memories, so hopefully we have another 5 years of awesomeness to look forward to!

What is your favourite thing about Chicago?

I love the diversity of both the city and the music scene. I mean if you go to downtown Chicago, there are so many things to do and to see, and we are all super lucky to have grown up around a city that has so much history in it. The same can be said for the music scene, there are so many bands, and so many different kinds of music that there's something for everyone in it.

What was it like working with Ace Enders and Chris Badami?

It was an incredible experience. We were all huge fans of The Early November and I Can Make A Mess..., so when we got the opportunity to go out to New Jersey and record with him, we were extremely excited. Ace is an amazing musician and really taught us a lot about songwriting, song structuring, and playing together as a band, and I think we'll continue to remember what he taught us for a long time. Chris Badami also does amazing work, I mean he produced or had a part of some of the most influential records that have come out of the pop/punk scene over the past few years, so to have him working on our stuff and interested in our band was a huge, huge compliment.

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

Wow, that's a super hard question! I'd say any song by Third Eye Blind or The Goo Goo Dolls. We're all really influenced by late 90's pop/rock bands like that, and even though those songs came out like 10 years ago, I still could never get sick of hearing them.

What is your favourite track off "Think Fast"?

Personally I love "Just Forget It", I think that song really shows our influences in bands like Taking Back Sunday, The Starting Line, old Drive Thru Bands, etc. I also think that it's a little bit more of an aggressive song than our fans are used to hearing from us, so it was a really good song to have on the album. I also love "Tell Me What You're Thinking". That was one of the songs produced by Ace Enders, and I really think that he helped make that song a really fun, catchy one, and I know a lot of our fans like that one too.

What is, in your opinion, the best social networking site to keep in touch with fans?

I personally think that Facebook has really grown to be the smartest and easiest site to keep in touch with fans. I mean it used to be Myspace, but Facebook has really taken over. Being able to create events, chat with people, and post updates, makes it really easy to stay in contact with fans. Haha if you asked Bob or Tim though they might say Twitter, I have no idea how to even use that but like everyone is doing that now haha so until I figure out how to use that I'm gonna stick with Facebook.

Interview by Cynthia Lam

Attack Attack! ★★★★★



Setting themselves apart from other bands that consider themselves metalcore, Ohio band Attack Attack! has incorporated several elements into their music that makes them unique and different to the genre. The self-titled album, released on June 8th, opens up with a quick piano intro on "Sexual Man Chocolate" before gradually adding in guitars and the more hardcore elements that the band is known for. Listening on, listeners will come across "Shut Your Mouth", which is a full out dance song. It's that one song on the album that doesn't really seem to fit, since there's no screaming and it's pretty much just an electronica number, but listening through the album for the first time, it was quite surprising. Another surprise was the song "Lonely", which starts off as a medium-tempo ballad before slowly building up to a more melodious sound. The song also features Jason Cameron of Bury Tomorrow, and the closer of the CD is sort of a surprise ending, to close out the CD on a somewhat softer tone than what the rest of the CD is like, but it deviates from what we would expect as listeners.

For fans of the band, the new album is definitely a pleaser. Songs like "Renob, Nevada" and "AC-130", are what we are familiar with, along with some new twists that songs like "Lonely" and "Fumbles O'Brian" throw in there. It's a good mix of electronica and metal, which is sometimes difficult to pull off, but Attack Attack! seems to have gotten the hang of it.

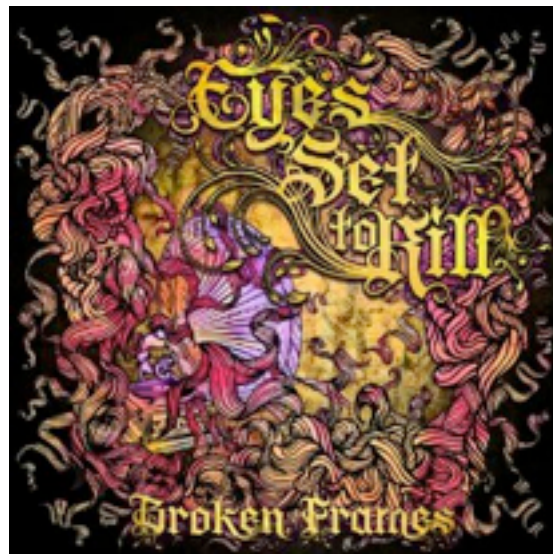
By Sarah Rutz

Eyes Set To Kill *Broken Frames*



It feels like not too long ago Arizona band Eyes Set to Kill released their album 'The World Outside' unlike most bands they didn't wait two years to come out with their next masterpiece. Nope just about a year later they have their album 'Broken Frames'. With their new screamer, after their former screamer Brandon has damaged his vocal cords, the band brought in a new screamer, Justin 'Cisko' Denson. Broken Frames, has very strong lyric, the type of lyric that peers you heart and are worth the quotas. As far as the music and the vocals I think the band has finally found the perfect mixture of Alexia Rodriguez's vocals and the screams of Cisko. When listening to previous albums the vocals were never really balanced. As a band Eyes Set to Kill have completely matured and it shows off big time in this album.

By Sarah Lozano



The Young Veins *Take A Vacation*



After last year's departure of former Panic! At The Disco members Ryan Ross and Jon Walker, speculation of a new band between the two started to spread around the internet. Indeed the two created the Young Veins. The 2008 release of Panic! At The Disco's Pretty.Odd. featuring both ex-members Ross and Walker had a British psychedelic rock feeling to it but Take A Vacation! is the real deal. All the songs on the album are indeed a big change from previous projects but the change is rather swell. Take A Vacation! leaves a very summery and happy emotion for the audience and not one track is a disappointment.

By Robbs Quezada



Travie McCoy *Lazarus*



Now that Travie McCoy's song, "Billionaire", has hit mainstream, he doesn't need to worry about desiring to be a billionaire, when he is gaining fans, respect, and money, from his new solo album, *Lazarus*. This 10-piece album begins with a song of funk. "Dr. Feel Good" features Cee-Lo Green, singing the chorus, while Travie raps the verse's and bridges. After "Dr. Feel Good", the album continues right into "Superbad", which begins with an invincible, and confident feeling. While listening closely through the album, track number six, "A Kid Again" had reminded me of my childhood, and walking down the old streets with my grandmother in the hot summertime. Although Travie had taken some time off of Gym Class Heroes for a solo album of his own, he had thought out the lyrics, rhythm, and release date so precisely, that you cannot deny buying this fun summer album.

By Bianca Delicata

We Are The In Crowd *Guaranteed to Disagree*



With a little promotion help from Glamour Kills and Twitter updates, We Are The In Crowd has finally released *Guaranteed To Disagree*. This up and coming band seems to be fortunate enough to already be signed to Hopeless Record after forming in 2009. It looks like their on the fast track to success.

The first noticeable aspect of this EP, and band, is the combination of female and male voices. It's very refreshing to hear something like this, and I love the contrast their voices create. That was the main reason this band caught my attention back in 2009. Taylor, or Tay, Jardine's voice is very powerful and a little like Hayley's from Paramore. On the other hand, Jordan Ecke, the male vocalist and guitarist has a more nasally voice. It's not horrible, but I would definitely say Tay's over powers his. Also, all their songs give off the same kind of vibe and don't have much variation in style, but at least there are only seven songs total, so you won't get bored of them right away.

However, I really enjoy the lyrics in "Both Sides of the Story" when "You're not quite Satan, but I really think I hate you," is sung. I recommend listening to this when you're feeling towards someone reflect those in this particular song. That's why I'd say their songs are relatable and convincing. I use the word convincing because I feel like I'm convinced that the emotions they try to express through their songs are true. We Are The In Crowd also seem to show their edginess by not being afraid to throw in some swear words in just about all their songs. *Guaranteed to Disagree* as a whole is fun and definitely car-stereo-blasting worthy.

By Stefany Bryan



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& To all of you who are viewing this!

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