

STITCHED & SOUND

print issue #1



THE WORD ALIVE

PIERCE THE VEIL | WHITECHAPEL | ENTER SHIKARI | THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA

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a letter from the editor



I'm sitting here in my room typing away on my apple wireless keyboard at 4AM. I can't help but to think, and pardon my language, "Holy sh't, I can't believe this is actually happening." I mean, turn back time to 2007, when the idea for running a magazine first came to me. Immediately following that thought I got together a team of friends and we started working on this. At that time, when I was about twelve/thirteen years old, I was determined to make it work. I quickly found out that running a magazine was a lot harder and making it successful wasn't something that was going to be happening anytime soon.

Well, fast forward to December of 2009, and I wanted to start this up again. I was older, I had the time to do it and the determination to as well. So that's what I did. We made our official launch in January 1st, Bianca helping me along the way, and we released our first online issue on March 1st of 2010. From then it all blossomed, our staff kept on growing and our readers kept on rising up. It felt like a dream.

It's been two years for *Stitched Sound* and we're not going to stop any time soon. Becoming a print issue has been a dream for many of us and seeing this happen is amazing. All of us worked super hard to make this dream a reality, setting up interviews, photoshoots, doing reviews, and writing articles.

So is this going to become a regular thing? Sure it is. We're still going to have our monthly issues, but we're also going to be releasing "print issues" seasonally. We hope to bring you news about your favourite artists and bands in every way possible. That's what we aim for as a staff, and after all, we're all just a group of music fans who love the same bands that you do and we want to know what's going on too.

But as of right now, I should probably wrap this up. In the end, it's you who has helped us be able to accomplish so much. To every single reader, anyone who has read even one of our issues, you're the reason we keep going, and you're the reason that we do what we love. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Cynthia Lam

COVER PHOTO BY ASHLEY OSBORN



ENTER SHIKARI

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“My most memorable show was...”

“

When I was 13 years old my father took me to my first rock concert ever. I actually won tickets to this show off of our local radio station. It was the Pop Disaster Tour with Jimmy Eat World, Green Day, and Blink 182. We arrived and realized the tickets I won were nosebleed tickets but I could have cared less. I was about to see my favorite bands live. Green Day formed a band on stage by picking three members people from the crowd and teaching them the parts right then and there. They also gave one of Billy Joe's guitars away to the guitarist they picked. Then Blink 182 came on and Travis Barker had a drum solo where his drum riser rose above the entire audience and did flips. That show alone left me so awe-inspired, entertained, and captivated that I knew in that moment, I wanted to be at their level some day. As soon as I got home I started talking to my friends about starting bands back home. Now, through hard work, I can at least say I'm on my way to becoming what I saw that incredible night with my dad.



NAME: Cody Carson
BAND: Set It Off
FROM: Tampa, FL



NAME: Lou Cotton
BAND: We Came As Romans
FROM: Detroit, MI

When I was fifteen years old, my favorite band was "The Used". I was a freshmen in high school and I found out that the band was playing a free show at St. Andrews hall in Detroit. I was so excited but then I found out they went on at 3pm. I didn't get out of class until then... so what did I do? Skipped school and hitched a ride downtown. Needless to say, I was blown away. Seeing your favorite band at such a young age is such a life changing experience. I knew I wanted to be in a band after that. They stuck around and met everyone too. Definitely my favorite show I've ever seen. After that, I went home and learned all of their songs on guitar. From there on out I started a few bands and eventually joined We Came As Romans.

”

It's the year 1888 in Whitechapel, an inner city of London in the United Kingdom, and the most common scene around are the atrocious slaughters that have been committed by the infamous Jack the Ripper. Now it's the year 2012 and six Tennesseans from Knoxville have emerged on the death metal scene on their own accords. With similar sounds to Amen Amarth and Cannibal Corpse, Whitechapel ushers in A New Era of Corruption - literally. Whitechapel has set a dynamic bar in the music industry that seems to be nearly untouchable. They have continued to do so since their incarnation in 2006. As each year passes on by, the brutally unique sound this sextet (that consists of vocalist Phil Bozeman, guitarists Ben Savage, Alex Wade, Zach Householder, bassist Gabe Crisp, and drummer Ben Halexerode), create spread like wildfire.

Whitechapel are heavy and heavy hard workers as well. The band tours relentlessly each year putting on a devastating set leaving many crowds in a frenzy for more. This year they are about to embark on a North and South American tour with Miss May I, Within the Ruins, After the Burial, the Plot In You, and Structures on "The Recorruptour."

It's been nearly two decades since Jack the Ripper lurked from the shadows in an inner city part of London and has yet to be found, but those times are dead and gone. It's 2012 and Whitechapel has ushered in a new era as this front man reveals that everyone should be on the lookout for something much more ferocious from the Knoxville natives than the mysterious serial killer; a new record. Lucky for us at Stitched Sound, we were able to chat with vocalist, Phil Bozeman, during one of 2011's fierce tours, The Dead Throne Tour.

So when the band first formed in 2006 did you expect to see the amount of success that band has received?

No, not at all. We just kind of when with it, and things happened as they happened. We are very thankful and happy about from where we started up until now.

What was the music scene like in Knoxville when you were growing up there?

It was awesome [and] it seems like it's still the same. Kids that were my age back then are older and don't really go to shows anymore. Our generation is pretty much over the scene and the new ones coming in. It's still really good. It was like a group of people and more keep coming in.

Your last album was released in June 2010, are you guys planning on righting and recording a new one?

Yeah, we're writing right now. Right after this tour we're planning on recording early next year and hopefully have our album out by next summer.

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

Disrespect towards bands. If they don't like a band they don't have to voice it out loud. They can just out to the back or go outside. You don't have to like a band, you don't have to like any of the bands. You can like whatever you like, but just don't give your opinion unless it's asked for or be the jerk off that just says things that our unnecessary.

Are there any stops that you're excited for?

All of them. Every show we're playing on this tour is a different market for us. We're going to playing for a lot of kids don't listen to our kind of music or have even heard of us.

What do you think you would be doing if you weren't in a touring band right now?

Probably going to school, working. Working towards doing whatever I want to do. Probably working with dogs, I'm a big dog lover!

What song would you as your theme song for every time you walked into a room?

That's hard. I a lot of boxer and wrestlers walk out the stupidest music, I would like to walk out to something cooler. I guess it depends on the moment, like if I was going to beat someone's ass it would be like Crowbar or something like that.

WHITECHAPEL

STORY BY GLEANN IGNACIO
PHOTO & INTERVIEW BY CYNTHIA LAM

Conquering the Uncertainty & Beyond

BY ROXANNE ASTHENIA
PHOTOS BY ASHLEY OSBORN



In a span of three studio albums, two with current vocalist Beau Bokan, Blessthefall have conquered the uncertainty and built their path towards musical success. The band's roots can be traced back to Phoenix, Arizona and having gone through 8 months without a singer after the departure of original vocalist Craig Mabbitt, the metalcore quintet have re-established their grounds and proven their worth. This is evident in 2009's release, *Witness*. The band started working on the album right after their tour with Silverstein, Norma Jean and Before Their Eyes, it was announced shortly after that they have been signed to Fearless Records.

Maturity maps itself within the members of Blessthefall in the passing years. Not only have they countered the rumours surrounding whatever controversy was left in the band, they have also remained friends with Mabbitt and the rest of Escape The Fate. After the release of *Witness*, the band co-headlined the Atticus Fall Tour with Finch, Drop Dead, Gorgeous, and Vanna. Openers of the tour included Of Mice & Men and Let's Get It. The band also went on to be featured on the Punk Goes Classic Rock album released April 27, 2010 covering "Dream On" by Aerosmith.

The band saw another member leave in February of 2011 and proceeded with the decision to replace guitarist Mike Frisby with former member of Before Their Eyes; Elliot Gruenberg. Sonically and vocally, Blessthefall have improved distinctively as their latest album *Awakening* sets its sails against stronger tides. They have cite inspirations such as As I Lay Dying and Underoath on the new record and their determination have consequently spawned the band's heaviest and quite possibly most accomplished album to date.

Blessthefall have been active on many different tours across the world

and have created an international platform to enlighten, create and recreate top-notch live concert experiences. Some of 2010's tour highlights include a slot on Cool Tour with As I Lay Dying, Underoath and Between The Buried And Me, an Australian / New Zealand Tour with Story Of The Year and Saosin, South American and European Tours with August Burns Red, and a U.S. tour with Atreyu / Chiodos in support of *Witness*. 2011 hardly pales in comparison as the band kick started the year with appearances on Australia's Soundwave festival followed by the All Stars Tour in the late summer together with bands like Emmure, Alesana, Motionless in White, Sleeping With Sirens and more. The band also headlined the Fearless Friends tour with label mates The Word Alive, Motionless in White, Tonight Alive, and Chunk! No

Did the band ever expect to accomplish so much and make it to where they are today? Beau Bokan states "I honestly didn't know where we would be. Almost any other band that went 8 months searching for a new singer would be finished, but not us. We persevered and made music we were stoked on and here we are. We never lost hope or lost sight of our goals." Emotional challenges aside, Beau says that "the biggest challenge they've faced as a band" was doing a summer tour in a van with broken A/C. "That was some kind of hell."

Bokan lives with no regrets as he assures us that there is nothing in his life he would change or alter. We also enquired about the music scene he grew up in, his influences as well as his experiences on the Fearless Friends Tour. "It was awesome! Chain reaction was a rad place for small local shows. Saw some amazing bands there. Some bands that influenced me were Thrice, Throwdown, Blink-182 and more. The tour has been unreal. We haven't headlined in so long so we

We didn't know what to expect. We've been blown away every night. It's been very humbling. We're using a full lighting production and some extra goodies that we've never ever done before. Its super crazy to watch videos of our shows, we look like Metallica or something haha"

When asked about the crowd's reactions to the band playing live songs off their new record *Awakening* which was released just a month before the tour started, he responded accordingly. " Yes, the response for the new songs has been incredible. Even more so than our super old songs. It feels amazing to hear everyone singing songs that are so new and fresh." Live performances houses unpredictability and more often than not, one would find themselves caught in an unprecedented or embarrassing situation. Beau states that his most embarrassing moment would be "puking onstage".

We asked about the band's continuous collaboration with producer Michael Baskette. "Well we worked with him on *Witness* and he's a phenomenal producer so it was a no brainer going back to him for *Awakening*." He also goes on to say that every track on the album is special and means something to him. "There is a theme of hope and love that you get from every song. Even the darker songs have a ray of light at the end of them."

We concluded the interview by asking Beau about his plans for 2012. "We're going back to Europe/UK with Asking Alexandria in January then we have a whoooooole bunch of rad tours planned that I'm not allowed to talk about just yet."

iwrestledabearonce

iwrestledabearonce has been on a role this past year. From touring with As I Lay Dying to just recently putting out a new album, *Ruining It For Everybody*, and now more plans of tour for 2012. Formed in 2007, the band moved from Shreveport, Louisiana to Birmingham, Alabama, where they now currently reside. The band has released a total of one EP and two full length albums, covering a wide variety of musical style. We have now been given the inside scoop of the band's view of themselves and how their personal attitudes reflect on their music. Diverging from being labeled by a genre, iwrestledabearonce confides their view of musical categorization and their intentions behind the black metal prank. This fun interview revealed the easy going, yet grateful side of a band who seems to be purely enjoying their rise in fame.

You guys are just wrapping up your tour with As I Lay Dying, how were the shows and the other bands on the tour? Any memorable moments on this run?

This tour has been sick! Tons of good shows and fun times. We've known the Of Mice and Men and Ghost Inside dudes for a long time, so silly shit always seems to happen with them and our new friends in Psylosis. Too much drinking equals stories that nobody can repeat... or really remember clearly. Watching and hanging with the As I Lay Dying dudes every day is amazing too! Their live show is fucking insane and they're the best dudes ever.

So you just released your newest album "Ruining It For Everybody" this past summer, how has the reception been so far? It's been good, and it seems that even people who didn't like the last album enjoy this one. We all think the new album is way better as well, so I guess it makes sense!

Which song would you say you're most proud of and why?

Hard to say... the last album definitely had a few stand out tracks whereas this new one is solid from start to finish in my opinion. I definitely love the gospel choir vocal section in "Deodorant Can't Fix Ugly" but it's tough to pick a favorite song!

A prank was also pulled earlier this year whereas you stated the new album would be "90% black metal." It was actually a pretty good way of creating some buzz and controversy about the new material, how and why did you decide to do the gag?

We did black metal photos with Jeremy Saffer and they turned out so insane we decided to just run with it! We love poking fun at people and genres, so it just made sense. We are idiots... so hoorah!

IWABO is a pretty interesting sounding band out in the scene these days, was it always your intention to keep away from one single genre and have more creativity with your music?

Yep. Fuck genres has been the idea since day one. Why limit yourself in life or make it so your art has to fit snugly inside one style? We want the freedom to do anything and not have people be surprised by it.

Looking back to when the band was younger, would you have expected to be where you are now? Did you always want to be in a band full-time or was it something that just sort of happened and worked for you?

We've all been working toward this for ten years or more. Being in a full time touring band has been our dream since before we even formed this band, so this is all definitely a dream come true. We never expected to travel the world and pay our bills with touring, but it's awesome and we've busted our asses to be here so it's an amazing feeling.

So you've already got one tour announced for next year which is the European tour with Alesana and We Came As Romans. What are you most stoked about for this trip?

Drinking 24/7 with those degenerate bastards in Alesana! They are awesome dudes and it'll be fun to share a bus with them over there for sure.

Other than the European tour what can we expect from iwrestledabearonce in 2012 at this point?

Lots of tour! Keep in touch on Facebook, twitter, etc because we will be posting new tours very soon!



STORY BY BRITTANY DALY AND STEFANY BRYAN | PHOTO BY ASHLEY OSBORN

ENTER SHIKARI

The British quartet Enter Shikari just wrapped up their time on the Dead Throne tour this fall. They toured alongside Whitechapel, For Today, and headliners The Devil Wears Prada bringing their ecstatic sound and energetic live sound all across the United States and Canada. It seems that most who attended the show were shocked by their live performance and they definitely left a great impression. We had a chance to ask Rob Rolfe (drums) a few questions about the tour and their upcoming release.



As Enter Shikari, you guys have been a band together now for eight years. Looking back on the past years, are you proud of all that you've accomplished?

Absolutely, we never expected it to come this far. We started doing it only as a hobby and to think of the achievements we've made such as having released 2 (about to be 3) albums and countless singles, played major festival and our own shows all over the world and had great success doing it, it's all got a bit out of hand!

Back in the days as Hybryd, would you have ever expected to be where you are now, touring all over the world and gaining a gigantic fanbase?

Not at all, we don't really know how it got to this point. We've always just taken it one day at a time and it's just grown and grown.

What was the goal that you always wanted to achieve when the band first started? Also, what would you say your biggest accomplishment is as a band?

We never really had a goal, like I said we just took it one step at a time. I guess right now our goal would be just to continue what we're doing, continue making new music and getting the opportunity to play it to people around the world.

So I understand that you guys will be releasing a new album in 2012. Can you tell us what A Flash Flood Of Colour is all about?

Literally it's about positivity, realising the world is in a bad state and doing something about it. Musically it's about pushing ourselves and music boundaries and hard as we can, try stuff we've never done before and keep coming up with fresh ideas. For it to sound contemporary, aggressive, melodic and fun. After all, music is there to be enjoyed.

Is there a concept behind this album that you hope listeners will grasp?

We've always promoted unity, taking control of our lives, respecting the planet we live on and the people we live on it with. We'd like people to open their eyes to what's going on in the world and take an active role in their futures.

Will this album differ from any of your previous releases?

Our music is always changing and moving forward. It's got some of the heaviest music we've ever written but also some of the most delicate and melodic music we've ever written. It's definitely a progression from our last album but still has the Enter Shikari stamp on it.

You've already released the single "Sssnakepit" which resulted in great feedback from fans. How do you think fans will react to the rest of the album?

Hopefully exactly the same way. The few people we've given a sneaky listen of it have said great things about it. We want our fans to be as excited about it as we are and when they hear it I think they will be.

It even became the "Hottest Track In The World" on Zane Lowes show. What was your initial reaction from hearing that?

Fantastic, it's always a massive boost when someone of such stature gives it such an honored place on their show. We've known Zane for a while and always appreciate his love for us.

It sure seems that fans today complain if a band changes their sound, or if a band doesn't change. There seems to be no middle ground. What are your thoughts on the issue?

I think bands should change, progress, mature and move forward with their sound. People that say they don't like it are just elitists who want to sound like they know what they're talking about, or maybe they're just stuck in the past and need to grow up.

You're currently on the Dead Throne tour which is just about to wrap up. What has the experience been like for you touring with The Devil Wears Prada, For Today, and Whitechapel?

Great. They're all really nice people and passionate about what they do. It's obvious they all in music for the love of it and not because they want to be rock stars. It makes a big difference and makes the tour very comfortable when you get on with the people you're living with for 2 months.

The last time that I saw you guys (not counting Warped Tour) was in March of 2010 with A Day To Remember, Go Radio, and August Burns Red. The Dead Throne Tour is definitely a heavier tour. How do you feel being on a heavier tour benefits the band?

I think because our music is so diverse it can reach a very wide audience so no one tour line up is better suited to us than another. Obviously there are bands who's music we prefer to others but we don't have to like a band to steal their fans. (I won't say which bands we've toured with where that is the case)

Have you been an active participant in tour pranks? What is the craziest thing that you've ever pulled?

Yeah although they used to be a lot worse than they are these days. I remember driving down the motorway at 70mph throwing anything we can at each others vans, one guy hanging out of the bus stark naked. There were a lot of van wars back in the day. Things seem to have simmered out a bit now, maybe we've matured. Ha!

It seems that 2012 will be a huge year for Enter Shikari. Are you guys planning any tours to support the album in the new year?

Yes, big UK and Europe tour booked and a US tour is being worked on right as we speak but I can't say too much about that one. Also hitting south east Asia and Australia. Going to be a hard working year for us.

What would you say you are most excited for in 2012?

Well obviously the release of the album, also I think the big UK shows are going to be lots of fun, we're going to have huge production with us.

Lastly, if the world was to end in 2012, what would be the one message you hope to leave everyone?

It's been fun x

STORY BY CYNTHIA LAM
LIVE PHOTO BY IMANI GIVERTZ

ALL TIME LOW



Since their inception in 2003, All Time Low has taken the music industry by storm. For being just two years short of a decade, All Time Low has already released four studio albums, a live dvd/documentary, and been around the globe several times. They're currently on a major label and just last spring released their fourth studio album *Dirty Work*. Known for their upbeat songs, enticing lyrics, and somewhat crude humor, All Time Low has achieved a large amount of success and fans worldwide. Stitched Sound caught up with frontman Alex Gaskarth to talk about how far they've come.

Turning back time to 2003, would you have ever expected to be where you are now?

No way. When we started this band we really had no idea where it would go and where it would take us. We really just did it for fun it was something that we were very passionate about, we like music, we like the idea of performing. It really escalated, it took off pretty quickly for us and we've been very lucky to have the career we've had so far. We never expected anything to happen, always treated it very passionately.

Was there a specific moment that really helped you guys gain success?

I can't think of one specific moment it's always just a collection of little things or big things. I think the neat thing about our band is we built it up really slowly through touring and good friends of our taking us out on the road.

When the band first started, what was the Maryland music scene like? Did it help your success?

The music scene in Baltimore was rad. When we were coming out it was lots of local shows, lots of shows put together by other local bands and ourselves that we'd do every weekend to keep people coming out and keep everything fresh. That was a big part of how we got noticed in the local scene. Eventually people started talking.

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

Looking back, there really hasn't been that much that I can talk about that I would say has been a challenge. We've been a tight group of friends this entire time and and it held us together through thick and thin. I think one thing is just coping with the amount of time that we're away. Everyone has their shit but when you're surrounded by people all the time that definitely becomes a bit sometimes. That's one of the things we had to learn to get through and get over. Other than that it hasn't really been that negative.

What are your thoughts towards people calling you "sellouts", especially regarding your latest album *Dirty Work*?

I don't think that we really compromised ourselves as people and as a band. I think the thing a lot of people have trouble with is just change. People latch on to the past and don't want their favourite bands to adapt their style, to move on, to grow, so when a band does it's easier to get angry and throw a label out there. As far as I can tell, no one's paying me to change who I am or who I do. We're having a good time, people are still coming to the shows, people are still enjoying their new songs. As long as people are enjoying it, I'm not concerned with the haters.

You recently released a new music video for "Time-Bomb". What was the inspiration behind the video?

The video was kind of about a guy trying to save love. The metaphor is he built a girl a heart. It was a really cool video to do and I got to work with it directly. It was the first time we've done a more serious video so that was cool for us.

Are there any specific dates you're excited to play on the Simple Plan tour?

Without getting too specific is we're just excited to do a Canadian tour. We've never really done a fully lushed out Canadian run, so I think one of the things we're really excited for is just to play some of the cities that we've never been able to go near before. It should be a really awesome experience for us to get to go up there to play for a new audience. I know Simple Plan are great guys and an amazing band, they do very well up there. I think it's a perfect group of people to tour with. We've neglected Canada in the past and it's time to give back.

How do you feel about fans who have said you've saved them?

It's an amazing feeling, I don't think when we started the band or started writing songs that we were expecting to have an impact on peoples lives. It's really cool to know that the things that we say, the things that we write, the way we perform live, the fact that it can have that much of an influence on people is really touching. I'm just glad that awe can help.

Do you have any plans for 2012 as of right now?

We have some tours lined up, the Canada round will be very fun, we're touring the UK, and then we're planning a whole bunch of stuff for the summer and I think not all of it is announced yet but next year is going to be a very exciting year.



A photograph of three young men standing in front of a red brick wall. The man on the left has a beard and is wearing a red and black plaid shirt over a dark t-shirt. The man in the center has long blonde hair and is wearing a grey plaid shirt over a light blue t-shirt. The man on the right has long blonde hair and is wearing a dark grey plaid shirt over a dark t-shirt. The text "ONE HELL" is overlaid in large white serif font across the middle of the image.

ONE HELL



STORY BY CYNTHIA LAM | PHOTOS BY ASHLEY OSBORN

OF A YEAR

It seems that perhaps the best word to describe the Arizona metal band The Word Alive is incessant. In the past year they have been going on tour after tour and capturing the attention of thousands of people worldwide. Since their highly successful release of *Deceiver* in 2010 they have been touring in the United States and all around the world to support the album. Needless to say with all their touring and crazy antics, 2011 was one hell of a year for the band.

Since their conception with 2008 The Word Alive has achieved quite a bit. In their short amount as a time they've released an EP and a debut full length on Fearless Records. Since then they've been on several tours throughout the states including a fall tour with A Day To Remember and Underoath in 2010.

The sextet started off last year year by heading on the Rock Yourself To Sleep Tour alongside For Today, Texas In July, and headliners We Came As Romans. Just weeks after that they embarked on their first ever headlining tour in the states with support from Upon A Burning Body, Abandon All Ships, The Color Morale, and For All Those Sleeping. They also set out on the entirety of the Vans Warped Tour 2011 and then announced that they would be ending the year off with the Fearless Friends Tour.

Just simply from viewing pictures and watching their live set at the Gorge Amphitheater it was easy to tell that The Word Alive sure gained a lot of fans and viewers since their last run on the 2010's Vans Warped Tour. With the crowd stretching back to where the band members simply looked like miniature toys on a stage it seemed that most of the viewers liked what they saw and heard. Warped Tour really helped the band's fan base grow and get the band's name out there.

Not even a month later the band set off on the Fearless Friends Tour. Alongside their labelmates Blesthefall, Motionless In White, Chunk! No, Captain Chunk! and Tonight live they put on a live show that many will remember forever. Although many kids may just be attending the show to watch the headliners, The Word Alive have definitely given them a good impression.

A large amount of touring can take a toll on someone including vocalist Tyler "Telle" Smith. "I love shows, for the 30 minutes or hour we're on stage, I love seeing friends. But nothing makes me feels like being home with family, friends, my girlfriend and our dog." He states "I think everyone gets homesick and I think unfortunately the only people who would rather be on the road, might not have much of a family or circle of friends to come home to. For me, family means everything so it's always a battle."

However looking back towards their history as a band they wouldn't have gained as much success as they have now if it wasn't for their constant touring and wild antics on stage. Like several bands, they had no idea that they were going to accomplish as much as they have when it all started. "Everything we've been able to accomplish, all the shows all over the world, it's probably not going to hit me until I'm older and done touring sitting at home. I'll just be like, 'wow, I really did all that!'" Telle says.

The music industry seems to be ever changing. When asked about what peeves him off about the music industry he seemed to have quite a bit to say. "Just how a certain image, gimmick, or concept can blow a band up. I'm all for people who are doing what they believe in, and love, and are passionate about. But I'm completely against bands who bounce with the trends trying to 'make it'. Or bands who try to use other bands to get big. That is one of the reasons we've never played our covers live. We did them for fun, not because we wanted to get a ton of publicity from them. We want fans to be fans of our music, not covers we did for fun. There is a lot that I don't like, but then again I'm 25, have been touring constantly for

the last 5 years it seems. And I am just growing up and feel strongly about working hard and paying your dues just as I have."

It seems that another pressing issue in the industry is the use of illegally downloading music. As much as it may hurt the record companies Smith states that a new technology is needed but as of right now it's only "diluting the quality of music."

One "method" the government (alongside the entertainment industry) is trying to pass is all about the government being able to censor the internet. If this act passes many videos will be either fined or taken down for the web. People who choose to cover songs from other artists or bands will be prosecuted for posting the videos anywhere online. Even taking a video and having a song playing on the radio in the background violates the rules. Of course there are several organizations going against it and quite a few musicians have stepped forward and voiced their opinion about it. We asked Telle about how he thought it would affect the music industry to which he responded "I think if the government steps in to censor the internet, that the music industry is the last thing we should be worried about. Life as we know it will change, and you might as well start erasing the constitution. Because it's a slippery slope from then on."

Political matters aside, this year holds quite a bright future for The Word Alive. Starting early next year they will be heading into the studio with Joey Sturgis, a brilliant producer who have worked with several bands including The Devil Wears Prada, Of Mice & Men, and We Came As Romans, to record a new album which will be also released on Fearless Records. What the year holds for them after recording will just be going back to their crazy touring schedule. A release date should be expected for next year as well.

At the end of the interview we asked Telle about his thoughts towards the apocalypse conspiracy for this year. Although he may not believe in it nor believes anyone can properly predict the end of the world he definitely has a great message to leave the world with. "I've lived most of my life with the mentality 'You only live once'. And anyone who comes after me, I feel should do the same."





PHOTO BY IMANI GIVERTZ | STORY BY BRITTANY DALY

Woe, Is Me

In August of 2010 Woe, Is Me released their sophomore album *Number[s]* which has positively gotten the band many listeners and new opportunities up to this point in their pursuit as a band. Last year was a great year for Woe, Is Me for being such a new band; aside from losing three members in the span of a year that is. From their first stint on the Vans Warped Tour, acquiring a new clean vocalist (Hance Alligood), releasing their newest track "Vengeance," and many tours through-out the rest of the year. At this point it seems like not much can slow down the bands motivation towards their dreams. Not to mention the guys have a pretty loyal group of people supporting them, known as the [S] Army, which seems to be an integral motivator for the band. This far into their career, it seems like you'll either love them or hate them. And for the time being, WIM will be getting quite a bit of attention from listeners and press alike, regardless of the nay-sayers. With a new clean vocalist and their sophomore album due this year Woe, Is Me will most likely have an even more success for 2012. So nearing the end of their opening stint on the co-headlining Pierce The Veil and Miss May I "No Guts, No Glory" Tour we had the chance catch up with keyboardist/ back-up vocalist Ben Ferris on the new album and current state of the band.

You guys are on the 'No Guts, No Glory' tour with Pierce The Veil and Miss May I right now, how has this tour been so far?

It's been great. So many amazing people have come out and supported. And all the bands are some of the nicest guys we've ever toured with

This is also your first tour with Hance on vocals since Tyler left, correct? How are the fans responding?

It's our second. He came to Europe with us. The response has been incredible though. The number of people singing along to vengeance every night has honestly been mind boggling since its such a new song.

You guys were also on Warped Tour this past summer, how was that for the band?

It was hotter than hell, and it was something we were totally not prepared for (being so new). But we played for so many new people. The exposure was worth it.

"Vengeance" is the first track to feature Hance on vocals, is it a good indication of what the new album will sound like?

Without a doubt. We're aiming for catchier singing vocals, but with an overall heavier sound.

How do you think your next album will differ from *Number[s]*?

I think there's gonna be an obvious difference in maturity. When we wrote/recorded *Number[s]* we had been a band for about 3 months tops. We were newbies.. We had no idea what we were doing. We've all grown so much, and I think it'll be apparent.

Are you nervous to release your sophomore album?

Not at all. We're so excited. We've been a little

impatient actually. I personally just wish we had a new album out now.

Any ideas when fans can expect the new record?

Right in the middle hopefully! Who knows though. Plans always go wrong, so I guess we'll see.

You guys actually gained a lot of fans this year, do you think 2012 is going to be an even bigger year for Woe, Is Me?

We definitely did. We've worked our butts off haha. And I believe so. I feel like Hance is a new beginning to this band.

So far, what has been your most memorable moment on the road?

I honestly think its just been the love and support we've gotten on this tour. We're such a lucky band to have such loyal fans.

What's the most important thing you hope people take away from your music or just the band in general?

Follow your dreams and always be humble. We're just a bunch of kids who were losers/outcasts and we've seen/experienced so much through this band. Anybody can succeed if they try hard enough.

Lastly, do you think the world is going to end in 2012? Or do we have many more years of Woe, Is Me ahead of us?

I think the world is gonna have to put up with Woe, Is Me long past 2012 haha. Or so we hope.



PHOTO BY IMANI GIVERTZ
BY KELLY ARIAS
AND CATHERINE KHOM

THE MAINE PRESENTS THE NEW ALBUM PIONEER

Based from Tempe, Arizona comes The Maine, an indie rock band with fans from the odds and end of the world screaming for their name. The fans huddle near their tour bus signs with remainders of permanent ink as each gasp with one click of flash. In February 2011, they toured in the Philippines concluding to an international tour. This year, they have performed at Soundwave in Australia and continue to tour through Europe with Never Shout Never. They headed back to the states on April 2011 set for a co-headlining tour with Augustana leading into summer. The band recently finished off their last date of their Pioneer tour, promoting and in celebration of their December 6th, 2011 independent release in the hands of Action Theory Records. The band has been given huge praise and endless amount of support from fans and bands from all over the U.S. and other countries idolizing The Maine's newest album. They have achieved far more than greatness but develop an iconic legacy of the alternative pop rock era. We had a chance to talk to Kennedy Brock [guitar] and Pat Kirch during their tour date at The Roxy.

Where did you get the inspiration from for the new music?

Pat: I think it came very naturally, we went to a farm in Arizona and the songs kind of just popped out and the freedom of not writing for any purpose, that kind of made the songs turn out the way they did.

What was your favorite part of the recording, because you guys did it without producers?

Pat: I think the whole uncertainty of it all. We didn't know it was just going to be demos or if it was going to album or if it was ever going to be released. All the

no pressure, but pressure at the same time. It was an amazing experience and I don't know if we'll ever get to experience it ever again. And that what makes this album special to me.

How did you come up with the album name?

Pat: It was something John came up with [when] We were writing at my house in Arizona like a long time ago.

Kennedy: It was there before the songs were done, A year and a half ago.

How about the idea of the album art?

Kennedy: That was also an idea of John's. It was something that stuck out in all of minds when it was just an idea and not an actual picture.

Pat: I would let him handle the actually saying what it mean, but it kind of like the idea of not being afraid of being who you are and doing your own thing.

How have the fans reacted to the album?

Pat: We weren't sure how it was going to go over, because just they knew like just two of them.

Will there be another movie like "In Darkness and in Light"?

Pat: I don't know. Those kind of things we don't really plan for. It's like when the times right and if it makes sense we do it. So I'm not going to say that there won't be.

What's your favorite album?

Pat: This one. I'm not just saying that because it's about to come out either. It was only us involved on it and that's why it means the world to us.

What's the most memorable thing a fan has done/said to you?

Pat: It's hard to say, because so many amazing things happen to us every day. For me the fact that tonight's a sold out show and the fact that they come and watch us that's insane.

Does your family ever get upset about how often you tour?

Pat: They're really happy for what's going on with us. Kennedy: No there really understanding [and] happy we're not at home. [laughs]

Do you think touring life would become different when you start having a family?

Pat: [laughing] Oh man, that's just so far off for us. Kennedy: Yeah that's pretty far out.

Pat: I think that so far from anyone mind. I don't think any of us are a point where we can even think about that. I think everybody is just fully committed to the band and that's not going to stop. We're going to be on the road for a long time and we're excited about that.

Who's your favorite Disney Princess?

Pat: I'm going to have to say Snow White, that was I was for Halloween.

Kennedy: Cinderella?

Pat: [to Kennedy] Well you're a huge fan of Tinkerbell.

Kennedy: I am a big Tinkerbell fan. I have a 12 foot Tinkerbell statue.

Pat: Which is weird, because it's way bigger than she is.

Kennedy: But she's cute, she's really cute.

personally personal

After driving through massive traffic for a good hour and a half, I got to Revolution Live in Ft. Lauderdale, FL. for my interview with Daniel Williams (Drummer) and Jeremy DePoyster (Singer and Guitarist) from Dayton Ohio's very own American Metal group The Devil Wears Prada.

With a line wrapped around the building, there was no doubt in my mind that it was going to be a great show that night. Before their sound check, I sat down with Daniel and Jeremy in the back lounge to get the quick scoop on their new and fourth record *Dead Throne* -which dropped September 13th, 2011. With two weeks left of their headlining tour, named after their recent record, we discussed how the fans had been receiving both the show its self and "new feel" of *Dead Throne*.

"Tour's been great! The other bands have been awesome and we all get along really well." Says singer and guitarist Jeremy DePoyster. The Devil Wears Prada are celebrating the release of their latest album '*Dead Throne*' with a headlining tour that features support from Whitechapel, Enter Shikari and For Today.

"A lot of people have been coming out, which has been great!" Jeremy had been twirling in this silver bar stool which he had joked about earlier... "I have this thing were I have to be taller than whoever is interviewing us and that is why I'm not sitting with you guys" (Referring to Williams and myself).

When asked about how many new songs they've been playing, Jeremy couldn't answer my question fast enough, "I think it's the most new songs that we've ever played after putting out a new record- and it's also the best they've ever gone over."

"We figured that we named the tour after it (*Dead Throne*) so why not play new songs, you know?" Daniel said. "Plus, I like playing new stuff... New stuff is good."

I asked how fans had been responding to the new material- which you could obviously tell that a good handful were positive by the line of kids ready to endure the couple hour show after waiting four hours already in the South Floridian heat- Daniel stated, "There has been an awesome response and I think fans are liking it, which is exciting but then you read reviews and there's always that select amount of people that say 'Oh, well I liked old Prada better' and I mean, it's not like it went anywhere!" Williams said laughing, "It's still there- you can still listen to it."

"Alongside our reviewers it's a lot of people that haven't listened to our band before and are just hearing our recent stuff that come back at us and say that they love it which is awesome." Jeremy said with a grin.

"So do you read the reviews a lot when you have free time?" I asked both Williams and DePoyster, curious to know how they deal with the ups and downs of putting out new material.

"Oh gosh, all of the time..." Jeremy said.

"Yeah... I read pretty much every review," Dan goes on hesitantly, "I go on Twitter or Facebook and read, like, two thousand comments and 98% are wonderful and the other 2% are like 'this band sucks- die!' and, I mean, those are the ones that I take offence to and kinda hurt." Dan explained. "But after a good second most of them are humorous." "Yeah, and you can always get some really good constructive criticism from it all. We gotta keep in check." Said DePoyster with a laugh.

With the new year approaching, I asked what the DWP gentlemen have up their sleeves for 2012. "We're doing a lot of international stuff after we take a little break back at home and a UK tour on the way and a bunch of other stuff that we want to do, but nothing is really set in stone." Daniel and Jeremy said. "We're really stoked."

When asked for any last words, both DePoyster and Williams said "Keep checking back. There's lots of stuff coming up in the new year. Come out to a show!"

And I'm telling you, if you haven't been to a TDWP show, you need to go to the next one in town. If you've forgotten what a band that truly appreciates their fans, you'll be reminded and see face to face what they look like. After their set, they came down for a couple minutes to the pit to thank everyone for coming and took the time to personally shake hands with fans that spent hours in line just to get the best view of a wonderful and Truly talented group of guys.

STORY & PHOTO BY IMANI GIVERTZ



MATT WEBB

Marianas Trench's guitarist Matt Webb released his solo side project in spring of 2011. Although the band is known for their pop punk melodies, his solo project holds more of an electronic feel. He played a few shows this past November and we had the chance to talk and ask him a few questions.

What was your favourite song on the EP?
My favourite song is "Cinnamon". That song is about... you really have to read between the lines. I don't really expect anyone to understand the lyrics except me. It's sort of about a timeline of my life in music. It sort of talks about leaving your friends behind to pursue your dreams but it doesn't sound like that when you're listening to it.

Have you ever experienced "Writers Block"?

Yes. I struggle a lot with songwriting. There will be a couple months where I can write a lot of songs and then go through periods of like six months where I can't write. But you know, some people are different, they can write every day, but I can't do that.

During your years of touring what is the most important thing you've learned?

Don't tour in the winter as a band [in Canada].

This is your first tour, how have the crowd turnouts been like so far?

It's good. Because it's my first tour ever it's kind of like starting from scratch, but I remember in the early Marianas [Trench] days we were playing for like five or six people. So far there has been more than five or six people and that's very encouraging. I'm a few steps ahead because I can access a lot of people through my other band but the crowd turnouts have been awesome and the fans are really cool. I love playing these small shows because you have the opportunity to come out and meet everybody. I'll play my show and I can walk out and just chill. People can get to know me, I can get to know them, take some pictures, sign some stuff, it's fun!

Are you an active participant in tour pranks?

They can be fun, a few here and there. The important thing about tour pranks is you have to be tasteful about them because I think touring is a very stressful time, you're on edge, and if you do the wrong thing it can really set people off and it's all about trying to stay friends with people on tour and having a good time.

Did you ever expect to accomplish this much success?

With Marianas [Trench] we always worked super, super hard and we knew that we were going to be successful in the beginning because we have an incredible amount of drive and that's what a lot of bands lack. We don't accept failure and refuse to die, and that's what kept us going. I suppose what I'm trying to do with this side project is go out, tour, and spread the word. It's fun.

What peeves you off the most about the music industry?

It's so tough for bands to make a living out of it. That's really frustrating, especially now a days [with record sales]. If Marianas Trench was a band in the 80's and we were as big as we are now, we would all be driving Lamborghinis. This job is amazing. I wouldn't trade it for anything. I love what I do, but it's tough to make money off of it, especially for young bands. I wish it was easier because there's so much good music out there but people need to make a living to keep on doing what they do otherwise they got to do something else.



Trophy

Florida isn't just good for oranges and theme parks. Orlando has been throwing out some of the most amazing bands in the industry for the longest, but none of them seem to compare to brilliant Sleeping with Sirens. "Kids go hard in the paint in Florida" says lead vocalist of the band Sleeping With Sirens, Kellin Quinn when we asked about shows in the band hometown. "It's probably one of my favorite places to play, and I'm glad Sleeping with Sirens calls Florida home. It's not our only home, but it's defiantly one of the best," finishes Kellin Quinn.

Sleeping with Sirens was started with big dreams and even bigger goals by Quinn and his fellow band mates. When asked by Stitched Sound about the biggest compliment he's ever received Quinn simply quoted his friend "I would say, 'I knew if anyone was to make it in our small town, it would be you' my good friend Lance, from Medford Oregon."

Although Sleeping with Sirens has only been around since 2009, Kellin Quinn has had a love

for music his whole life. Since has been singing since childhood and has always had goals of being a someone in the music industry. "I've always had an interest in music. If you dig through boxes at my moms house you'll find videos of me singing in random talent shows from elementary through high school. Music and singing has always just been something that clicked with me. I just love the rush of performing on stage, and I wouldn't trade that feeling for anything." Quinn talks about being a part of the local music scene growing up rather than just an audience member. "I went to shows, but I also played a lot of shows. The best memories I have are the times I had with other local bands from my town, all of us with big dreams, and thoughts of a brighter future."

Quinn shared with Stitched Sound his feeling about his first time on stage. "[performing] Felt natural, but I was also pretty nervous as I recall, it's been a long time." According to Quinn starting tour life wasn't that hard for him as well, because of his experience growing up and his desire for wanting to tour, "When I was growing

up, I fought with my parents often, so I spent quite a bit of time living in my car with Jesse [Lawson, rhythm guitarist of Sleeping with Sirens]." Quinn laughs about. "Tour is fun! It's not always easy to be around the same 5 dudes all the time, but if you are down to always be on the road and on the move then it's a great life."

Pairing his passion up for music, natural talent and his integrity you would have guessed getting his band off the ground was easy. Wrong, like every other person in the industry Quinn and his fellow band mates worked hard. "Even after countless doors slammed in my face, and hearing the word 'no' time and time again, I never gave up. I knew in my heart there would be more to my life, and I never let it leave my head," explains Quinn. Finally Sleeping with Sirens have arrived, but they are not yet where Kellin would like them to be.

After all the work starting up and making their name the band has never let that flame to be the



Band

best die down after they've made it close to the top. "I'm a huge perfectionist," states Kellin. "And super critical of the music I create. I think that some songs come along easier than others, but making music should always challenge you to strive for the best. That is all I hope for with each album." It is that kind of attitude that keeps Sleeping with Sirens wanting to improve their sound for the better and to hopefully reach Kellin's ultimate goal. "I expect to write the perfect album someday, which is impossible because you can't please everyone, and I'm way to hard to please myself. That's my goal though, and it's always what I strive for, the best."

It is no wonder why so many kids look up to Sleeping with Sirens. It is a true inspirational about never giving up on dreams and wanting to be the best at whatever you do. Kellin Quinn gets the pleasure of hear how the band reaching their dreams have inspired other to do the same. "I have [have heard how Sleeping with Sirens has helped our fans] many times, it's amazing, and humbling. I've been thinking lately about how

blessed and lucky our band is," says Quinn. Of course he while his fans are keep going by Sleeping with Sirens music Quinn believes that he is keep going by them as well. "Our fans motivate me the most. I like that our music speaks to all of different life styles. I'm pleasantly surprised all the time at the types of fans sleeping with sirens has accumulated I'm so happy we have a diverse crowd and I love and appreciate all the stories I hear from people who tell me our music has helped them in some way. That's what keeps me going."

So what might be going on this year for this band that has made it big, but still feels like there is a long way to go? Well Kellin isn't spilling anything just yet. "Lots of fun things, but I can't spoil all the surprises just yet. Big things are happening, that's all I can really say right now."

We can however tell you that Sleeping with Sirens will be taking stage during this summer Van's Warped Tour. "[We're] So excited! We're ready!" says Quinn. When asked about what's his favorite

part of the summer festival Kellin replied "You'll just have to check back with me after we play it." And that's exactly what we intend to do.

STORY & PHOTOS BY
SARAH KIZANO

The New Year

with Pierce The Veil

The post-hardcore quartet Pierce The Veil seems to have stirred up quite a bunch of fans and talk in the past year and a half. Not only have they toured the United States and Europe, but they've also went to the other side of the world to Australia, New Zealand, and Japan. Since their sophomore release they've been constantly touring in support of the new album, and just simply because they love it. Although as for right now they will be taking a break to record their album in February. We talked to vocalist/guitarist and songwriter Vic Fuentes about plans for the new album and touring.

I understand that you guys spend the summer writing. What was this experience like for you?

It was cool, different from any other writing experience we've had. We got to lock down in this cabin in Big Bear, California. We basically set up a studio over there and we got to write the entire time.

Although the album is still in pre-production is there anything on the album that might shock fans?

I don't know, we've written so many different kinds of songs that we're not really sure what ones are even going to go on the album. There's like heavy songs, soft songs, [they're] all different.

While writing do you ever experience writers block? What is your remedy?

I think everyone experiences it. I think the only thing you can really do is do something else because sometimes you can't just sit there and force creativity. I think that's one reason why it takes us so long to write records is that we definitely never force it, we let it come to us when we're writing, it all has to be natural and real.

What are your thoughts towards bands changing their sounds?

I think it's always just what's most important about the band to feel good about what they're putting out. I would never put out an album myself that I wasn't stoked about personally. For me, I've always had a strong belief that it's all about progressing as a band and making every album better at least in the band's eyes. I think that's what's important. For example, Thrice, every album they've ever made have been a

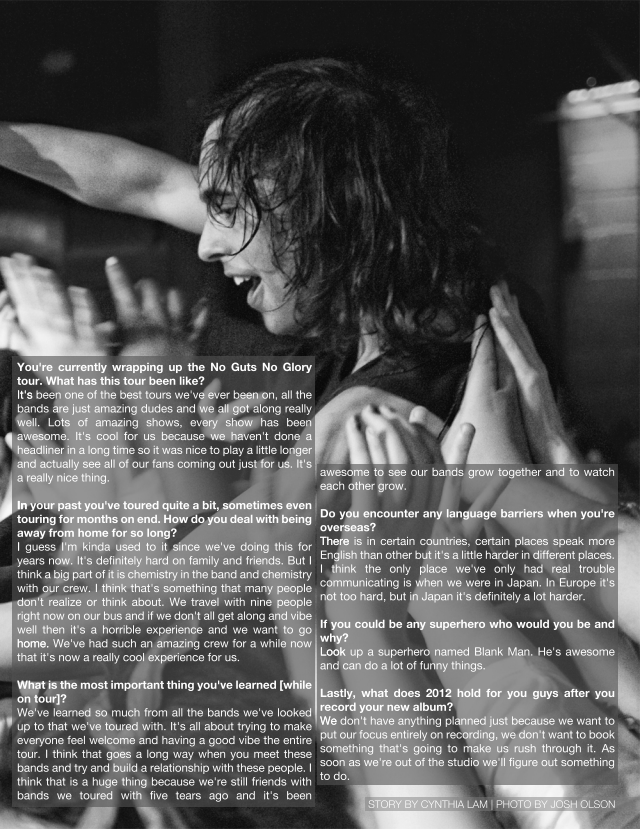
bit different and I totally respect it. They're always trying new things and pushing themselves. That's something that we try to do ourselves.

What do you have to say to fans who are in some tight situations and find your music as comfort?

That's kind of interesting, the inspirations for our bands early on were just because it was really fun to play and we loved playing, playing parties and shows. I think the longer we've been as a band, the more fans we've met, more touring, we gain new inspiration especially from people like that. Maybe they're depressed, thinking of suicide, or for whatever reason they find comfort in our music. I think that's a huge thing and the more I've experienced it the more I've realized there's a lot of kids out there with some sort of depression. That's become a new inspiration for me to keep writing music and hoping that I can help along the way.

You just signed for fearless records what made you decide to go with them?

We signed to Fearless because we saw that they had a lot of people working for them, a lot of people doing different things. We went to their office and we saw twenty different people doing twenty different things, and we were just like wow that's really cool. We need people who are doing stuff like that when we're on the road and we're not able to do that kind of stuff. They had a big crew and we wanted to have a label that would push our band as far as possible, it felt right and they work with a lot of our friends bands who are on the label already.



You're currently wrapping up the No Guts No Glory tour. What has this tour been like?

It's been one of the best tours we've ever been on, all the bands are just amazing dudes and we all got along really well. Lots of amazing shows, every show has been awesome. It's cool for us because we haven't done a headliner in a long time so it was nice to play a little longer and actually see all of our fans coming out just for us. It's a really nice thing.

In your past you've toured quite a bit, sometimes even touring for months on end. How do you deal with being away from home for so long?

I guess I'm kinda used to it since we've been doing this for years now. It's definitely hard on family and friends. But I think a big part of it is chemistry in the band and chemistry with our crew. I think that's something that many people don't realize or think about. We travel with nine people right now on our bus and if we don't all get along and vibe well then it's a horrible experience and we want to go home. We've had such an amazing crew for a while now that it's now a really cool experience for us.

What is the most important thing you've learned [while on tour]?

We've learned so much from all the bands we've looked up to that we've toured with. It's all about trying to make everyone feel welcome and having a good vibe the entire tour. I think that goes a long way when you meet these bands and try and build a relationship with these people. I think that is a huge thing because we're still friends with bands we toured with five years ago and it's been

awesome to see our bands grow together and to watch each other grow.

Do you encounter any language barriers when you're overseas?

There is in certain countries, certain places speak more English than other but it's a little harder in different places. I think the only place we've only had real trouble communicating is when we were in Japan. In Europe it's not too hard, but in Japan it's definitely a lot harder.

If you could be any superhero who would you be and why?

Look up a superhero named Blank Man. He's awesome and can do a lot of funny things.

Lastly, what does 2012 hold for you guys after you record your new album?

We don't have anything planned just because we want to put our focus entirely on recording, we don't want to book something that's going to make us rush through it. As soon as we're out of the studio we'll figure out something to do.

reviews

★★★★★
KEEP IT ON REPEAT

★★★★★
BUY IT

★★★★★
DOWNLOAD IT

★★★★★
STREAM IT

★
TRASH IT

The Maine Pioneer



by Catherine Khom

Pioneer exceeds more than praised expectations. The band went to a different dimension with their newly released record. Every track has an intricate beat that keeps ticking on the side of your ears and all the lyrics are inspirational and moving. The upbeat tones and instrumental melodies of "Waiting for My Sun to Shine" shows that they have pushed and really challenged themselves. The end result? One of my favorite tracks from their record. Some of their tracks lay very sentimental and dear to their heart lyrics like "Jenny", which also shows good posture of a song with balanced rhythms. The word "pioneer" should not blurt out to you as The Maine's new CD rather, pioneer symbolizes the band and their accomplishments thus far. Meaning to take those risks and don't waste time on someone else's life. They sent their fans a message with positive and uplifting tracks for all to enjoy.

Burn The Charts Seattle's Calling



★★★★★
by Jenna Young

Let's just put it this way, if **A Day To Remember** and **Mayday Parade** were to have a love child, it would be this band. Rooted in Kingston, New York, **Burn The Charts** is quickly taking the scene by storm with their strong, captivating lead vocals and their catchy beats. The six-piece band has a shoe in to become part of your daily playlist.

The pop punk/post hardcore band released their first EP *Seattle's Calling* on December

4th and it is currently streaming on the bands PureVolume. The five-track EP introduces you to six guys that are extremely dedicated to their music. The first track off the EP is "I Didn't Tell My Friends To Say That" which leads the listener into their memorable sound. *Seattle's Calling* is the bands first single and most well known song. The EP ends off with "Highway #6" which is a slower song, revealing a different side to the bands music featuring female vocals.

Burn The Charts is definitely making a name for themselves in the music industry with *Seattle's Calling*. For these six boys music is definitely their passion. These boys from New York will most certainly make their mark in 2012. You'll definitely find yourself humming along to songs after listening to this EP.

The Arctic Monkeys

★★★★★ *Suck It And See*

The English indie rock band, **The Arctic Monkeys**, released their fourth studio album, *Suck It And See*, on June 7, 2011. Formed in 2002, the band was one of the first in the UK to gain fans through the internet.

The lead singer, Alex Turner's, voice contributes a lot to the whole theme of the album. It's soft, soothing, and mature. Something about his voice provides sentiment and nostalgia even in the more up beat songs. "Brick By Brick," the third song on the record, has a definite classic rock sound, while the others are little more low-key. "Black Treacle" a notable track, has a nice steady drum beat accompanying swaying guitar chords that seem to linger in the air.

Suck It And See is catchy and well put together. The sound has a dash of retro, mixed with British rock and roll. The guitars have solid riffs and dance worthy chords, making the beats fun, and the album appealing.

by Stefany Bryan

Make And Do Mend

★★★★★ *Part and Parcel*

Make Do And Mend's new EP *Part And Parcel* is a nice treat for fans and new listeners. It may be only 6 songs in length, but you'll be listening to this EP on repeat. "Unknowingly Strong" sounds so beautiful acoustically, and their cover of **Touche Amore's** "Home Away From Here" is amazing. It sounds nothing like the original, but still is a great version. Every song sounds great acoustically. And basically, the point is that you should get this EP if you like the band, and get it if you want to find out about a great upcoming band.

by Victor Andrade

The Black Keys

★★★ *El Camino*

It hasn't taken too long for **The Black Keys** to put out their eighth album, *El Camino*, following the well known *Brothers*. Over the past year The Black Keys have been rapidly gaining fame, from having their songs played on the radio to being to musical guest on Saturday Night Live.

El Camino doesn't stray too far from the blues rock tone of their previous albums. They start off with the song, "Lonely Boys," full of catchy beats and riffs that make one feel as if they're in a race car movie. The track "Gold on the Ceiling," has a particularly swinging sound that's closer to the R&B style of the fifties. Midway through the record, "Run Right Back" creates a playful rhythm, in an almost archaic, before-our-time musical fashion. The same vibe is carried throughout the whole album, full of liveliness and up beat tempos.

The music on *El Camino* may seem out of date or old school, but The Black Keys manage to successfully revive the genre, while even adding a bit of a modern twist. Their album is impressive and noteworthy for being different than most music now, and doing it well.

by Stefany Bryan

Cosmonauts ★★★★★

The Demise Of Daniel Raincourt

Quickly gaining fame around their hometown, Glen Falls, NY, the indie rock band, **Cosmonauts**, has been making quite a stir in the music scene. Gearing up for their upcoming release of *The Demise Of Daniel Raincourt*, the sequel EP to *The Disfiguration Of Emily Malone*, Cosmonauts return with their unique narrative and compelling sound that is unlike most.

Grappled right away by "Daniels Letter," the hauntingly beautiful melodies and vocal hooks continue throughout the EP, taking unexpected turns and slowly unraveling the details of the epic rock opera. The third track, clocking in at 8:24, "The Heritage Day Parade," right away offers an upbeat, almost flamenco vibe, unlike the previous two tracks. The guitar riffs burst through the eerie and dark melodies which perfectly accompany the emotion-filled vocals that would have every listener belting out the second time through. "The Heritage Day Parade" ends with the intensely creepy carnival, music box-like sound that seals in the overall mysterious and evocative theme of the EP. Ending with the title track, "The Demise Of Daniel Raincourt," you are eloquently escorted out of the concept world Cosmonauts have created with a beautiful piano solo that assures you that the story is not yet over.

Cosmonauts have really brought their A game for their sophomore release, including everything that one should look for in an EP, contagious melodies and vocals, a compelling storyline through the lyrics, and instrumentals that intrigue you from start to finish. Be sure to mark your calendars for the release on January 14th, 2012.

by Megan Leetz

Marianas Trench

★★★★★ *Ever After*

Vancouver natives, **Marianas Trench** have been making quite a name for themselves over the past couple of years within the Canadian music scene, and even into the international music scene gathering a strong fanbase from all over the world. *Ever After*, was released on November 21st and is the bands third studio album and fist album produced solely by their lead singer, Josh Ramsay.

The most unique aspect of this record is that there are no pauses between songs, as each song flows into one another, creating one full fifty-four minute track with twelve distinct tracks among it. The opening song, as well as the title track "Ever After" slowly introduces you to a story-like atmosphere. However the album quickly picks up into their well known up beat songs with infectious choruses as heard in "Haven't Had Enough." The record slows down with "Porcelain" a powerful ballad about loving someone at the wrong time. The upbeat, catchy song "Stutter" will have you singing along and humming it for the rest of the day.

Ever After is definitely going to make a memorable impression on the music scene in 2012. The lyrics flow together perfectly with the melodies and strong vocals courtesy of Ramsay and the remarkable performance on each track from guitarist Matt Webb, drummer Ian Casselman, and bassist Mike Ayley. Marianas Trench is a band that is extremely dedicated and loyal to their music and their fans *Ever After* proves this in numerous different ways.

by Jenna Young

My Girl Friday

★★★ *American Kids*

Arizona natives **My Girl Friday** have released their latest EP *American Kids* on December 26th. The band first caught the attention of many in early 2010 when many kids started listening and spreading the word about them on tumblr. Now fast forwarding nearly two years later, My Girl Friday is quickly rising up as the next national act.

Each song off of *American Kids* is wonderfully crafted and unique in it's own way. My Girl Friday has found a way to include some country into a pop punk sound which sets them apart from several bands out there. "Down By The Water" is an extremely upbeat song which will draw the listener in with the interesting use of banjo in the beginning. Not to mention the title track "American Kids" draws reference to several icons that many enjoy.

Overall, *American Kids* really shows the best of My Girl Friday. It shows maturity from their last EP *We Are...* and brings a slightly different sound as well. Filled with six catchy pop punk songs it's the perfect soundtrack to the good times that are sure to be held by you and your friends.

by Cynthia Lam

Top 3 albums of 2011



Pioneer by The Maine - I heard the hype about how much The Maine has changed over the last couple of years as a result to their recent record, *Pioneer*. The tune of the whole record was very eclectic and feels like being on the stage singing word for word. I think this record should receive top honors and score number ones on all the charts. The Maine never disappoints and only brings better to the table with sold out shows touring practically everywhere.



Separation by Balance and Composure - This album was amazing from beginning to end. *Balance and Composure* is one of those bands where each new release they put out is better than their last and it's crazy because they've never put out bad music. *Separation* was a beautiful album, and it's one that everyone should listen to.



Major/Minor by Thrive - Sad that this band is going on hiatus, but what a way to go! They're leaving on a great note. This album was one, if not the best of their career. Honestly, there isn't one bad song on this album. Definitely get this album and while you're at it, get every other Thrive record because they're a band you should know.



Under Soil and Dirt by The Story So Far - This album completely blew me away. I wouldn't have expected it to be so amazing. I can't stop listening to the album, and I still play it a lot. It doesn't get old! The songs flow so well, and it's without a doubt the best pop punk album of 2011. They're a band to look out for this year.



Torches by Foster the People - A combat of sounds smash into one simple record. Foster the People made a record that has widened my ears and branch my love for bands to a whole other dimension. To be honest, every track is perfection laid set in my eyes. They got the cheerful, sad and the pains to shake up you're not so good days.



Sinners Never Sleep by You Me At Six - The love bug bit my musical taste, You Me At Six released this record and now, I can't stop listening to their classy rock with an edge pop tracks. *Sinners Never Sleep* defines this band as a whole and you can feel their emotions and heart felt lyrics drench into these lyrics that help others including myself get through rough times.

by Catherine Khom

by Victor Andrade

"The writers weren't kidding about how all good things must end"...

was the beautiful lyric that popped into every fan of Chicago's The Academy Is... when they announced their break-up on October 8th 2011. This is my favorite moment not of 2011 not, because I did not like The Academy Is..., but with this break-up there was something refreshing about the music industry the definition of a "real artist."

Let me explain, when I first started really listening to music (and not just to the words of a song but listening to the meaning and understand what the artist was trying to get across) The Academy Is... was one of the bands that spoke out to me the most. When I found out about the break up I spent a lot of days feeling empty and listening to every single one of their albums on repeat. I thought of never seeing them live again, or watching another episode of TAI TV, and worst of all never getting that fourth full-length album.

As bands work together for so many years they mostly end up either two different ways: a complete bunch egoistic strangers that sometimes share the same stage and play music that no longer holds any real meaning to them, music has become just about money and is no longer true; or they keep at least one original member, most likely the vocalist and continue playing music and trying to pass it off the real deal just like the original. The truth is when it comes down to watching a band perform live or hearing them record songs with people that they no longer want to work with then I say it is better to see them break-up than become some monster band that does not care about their music anymore.

The Academy Is... break was full of honesty. The break up was about growing apart is beautiful and touching to me. In their statement about the break-up the band admit to starting the band as friends and wanting to record music that was meaningful to both them and their fans, but then somewhere along the lines their friendship (which was a big part of the bands foundation) had died and so did passion of TAI. A real artist does not their art (in the case of The Academy Is... three albums that changed my life and the lives of many other fans as well) die and become nothing to them. By breaking up The Academy Is... kept their music real and something that still holds an important to their lives. The break up was about growing up, not fooling their fans and being honest to who they are.

Yes it hurts that I will never see William, Sissy, and Mike on stage together again playing the songs that helped me through so much, but it is way better than seeing all three of them on stage sing and play songs and also not liking each other. I do not like it when people put on fronts, so I why would enjoy watching a front for a stage and a front for albums from a band that I feel is the realiest band in the world for me. It would hurt way more for the band to stay alive and become something that I know they're not. We all have the ability to change for the better or the worse and having the band split up was for the better to prevent the worse.

The Academy Is... has changed my life in so many ways so of course their official break-up was going to change me as well. The break-up had me considering certain things about the music industry. How can bands have a falling out and wait years to have a reunion tour? How can they get back together and record a new album like nothing had ever happened? It is all about money? Are they any real artist that stick by their decisions and not phories that just make music about things that the no longer care about? Do fan's just want an albums and/or music made, even if it's not full of the honesty and real? Do they just want to see these bands play live and not care if the band members like each other or not?

As fans the only thing a band owes us the chance to listen to their music and for the music to mean something. If the music loses all meaning the band no longer has meaning itself then the band has failed to their fans. Coming to these realization helped me cope with the idea of not having The Academy Is... alive in my life. It also helped me think about artist and the music industry and just how fine the lines are between true artist and corporation made artist. The Academy Is... break up reminds me that they are true artist and they care about their music enough not to let it lose one ounce of meaning.

I leave this article with a message for The Academy Is...:

Thank you for keeping your music real. Thank you for writing the songs that have helped me during my toughest times. Thank you for writing those songs that I've kept on repeat for the past six years and the songs that I will never get the chance to hear. Thank you for showing me how a true band stays a true band and saying good bye to your fans in such a heartfelt way. If the band ever happens to come back together may The Academy Is... second coming be just as powerful as your first. Finally thank you for just understand. We were almost here, but now we're home.

by Sarah Lozano

BEHIND THE LENS

with TOM FALCONE

My name is Tom Falcone, I am a 20 year old freelance photographer. I started photographing very young. Flowers, local concerts/bands, friends and the most important part; networking. As dead as MySpace is today, that is all I used, it was the biggest tool I used, and Facebook, my website, twitter (etc) are how I get my work out there. Coming from a county that is so close to New York City, and very close to Poughkeepsie, that gave me great range on where I could promote, both cities being a huge part of the music industry. I expanded as much as possible, from NYC to NJ to CT for shoots/concerts which lead me to my first "real" shoot with my first "real" client, Glamour Kills Clothing. There were times where Glamour Kills Clothing were asking me to shoot some of the biggest bands in the industry for them (at age 17). Everything took off after that. I used the bands I was shooting for GK to promote and use in my portfolio. Networking was [and still is] huge for me as well. In a 24 hour day, I'll be on the computer 13/14 hours, sending e-mails, little proposals to managers, myspace, Facebook promotions etc. Still being so young, I wanted to branch out of just live band/promo photo and get behind the scenes [and] touring was an option. In my day, from being 17 to 19 years old, I have toured with Anarbor, There For Tomorrow, We Are The in Crowd, and Mayday Parade. A day of tour for me will vary from what type of tour it is; being a club tour or festival tour. A club tour, usually I wake up, hang out, send mgmt photos, update the bands blog/website (Mayday), hang out with the guys or gal, shoot all day behind the scenes, wait for the set, set up lights / flashes if needed, shoot signings then post-show food/hangs! Pretty simple! Some days, I set up promo shoots with other bands on the tour, or will be assigned to shoot the band I am working for (for publicity) etc etc. Keep shooting, don't stop talking, and use every tool out there. From gear, to the internet, to business cards. If you love it, you will succeed. Don't force anything in life.

You've been on several tours. Which one has been your favourite and why?

I'd have to say 2010 Summers 'Gimme Summa Ya Love' tour. I had toured with we are the in crowd before, and mayday once before that tour and mayday took me out again. It was full of friends, great times, huge venues and a lot of partying in Canada (it ruled being "legal" in Canada)

Do you feel that it's a competitive field for kids who want to start in photography today? What advice do you have for them?

Not at all. I talk to a bunch of successful music photographers on a daily basis. When kids ask me for advice, I give it to them. I want them to look up to me. I answer all emails as soon as possible and when I see kids at local shows or when I'm on tour I'd sit down and talk to them (depending on my schedule). I love it.

What equipment do you use while shooting?

Canon 5D. 17-40mm f4. 50mm f1.8. 85mm f1.8. I rent out a bunch of lenses depending on jobs as well. As for lighting, I run all alien bee strobes.

What has been your favourite experience photographing so far?

I'd say anything on the road. I love finding new things to shoot. New people to hang out with. When I did a bamboozle run this year I made it a point to have breakfast with some stranger everyday. Out of 9-10 days, I'd say half those days were successful. Haha. Weird? I love it.

TREND WATCH 2012 | BY IMANI GIVERTZ



SCOOP.NECK.TANKS
PLEATHER.SHORTS
SHEER.BLOUSES
CUTOUT.DRESSES
DRAPED.HEMS
AVIATOR.JACKETS
KAFTANS
WARM.COLORED.DENIM



to feel infinite



In my short sixteen and a half years of life, 2011 has been the best. Perhaps one of the biggest reasons is the time I've been able to get away from the wretched city of Edmonton and especially to do so to attend several shows and concerts.

Well, my favourite concert of 2011 may be a bit obvious, and expected. However, the reasons as to why this was my favourite concert(s) that I attended in 2011 wasn't that I got to see all my favourite bands, with a ton of my friends, in the city I live in. No, I traveled twenty hours from Edmonton to attend Warped Tour at the Gorge Amphitheatre and in Portland.

There's really nothing that can be close to the amount of time you have to reflect and think on a twenty hour road trip. Sure we made stops, but the majority of the time was in the car listening to music. I still remember listening to Falling In Reverse on the drive to Seattle and thinking, "Whoa, I'm gonna see them live tomorrow. If I meet Ronnie, I get to cross something off of my bucketlist. He's someone I really look up to." And guess what? The next day, I met Ronnie. I saw Falling In Reverse the next day however since Ronnie was on the first day. Every time I listen to "Ready To Go" by Panic! At The Disco I just remember crossing that bridge near the Gorge and the beautiful scenery with the sunset while looking out the window.

This was my third year in a row attending Warped Tour and it seems that each year just gets better. The sun was beating down on everyone making it almost exhausting to climb the huge hill at the Gorge, but I was still ecstatic and excited running around everywhere. My friend Brittany and I ran set to set catching and shooting bands, trying to see every band we wanted to see live. We had a plan devised, see and shoot all the bands we wanted to see on the first day, then for the next day just relax and see which bands we were able to catch. Funnily enough, we saw about three more bands the next day, including one of my personal favourites, Every Avenue.

But now on to all the technical matters as to why Warped Tour was amazing. For a tour so crazy and chaotic, they have everything organized perfectly. Just a few rounds around the tent area and it's memorized, maps were wonderfully drawn and easy to read, stages were all great. The bands performing, that I saw anyway, were more than perfect. The Word Alive brought such a great and solid performance along with We Came As Romans who have the most ridiculous antics.

I'll never forget these couple days of my life and how it just feels so different to be in another country. The view overlooking the Gorge as we sat at the top of the hill overlooking the huge crowd, stage, and the gorge itself during sunset, listening one of my favourite bands with the best live sound, A Day To Remember, that's exactly what it means to feel "infinite".

by Cynthia Lam

THANK YOU

I would just like to thank everyone who has helped us out for this issue and most of all you for reading this. To all the bands, tour managers, managers, publicists, and companies that we've worked with over the years, thank you. Thank you so all the support and all the countless amount of things that you've helped us with. It means so much to me along with the rest of the staff. This is a dream come true for me and we thank all of you so much and also to everyone who has supported us at any time. Especially to all of you who have taken the time to read any of issues.



SIMPLE SERENITY

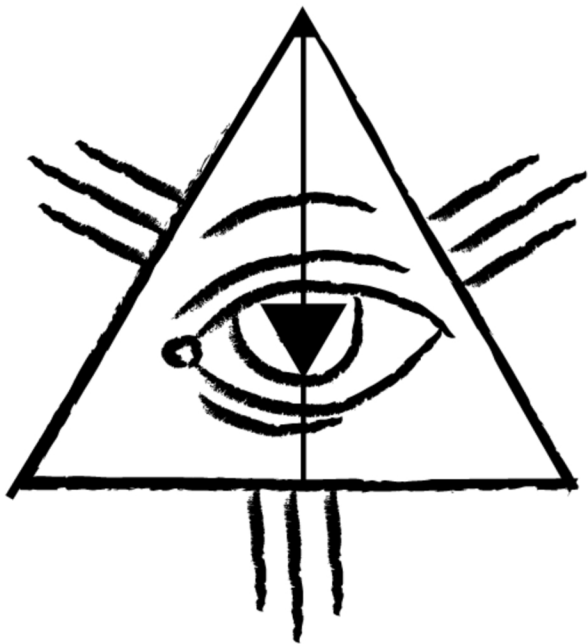
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