

REVIEWS: THE ACADEMY IS... - ELKLAND - MALAYNE

Hearts And Sleeves

A magazine for those with hearts, and sleeves to wear them on

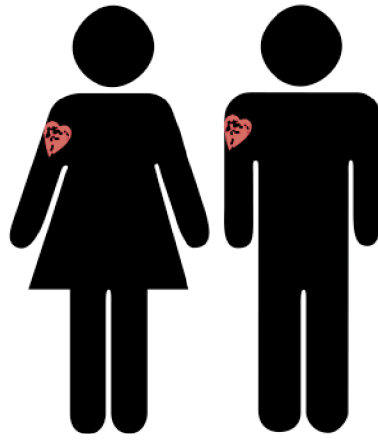
March 1, 2005

www.heartsandsleeves.com

FURTHER SEEMS FOREVER



PUNCHLINE - JAMISON PARKER
A THORN FOR EVERY HEART - DAYS AWAY
THE RECEIVING END OF SIRENS



Hearts and Sleeves

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A Magazine For Those With Hearts, And Sleeves To Wear Them On



FURTHER SEEMS FOREVER

If you look up turmoil in the dictionary you might expect to see a picture of Further Seems Forever there with the long and storied history of line-up changes within the band, but you won't. Instead look up dedication and passion. Those are two words that better describe this powerful five piece from the Sunshine State. The dedication that FSF has to its fans and the passion Jon Bunch has brought is evident upon the first listening to their 3rd CD *Hide Nothing*. That passion pales in comparison to the energy emitted during their live show. We were lucky enough to catch them at Toad's Place in New Haven, CT on February 15th when they kicked off their current tour.

Hearts And Sleeves: Last year there was a notice posted on your website that all but declared that Further Seems Forever was over with the departure of Jason Gleeson. Then a few months later you release *Hide Nothing*. How do you go from one extreme to the other?

Derick: We like to keep people on their toes.

[Everyone laughs]

Derick: No, basically after he quit we didn't really want to have a third singer so we just were like forget it we'll just break up and start a new band. And then Steve ended up calling up Jon Bunch from Sense Field. Sense Field had broken up so Steve gave Jon a call. And he said he was interested in hearing what we had. We actually had the entire record recorded

minus the vocals. We sent it to Jon he sent some stuff back and we loved it. We're pretty familiar with his stuff from before anyway. The original idea was to just start a new band with Jon but then we got talking about that and if we do that the new record still has to come out as a Further record and then we'll never be able to play those songs live. So we talked it over and decided that even though it's kind of

**Tom****Derick****Steve**

Don't order the fries at York Pizza in New Haven, CT unless you're really hungry or like to play with your food

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weird we'll just keep the name and keep going.

H&S: The material you had already recorded would have had to come out as a *Further* record because of contractual obligations?

Steve: Yeah.

H&S: How frustrating is it to lose two singers over the course of two albums?

Derick: The last one was certainly frustrating because it came out of nowhere. It was a big shock to all of us so that was a big disappointment really more than anything else. But having Jon is the best thing that's ever happened so in a way it's not frustrating at all. 'Cause he's very easy to get along with, he's very mature he brings a lot of experience and he's an amazing vocalist.

H&S: Most bands create an identity over the course of their existence that follows them from record to record. Kind of like bread crumbs that you would leave for your fans to follow you down different paths as you grow and change. I would say that 90% of that identity comes from the lead singer and lyrical content. So how do your fans follow you after having three singer/songwriters on three different albums?

Steve: That's a good question because we're actually curious about that ourselves. We just started touring again last August and it's definitely a transition. A lot of people like to personalize the band that they love and when a band



Jon

changes it's almost to some people, ironically, an insult to them. Like "oh this is my band and this is how I wanted it to stay" kind of thing. We've progressed in maturity with Jon, obviously. We still have a trademark sound that carries back to the origin of our band but at the same time there is definitely a progression lyrically and vocally. When we first started touring the album wasn't out yet and so that first tour was interesting because a lot of people weren't familiar with the album yet and wanted to hear how Jon would sound with the old stuff that the other guys did. I think now the past tour we did, in general -- I don't like to read message boards and stuff but it seems like there's been a positive response at this point with the new record and in general. I think we're building steam again.

Derick: One of the main reasons that we actually stayed "Further

Seems Forever" which I neglected to add was that we got hundreds of e-mails saying that it's just as much about the music as it is about the lyrics. "Please stay together." "Please do the next album." And that was a huge factor. If we had not gotten all of those e-mails we probably would have changed the name and just wrote off that album and started something new. But there was such a strong desire from a lot of people for us to keep going. And pretty much the core group has been the same other than the singer. Which I know is weird but other than that it's been pretty much the same.

Tom: That's what I was going to say is that being a fan of the band and growing up with most of the core members of the band even thought they've had a couple of different singers whenever a release is out it seems that people that have been around from the

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beginning can still expect a quality product. It's not like it changes. It didn't seem like the three different singers was that huge of a difference. I can understand some of the younger fans maybe not getting it now or it directing toward a different crowd slightly but all around I think it's pretty much stayed.

H&S: Each time you release an album does it feel like a debut album each time because it's a new singer?

Derick: Kind of but I'm a big jazz fan so for me it's not that weird to have a different lineup. All the great jazz groups are constantly shifting players out. It actually keeps things kind of fresh you know.

H&S: Every interview Further has ever done there is one question that is always asked. Why does everyone ask if you are a Christian band?

Derick: Because we're on Tooth and Nail. I think that's the main reason people ask.

H&S: Until recently I wasn't even aware that Tooth And Nail was a "Christian" label. Like is Mae a "Christian" band. I don't even know what that genre label means. I listen to your music and I listen to Mae and it doesn't seem like "Christian" music. You know what I mean. It's not Creed.

Derick: I hope not.

Steve: When Tooth And Nail first started out some of the first groups that they released were hardcore bands that had strong religious conviction and beliefs. Sort of

like Equal Vision starting with the Krishna thing. And so originally that's pretty much what it was. More of like a ministry deal. But now they've grown and branched out to all kinds of different styles of music. Most of their bands are considered general market but also are sold in the Christian market as well. Usually a lot of the bands are comprised with at least some people in the group that are believers or that their personal faith is Christianity.

Derick: And everyone in the band is a Christian so obviously that brings up that question as well.

Steve: But we're not a ministry-oriented band from stage or you know. We're here to entertain and hopefully make a little beer money.

H&S: Should that distinction matter?

Derick: I don't think so. I mean good music is good music. People can definitely read into the lyrics on a spiritual level. I think they

can read into the lyrics on a relationship level. On just a life level. So whatever you take from it I think is whatever you take from it. It's like looking at a piece of art. Everybody's going to look at it differently.

Steve: Everybody can relate to the lyrics, especially the new album, whether they're a Christian or not. It's good to play for as many different people as possible. We don't want to pigeonhole or label or classify our music we don't want to do that with our listener base.

H&S: Did you ever, or do you feel now that you are operating in the shadow of Chris Carrabba? That people reference you as the band that launched Chris Carrabba?

Derick: I wasn't even in the band when he was in it. I joined, literally, right after he left. I think that was more our old singer [Jason Gleeson]. He felt the pressure be-



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cause he was the singer that had to directly follow Chris. But Jon has such an identity himself already. He's not searching for who he is. He already knows who he is. So I don't think that's a problem at all. In fact he and Chris are actually good friends.

Steve: It's not as much a factor at all anymore, although we did just have a little blurb in Rolling Stone and they prefaced it with Chris but...

H&S: Yeah you've been around for six years and they put you in the "Fresh Faces" column.

Steve: Yeah we're not really new. But Jon already had his own identity coming in; I mean Chris was a fan of his back in the days. We have fans now that didn't even know that Chris was in the band. I think that initially as Chris became prevalent in his career with what he does now there was that stigma maybe but not as much anymore.

H&S: Hopefully if you get a second album out of Jon...

Derick: Not "if," "When." We have assurances.

H&S: So when you get a second album out of Jon you'll get that much further from the shadow.

Steve: Hopefully.

H&S: Tell me about The Bamboozle.

Steve: That's actually a situation where Chris brought up the idea. We had done a show with him in Boca, Florida. Like a hometown show.

H&S: I was surprised to see that on the Dashboard tour dates...

Kimberly Ann [H&S Assistant Editor]: I was looking at the tour dates! You didn't believe me!

Derick: Nice.

H&S: Always give your wife credit...

Kimberly Ann: He always takes credit!

H&S: Okay, so Kim was looking at the Dashboard tour dates and noticed that you guys were play-

ing with Dashboard in Boca and whenever anyone leaves a band there will always be rumors or a general thought that something bad had happened. So I was surprised to see that.

Steve: We've been friends with Chris for years so obviously when the thing initially – The one thing with Chris was that he was honest and upfront and came to us, as a man really, and told us what was going on and what direction he was looking to go in. He fulfilled his commitments he needed to fill before his departure and it's hunky-dory. So that's fine. Obviously it's worked out for him and I'm very happy for him. He's worked hard at it and he's definitely in his element doing what he does with Dashboard. We did the show in Boca and he wanted to do a couple of songs with us, old songs. One song, "A New Desert Life", we'd never done live with him. And he did "Wearing Thin" with us. I think after that he had such a good time that he was sort of probably feeling



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a little nostalgic and was like “what the hell let’s get the original line-up together and just do one show.” And do it right. So obviously we obliged and it’s gonna happen at the end of April, beginning of May.

H&S: How is that going to work. Is Jon going to be there? Two singers?

Derick: No, no strictly *The Moon Is Down*.

Steve: We wanted originally to have two sets maybe of newer Further and then the original set. But I guess we weren’t able to do it. So we just are keeping the one set.

H&S: What does the future hold for Further Seems Forever?

Steve: A lot of overseas activity. When this tour is over we’ll be going to Japan for 9 days. We’ve never been before. Jon’s actually been with Sense Field.

H&S: Do you have a good fan base over there?



Steve: So we’re told.

Derick: When Jon was over with Sense Field kids actually were coming up to him and asking if he was the new singer for Further and asked if he was going to come back with Further Seems Forever.

Steve: In a different accent though. [Laughs]

Derick: Somehow they knew

already. And then we’re going to head over to Europe for a little over a month. And do I think seven countries.

Steve: I think we’re doing some college dates in April for like a week or so. A lot of touring and then when that’s all over hopefully get work on the next record.

H&S: Any videos for this album?

Derick: We did one. We did “Light Up Ahead”. It was an animated one actually. It got a little bit of play. We got some play supposedly on MTV and Fuse but it’s not in heavy rotation or anything.

Kimberly Ann: Well they don’t have many videos on MTV.

Derick: I don’t even have cable.

Kimberly Ann: We don’t get Fuse in our area.

Steve: We don’t anymore. We used to. It was a show called “The Dive” on Fuse that put it in rotation.

H&S: That’s a good show to have your song on. “The Dive.”

[Laughs]

Steve: Take a dive.

H&S: Any more singles released



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from *Hide Nothing*?

Derick: Not that we're aware of. We just went to college radio and we're having some success there.

H&S: In my opinion tell them to play "Bleed."

Derick: Yeah that's one of our favorites.

Steve: We're starting the set off with that.

H&S: Nice.

Kimberly Ann: How exciting.

H&S: Give me five CD's that Further Seems Forever fans should own.

Steve: I will say Jawbox, *For Your Own Special Sweetheart*; Led Zeppelin, *4*. That's an old one and a modern. Pink Floyd, *Wish You Were Here*; U2, *Joshua Tree*; Fugazi, *Repeater*.

Derick: Sunny Day [Real Estate], *How It Feels [To Be Something On]*; Hum, *Downward is Heavenward*; Miles Davis, *Kinda Blue*; John Coltrane, *Blue Train*; Jim Hill, *Live*.

Tom: Ummm.

Derick: I just took yours.

Tom: Yeah exactly. What I would suggest to our listeners would be anything by U2, The Police. Let's see, you got me with Sunny Day. That was going to be one of them. I would say Jawbreaker, *Dear You*. We've been listening to that one a lot in the van. What would a good last one be?

Steve: It's funny 'cause we think of this stuff all the time and then on the spot...

H&S: Like when you go into a record store and you have 16 CD's in your head and as soon as you walk through the door and your mind goes blank.

Tom: I'll throw a new band in there. I'll say The Jealous Sound. I'm wearing the shirt. Their new CD is amazing.

H&S: Okay and to wrap it up finish this sentence: The most important thing is...

Tom: Being completely happy.

Derick: I think being honest with other people and with yourself. And pursue what you love.

Steve: Doing what you love to do with no compromise.

H&S: Excellent. Thanks!



FURTHER MAGIC

You might think it takes a little magic to keep a band together after losing 2 singers in 2 albums and you'd be right. Here's a little known fact about Further Seems Forever drummer Steve Kleisath... he's a magician! It's true. He pulled me aside just before the show started at Toad's Place in New Haven, CT, broke out a deck of cards and proceeded to blow my mind with a myriad of card tricks. If you see him walking around at any of their upcoming shows ask him to show you a trick and he'll be happy to oblige.



And this is your card!



Further Seems Forever is:

Jon Bunch: Vocals

Josh Colbert: Guitar

Derick Cordoba: Guitar

Chad Neptune: Bass

Steve Kleisath: Drums

Scott Nunn: Touring Guitarist

Tom: Touring Bassist

Tour:

03/05 - Des Moines, IA

03/07 - Fargo, ND

03/08 - Minneapolis, MN

03/09 - Green Bay, WI

03/10 - Milwaukee, WI

03/11 - Grand Rapids, MI

03/12 - Toledo, OH

03/13 - Cleveland, OH

03/14 - State College, PA

04/07 - Baltimore, MD

04/08 - Baltimore, MD



Jacks Mannequin

will be hitting the road this March. To all you lucky sons-of-bitches that live anywhere near Austin, TX, Andrew McMahon tells me that you'll be able to catch the very first JM live performance at the South By Southwest (SxSW) Music Festival on March 18th at La Zona Rosa (I've seen some ads that have this line-up at the Austin Music Hall though, so be sure to check your local listings for details). They'll be on a bill with GRATITUDE, FALL OUT BOY, THE STARTING LINE and HAWTHORNE HEIGHTS. The touring band is Bobby Raw and Jay MaC (from BIKE LOCK, guitar and drums respectively), Dr. J Russel (bass), and Jacques Brautbar (from PHANTOM PLANET, guitar). Expect to listen to a new track at www.jacksmannequin.com in the next few weeks as well as a new blog. Psst and don't be surprised if you happen upon an unannounced JM gig or two in LA in the next few weeks.

Chaos Records

has started loading its roster (and my in-box with press releases). Signing TO WATCH THE STARS FADE from Atlanta, GA; ADRIA LORMIS from Irvine, CA; and NO ONE KNEW from Springfield, IL. With these signings Chaos has shown their dedication to diversity and a keen ear for talent. Check out www.purevolume.com/towatchthestarsfade - www.myspace.com/adria1 - www.purevolume.com/nooneknew - www.chaosrecords.net

Mae

release their sophomore effort, *The Everglow*, on Tooth And Nail Record, March 29th (I'll be waiting in line when the store opens for that one too) but if you want to pre-order it you will also receive a limited edition autographed lithograph by going to www.whatismae.com and following the links. Also, check out a song off of it titled "Someone Else's Arms" at www.purevolume.com/mae

Reggie And The Full Effect's

Pre-order upcoming album (due in stores 3/29) *Songs Not To Get Married To* and get a free autographed poster. Easiest link is at www.purevolume.com/reggieandthefulleffect and while you're there you can check out some new songs. They'll also be on tour this month with NEW FOUND GLORY so check out the tour dates at www.reggieandthefulleffect.net and join the street team while you're there. (RATFE get the "kill two birds with one stone" award this month).

Emanuel

On March 15 Emanuel's latest effort, *Soundtrack To A Headrush*, hits shelves. You can pre-order it by going to www.thisisemanuel.com and following the links. Or better yet go to www.itunes.com and download the whole thing legally NOW!

Midtown

has a ton of upcoming shows with FALL OUT BOY and the Friends of Ramen Tour. Also they'll be posting up the video for "Empty Like The Ocean" soon so that's 2 great reasons to check out their website: www.midtownrocks.com.

**QUICK HITS FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH**

Gratitude just posted new tune "Another Division Street" at www.purevolume.com/gratitude. You can also find 3 other tracks off of their upcoming, highly anticipated, self-titled debut album which hits store shelves March 8th. We'll be in line when the store opens. Check out their website www.gritudemusic.com for tour dates, music, bios and more. It's a real pretty site.

Speaking of GRATITUDE they'll be hitting the road April 2nd on the **AP/Vans Tour** with STRAY-LIGHT RUN headlining, MINUS THE BEAR, THE HONORARY TITLE and SPITALFIELD are also along for the ride. Go to www.altpress.com for more details.

Firescape's amazing debut EP, *Rearden's Conscience*, is now available for purchase at their website (www.firescapemusic.com) or at any of their upcoming tour dates: 3/5 - Burlington, IA; 3/6 - Kansas City, MO; 3/7 - Oklahoma, OK; 3/9 - Phoenix, AZ.

Daphne Loves Derby signed to Outlook Records. Expect their debut, *On The Strength Of All Convinced* in June. There's a neat little update from the band at their website www.daphnelovesderby.com.

Drive Thru Records and Fueled By Ramen partnered up to present a nationwide tour kicking off on April 1st. The line-up features LESS THAN JAKE, ALLISTER, HIDDEN IN PLAIN VIEW AND KANE HODDER. Dates to be announced soon.

Check out **Hidden In Plain View**'s new kick ass (I tend to say kick ass a lot when writing about HIPV) video for "Ashes, Ashes" at www.drivethrurecords.com/videopage.

And in more **Drive Thru Records** news... They will be hosting their first ever label showcase at the annual South By Southwest Music Conference in Austin Texas. STEEL TRAIN, HIDDEN IN PLAIN VIEW, HELLOGOODBYE, HALIFAX, AN ANGLE AND SOCRATIC will perform on Friday, March 18th at Sake on Sixth.

Over It will be performing 3 in-store performances to celebrate the release of their long anticipated March 8th Lobster Records Debut: *Silverstrand*. Catch them 3/8 ,6pm at Salzer's in Ventura, CA; 3/10, 4:30pm at Sounds Like... in Riverside, CA; 3/14, 7pm at The Virgin Megastore in Orange, CA. For exact details check out www.overitonline.com. And listen to some recently posted tracks at www.purevolume.com/overit

Victory Records signed Connecticut hardcore powerhouse WITH HONOR and Illinois indie-rock must-sees THE FORECAST in February. Good to see they're keeping their roster balanced. Expect a WITH HONOR release in the fall and THE FORECAST's Victory debut on May 17th. For more info go to www.victoryrecords.com, www.withhonor.com, www.the-forecast.net



JAMISONPARKER

In a perfect world good music rises to the top buoyed by the reaction of the fans, not celebrity status or marketing departments. That's exactly how JamisonParker have risen through the ranks. The one-time duo, now five-piece, performed, without an official billing, at merch tents during 2003's Surf and Skate Fest in Asbury Park, NJ and built such a following that they were invited to play the 2nd stage in front of 700 people the last day of the fest. Now almost 3 months away from their highly anticipated full-length debut JamisonParker will continue to rise like a balloon propelled by the power of fandom until they eclipse the sun. We sat down with the band at Toad's Place in New Haven, CT on February 15, 2005 right before they went on stage and drew the audience in like moths to a flame.

Hearts And Sleeves: Quick introductions.

John: I'm John, I play keyboards.

BJ: I'm BJ, I play bass.

Jamison: Play guitar and sing.

Joe: I'm Joe I rock on the drums.

Parker: I play guitar.

H&S: So is that: "Joe Irock" and

you play drums?

[Everybody laughs]

Joe: Yeah that's my name Joe Irock!

H&S: Describe Jamison Parker.

Parker: What do you mean describe it?

John: It's kick ass. That's what it is.

Parker: We're loud but melodic. Soft...

John: And smooth.

Parker: Quiet loud and everything. I don't know.

H&S: How does the creative process work in the band? We're all familiar with the back-story about demos through the mail

**Parker****Joe****Jamison****BJ****John**

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and things like that but how does it work now?

Parker: For the new album we just finished recording it in August/September of '04. And actually Jamison and I worked with Ken Andrews who is our producer and just the three of us did the record. And then we formed the new band shortly thereafter.

Jamison: Creative-wise either he [Parker] just comes up with a basic structure of a song or I do and then we kind of bounce it off of each other and play it together until we throw some demos together and one thing leads to another.

H&S: By "basic structure" do you mean a beat or lyrics?

Parker: Sometimes it'll be a riff. Sometimes it'll be a chord. Sometimes it'll be a verse and then we just build off of the tiniest little thing.

H&S: How long have you been together as a band?

Jamison: We've been kind of in California just practicing since last winter. It's still winter right? Okay so November. October? November?

BJ: We really just started practicing heavily for two months straight. Just nailing it.

H&S: Tell me about the record.

BJ: It rips!

Parker: If you're familiar with our EP it's quieter in some ways. It's harder in some ways. It's more mature and all.

John: It's pretty and chaotic at the same time.

Jamison: There's a lot more influences that come through this time.



Not trying to be anyone but just pulling our favorite parts from our favorite bands. Like guitar tones here, style structure there. A lot of Cure, Jimmy Eat World, Jesus and Mary Chain, My Bloody Valentine. But at the same time don't expect it to be a loveless album. You might get some of those really dreamy, loopy effects going on and really bendy notes and you get lost in certain songs and then the next song is just extremely loud ear piercing distortion.

H&S: How does it differ from the EP which seems to be pretty straightforward rock and softer than what you are describing now.

Parker: I would say that the EP was focused more on actual song writing where it was lyric, melody based. And this took the same idea that was there and traversed new territory sonically. Like things that we would normally play on the

acoustic guitar maybe we would play on a guitar that's turned up.

H&S: Are you familiar with Mr. Bungle?

Parker: Yeah!

H&S: So are we talking the difference between Mr. Bungle's first album and *Disco Volante*?

Parker: That is an obscure reference. I was a Faith No More fan myself. This is like, in our world now, our *Pinkerton*. Something of a little more modern reference.

Jamison: We took a lot of time on it and felt it out and went with a gut feeling on the songs more than just trying to find something that sounds good to everybody.

Parker: Go into a new territory that we haven't seen in our peer bands. And even bands that are not our peer bands, just bands in general.

H&S: So people that like the EP for what it was, are they going to like the new album?

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Parker: Definitely. There's songs that sound like they could have been on the EP. Just like some of the EP songs if we were to record them now would fit on the record. Sonically it may sound different but it's gonna be the same...

Jamison: The same kind of song structures. Everything is very, not in the negative way of saying pop, but has a very pop structure like verse-chorus-verse-chorus. Some of the songs get a bit lengthy compared to your normal pop structure, you know where a song could be six minutes but it's not filled with those.

H&S: Your previous songs were inspired by a bad break up. What inspires you on the new album?

Jamison: I fell in love.

BJ: A great relationship.

Jamison: It's a complete romantic album. Everything is about being in love. I think one song kind of touches a little bit on the negative side. But everything is just about... Even if at times it seems like the songs are real lonely or a little dark. It's lonely and dark because you want to be with someone. Not because someone left you. It's because you're so in love with them and you can't be close to them. It's not necessarily about being in love as in boyfriend/girlfriend love. It touches on a few family, friendship kind of things. But it's all about needing someone and feeling like you need to be close.

BJ: In "Slow Suicide" It's a love of addiction right?

Jamison: There's a song, "Slow

Suicide," that's a little different. It's just about how people, one way or another, has that addictive personality. Some people need to go fuck 24 hours a day. Some people need to go to shows and dress up, like, to prove that they're someone. That's my deal. In one way or another everyone has to do something to fill that void. So that touches on that loneliness.

H&S: Jamison, how is it moving from a small town in Kentucky to L.A? How did that affect you?

Jamison: I guess the culture shock didn't set in until I realized how many social anxiety problems I really had [laughs]. At first it wasn't that big of a deal and then the more I realized that everywhere you go there's a thousand people bumping into you. When you go home there's people above you, below you and on every side. I started carrying a knife everywhere I went. This bum told me he murders people like me every day. So I had

this huge hunting knife, the handle was made out of a deer antler. So I just started carrying that knife and the next time I saw him I pulled it out and told him I was gonna cut him if he came near me and he never bothered me again.

John: Now BJ's his bodyguard.

BJ: I got crutches.

Jamison: That kinda stuff freaked me out but other than that it's just another place with people and buildings and concrete and whatever.

H&S: Tell me about the Bamboozle. Is this your first return to New Jersey since your first Skate And Surf?

Parker: This is our third year doing it.

John: We're excited.

Parker: The promoter. I'll follow that guy anywhere. He's helped us out so much. I'll trust that guy so much. We wouldn't be here if he didn't help us out.



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H&S: Which promoter was it?

Parker: I think it was John D[‘Esposito]. He’s the guy that really helped us out.

H&S: Give me five CD’s that fans of JamisonParker should own.

Group [after much discussion]: Damone, *From The Attic*; The Cure, *Disintegration*; any Recover; Kings of Convenience.

Parker: There’s so many bands. We’re actually thinking about posting recommendations at our site.

Jamison: The Cure catalog, any Nirvana, Jesus and Mary Chain. Newer bands: Damone, Recover.

Parker: I dove into all these back catalogs and haven’t found my way out yet. But modern bands? Damone is definitely one. It’s like Weezer, Blue Album but with an amazing lead girl singer.

H&S: How old are you guys?

Parker: I just turned 24.

Joe: 19

Jamison: I thought I was 22 for a while but it was just brought to my attention that I’m 23 and I’ll be 24 this year.

H&S: Should we get into the story behind that?

BJ: He just forgot.

Jamison: I was talking to one of my friends that I hadn’t talked to in a long time and she asked me how old I was and I said 22 and she just laughed in my face and was like “I know your birthday don’t lie to me” because she always gives me a hard time because I’m older than her. And then I realized that I’ve been thinking I was 22 for the past year and I was actually 23 the

whole time. I have no concept of time.

BJ: I’m 24

John: 24.

H&S: What’s a good cause to support?

John: Tsunami relief. That’s the most important right now because anything else you can donate to later but right now it’s crucial. Unless you hate Thailand. But I don’t.

H&S: Kim [H&S Assistant Editor] has a question for Jamison. Do you do your own makeup?

Jamison: Normally. But today my girlfriend did it for me. But normally I do my own makeup. And she told me she’s never going to do my makeup again. Because I kept moving and she was poking me in the eye the whole time. So we both agreed that I’m better off doing it myself.

H&S: When can we expect the new album? And what’s the name?

Parker: It’s called *Sleepwalker*.

Mid May [May 24] release date.

H&S: Anything you would like to add? Other than helping Jamison regain that year of his life that he lost?

John: That might be the next album, about the year he lost.

Jamison: Anybody that reads this interview: tell Damone to find me and say “hi.” I pester them constantly.

H&S: And they don’t reply?

Jamison: I think I... Scared them. [Laughs]

Jamison: I’m not a real myspace person but I send them messages constantly.

H&S: Why don’t you take them on tour with you when your album comes out?

BJ: What dreams may come.

Jamison: I’ve been begging that since the day...

H&S: They might get scared though.

Jamison: I would be standing dead



INTERVIEW



center stage.

BJ: We want to party with them.

H&S: So if the readers leave with anything they should leave with the knowledge that they should buy the Damone CD.

Jamison: Buy that instead of ours.

H&S: So buy that and download yours. So then what do you guys think of downloading?

Parker: It's cool that you can go to a place on-line and you're able to download stuff where the quality is all good.

H&S: Well what about illegal downloading? James from Copeland recently posted on their band's blog and said [paraphrased]: "We want you guys to hear our music and we want to get it out there but the only way to make another record is if we sell so many copies." [See the sidebar for James' actual post] And the bands don't make any money off of the albums anyway. Many of your peers

are pro-downloading because it brings kids to the shows and that's where you make your money anyway with merch and such. But you can't keep making albums.

John: It's such a morality issue. Now you get a second chance to see if a band is worth it. You can download stuff and see if you like it and if you do, don't download the rest of it go buy it. It's as simple as that. Just know that you're helping the bands out when you buy it.



JamisonParker's full length debut, *Sleepwalker* comes out May 24th.

Last month James Likeness, bassist for Copeland, posted this message, regarding downloading, on the band's Livejournal page:

To everyone saying that they will download the record and then purchase it after it's released - We appreciate your support, but the biggest support you could give us would be to refrain from downloading. Sure, you may have good intentions, but the many people who could get the record from you and WON'T buy it probably don't have the same ideas. A lot of weight is placed on album sales in the music industry - not just because of the cost involved, but also because those numbers are how you determine how artists are faring. Our record sale numbers affect us more in this sense than they ever would in the monetary sense.

I could go on forever to try to explain this. The bottom line is that sharing and downloading our albums hurts us."



UPDATE

by Nathan Wrann

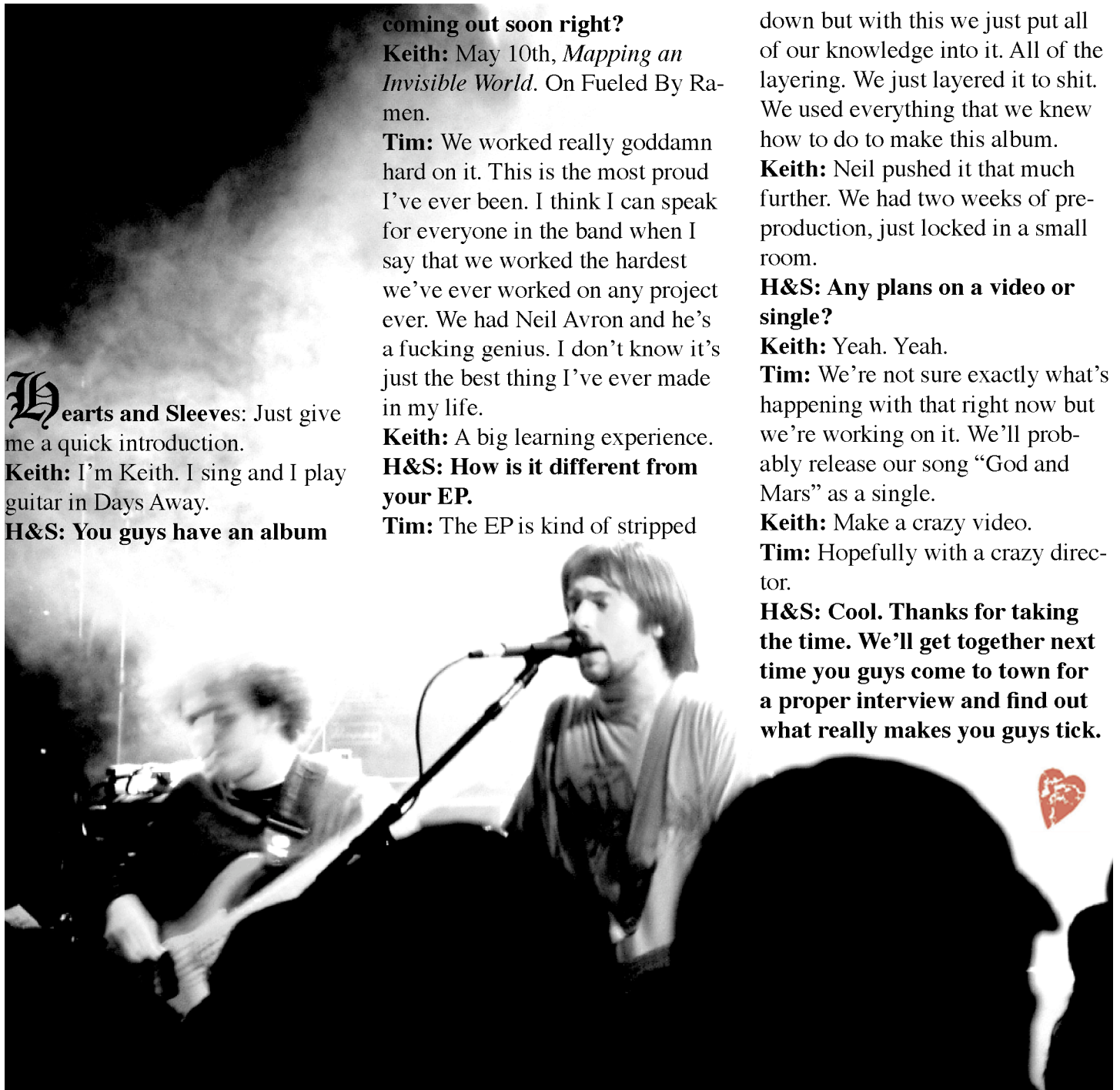
Hearts and Sleeves

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DAYS AWAY

Days Away kicked so much ass when we saw them at Toad's Place in New Haven, CT on February 15th that we had to pull Keith and Tim aside and get the scoop on their upcoming debut album.



Hearts and Sleeves: Just give me a quick introduction.

Keith: I'm Keith. I sing and I play guitar in Days Away.

H&S: You guys have an album

coming out soon right?

Keith: May 10th, *Mapping an Invisible World*. On Fueled By Ramen.

Tim: We worked really goddamn hard on it. This is the most proud I've ever been. I think I can speak for everyone in the band when I say that we worked the hardest we've ever worked on any project ever. We had Neil Avron and he's a fucking genius. I don't know it's just the best thing I've ever made in my life.

Keith: A big learning experience.

H&S: How is it different from your EP.

Tim: The EP is kind of stripped

down but with this we just put all of our knowledge into it. All of the layering. We just layered it to shit. We used everything that we knew how to do to make this album.

Keith: Neil pushed it that much further. We had two weeks of pre-production, just locked in a small room.

H&S: Any plans on a video or single?

Keith: Yeah. Yeah.

Tim: We're not sure exactly what's happening with that right now but we're working on it. We'll probably release our song "God and Mars" as a single.

Keith: Make a crazy video.

Tim: Hopefully with a crazy director.

H&S: Cool. Thanks for taking the time. We'll get together next time you guys come to town for a proper interview and find out what really makes you guys tick.

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MALAYNE

Self Titled EP



John Lennon once said “life is what happens to you while you’re busy making other plans” and the Further Seems Forever show in New Haven, CT on February 15th was a perfect example of how this applies to me. Not that I was making other plans but sometimes you can find some amazing gems without even looking for them. My point is that while I was checking out the FSF merch I picked up the mo-

hawked merch guy’s CD that he was selling for a couple bucks each. I asked him about it and he gave me a copy and mentioned that Scott Nunn FSF’s usual touring guitarist is in this band. My point is that usually my music purchases (as I imagine most of yours are) are a bit more planned out, I read reviews (hmmm), I listen to samples on Purevolume, I pay attention to marketing. I never planned on going to this show and finding a great CD by a band I had never heard of.

One of my goals in life is to write a screenplay. When I finally finish my first screenplay I will break one of the cardinal rules of screenwriting and actually include song titles in the script. The songs will come from this 4 song EP by Malayne. This band takes the best sentiment of the classic ‘80’s soundtrack vibe and adds their own personal modern flair. Creating unashamed love songs with a modern-classic rock feel. These songs sound like they were written for a 50 foot screen. I put the disc in and see before me now two characters with tears streaming while “No More Hellos” plays in the background: “I wonder what we would say / If our paths saw us again / Would it be too soon / If it ever happened / Could you turn and walk away.” Their hands slowly pull apart until only the finger tips touch and then... space. And fade to black. I suppose the ending is the best place to start. Thank you Malayne for helping a girl figure out her final scene. For classic rock love songs that will become the soundtrack of your life make sure to stop by the merch table when FSF comes to your town or if you aren’t that lucky check out some tunes at www.purevolume.com/malayne or www.malaynemusic.com.

Review by Kimberly Ann Dalton



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ELKLAND

Golden



It seems that VH-1 has spent the last few years preparing the nation for the May 3rd release of Elkland’s debut album *Golden*. It seems that every time I flip through the channels I Love The ‘80’s is airing in it’s 5th or 6th installment. This applies to Elkland because this CD represents everything that was good about ‘80’s synth-pop with one major difference, they’ve had 20 years of to improve upon it. With that decade quickly becoming a “classic” era we should expect to see many ‘80’s influenced bands emerge and they are, just look at Action Action and Hellogood-bye, but what sets Elkland apart from those two bands is that they are rock based synth-pop bands and Elkland is a synth-pop based synth-pop band so you won’t find the crunching guitars here. Just the beautifully hollow melodic vocals of Jon Pierce, the old-school synthesizers (authentic from the era) and the light guitar and poppy drums for support. If there is a clamoring for retro ‘80’s style music expect Elkland to be at the forefront, with major label support and a debut that perfectly realizes their vision of taking the sounds of yesterday and throwing them into the future.

-K.D. & N.W.



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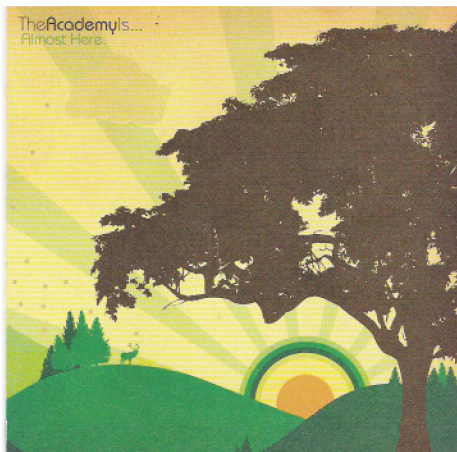
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THE ACADEMY IS...

Almost Here



I'm impressed. The Academy Is... has released a debut album that is sure to be on many top 10 lists at the end of the year, much to the dismay of more seasoned musicians. I saw The Academy Is... play live once, when they opened for Something Corporate in Washington DC in January. Their show is definitely a must-see if they come to your area but my reason for mentioning it is that when I finally got my hands on

a copy of *Almost Here* (over a month later) I still recognized and remembered the songs from the set they played. That's a testament to the quality of the songs. I couldn't believe the voice that emanated from William Becket in Washington DC and when that voice (a combination of New York-y garage rock and full bodied melody with a dash of pop-punk whine thrown in) is combined with rock guitar playing of Mike Carden and Thomas Conrad over a rhythm section (Adam Siska, bass and Andy Mrotek drums) that doesn't always follow the rules you end up with a hybrid of a band that can't be stereotyped.

The sound and lyrical content of *Almost Here* displays a maturity that most bands will never achieve. Most prominently shown in "The Phrase That Pays" a somber but victorious tune about a kid that receives a terminal diagnosis and rather than give up on life decides to "Take a chance, and make it big because it's the last you'll ever get." Other stand-out tracks are "Down and Out" another song about life shitting on you but not giving up because life is "always up or down, never down and out." There is a certain attitude that great artists adopt and I think that The Academy Is... have created an important album because of this attitude which they reveal in Black Mamba: "Oh Mr. Magazine, I never wrote one single thing for you or your so-called magazine" when musicians create from the heart you get something pure and beautiful, just like *Almost Here*.

Review by Nathan Wrann



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YOUR CD HERE

Want a review in
Hearts And Sleeves?

Please contact us at
news@heartsandsleeves.com

Next month we'll be reviewing
Acceptance - *Phantoms*
A Static Lullaby - *Faso Latido*

and more



We spoke with ATFEH fresh off the stage after sonically aweing the crowd into worshipful submission evident in the wild pit at The Webster Theater in Hartford, CT on Feb. 21st.

Hearts And Sleeves: Let's do some quick introductions.

Kelvin: My name is Kelvin and I am lead vocals for A Thorn for Every Heart.

Matt: I'm Matt and I play the drums.

H&S: Your debut was just released last October. How is it doing so far?

Kelvin: I'm really impressed. I'm excited about it. I feel like we made a really good record and I think it's a step up from the EP and a step in the right direction for us musically. It seems to be doing well. It's better than I could have hoped for. For our band to just come out of nowhere and do it.

Matt: They didn't even make enough copies.

Kelvin: I think the label kind of doubted us – well maybe not even maybe doubted us but just didn't expect it to go over so well. We were actually out of CD's a while back everything was on back order. We did even have CD's ourselves.

Matt: We would go into Best Buy and Wal-Mart and try to find them to buy them and sell them for what we bought them for just so that we would have them at shows. But

nobody had them.

H&S: So it lived up to your expectations?

Kelvin: Definitely. I'm really happy. I feel like Shawn Sullivan, our producer, really got the best out of everybody. He really pushed us and it was a good work environment. He did things really well and he had a good approach. A raw style, he didn't want to use any triggers or any fake tones. Everything is real amps and real guitars and real drums. He did an amazing job and got the best out of us. I can't wait to see what the future holds.

H&S: How do you measure suc-

cess for this album and how do you improve upon it?

Kelvin: I'm looking forward to writing with Matt because Matt joined us after the record was done and I feel like we're just going to step it up even more. And just fine-tune things a bit more. Be more prepared when we go in the studio and have maybe 15 or 20 songs as opposed to 9 or 10 for the next one and pick the best of everything. And do our stuff.

H&S: You signed to startup label Kickball Records. Tell me about them.

Kelvin: It's run by Wendy Higgs



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and Matt Kelly. In the beginning we did a lot of work by ourselves. We did our own EP, Justin, our bass player produced and recorded that. Smartpunk.com did really well with that and Interpunk.com did well. We got the attention of Wendy Higgs, from our website actually, and she talked to us and we did a couple of showcases. They really are just a tour driven label. It's not about the big bucks and the videos right off the bat, it's just about touring. Pay your dues. Tour with as many bands as possible. Play your songs for as many kids and be excited about music. And it's everything that we want to do with music so it's perfect.

Jeff: I'm Jeff. I play guitar, piano and I sing.

H&S: Was it scary signing to a label that didn't have anybody yet.

Jeff: Actually no. At first absolutely not. We loved the people that were putting us on so we didn't even think about that.

Kelvin: We shared all the same ideas and we knew how we wanted to do it. How we wanted to make our mark, in a slow pay our dues process. Get the kids familiar with you by a live show with a good intensity and then put out a good record. I think people can enjoy it for what it is.

Matt: A lot of people on the East Coast don't know about us yet. This is our first time in Connecticut tonight.

Kelvin: Just making the rounds and touring. That's exactly the goals that we all shared. Just being

out on the road and playing for as many people and winning them over that way.

H&S: Any other labels try to steal you away yet?

Kelvin: Um, no.

Matt: I don't think so. I think we're still really under the radar right now.

H&S: Everywhere I go on -line I see you guys and the pop-up ads and stuff.

Matt: Mike's [ATFEH publicist from Earshot media] the man.

H&S: Last year was a banner year for you guys. You signed to a label, did Warped, toured with some of the biggest bands in the scene and released your debut. How do you follow that up and improve upon it?

Kelvin: Do it all over again. Make a better record. Tour with the same bands. Tour with more bands.

Jeff: I think that either before or after Warped it's going to be better, as far as audiences.

Kelvin: We've got some good compilations coming out. Some fresh tunes for the kids. We did a great cover of Dead Man's Party by Oingo Boingo for Punk Goes '80's put out by Fearless Records. We did a Smashing Pumpkins cover. We're gonna start writing material for our next record. Possibly in March. Just on to bigger and better things. All we want to do is keep touring. Play to as many people everywhere. And if we can do that then I think we've made our goals.

Jeff: I already think I've accomplished my life's goal I'm playing music in a different place everyday and people who live there come to see me. I won. I don't care what happens next year I did it. I think

we'll all be happy knowing that we toured out.

H&S: What else is coming up for you guys.

Kelvin: We're getting a new website design ready to come out. Some more stuff for the kids, pictures, interviews, more interactive stuff.

Matt: A picture of the drummer.

Kelvin: Yeah a picture of the drummer for a change. Definitely touring. Lots of touring. We'll get a little bit of time off maybe just to reflect on things and start working on the next thing.

H&S: thanks for taking the time to talk to me. Next time you guys come through we'll really get to learn the about the nitty gritty.



A Thorn For Every Heart
Kelvin Cruz - Vocals
Justin Powell - Bass
Phil Nguyen - Guitar/Vocals
Jeff - Guitar/Vocals
Matt - Drums

on tour:

03/02 - West Columbia, SC
03/03 - Atlanta, GA
03/04 - Melbourne, FL
03/05 - Tampa, FL
03/06 - Orlando, FL
03/07 - Tallahassee, FL
03/09 - Spring, TX
03/10 - San Antonio, TX
03/11 - McAllen, TX
03/12 - Midland, TX
04/04 - Anaheim, CA
04/05 - Los Angeles, CA



We caught up with 2 members of the super-powerful Boston quintet when they blew the doors off of The Space in Hamden, CT on Feb. 19th as part of the amazing Lions and Sirens and Bears tour.

Hear & Sleeves: Introductions?

Brendan: I'm Brendan Brown bass player and vocals for The Receiving End of Sirens [TREOS]

Andrew: I'm Andrew and I play drums for TREOS.

H&S: On August 31st of 2004 you posted in the news section of your website that you wanted to dispel rumors that you had signed to a label.

Brendan: Hmmm.

H&S: Just over a month later you announced that you had signed to Triple Crown Records. Congratulations. How did all of that come together?

Andrew: We did a small tour this past summer with a couple bands that were on Triple Crown. Well Orange Island had been on Triple Crown and Lux Courageous just signed to Triple Crown. They told Fred, who is the owner of Triple Crown, about us and encouraged him to check us out. And also the man who we had been recording with for a year or two, Matt Squire, is a good friend of Fred's so he also said he should definitely check us out. So Fred checked us out, gave us a call and said he really liked

THE RECEIVING END OF SIRENS

our stuff so we should meet up. He saw us play and then it was a deal.

Brendan: The rumors to dispel were that we had thought we were going to be signed to a label and rumors had started because we met with them. But then we had meetings with a couple other labels after that.

H&S: How has life changed since becoming a signed band?

Andrew: We've gotten significantly more poor. Because we don't have jobs because we've decided to just make this our complete focus.

Which I'm not complaining when I say we're poor I mean it's just part of the territory. We've gone full time and we're staying on the road all the time. And it's been a change for us because here it is February and we've been on tour for a month. And it's strange being on tour in the winter time 'cause we're all so used to doing summer tours with part-time bands. We're just all really looking forward to touring year round.

Brendan: There's definitely been significantly more kids at the



Brendan

Andrew

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shows on this tour than when we were unsigned so that helped.

H&S: Do you attribute that to being signed or just the fact that you've been touring more and word is getting out.

Andrew: It's probably a combination of both but I think being on a label helps because then there's other areas of the internet that kids hear about you. They'll hear about us on Absolutepunk[.net] more often. They'll see it on the Triple Crown website and things like that. So it definitely helps get the word out. It's sad to say but I think kids sometimes tend to take bands more seriously when they get signed. They think "Oh maybe I should check them out. If they're good enough to get signed I should probably take a listen."

H&S: Tell me about the recording process for the full length.

Brendan: A lot of it happened before the actual recording. We took a month off to write the songs. We'd been writing for about six months at that point. Then we went down and did a good amount of pre-production, just hashing through the songs to bring them to their full potential. And Matt Squire was awesome to work with. He's got so many good ideas. His rooms sound awesome in his studio. We did six weeks and then an additional week and a half of mixing in January. We just finished mastering it in New York City a couple of weeks ago.

H&S: You recorded down in College Park, MD, right?

Brendan: Yeah, at Phase Studios.

H&S: Who plays on the record?

Andrew: We had some guest vocals. We had some friends of ours in a band called Driving In Silence all come down and did – [to Dan from As Tall As Lions] can you shut up! Seriously? -- gang vocals. We met these guys in a band called Circa Survive while we were down there 'cause they were recording right down the street at Salad Days. So we got to hang out with them a bunch and became friends with them and Anthony Green did some vocals on it. A lot of kids know him 'cause he was in that band Saosin and now he's doing Circa Survive so he did vocals on a couple of tracks. And Dan from As Tall As Lions wanted to do vocals but we kinda think his voice sucks so we told him that he couldn't do it. [Brendan laughs] Lux Courageous, PJ, Justin and Jani were kind enough to drive down from Long Island and do some gang vocals with us. That was one of the most fun parts of the recording, having friends there and knowing that there were going to be a part of the record was awesome.

H&S: Who produced it? Squire?

Brendan: Yeah Matt Squire produced it.

Andrew: He did everything. Recording, engineering, production, mixed it. And Casey [Crescenzo, TREOS guitars, keyboards and vocals] did a lot of extra production as well. Our album pretty much seamlessly transitions through the whole thing. We have a lot of segueways that aren't necessarily numbered tracks.

H&S: So you don't have stops in between the tracks?

Andrew: There's only a couple on the whole record. Casey did all the

production on those [segueways]. We set up a little "Studio B" as we like to call it where we did stuff at night on Casey's computer. That was a big part of it too.

H&S: How does that translate to, say, an iPod on shuffle? Is it going to cut the song off with a hard stop at the end?

Andrew: Yeah unfortunately.

Brendan: Some of it will sound weird, especially if it's on a random type thing.

H&S: So it's meant to be played from start to finish.

Brendan: Right, yeah. A lot of it has to do with either tempos or the keys are the same so if they go into each other and they're not supposed to be back to back it'll sound weird.

H&S: How do you go about releasing a single off of it?



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Andrew: It'll probably be a different edit.

Brendan: A radio mix.

Andrew: Which Matt can do in about two minutes. We'll cross that bridge when we get there. We really just wrote and recorded the album intending for it to be listened to as an album. We didn't worry about a single or anything like that. And if people take notice and want to play it on the radio that's amazing and we'll be happy to do some editing and make sure people can hear it in that form. But as far as the regular listening experience goes it's definitely meant to be listened to as a whole piece.

Brendan: I think that more of a problem is that all of our songs are like 5 minutes long. Not so much that we have transitions.

H&S: With that being said do you have any plans for a video?

Brendan: We have a video budget but I think that if we release a single and it does well then there's potential for it but we don't have any plans for it now.

Andrew: We're approaching it the same way as we're approaching the single idea. Crossing that bridge when we get to it. If it happens great if it doesn't that's cool to.

H&S: How does the full length differ from previous recordings?

Brendan: I think it's a much more complete idea. The album is thematic. A lot of the story plots go in between each other. We have a lot of melodic themes and rhythmic themes throughout the album. So we were able to do a much more complete idea with it. And the re-

cording sounds much better and the songs are better.

H&S: What happened with the Clear Channel SNAFU?

Andrew: I'm not gonna sit here and bash Clear Channel or whatever but the Paradise [Rock Club in Boston] called us, they're a Clear Channel run venue, as many are these days. But they saw that we were playing a show in Boston [at the ICC Church in Allston, MA] 8 days after when we were supposed to play the Paradise and they said either you cancel your show there by 4 o'clock today or we'll cancel your Paradise show. So we saved them a couple of hours and called them back and said whatever, cancel it we're keeping our all ages show. And that was the story with that. It's a bummer cause Paradise is a cool venue and all but when faced with that dilemma we just thought that more people will be able to see us at the ICC, it's all ages, it's more of a DIY venue so

lets do it there.

H&S: Where did your band name come from?

Andrew: I thought of the name randomly. I was working my job back 2 and a half years ago.

H&S: Doing what?

Andrew: I was a cook at a place called McCarthy's Pub in Massachusetts. A bunch of police cars and ambulances went screaming by and the name popped in my head. Like thinking about how people never really think what's, quote, on the receiving end of sirens, end-quote, because it's such a common place thing to just hear sirens. Especially if you live in a city it's just becomes this common place thing nobody thinks twice about it anymore. Even there's so much awful stuff going on in the world and horrible things that happen to people it's kind of like "out of sight out of mind." It's just kind of a sad thing. So it's kind of a commentary on that. It also works on a couple



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levels. It can be taken as the Greek Mythology example with the Sirens that lure the sailors in with their singing so being on the receiving end of those sirens isn't a great thing either. It works both ways.

H&S: Anything in particular you're looking forward to on your tour for the next month.

Andrew: Seeing California in March. That's what I'm looking forward to.

Brendan: I'm looking forward to tonight and tomorrow night. Oh and the Allston [MA] show in 2 days.

Andrew: We haven't played Massachusetts since September 29th. So we've had two shows in Massachusetts canceled on this tour as everybody knows so it's going to be great to be back in Boston.

H&S: Give me five CD's your fans should go out and buy.

Brendan: Cave In, *Jupiter*; Bjork, *Vespertine*; Say Anything, *...Is A Real boy*.

Andrew: One of my first picks would be Say Anything, *...Is A Real Boy*; Days Away, *E.S.P. EP*; The Jealous Sound, *Kill Em With Kindness*; Driving In Silence who are good friends of ours but are, honestly, one of my favorite bands. They just did three new songs with Matt Squire and they're up on line so I've been listening to those, literally, every day as well. A band we just played with again last night, In The Arms Of Providence from Maine I really like those guys a lot. I'm really into that. Of course listening to As Tall As Lions a lot.

Brendan: That's one on my list.



Andrew: Screw them.

H&S: Three books your fans should read.

Brendan: The Bible, read the Bible. And anything by Chuck Palahniuk.

Andrew: I would say *Choke* [by Chuck Palahniuk] definitely. I'm a big poker nerd so I'm into reading about poker like Doyle Brunson, *Super System*. If anyone wants to learn how to play poker read that book. I just read something that was really cool. A book I borrowed from Will from Cartel called *Sex, Drugs and Cocoa Puffs* [by Chuck Klosterman]. It's one of those kinda scenester books I guess. It's a pop-culture manifesto basically you could probably find it in any Newbury Comics. I think that's a

really cool book too it's very funny. Everybody should read *A Prayer For Owen Meany* by John Irving. That's my favorite book of all time.

H&S: Anything you want to say to finish it off?

Brendan: Thank you [to the fans].



TREOS is:

Alex: Vocals/Rhythm Guitar

Andrew: Drums

Brendan: Vocals/Bass Guitar

Casey: Vocals/Keys/Guitar

Nate: Lead Guitar

Look for the debut album *Between The Heart And The Synapse* from The Receiving End Of Sirens and Triple Crown Records, April 26th.



PUNCHLINE

Pittsburg, PA's Punchline pulled no punches when they rocked the house at The Webster Theater in Hartford, CT on February 21st. We got a chance to have a chat with the upbeat quartet and took the time to ask them about the last year following their full length debut, their recent lineup change, and their plans for the future. The guys talked candidly, energetically and humorously -- basically exactly how they are on stage. Of course the printed page could never live up to their powerful stage presence but we hope you'll enjoy it just the same.

Hearts and Sleeves: Let's start with quick introductions.

PJ: Hi I'm PJ, I play drums.

Chris: I play bass.

Steve: I play guitar and sing.

Greg: I play guitar and sing as well.

H&S: We're three days away from the one-year anniversary of the release of "Action." Can you reflect on that for a minute and tell me about some of the highs and lows.

Chris: This has been the greatest year of our lives. I'll speak for everybody when I say that. One of the highs was going to Japan for the first time. Absolutely the greatest week of my life,

personally. Some of the lows were... uh...

Steve: Wasn't too many lows.

Chris: Yeah not too many lows.

Steve: Oh yeah the van.

Chris: We wrecked the van. That sucked. I wrecked the van actually. And that sucked real bad.

Steve: But we got through it. You know.

Chris: We got through it because we're friends with bands that helped us out. Took us places. Let us use their equipment on that tour. Big shout out to Mest, Bayside and Hawthorne Heights for helping us

out on that tour. And The Interns and Coat of Arms. For helping us out on that tour. And that was... yeah I wrecked the van.

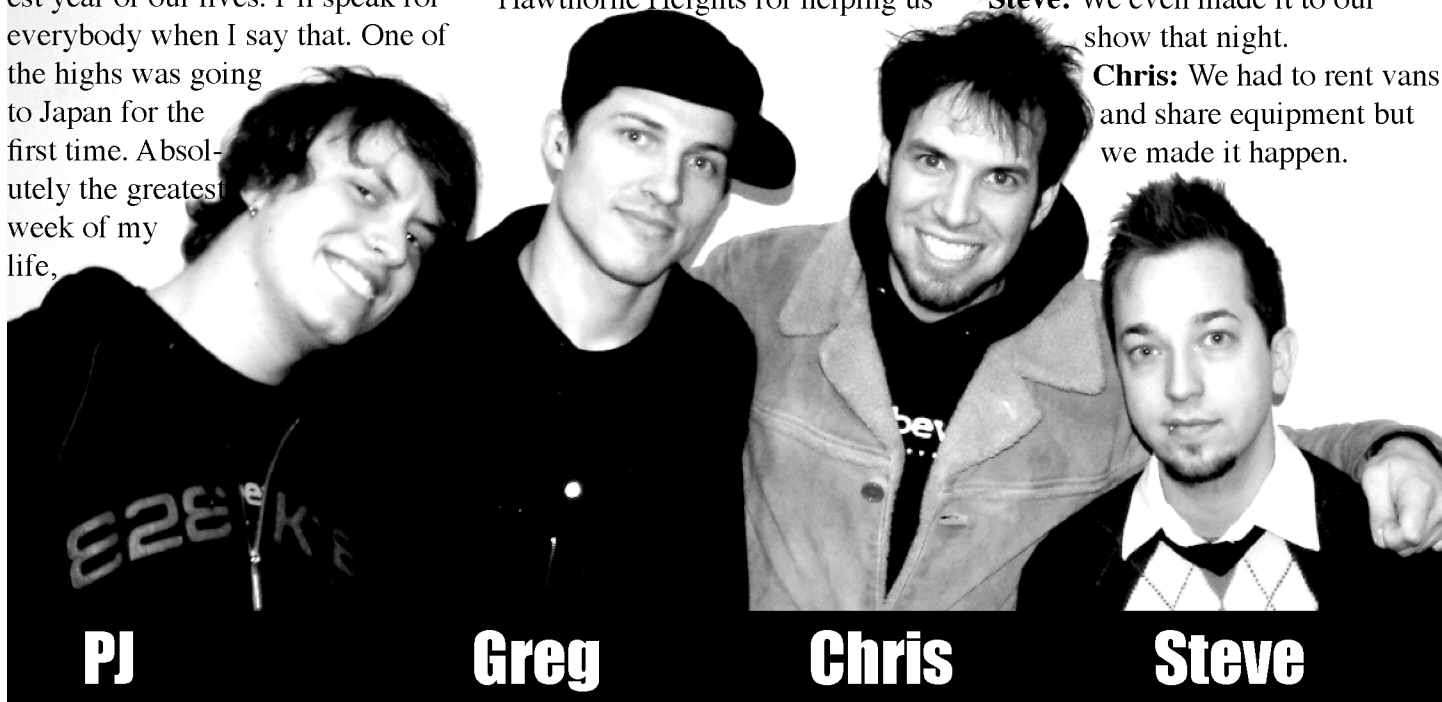
H&S: How did you wreck it?

Chris: I got up in the morning and went to mail some letters. And I was making a U-turn. I looked one way, looked the other way. Then I hesitated and didn't look back the other way, pulled out and the next thing I know, I was wrecked. And I got ran into by a telephone company boom truck.

PJ: We didn't miss a single show.

Steve: We even made it to our show that night.

Chris: We had to rent vans and share equipment but we made it happen.



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Hearts and Sleeves

March 1, 2005



H&S: How amazing is it that your album just got voted to #5 on the Alternative Press reader's poll a year after its release?

Steve: It is amazing 'cause we've had this rivalry with Green Day for a long time and I think this finally proves that we just came out on top. [Laughs].

H&S: I think they're quivering.

Steve: It's really amazing because we just opened the magazine and saw it there. It's not like we're putting out the word. It's crazy. It's very satisfying to see a year of hard work pay off.

H&S: During the course of this tour you also shot a video. You were planning on doing "Battlescars" but had to change it to "Getting There Is Getting By" tell me about that.

Steve: We changed it last minute because something got messed up with the space we were supposed to do the video in. So we actually had to change the concept last minute and we were actually just not going to do the video. So we changed the idea of the video and changed the song too. The video is for "Getting There Is Getting By." We took all the seats out of the van and set up the equipment in the van. So it's us driving around in L.A. playing in our van.

H&S: Your new van?

Steve: No it's the same van. With eleven thousand dollars of uh...

Chris: Repairs.

Steve: I call 'em fixins.

H&S: Since you had a specific concept for "Battlescars" do you plan on fulfilling that and mak-

ing another video?

Steve: I don't know. Maybe. But the opportunity has kind of passed.

Chris: This might be the only video we do off this album. We're kinda planning toward our next album though.

H&S: You recently had an abrupt line-up change do you want to take the opportunity to explain why Paul left to avoid any rumors.

Steve: I think it's in his best interest that we don't explain why Paul left. I think we're taking the high road. But it's definitely better. He can do whatever he wants to do now and we're very happy. This tour has been awesome. Greg has done a wonderful job.

Chris: He's been in our band for... three weeks? Three and a half something like that.

Chris: And I feel like we've been playing together for as long as I've known him. And I've known him for 6 or 7 years now.

Steve: Some people look at losing a member of the band for years and years as something terrible, or a "low point" like your previous question. But we looked at it as a great thing.

H&S: I'm sure there will be people that say, "I liked them better when Paul was with them..."

Steve: I don't think so.

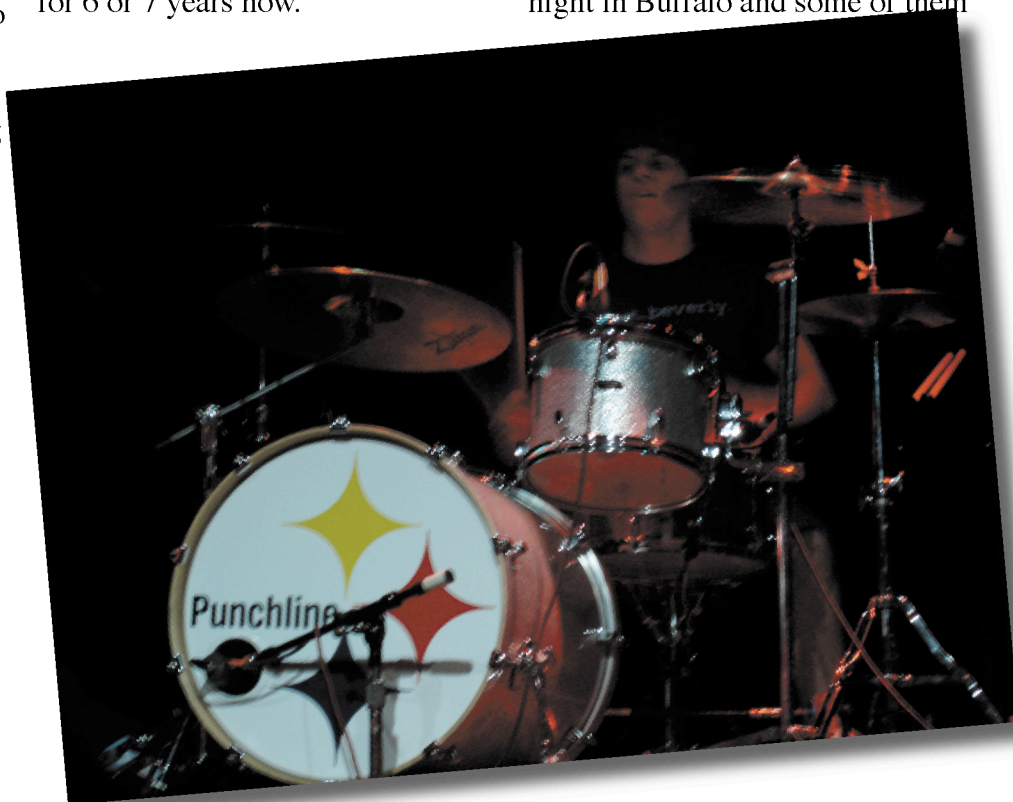
[Everybody laughs]

Steve: It's pretty funny but judging from this tour nobody really cares.

[Everybody laughs]

Steve: Honestly, I hope this isn't something bad to say, the reason I don't think people are going to say that is that Greg adds a whole new level of energy which we all kind of feed off of. It's like the whole band took a step up.

Chris: When I think of our fans, our fans are super nice. Our fans are just the nicest people ever and they're so understanding. I was talking to a bunch of people last night in Buffalo and some of them



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said I liked you guys with Paul but seeing you guys with Greg I see this will make you guys better.

Steve: On top of that we didn't kick him out. He quit. So if you expect us to be upset about it we can either sit there and dwell on it or we can move on. And that's what we did.

H&S: Does it change the dynamic of the band as far as song creation?

Steve: He wrote a little bit. Honestly, he hasn't written anything in the last year. "Changing Lanes" was the last thing he wrote a part of.

H&S: Is Greg permanent?

Steve: Ask Greg.

H&S: Greg are you permanent?

Greg: No formal announcements yet.

[Everybody laughs] *[ed. note: Greg was formally announced as a permanent member on Feb 22nd]*

H&S: Still on the trial period right?

Greg: I'm interning.

Chris: We're still trying to decide if he's good enough.

H&S: Your last album came out a year ago. You must be itching to create some new songs. How does bringing Greg into the band change that?

Steve: I'll say that we've already recorded one song with Greg, which I think we might be putting out before our headlining tour on purevolume.com just to get something we recorded with him out there. But I've respected this guy for so long, ever since he was in a band called West Beverly, which I loved. But he's been doing his solo

career for the past couple years. I just loved watching him and I love his songs and I'm very excited to write some songs with the guy.

Greg: Thanks.

Chris: We just needed someone from Hartford in our band.

H&S: You're from Hartford? Welcome home.

Greg: West Hartford. Thanks.

H&S: I think Chris Carrabba [of Dashboard Confessional] is from West Hartford as well.

Greg: I used to skateboard with him at Caldor's.

H&S: What are your new album recording plans?

Chris: We're going to be demoing, writing and doing all that fun stuff in the next few months in between tours. And hopefully have an album out in the fall or early spring.

If it were up to me it would already be recorded.

Steve: I would say winter. By the end of summer I would say we'll have it recorded.

H&S: Despite all of the negative things in the world you are still able to write upbeat catchy songs. What inspires you to keep a positive attitude?

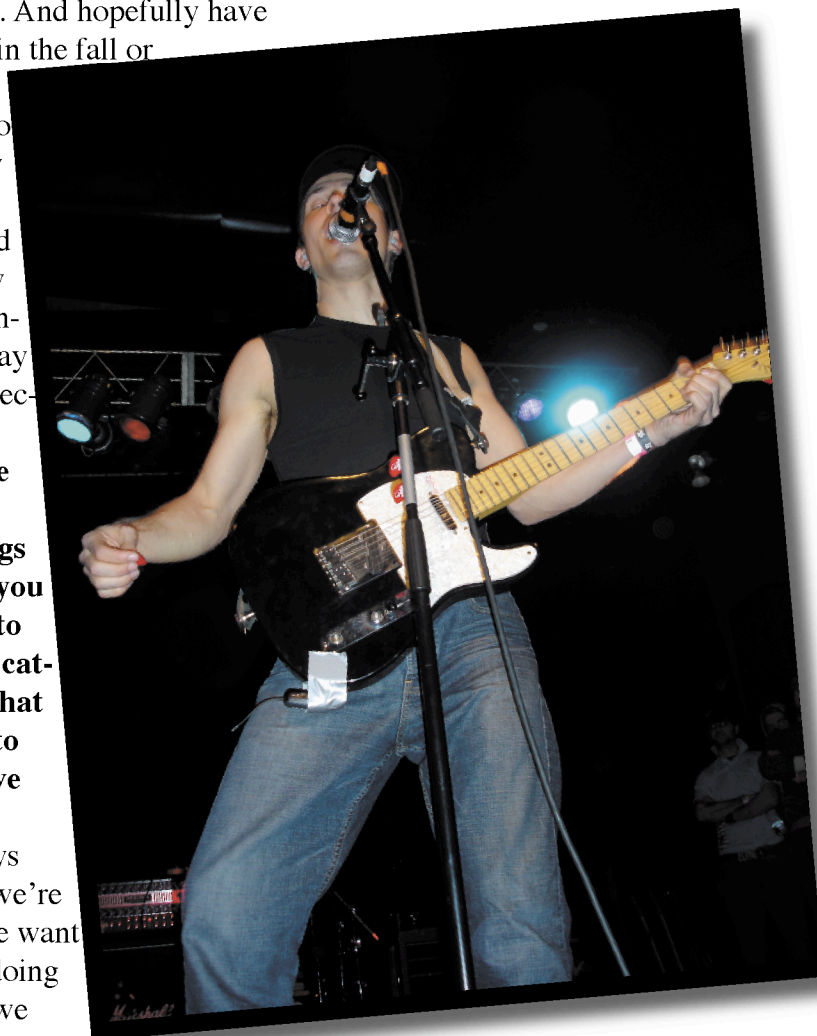
Steve: I always think of it as we're doing what we want to do. We're doing exactly what we

want to be doing with our lives. I don't understand how bands can get up on stage and are depressed. That's actually what the song that we recorded with Greg is about.

Chris: I'm not one to say what's right or wrong but I think there's a lot of negativity in music right now and to try to stay positive and have a positive message is actually something different. I respect bands that do it and we're trying to be part of that. And maybe change things a little bit.

PJ: I kind of look at it that being in a band is fun so I don't know how you can write angry songs when you're having so much fun.

Steve: I think you can write songs about things that bother you and



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things that are bad but if you encourage a negative outlook on it you're not helping anyone out. You're just dwelling.

Greg: I can say that the reason that Punchline is one of my favorite bands in this genre is because of the message because it's always positive and upbeat. I think that at this time in music that is an antidote that the music scene needs. In the world there's a lot of things going on but it's important to have a positive outlook. I love Punchline for that and I'm happy to be with them.

H&S: I think that the music in the scene has gotten very violent, especially with the imagery of guns and knives and blood. I don't know if that's something the fans have inspired because they've gravitated toward these bands or if the labels have generated themselves.

Chris: I think that there is a way to do it tastefully. You can bring up those images and do it tastefully. But then I think there's a lot of copycats out there that are blatantly saying ridiculous things in their songs because they know that people who are at a confused time in their life are going to buy into it. I think it's a little bit unfair. I would like to... I hope that our music would help people out but at the same time show them that there's a different way. No one needs to die in a crash. Nothing bad needs to happen. You can make a change in yourself.

Steve: We always joke around about that rather than wanting to



kill your ex-girlfriend you should delete their Mp3 collection. Or you could take them off Myspace.com. You know. There's ways around it.

H&S: You guys tour a hell of a lot. How do you keep the same songs fresh every night on the road?

Steve: Well on this tour we're, instead of the traditional applauding after songs we're trying to implement different things like the kind of "ahhhhhh" like on Full House. I think that now that Greg is trying to play with us we're really trying to uh.

Chris: Kick it up a notch.

Steve: Trying to really mean it every night. Whenever I play a song I don't just go through the motions. I'm trying to really actually mean

it. I try to think about the state of mind it was we were in. I'm thinking about what this person who's standing out in front of us and singing along and is really into the song is thinking. What we were thinking when we wrote it and try to have a connection.

H&S: So the kids in the front row, since those are really the only ones you can see, haven't seen you play these songs 200 times this year so it's fresh to them and maybe you feed off of that.

Steve: Oh definitely. That's always. If the people watching us are into it we instantly feed off of that. This tour especially. For the last few years we've always done well in our hometown but in other

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cities it's been a real struggle to get people into it. We'd have to go to the town four, five or six times before we'd start to see people sing along. But with this tour it's the first time that I felt that everywhere we've gone people know us and like us and we've all been feeding off of that now.

H&S: Give me three books that your fans should read.

PJ: Kurt Angle: *It's True It's True*;

Mick Foley: *Have A Nice Day*;

Rick Flair: *To Be The Man*.

Chris: *Play Poker Like The Pros* by Phil Hellmuth; *Invisible Mon-*

sters by Chuck Palahniuk; *Flowers For Algernon* by Daniel Keyes and every Roald Dahl book.

Steve: I don't read that much but I would have to say *Sex, Drugs and Cocoa Puffs* by Chuck Klosterman.

Greg: Good books for me are *Diet For a New America* by John Robbins. I'm vegan it's what I read right before I was vegan. *7 Habits For Highly Effective People* [by Steven Covey]. I like Tom Robbins too, *Still Life With Woodpecker*.

H&S: What's a good cause to support?

PJ: Peta2.

Chris: Pediatric Aids Foundation

Steve: Champs For Kids.

Greg: Anything that you believe in. I'm straight edge but I'm not preachy or anything. I like the "be the change that you see in the world" outlook.

H&S: One last question. The symbol on the front of your drum is that the Steelers or the Steel Industry logo?

PJ: Steelers. Pittsburgh Steelers.

Steve: We wrote a song about The Steelers actually. Check out theyinzers.com. And they played it during the last two Steelers games in the pre-game show on WDVE.

H&S: Thanks for taking the time to talk with us.



Punchline goes to Japan:

03/12 - Independence-D Fest
(www.independence-d.com)

03/14 - Osaka

03/15 - Nagoya

03/16 - Tokyo

03/17 - Tokyo

US Dates:

05/01 - The Bamboozle

Asbury Park, NJ

www.thebamboozle.com

Punchline is:

Steve: Guitar / Vocals

Chris: Bass / Vocals

Greg: Guitar / Vocals

PJ: Drums