

FINITE

ISSUE
09

NECKDEEP

REFLECTS ON BEING
ONE OF THE MOST
PROMINENT FACES OF
POP PUNK

GRAYSCALE

OPENS UP ABOUT WHAT
DEFINES THEM

New
Release

THE POP
PUNK/
ALT-ROCK
CHAPTER

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PLUS ++ EXCLUSIVE
INTERVIEWS WITH
SEAWAY, HOT MILK,
MAGNOLIA PARK,
THE HOME TEAM,
AND MORE!

SCAN ME IM WORKING



ZINE 09

editor's note

HI FRIENDS!

WE'RE WELL DOWN TO OUR NINTH ISSUE OF OUR ONLINE ZINE SERIES!

I'M HAPPY WE'VE COME THIS FAR, BUT DAMN I MISS ORGANIZING SHOWS SO MUCH.

WHEN WE GET BACK TO DOING THOSE, I'M THROWING A HUGE PARTY AND EVERYONE

READING THIS IS INVITED. BUT SERIOUSLY, I HOPE THAT WHEREVER YOU ARE IN

THE WORLD READING THIS FROM, THAT WHAT WE DO OFFERS YOU SOME FORM

OF ENTERTAINMENT IN THESE MENTALLY DRAINING AND EXHAUSTING TIMES.

LET'S GET INTO THIS ISSUE: THE POP PUNK/ALT-ROCK CHAPTER, WHICH IS ONE OF OUR MOST REQUESTED ONES!

THIS TIME AROUND, WE'RE PROUD TO SAY WE'VE SUMMONED POP PUNK ICONS NECK DEEP (UNREAL!),

AS WELL AS ALTERNATIVE ROCK KINGS GRAYSCALE, A BAND WHO HOLDS A SPECIAL PLACE IN MY HEART FOREVER, FOR

OUR COVER STORIES. WE'RE ACCOMPANYING THIS BIG RELEASE WITH SOME OF THE BESTEST OF THE BEST POP PUNK AND

ALT-ROCK ACTS IN TODAY'S SCENE, WITH THE LIKES OF SEAWAY, HOT MILK, MAGNOLIA PARK, THE HOME TEAM, AND MORE!

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HAVE FUN AND SEE U AGAIN SOON!

AK / KAREN



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FINITE FAM X SETSAIL

AVAILABLE
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**NO LUCK
ALL HARD WORK**

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FF: FOR PEOPLE WHO DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU YET, WHAT CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT MAGNOLIA PARK AND THE MUSIC YOU MAKE?

We are a six piece pop punk band from Orlando, Florida. We blend genres like emo, emo rap, alternative rock and hip hop together to create a modern yet nostalgic sound.

FF: YOU KICKED OFF 2021 WITH THE RELEASE OF YOUR DEBUT MIXTAPE 'DREAM EATER'. HOW HAS THE FEEDBACK BEEN? WAS IT SOMETHING YOU ANTICIPATED?

Honestly the feedback was way better than we anticipated! The project as a whole was well received. After releasing our first single of 2021, "Back On My Bullshit", we wanted to keep the hype going and we were ecstatic to see that Dream Eater succeeded.

FF: WHAT ARE THE MAIN INSPIRATIONS LYRICALLY AND MUSICALLY WITH 'DREAM EATER'? WHAT IS THE MESSAGE YOU WANT TO PERCEIVE THROUGH THIS RECORD?

Artists like Machine Gun Kelly, The 1975, Blink 182, Nothing Nowhere and Point North continue to inspire us musically. Our lives and shared experiences are what inspire us lyrically. We want to portray raw feelings of battling anxiety, feeling lost in the world and emotional heartache but also give a sense of hope and longevity. Life really sucks sometimes but we want to help people get through their day. We want our music to make a difference.

FF: YOU COLLABORATED WITH RENOWNED MUSICIANS LIKE GLIMMERS, KELLIN QUINN, OLIVER BAXXTER AND MORE. COULD YOU TALK ABOUT HOW IT ALL CAME ABOUT?

Most of the Dream Eater features came from relationships our band has developed with these artists. We connected with Broadside through our singer, Josh, working with one of their members. Our relationship with Glimmers came from connecting online after both of our videos started gaining traction on Tiktok. Our feature with Kellin Quinn came through FeaturedX which is a platform where you can contact other artists for features. He loved our song "Love Me" and agreed to hop on the track. He continues to promote our music and videos, we are very thankful for his support.

FF: SINCE YOUR DEBUT IN 2018, YOUR SUCCESS HAS BEEN UNSTOPPABLE. WHAT KEEPS THE BAND GOING?

The members of Magnolia Park are the key. We are all multi instrumentalists, lyricists and songwriters who are focused and driven to obtain our goals. We all work constantly on a time crunch so that we can continue to release the best music and content possible in a quick timeframe. We also have an extremely talented team that helps us take our music, image and brand to the next level. Huge shoutouts to Jessica Griffith (photography and outfit design), Psyllo Digital (videography) and The Audio Compound (recording, mixing, mastering) for all they do for the band!

FF: WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR THE REST OF THE YEAR? ANYTHING ELSE YOUR LISTENERS COULD LOOK FORWARD TO?

Yes! There is so much in the works. Fans can expect two more mixtapes to drop this year in 2021. One this summer and the next in the fall. We can't wait to share these projects with everyone.

Socials: @magnoliapark FL
magnoliaparkband.com

PHOTO BY JESSICA GRIFFITH



マグノリアパーク



SEAWAY

FF: HOW HAS SEAWAY BEEN COPING WITH THIS PANDEMIC, ESPECIALLY SINCE YOU'VE RELEASED YOUR FOURTH FULL-LENGTH DURING THIS TIME? WHAT HAVE BEEN THE CHALLENGES OF RELEASING MUSIC IN THIS PERIOD?

-It's so weird to think that we started recording at the beginning of the pandemic, then released the record in the pandemic, and we're still in the pandemic haha. I think at the start we had writing and recording to divert our attention but since Big Vibe came out it's been tough to plan for what's next. Toronto has been one of if not the most locked down city in North America so we're just trying to get out on the other side.

FF: IN YOUR LATEST ALBUM 'BIG VIBE', IT'S NOTABLY HEARD THAT YOU'VE BEEN MORE OPEN TO EXPLORE DIFFERENT BLENDS WITH YOUR SOUND. WOULD YOU SAY THAT YOU'VE FINALLY FOUND SEAWAY'S "REAL SOUND" WITH THIS ALBUM OR ARE YOU STILL OPEN TO EXPLORE IT?

I think that Big Vibe is definitely what we were trying to achieve when seeking Seaway's "real sound" but that will probably change on the next record. That's what's so fun about this band, as we grow and evolve, so does our music.

FF: WHAT IS THE MAIN THEME OF 'BIG VIBE'? WHAT ARE THE INSPIRATION/S BEHIND THE ALBUM LYRICALLY?

-Really tough to pick a main theme. There's a lot of themes and ideas throughout the record, even within songs.

FF: WHAT IS THE MAIN TAKE-AWAY YOU WANT YOUR LISTENERS TO HAVE UPON LISTENING TO THIS ALBUM? WHAT IS SEAWAY'S MESSAGE THROUGH 'BIG VIBE'?

-Put the windows down, turn the volume up and lose your mind for a while.

FF: BEING IN A BAND FOR A GOOD FEW YEARS NOW, WHAT ADVICE CAN YOU GIVE TO ASPIRING MUSICIANS?

-Early on, play as many shows as possible. Meet new people, new promoters, new bands in different areas. Networking helped us a lot early on.

FF: LASTLY, WITH BANDS IN THE SCENE ALREADY RELEASING TOUR DATES FOR THIS YEAR AND NEXT YEAR, CAN WE EXPECT SOME DATES FROM SEAWAY AS WELL? WHAT'S IN STORE FOR THE BAND?

-Yeah I hope we get to play this year. With the Canadian/US border still shut down, we've been waiting things out to see what will be possible for us in late 2021 and 2022. Hoping we can announce something!



STUCK OUT

FF: TELL US ABOUT THE NEW SINGLE 'MINDLESS' WHAT IS THE STORY BEHIND IT? HOW DID THE SONG COME TOGETHER?

Mindless was based around a conversation I had regarding racism and social privilege. People tend to be quite tunnel visioned in their opinions when they haven't experienced the same type of disadvantages as others and I found this narrow mindset seemed to be popping up all over the place. With all the resources we have, ignorance is no longer an excuse when it comes to empowering those less fortunate than us so I guess this song is my little vent of frustration on the matter. The song as a whole came together quite easily and getting Mikaila on board was the cherry on top!

FF: WHAT'S ONE THING YOU WISH YOU'D KNOWN WHEN YOU FIRST STARTED YOUR JOURNEY AS A BAND? IS THERE ANYTHING YOU COULD'VE DONE DIFFERENTLY?

I think we'd go back and tell ourselves to just enjoy everything as it comes and not to stress as much. There was definitely a point in time where the band was a point of stress for all of us and it was becoming difficult to enjoy. Something snapped after a while and we all took a step back, chilled out and all of a sudden we were having fun as a band again. Funnily enough, as soon as we relaxed and took our time, everything started falling into place so I'd say it's important to keep perspective and just do things the way you want to do them. If YOU enjoy what you're doing, everyone else will as well.

FF: WHERE DO YOU FIND INSPIRATION FOR YOUR SONGWRITING ESPECIALLY ON YOUR LATEST EP 'LIE THROUGH YOUR TEETH'? HOW WAS THE PROCESS OF RECORDING IT?

Inspiration tends to come from something small and we build our ideas around that. It could be a lyric, a riff, a rhythm, we just grab something and run with it. The EP itself stemmed from the concept of lying and all the different consequences that come from it. Whether you're being lied to, lying to someone else or lying to yourself there's always consequences and relationships that tend to suffer so this was our deep dive on that. The recording process itself was a blast! We spent time with Jack Newlyn (Paradise Club) and fleshed out the whole EP, we actually wrapped recording the week before Australia went into Covid lockdown so we've been holding onto it for a while.

FF: WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE ALTERNATIVE SCENE TODAY? WHAT ARE THE BEST AND WORST THINGS ABOUT IT?

The alt scene is alive and kicking now more than ever. The thing I really love about the scene is the sense of community and with the internet as readily available as it is, you can connect with more people now than ever before. I think this has really been pushed to the front during all the lockdowns with online release shows, subscription content, livestreams on Twitch/Discord etc. we're definitely pushing into a new era. Perhaps one of the downsides is representation, especially in rock music, but then again I think that's on the up as well. The scene should be an inclusive community for everyone and that starts by putting role models that people can look up to at centre stage. I hope the change I'm starting to see in that area is real and genuine.

FF: WHAT DO YOU THINK IS SOMETHING THAT SETS STUCK OUT APART FROM OTHER AUSTRALIAN POP PUNK BANDS?

We really pride ourselves on the intensity and energy we put into not only our songs but our live performance. We want the room to be moving from the start to finish of our set, we want push pits, we want stage diving, we want people to enjoy the physical nature of live music as much as we do.

FF: WHERE DO YOU SEE YOUR BAND A FEW YEARS FROM NOW? WHAT ARE YOUR GOALS AS A GROUP?

We'll have an album under our belt and hopefully be touring in some foreign part of the world. We really can't wait for borders to open up and international touring to resume because we want to get out there as quick as possible!

socials: @stuckoutband
STUCKOUT.COM.AU





The Home Team

FF: WITH ALL THE MADNESS THAT'S CURRENTLY GOING ON IN THE WORLD, HOW DO YOU FEEL IT HAS AFFECTED YOU GUYS AND YOUR CREATIVITY?

To be honest, it's been a little rough, but it's had its silver linings. We wouldn't say we've been able to draw a lot of inspiration from current events, and if anything we feel fairly drained because these are situations we care deeply about. At the same time though, we recognize and are grateful for the fact that these situations (whether it be COVID, police brutality, the Palestine/Israel conflict, income inequality, etc.) have not debilitated us like they have so many people in the world. One silver lining was the fact that we were set to spend 2020 writing and recording anyways, and there was a chance we weren't going to tour much anyways. Instead we got the opportunity to buckle down and spend a lot of time honing this record to be everything it can be.

FF: WHERE DO YOU GET YOUR INSPIRATION FROM WHEN WRITING SONGS? HOW DOES YOUR CREATIVE PROCESS WORK?

Typically, John (guitarist) will come to us with a demo/idea for a song that is intentionally bare-bones and simple, with guitar, bass and MIDI drums. Then, Brian (vocalist) will meet with John and they'll work on song arrangement while Brian adds synth and sometimes some guitar leads. Daniel (drummer) and Ryne (bassist) will then take what drum and bass parts John and Brian have come up with and either put their spin on them or completely rework them to be what they think is best. Finally, Brian writes vocals over everything and will sometimes add additional synth on top. It's a pretty straightforward process and we used it for almost every song on the new record!

FF: WHAT CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT YOUR NEWEST SINGLE 'RIGHT THROUGH ME'? WHAT IS THE STORY BEHIND THIS TRACK?

Our new single is the first of many that are going to solidify a whole new sound for us, and honestly we couldn't be more excited about it. Right Through Me was among the first songs we wrote that led us in this direction, and it was immediately one of our favorites. It's also a song that went through few changes in the pre-production process, other than a few added synth sounds and new vocal harmonies, so what you're hearing is a good representation of its raw form. We felt that although this song is a step in the new direction, it was a great bridge between Better Off and the next record to help ease our current listeners into it, while also grabbing the attention of people who don't already know about us.

As for the meaning of the lyrics, the song is about how absolutely petty and pointless arguments can get between close friends/couples who have been together for a long time. Think of it as all the things in your head that you want to say in argument but never do.

FF: WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE ALTERNATIVE SCENE TODAY? WHAT ARE THE BEST AND WORST THINGS ABOUT IT?

To be honest, we don't feel like we have our ear to the ground quite as well as a lot of other people here in the alternative scene do, but we definitely try to keep up. That said, although we take a lot of influence from what some bands are doing today, we try really hard to keep what we create genuine to us as opposed to rehashing what another band has already done a lot better than what we could ever do. Our favorite aspect of the alternative scene is probably the amount of creativity a lot of artists have been exhibiting in getting their sound out there and keeping music listening fresh. Our least favorite is probably how clique-y and nepotistic the industry is as a whole, and that sometimes it doesn't matter how good your music is; it's about who you know.

FF: WHAT HAS BEEN THE COOLEST EXPERIENCE SO FAR AS A BAND? WHAT KEEPS THE HOME TEAM GOING?

Honestly, our fans. Ever since we started our Patreon, we've had so much more communication with the people who love what we do, and it's been fantastic getting to know these amazing people on a personal level and being able to call them our friends. We definitely encourage everyone who loves our music to reach out to us, whether it be on a social media comment, a DM, or our Patreon's exclusive Discord. We make a point to show our fans that they are very, very appreciated.

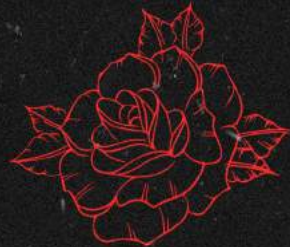
FF: WHAT ELSE CAN WE EXPECT FROM THE HOME TEAM IN THE NEAR FUTURE?

We have a whole new full length album dropping this fall! We'll be rolling out new singles until then, so keep your eyes peeled for it! Once it's safe to do so, we will be hitting the touring circuit as hard as we possibly can, so make sure to find us in your area when we do!



FIRST AND FOREVER

first and forever



FF: WE'VE HEARD THAT FIRST AND FOREVER STARTED ON CRAIGSLIST. CAN YOU TELL US MORE ABOUT THE BAND'S FORMATION? WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO START A CAREER IN MUSIC?

Since the first time I saw the music video for "I'm Not Okay" by My Chemical Romance I've wanted to be in a band. Unfortunately, I never had the self-confidence to actually go out and do it. Then one day in my mid 20's I woke up and thought "If I don't start this band today...I'll never do it". So that night I bought a six pack of Bud Light and went on Craigslist to find my band...the rest is history. My inspirations have always been linked to the mid 2000's emo scene. I was so inspired by it growing up and I wouldn't to give back to the community that made me who I am today.

FF: WHICH ARTISTS/MUSICIANS INFLUENCED FIRST AND FOREVER'S MUSIC?

All of the emo bands of the 2000's: My Chemical Romance, Taking Back Sunday, The Used, Paramore, Hawthorne Heights; this list could go on forever. If I had to pick one artist that creatively inspired First and Forever the most, it would probably be The Used.

FF: TELL US MORE ABOUT THE CREATIVE PROCESS BEHIND THE MAKING OF 'LET THIS LOVE LIE DEAD'. WHAT'S THE OVERALL THEME OF THE EP?

The creative process for 'Let This Love Lie Dead' was very unique. Each member of the band lived in a different part of the world at the time. I (Marcus - Guitar) was traveling through Europe, so when we decided to do another record, I got a small guitar and started writing on the road. Consequently, each song has its own story. For example, In Loving Memory was written on a train in Transylvania the night before Halloween (it doesn't really get more emo than that).

The record touches on several different subjects, but the overall theme is coming to grips with dark realities and dealing with internal conflict. If I had to distill the message I want to send with this record into a single statement, it would be: Whatever it is that you're going through, you're not alone (in the dark with a hand grenade).

FF: FROM WHERE DO YOU USUALLY DERIVE INSPIRATION WHEN WRITING YOUR LYRICS?

Inspiration for lyrics comes from all sorts of different places, primarily from life experiences. Our lyrics are very visual; we like to paint pictures that evoke certain emotions (we are an emo band, after all). We use lyrics as a device to communicate how we have felt at certain times. My chest, your knife, I know what's on your mind, cut me open look inside. None of us have actually ever been carved open before, but we've definitely been in situations that felt like it.

FF: WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE ALTERNATIVE SCENE IN THIS DAY AND AGE? WHAT ARE THE BEST AND WORST THINGS ABOUT IT?

It is the BEST time to be an alternative band right now (thank you MGK for bringing pop punk back haha). But seriously, it feels like an emo / pop punk renaissance and we couldn't be more excited about it. There are a lot of cool up and coming bands that will be breaking out along with the return of some of our favorites like My Chemical Romance. The worst thing about the scene is that it went away for wayyyyyy too long so thank god it's finally coming back!

FF: WHAT CAN YOUR LISTENERS EXPECT FROM FIRST AND FOREVER IN THE NEAR FUTURE?

More emo bangers... Like a lot more.





BIG SMILE

FF: YOU'VE BEEN TOGETHER SINCE 2017. HOW HAVE YOU DEALT WITH CONFLICTS AND/OR CREATIVE DIFFERENCES? WHAT KEEPS BIG SMILE GOING?

We've been lucky enough not to have any real major conflicts, and when we do disagree on anything that has to do with how we do business we keep it civil and talk things out until we decide on the best course of action. We also share a lot of the same influences musically and share the same vision for what kind of sound we want to go for. It also helps that we're all really good friends outside of music as well.

FF: WHAT IS THE STORY BEHIND YOUR NEW SINGLE AND MUSIC VIDEO 'FUCK OFF (BUT TAKE ME WITH YOU)'?

Fuck Off is a song about clinging to the way things once were even though friends have moved on in their life. It's kind of a return to the light hearted upbeat Big Smile sound after dealing with some heavier material in our past few releases. The music video depicts little moments we spend with our friends that we don't think are that big in the moment but we look back on and really miss how we felt in that moment.

FF: ALMOST A YEAR AGO, YOU ANNOUNCED YOUR SIGNING WITH ANCHOR EIGHTY FOUR RECORDS. HOW HAS WORKING WITH A RECORD LABEL CHANGED THE WAY THINGS GO FOR THE BAND? HOW IS IT DIFFERENT FROM BEING A DIY BAND?

Working with Anchor Eighty Four has been incredible for us. Cody, the label owner, shares the DIY mindset that we've applied to this band and his experience has helped us learn a lot about growing our band.

FF: HOW HAS YOUR SOUND EVOLVED SINCE THE RELEASE OF YOUR FIRST EP BACK IN 2018? HOW DO YOU WRITE MUSIC NOW?

We kind of take the same approach to songwriting that we always have, we're just much better at structuring songs now. We've been working with Seth Henderson on our last several releases and have learned a lot from him and have taken that into our songwriting process. The process usually starts with a riff that we work together and build into a full instrumental song, then Scooter catches a vibe from it and writes the melody from that.

FF: WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR BIGGEST CAREER HIGHLIGHT SO FAR?

Our biggest highlights so far has been opening a show for State Champs back in 2019 and signing with Anchor Eighty Four last year. With where we were as a band at that point in 2019 that show single handedly grew our audience by a lot and really legitimized everything we had been working for in our minds. Then the signing last year was a big moment for us and has taken our band to new heights, especially with the release of Fuck Off recently.

FF: WITH THE THREE SINGLES THAT WERE RELEASED EARLIER THIS YEAR, WHAT ELSE CAN WE EXPECT FROM BIG SMILE IN THE NEAR FUTURE?

Big Smile is looking forward to getting back on the road as soon as possible. We have a plan in place for getting back to live shows and we are working on new music at the moment as well. The rest of 2021 is looking very exciting for us.



FF: WHAT INSPIRED HOT MILK TO GET TOGETHER AND MAKE MUSIC TOGETHER? WHAT ARE YOUR MAIN GOALS AS A BAND?

Me and Jim were going through a really low point in life. We hated our jobs and we had a death close to us so we turned to music to help us feel better. Hot Milk was born from wanting to survive. For us this is our child and our everything. For us we want to be able to be us, man. Something we weren't able to do before. We always had to answer to someone, we just wanted to get fuckin' free of all that shite. If we can build a family along the way that is accepting, loving and inspires people to be themselves without worrying what others think then we have found our meaning. Life is nasty brutish and short, we intend to live every fuckin' ounce of it and be aggressively bold.

FF: SINCE YOUR 2019 DEBUT, HOT MILK HAS BEEN RAPIDLY MAKING WAVES AND GAINING NOTABILITY. DID YOU EXPECT THE RECEPTION YOU'VE GOT SO FAR? WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO BREAK THROUGH IN THE SCENE TODAY?

Nah never, we just did this band because we had to write. everything we do comes from our hearts and is written in our bedrooms. I think people can see we're real, every bit of love and pain comes from a real feeling which is why Hot Milk is therapy. For as long as we need a way of coping with our emotions and feelings, hot milk will survive. Just gotta be who you are man, and have your wits about you coz they're are fuckin' snakes everywhere who haven't realised that greed can't be taken past the grave. We know this is all finite coz everything is, rock n roll is our passion and love to live this life through. It is in our bloody bones.

FF: YOU'VE BEEN KNOWN TO WRITE MUSIC THAT DERIVES IMPORTANT MESSAGES AND OPINIONS. CAN YOU LET US IN ON THE CONCEPT BEHIND THE TRACK AND MUSIC VIDEO OF YOUR LATEST ONE 'GLASS SPIDERS'?

That song was about never being good enough and just wanting to fuck it all off, rage quitting. Like, shall I just give you everything or is that still not good enough? That coupled with the downward spiral that goes with giving every bit of yourself to someone, and Glass Spiders is born. It's an angry song really, but it's also sad. Sad angry is basically what that song conveys for us, we know all about that feeling.

FF: HOW DOES YOUR CREATIVE PROCESS GO? HOW DO YOU WRITE YOUR SONGS?

Different every time!!! Han just wrote a song in her childhood bedroom on an acoustic guitar, we've also written with 808 drum machines coming up with some cool beat and built from there. Honestly, inspiration is everywhere if you let it find you and we think keeping it fresh is the best way to challenge yourself. Everything is pretty much written at home in Manchester and produced in Jims bedroom so we are homegrown. It's important to us that we keep that element no matter where this band takes us.

FF: WHAT'S THE BEST ADVICE YOU GUYS HAVE RECEIVED SO FAR?

Best advice we ever had was to not tell anyone what you're doing, just do it. SURPRISE HAS POWER.

FF: WE HEARD THAT YOU'RE CURRENTLY WORKING ON A NEW EP AND YOU'RE PRODUCING IT AS WELL. CAN YOU TELL US SOME INSIGHTS ABOUT IT? WHAT CAN YOUR LISTENERS EXPECT FROM THIS NEW RECORD?

Aww man, the new record is like songs we actually love to play, our first EP will always have a place in our souls but this next one is more us, it's more grown up and it has so many different elements in it. Queen and the Prodigy are two big influences for us and I think you can hear them on this record, honestly we love to keep people guessing so every song is very different. But it's all fuckin' real life shit, even the bad shit that we sing about. I think that people might be a bit taken aback by one or two songs but Hot Milk is us and this is what came out this time, just gotta fuckin' roll with it and live it for yourself.



YOU LIKE HOT MILK



HOT MILK HOT MILK

HOT MILK



FF: WHEN AND HOW DID WEATHERSTATE START AND DECIDED TO MAKE MUSIC AS A GROUP?

We actually formed out of the ashes of an old band back in 2013. At the time a few of us were living in Bristol just finishing up University. We then brought Toby in who was playing in another band of mine at the time. Myself, Harry and Hogan have been making music together since we were 16 back in our original hometown of Weymouth. In a weird way it's hard to picture making music without them at this point.

FF: HOW DO YOU GUYS FORM YOUR SOUND? HOW DOES THE SONGWRITING PROCESS WORK WITHIN THE GROUP?

Usually the core of the song can stem from a chord pattern or a melody Harry will work on. Or alternatively, I may get carried away working on a demo at home. Typically we're used to working together on songs in the practice room, but over the past year we've got used to writing in our spaces. It's been challenging but it works surprisingly well.

FF: WITH THE RISE OF MANY NEW UK BANDS IN THE POP PUNK SCENE, WHAT DO YOU THINK MAKES WEATHERSTATE DIFFERENT/STAND OUT FROM THE REST?

It's a tricky one. Whilst we have grown up on the genre, We've always felt sandwiched between two worlds as Weatherstate. I mean, we grew up on pop punk bands like Green Day, Rancid, The Offspring. But we have also grew up on Hardcore, Grunge, Metalcore, Alternative Rock and Pop music all separately. That's what I enjoy about Weatherstate. There's this push and pull between all these influences and i feel that's more apparent than ever on our latest material.

FF: TELL US ABOUT YOUR NEWEST SINGLE 'HANGAR'. WHAT IS IT ABOUT AND WHAT IS THE INSPIRATION BEHIND IT?

It's strange. It just kinda happened last year. We were locked away like the rest of the world. I was just jamming a riff and some chugging power chords and that's kind of where Hangar started. Once Harry got more involved it kind of evolved from there. At the time, Harry drew influence from a phone call he had with a friend talking about how f*cked everything is and the retaliation of growing bitter and numb towards everything and everyone.

FF: ASIDE FROM THE NEW SINGLE, WHAT'S NEXT FOR WEATHERSTATE? WHAT ELSE CAN YOUR LISTENERS EXPECT FROM YOU IN THE NEAR FUTURE?

We recently wrapped up some recordings. We're keeping our cards relatively close to our chest but there's going to be plenty of new music this year from us. It's a really exciting period and i'm stoked to finally start revealing the madness we've been working on over the past couple years.

FF: LASTLY, WHAT IS YOUR ADVICE TO ASPIRING BANDS? WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO BREAK THROUGH INTO THE SCENE TODAY?

Thanks for your time! Honestly, Just really put yourself out there. Speak to every band at a show. Be polite. Make mistakes. Follow things up. Grind away. Just try to persist as much as you can. I feel that failing isn't always negative. You can learn from it and get better. It can be tough also to engage with people but it'll be worth it for sure! Just try to accept you can always be a better version of yourself.



SOCIAL MEDIA:

   **weatherstate**



glimmers

FF: WHAT CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT YOURSELVES? HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE GLIMMERS' MUSIC?

We're a pop/rock band from Atlanta, Ga and literally the best of friends. Our music can be best described as nostalgic pop/rock, and we're heavily influenced by artists/bands such as All Time Low, Mayday Parade, and Julia Michaels. We just want to make people happy with our music, and we hope people can connect to the stories that we tell.

FF: YOU RECENTLY RELEASED A FIVE-TRACK EP CALLED 'WORLD'S APART' + FIVE MUSIC VIDEOS AS WELL. HOW DID THE CONCEPTUALIZATION FOR IT COME ABOUT?

In spring of 2020, all of these songs were fully recorded! I (Maggie) started watching different music videos like Fall Out Boy's The Youngblood Chronicles, and had the idea to tell a narrative through each of the songs. "Worlds Apart" tells the story of a complex relationship that is full of ups and downs. Our amazing videographer Deanna Elise wrote the story with me, and we made sure that each music video acted as a new episode to this larger story. I'm a huge musical theatre nerd, so this project made those dreams come true.

FF: WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PART OF A SONG THAT YOU'VE WRITTEN IN THIS EP? IT CAN BE A LYRIC, GUITAR RIFF, ETC.

My favorite lyric from the EP is in "Not Good at Goodbyes." It says "I'd rather get burned than deny what's real." This is my favorite lyric I've written thus far because it's deeply honest. I would rather go after what I want - whether it be a relationship or a dream - than regret not trying. "Not Good at Goodbyes" is me in a song.

FF: WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR BIGGEST STRUGGLE AS A BAND AND HOW DID YOU WORK IT OUT?

I think my biggest struggle was transitioning from being a solo artist into being the frontwoman of glimmers. Originally, my wonderful bandmates were my backing band, and we made the decision to move forward as a collective in early 2020. It was difficult for me at first to accept help, and trust in the fact that I was not alone anymore - onstage or offstage. My bandmates are my best friends, and they continue to give me that love and support that I was longing for as a solo artist.

FF: HOW HAVE YOU FOUND BEING CREATIVE THIS YEAR?

We have felt so creative this year. We created each of our music videos in 2020. We recorded and mixed "Not Good at Goodbyes" in 2020. Making music and staying creative online have kept me going through such a difficult time. I don't know what I would have done without these outlets!

FF: WHAT CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT YOUR UPCOMING LIVE STREAM PERFORMANCE? WHAT CAN WE EXPECT FROM IT AND FROM YOUR BAND IN GENERAL IN THE NEAR FUTURE?

I am so excited about our upcoming livestream. All of the ticket proceeds go to our hometown venue, The Masquerade. We truly love the family there, and they've supported me since I was 15. You can expect a full-production show with a ton of energy! It's what you'll see in real life when we begin to play shows again.

Expect a lot of new music, shows in 2022, and a bunch of shenanigans.

PHOTOS BY SOPHIE HARRIS

SOCIALS:
@GLIMMERSBAND
GLIMMERSBAND.COM

**IN
DEPTH**

SEASICK



Photo by: Kenneth Eufrazio

FF: YOU'VE DROPPED 'SMILE' AND 'WORTH IT' DURING THIS PANDEMIC. HOW HAVE YOU FOUND BEING CREATIVE DURING THIS TIME?

-We actually finished writing "Smile" way before the pandemic, and later on added minor changes to the structure of the song last year (2020). We then proceeded to write "Worth It" as a song for the listeners, actually, not just the listeners, but also for us.

Everyone's having a pretty rough year, including us, and writing music has been very helpful as a distraction, therapeutic if I may say so myself, and seeing people appreciate the music we create, it has been enough to keep our focus and creativity during this pandemic.

FF: THE RELEASE OF 'ROSES' IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER, WHAT IS THE MAIN DRIVE OF THIS SONG?

-I think the song "Worth It" gave us the drive we needed for the next two songs we are about to release, not just Roses specifically, and I think that speaks a lot for ourselves.

Seasick was just formed early 2020, so we're still figuring out our sound, and Roses was the result of us trying to be creative as much as possible, thinking outside the box, while still having so much fun in the writing process.

FF: HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THIS NEW SONG'S SOUND? IS THERE ANYTHING THAT WOULD SURPRISE FANS THE MOST HEARING IT? OR DOES IT STILL HAVE SOME OF THE OLD ELEMENTS YOUR LISTENERS ARE FAMILIAR WITH?

-Roses will probably be the heaviest song on our upcoming album along with another song we are about to release, so expect more screams and breakdowns, a bit of drum trap, and some rap verses in there, yep you heard it, rap.

We're not really going in another direction here, we're just filling in the spaces for the heavier side of the album. I guess you can say that we're just adding more to the elements of our sound, looking at the whole album direction completely, we're aiming for a wide range of listeners, and roses is just one those songs completing our sound.

FF: SEASICK IS INCLUDED IN THIS COLLABORATIVE PROJECT CALLED 'THESE KIDS'. CAN YOU TELL US THE IDEA BEHIND IT AND WHAT IT IS ALL ABOUT?

-"These Kids" is a collective of bands that raises awareness to mental health through their songs.

Through this project, we aim to raise mental health awareness, inspire bands to create songs that would help people with their struggles through this pandemic and to give hope to our listeners who are going through a lot.

FF: OVER THESE TRYING TIMES, WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNED ABOUT YOURSELVES EITHER AS MUSICIANS OR AS INDIVIDUALS?

-Over these trying times, we have learned that if you really have that dedication to your passion, you'll find your way to overcome the hindrances and challenges that the world will throw at you.

FF: LASTLY, WHAT'S IN STORE FOR SEASICK IN THE NEAR FUTURE?

-The band is currently finishing the remaining tracks of the forthcoming album, which, hopefully, will be released this year. We are also planning to have an online show for our album launch.

SOCIAL MEDIA:

   **@seasickph**

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GRAPHICDESIGN



FF: COULD YOU TELL US A SHORT STORY ABOUT WHEN AND HOW YOU STARTED DOING GRAPHIC DESIGN? WHAT MADE YOU WANT TO PURSUE IT AS A CAREER?

I started graphic design fully in 2019 and I had no idea what I was doing but I knew I wanted to create pieces for bands I respected and wanted to show my appreciation for them and what impact they done to my life.

FF: AS AN ARTIST, WHERE DO YOU USUALLY DRAW INSPIRATION FROM YOUR DESIGNS? BOOKS? MUSIC?

Inspiration is such a crucial part of art I take inspiration from a lot of friends and family, I like to feel in the moment with art, horror is a main key for my art with it being such a taboo subject in art I wanted to try and implement that sort of aesthetic into my own designs.

FF: HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR ART STYLE?

As I said above it's usually a lot of horror, but to be completely transparent I don't have a style, my styles changes each day I start a design, it's just what I'm feeling that day.

FF: WHAT DOES IT TAKE FOR A DESIGNER TO HAVE THEIR GRAPHIC WORK BREAK THROUGH IN THIS DAY AND AGE? HOW DO YOU MARKET YOUR WORK TO POTENTIAL CLIENTS?

Honestly just do what art you want! I can't stress that enough, you don't need to find trends you don't need that £5000 font because "no one else has it" just be true to your art and be proud of anything you put out. With clients you have to just be patient, some will come to you but some you will have pull teeth just to get a merch design, clients are wanting you don't stress about it, do your art until you reach the product of art you have made, then you reach the clients.

FF: WHAT IS THE BEST ADVICE YOU COULD GIVE TO ASPIRING DESIGNERS? HOW DO YOU DEAL WITH CREATIVE BLOCKS?

Creative blocks are a good thing in art. It gets you into your self about more, you start learning new things, on a creative block the best thing to do is just take a break. Watch a movie, go for a walk, go travelling, do something that will distract from your work and then return when you feel you are ready.

FF: WHAT'S BEEN KEEPING YOU BUSY DURING THIS PANDEMIC? WHAT'S IN STORE FOR YOU IN THE NEAR FUTURE?

The pandemic was a tough one, I mean yeah it was nice but my god it got my stuck on ideas, at the end of it I wanted to quit design but that was me being dramatic and silly, I took a break I deleted my old Instagram account and started completely fresh with a new identity, new perspective on art and a new mindset for graphic design. For the future I hope to release more edensend clothing, new designs and amazing collaborations with some of the most talented artists in this scene.



EDENS.END_

HEAVY ENOUGH?

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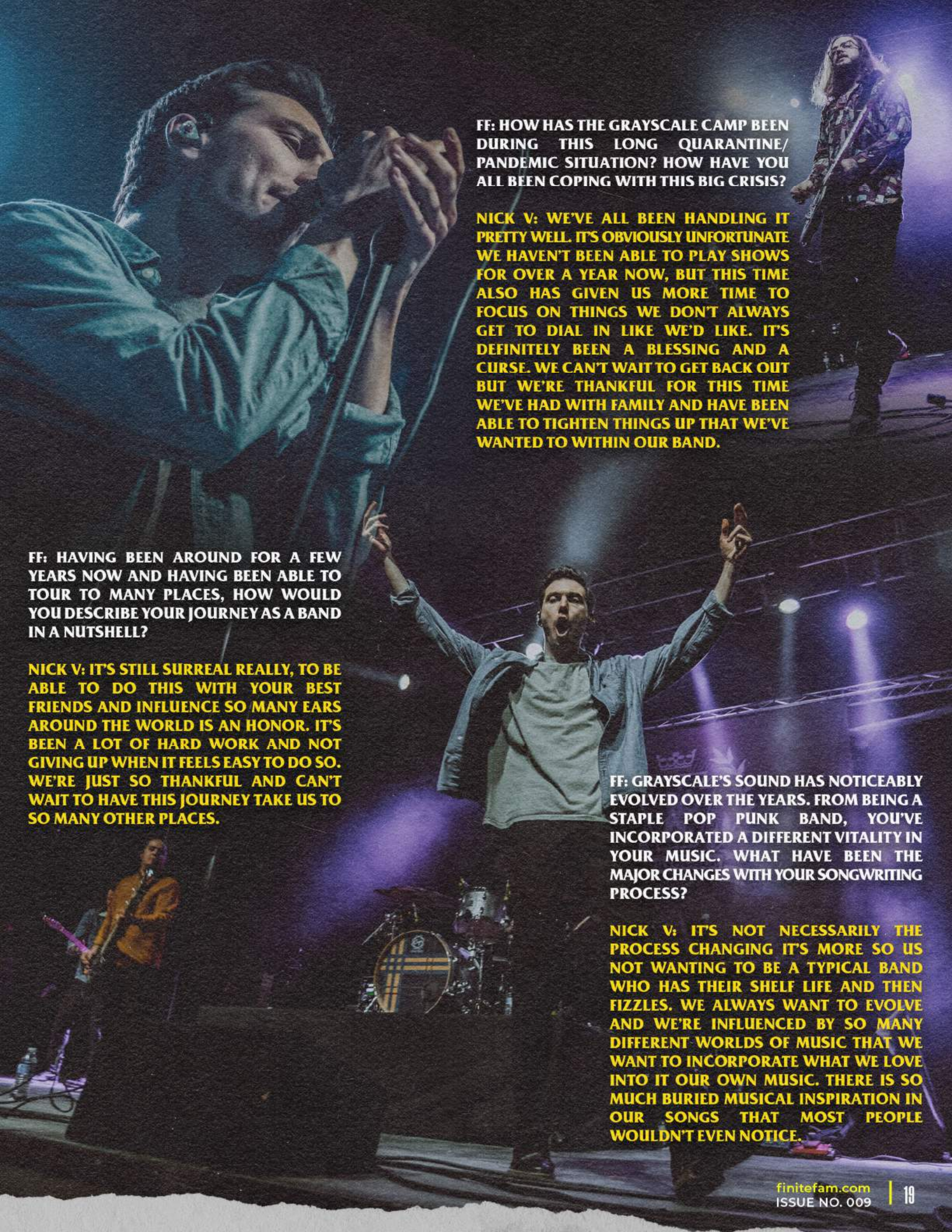
ENTER STAGE GRAYSCALE

IN LIFE, LOSS AND LOVE

Philadelphia alt-rockers GRAYSCALE have been making moves since their debut album *Adornment* back in 2017. The quintet have been unstoppable at making music they are passionate about and are unafraid to introduce brand new heights to their sound, yet staying through to their roots as a group.

We've recently had the pleasure to catch up with their bassist Nick Ventimiglia, who offered insights inside the soulful and charismatic energy of Grayscale.





FF: HOW HAS THE GRAYSCALE CAMP BEEN DURING THIS LONG QUARANTINE/ PANDEMIC SITUATION? HOW HAVE YOU ALL BEEN COPING WITH THIS BIG CRISIS?

NICK V: WE'VE ALL BEEN HANDLING IT PRETTY WELL. IT'S OBVIOUSLY UNFORTUNATE WE HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO PLAY SHOWS FOR OVER A YEAR NOW, BUT THIS TIME ALSO HAS GIVEN US MORE TIME TO FOCUS ON THINGS WE DON'T ALWAYS GET TO DIAL IN LIKE WE'D LIKE. IT'S DEFINITELY BEEN A BLESSING AND A CURSE. WE CAN'T WAIT TO GET BACK OUT BUT WE'RE THANKFUL FOR THIS TIME WE'VE HAD WITH FAMILY AND HAVE BEEN ABLE TO TIGHTEN THINGS UP THAT WE'VE WANTED TO WITHIN OUR BAND.

FF: HAVING BEEN AROUND FOR A FEW YEARS NOW AND HAVING BEEN ABLE TO TOUR TO MANY PLACES, HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR JOURNEY AS A BAND IN A NUTSHELL?

NICK V: IT'S STILL SURREAL REALLY, TO BE ABLE TO DO THIS WITH YOUR BEST FRIENDS AND INFLUENCE SO MANY EARS AROUND THE WORLD IS AN HONOR. IT'S BEEN A LOT OF HARD WORK AND NOT GIVING UP WHEN IT FEELS EASY TO DO SO. WE'RE JUST SO THANKFUL AND CAN'T WAIT TO HAVE THIS JOURNEY TAKE US TO SO MANY OTHER PLACES.

FF: GRAYSCALE'S SOUND HAS NOTICEABLY EVOLVED OVER THE YEARS. FROM BEING A STAPLE POP PUNK BAND, YOU'VE INCORPORATED A DIFFERENT VITALITY IN YOUR MUSIC. WHAT HAVE BEEN THE MAJOR CHANGES WITH YOUR SONGWRITING PROCESS?

NICK V: IT'S NOT NECESSARILY THE PROCESS CHANGING IT'S MORE SO US NOT WANTING TO BE A TYPICAL BAND WHO HAS THEIR SHELF LIFE AND THEN FIZZLES. WE ALWAYS WANT TO EVOLVE AND WE'RE INFLUENCED BY SO MANY DIFFERENT WORLDS OF MUSIC THAT WE WANT TO INCORPORATE WHAT WE LOVE INTO IT OUR OWN MUSIC. THERE IS SO MUCH BURIED MUSICAL INSPIRATION IN OUR SONGS THAT MOST PEOPLE WOULDN'T EVEN NOTICE.



FF: IF YOU HAD TO PICK A FAVORITE RELEASE OF YOURS (FULL ALBUM OR A TRACK), WHAT WOULD IT BE AND WHY?

NICK V: I WOULD LIKE TO THINK IT'S ALWAYS GOING TO BE OUR MOST RECENT RELEASE. IF YOU'RE MAKING MUSIC AND YOUR FAVORITE RELEASE IS STILL YOUR DEBUT RECORD THEN YOU'RE DOING SOMETHING WRONG. THERE'S ALWAYS SOMETHING SPECIAL ABOUT EVERY RECORD WE MAKE, BUT OUR CURRENT WORK IS WHAT DESCRIBES US BEST AT THAT TIME AND HOW WE WANT TO BE PORTRAYED. NELLA VITA IS OBVIOUSLY OUR MOST RECENT RECORD OUT, AND DIAMOND IS OUR MOST RECENT TRACK. DIAMOND IS A FUN SUMMER SONG THAT WE JUST WANTED TO HAVE FUN ON, DO SOMETHING DIFFERENT AND SHAKE PEOPLE UP. WE LOVE THAT SONG AND IT JUST SHOWS OUR LOVE FOR POP. I WOULD HAVE TO SAY AS A WHOLE, NELLA VITA IS OUR FAVORITE RELEASE.

FF: AT THIS POINT IN YOUR CAREER, DO YOU FEEL AS THOUGH YOU'VE FOUND YOUR "TRUE SOUND" AS A BAND OR ARE YOU STILL OPEN IN EXPERIMENTING WITH IT?

NICK V: I THINK WE HAVE DEFINITELY FOUND OUR GENERAL GROOVE, BUT IT WILL ALWAYS BE AN EXPERIMENT. WE NEVER WANT TO BE STAGNANT CREATIVELY AND ARE ALWAYS GOING TO WANT TO TRY NEW THINGS THAT PUSH LIMITS OR PEOPLE'S COMFORTABILITY WITH OUR BAND.


FF: WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PART ABOUT BEING IN GRAYSCALE? WHAT IS SOMETHING YOUR GROUP HAS THAT IS IMPORTANT TO YOU?

NICK V: I THINK THE ABSOLUTE CONNECTION WE HAVE INTERNALLY. WE HAVE SO MANY DIFFERENT PERSONALITIES BUT SOMEHOW EVERYTHING IS SO COHESIVE. WE'RE AN HONEST BAND WHO KEEPS IT REAL WITH OUR FANS AND ONE ANOTHER. WE'RE VERY DRIVEN CREATIVELY AND IN GENERAL WITHIN GRAYSCALE AND IT WILL CONTINUE TO STAY THAT WAY. THAT'S WHAT I LOVE ABOUT IT.

FF: WHAT ARE THE KEY DIFFERENCES/CHANGES YOU'VE NOTICED IN THE ALTERNATIVE SCENE TODAY COMPARED TO WHEN YOU FIRST STARTED IN 2011?

NICK V: I FEEL LIKE THE CONSUMPTION OF MUSIC IS THE BIGGEST DIFFERENCE. EVEN BEFORE 2011 YOU COULD SEE THAT PEOPLE'S MUSICAL ATTENTION SPAN WAS SHRINKING. DIGITAL STREAMING PLATFORMS CATER TO SINGLES MORE SO THAN ALBUMS BECAUSE EVERYTHING IS SO TANGIBLE NOW. WE RECEIVE THINGS SO QUICKLY THAT AN ALBUM ALMOST HAS LOST ITS EXCITEMENT. IT'S ALMOST A HIP HOP LEANING STYLE OF RELEASING THAT PEOPLE ARE ADAPTING TO BECAUSE EVERYONE NEEDS TO CONSTANTLY BE STIMULATED OR THEY FORGET ABOUT YOU.

THERE ARE SO MANY ARTISTS THAT WANT TO BE CREATIVE AND HAVE OVERARCHING THEMES, OR WANT FANS TO UNDERSTAND WHAT'S BEHIND THE MUSIC LYRICALLY AND SOMETIMES THOSE THINGS ARE OVERLOOKED NOW. IT'S THIS "GIMME GIMME" MENTALITY OF LISTENING TO EVERYTHING YOU CAN AND THEN IT'S ON TO THE NEXT ONE. EVERY ARTIST ADAPTS IN THEIR OWN WAY BUT PART OF ME WISHES MUSIC WAS STILL LISTENED TO AS WHOLE ALBUMS, AND SOME PEOPLE STILL DEFINITELY DO, I JUST SEE IT HAS BEEN PHASING OUT FOR SOME TIME. THERE IS A REASON A CERTAIN BATCH OF SONGS ARE PUT TOGETHER, THERE IS A COHESION AND A MESSAGE TO BE HEARD, A SNAPSHOT IN AN ARTIST'S CREATIVE LIFE CYCLE THAT CAN BE SEEN, SO IT'S COOL TO DIGEST ALBUMS AS A WHOLE AND THEN WAIT FOR THE NEXT TO SEE THE GROWTH OF AN ARTIST.



“We’re an **honest** band
who keeps it **real**
with our fans
and one another.”

FF: WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO BREAKTHROUGH IN THE SCENE TODAY? WHAT ARE THE QUALITIES THAT GRAYSCALE HAS THAT MADE YOU ACHIEVE THE LEVEL OF SUCCESS YOU HAVE IN THE INDUSTRY NOW?

NICK V: I JUST THINK CONSISTENTLY PLAYING SHOWS AND SHOWING THE WORLD YOU'RE A HARDWORKING BAND. SOME PEOPLE GET LUCKY AND BLOW UP OVER NIGHT BUT MOST OF THE TIME IT TAKES A LOT OF PATIENCE AND TIME. I THINK THAT'S WHAT WE HAVE IS WORK ETHIC AND STRIVING TO BE AS GREAT AS WE CAN AND NOT STOPPING FOR ANYTHING.

FF: AFTER THE RELEASE OF YOUR SINGLE 'DIAMOND', YOUR LISTENERS HAVE NOTICED THE MULTIPLE "TEASER" PHOTOS YOU'VE BEEN POSTING AND I'M SURE EVERYBODY WANTS TO KNOW--WHAT DOES THESE MEAN? WHAT'S NEXT FOR GRAYSCALE?

NICK V: EVERYONE WILL JUST HAVE TO WATCH AND WAIT!

Grayscale



GRAYSCALEPA

GRAYSCALEBAND.COM

LIVE PHOTOS:
JILLIAN BARTHOLOMEW

INTERVIEW:
KAREN GONZALEZ

give it all 'til
it all gets better





DREAMEATER



**'I PLAY GOD'
OUT NOW**



NECKDEEP

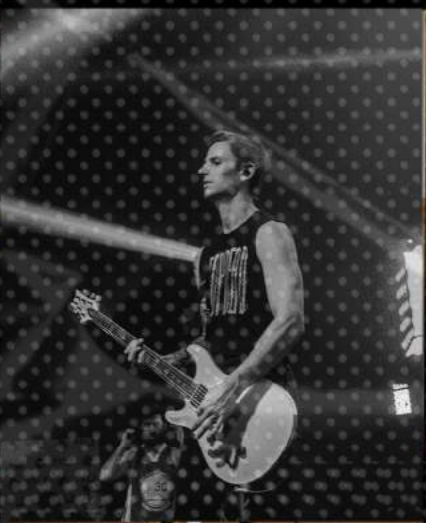


CENTER
STAGE



Pop punk is not dead, and Welsh band **NECK DEEP** proves that with every single release they offer. Being one of the most praised pop punk bands in the alternative scene with the discography of over four highly rated studio albums, a compilation album, and three extended plays, it is undeniable that each work of theirs are highly anticipated and talked about.

Through the years of sharing their music with us, we had the honor to take a moment with guitarist Sam Bowden to reflect on their success as a group. Check it out here!



FF: What could you say has been the most challenging thing you had to face and overcome as a group? How did you push through?

-Releasing our album last year was probably all of our biggest challenge. We were probably writing for the previous 2 years before it came out so it has slowly come together and been this amazing journey to get it to where it was when we entered the studio. Its an extremely weird feeling to be so invested in something and then when the time comes to set it free into the wild, you aren't allowed to follow. Meeting fans, familiar faces and friends we've made over the years and physically seeing actions to songs and people singing them is really the moment you know if what you spent all that time on was any good and worth it. Not having that instant connection with fans and our music made it very challenging to know where we are as a band and what to feel.

FF: What keeps you going? What motivates you to keep making music?

-Honestly, there hasn't been much light in the past year of inspiration or motivation to do a whole lot but I have found pockets where I have been able to create. I'm not sure what specifically is keeping myself or anyone going for that matter, maybe the thought of walking down Santa Monica with a badass burger from locali when this is all over, that should bring anyone some level of comfort.

FF: This whole pandemic/quarantine period has affected the music industry badly. How have you been coping lately?

-What has been an emotionally and financially devastating year, it hasn't left us with much options and rights due to contracts to earn a whole lot of income without touring so we're all sorta hanging on, applied for loans and all that. The usual adult shit you find yourself in when a pandemic hits.



FF: What is your advice for aspiring musicians? What are Neck Deep's key qualities, work ethics, etc., that got you to become one of the biggest pop punk bands today?

-First and foremost, enjoy and believe in the music you're creating. Get it recorded to a decent audible standard. If you are ready to expand with members of a team or any sort of expansion, talk to friends or family and seek advice, anything legal, pay a professional to look over it, break it down and advise you. Such a small overlook could be the end before it begins. Aside from the boring stuff just enjoy it and take it as it comes. Don't hold onto an idea or vision of where you see yourself being, just enjoy the ride.

FF: In hindsight, is there anything you could have done differently in the band?

-I'm not sure there is without knowing this year is coming and planning accordingly. I think it's easy to say we could have done this or that but things are never that simple.

FF: Lets talk about your latest album 'All Distortions Are Intentional'. How did the songwriting process work with writing it?

-We have been on and off writing since the last record really just on time off I would demo ideas and head to Seb's to meet with him and Ben to work them into further shape. We also spent a few weeks in America meeting with producers to sort of find the right fit for what we were going for which was a process we haven't really done before. We actually met Matt Squire on day 1 and knew immediately he's the guy which was great for the trip as it took the pressure off and meant we can just go about New York and LA and find the best breakfast sandwiches.

FF: You've incorporated more alternative rock/pop rock-leaning sounds within your new material. Do you think you have found your true sound in this record or are you still open to evolving it?

-I've only been a part of this process for the past 2 years so I can only say so much here but I do love pop. I wouldn't say this is our true sound or any indication for what to expect going forward. We knew for this record we wanted to make a big rock album in a big famous rock studio where we live and breathe it. We were in the middle of nowhere for 6 weeks with no distractions. Its like the classic way of doing an album you'd see bands making when watching their dvd's. It felt like with the way the industry and all is going, that this process is only going to die or become only attainable by bigger artists with bigger budgets so whilst we had the chance to go and do something like this we did. Fact to follow too, Monnow Valley, the studio we recorded ADAI which has been open since the 80's has now closed its doors. Sad, but glad we got to make some history. I think we will always evolve and create music that relates to where we are all at in life. I don't think it will be going too much deeper down the rock road right now. I'd maybe say expect some more pace like the early days.





FF: What is/are the main takeaway/s you want your listeners to have upon listening to 'All Distortions Are Intentional'?

-It's loosely a concept record and we did spend some real time on making sure the track order flowed and made sense sonically and lyrically so for the full experience, listening front to back is the intention. There's a lot of moods throughout which some will be right now and other you'll have to dig. We have a full lyrical breakdown on youtube if you want the full scoop from Ben.

FF: Through all these years, are there still things you want to do or try in Neck Deep? Maybe a collaboration or a project you still want to achieve?

-The biggest thing that I've been wanting to do since day 1 is to create a full live show with video walls and actually turn our show into a show not just 5 lads rocking up choosing the set list 15 minutes before we go on but for now that works.

FF: Do you have a band motto or any words to live by that you guys follow passionately?

-Don't be a dick. Everybody love everybody.

SOCIAL MEDIA:



NeckDeepUK

FINITE FAM REVIEWS

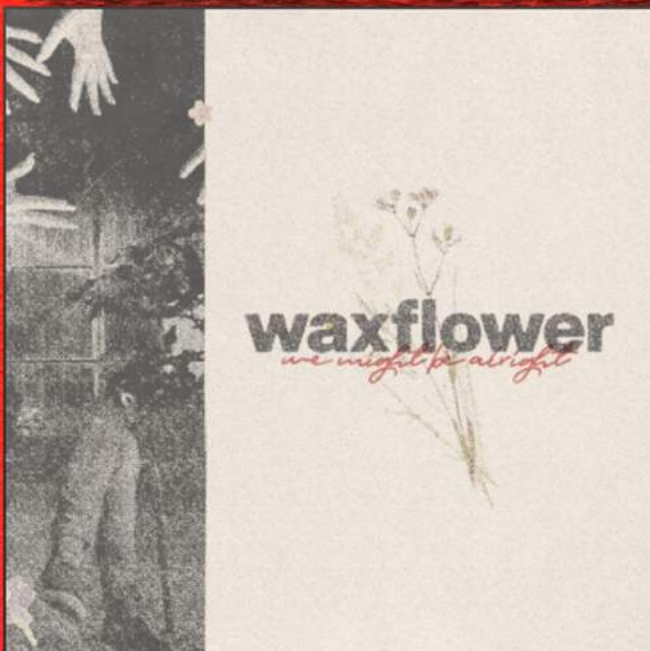
We Might Be Alright Waxflower

Review by: Ali aldaba

If bands such as Lamb of God can start a Wall of Death with their music, then Waxflower is more than capable of starting a Wall of Love with their latest EP, *We Might Be Alright*. Now, it is difficult to imagine electronic beats blending well with typical elements of pop punk. Waxflower somehow not only manages to make that unusual combination work. They also manage to make it sound incredibly catchy. Additionally, what is not difficult to imagine is the sight of hundreds of people holding hands and swaying their heads from side to side as the band plays the songs featured on this EP. Maybe longtime fans and new fans can do just those once physical distancing is no longer required to be done in public.

In terms of production, all the instruments can be clearly heard in the mix, including the bass. The sounds of the snare drum and the cymbals are delightful. Kudos to the producer and the engineer for their amazing efforts. In terms of songwriting, all instruments get to shine as well. For example, both the drummer and the bassist demonstrate their abilities to stand out on the fourth song, *Fake Frown*.

Although some of the lyrics sound repetitive, the vocal melodies are the most enjoyable aspects of the songs. Then again, the first song can sound a lot more memorable if the harmonies sung by the two vocalists are different notes, instead of the same notes at different octaves. The vocal harmonies on the third song, *Food For Your Garden*, are done much more wonderfully because of the different notes. Despite the minor flaws, this EP is highly recommended to both casual listeners and hardcore fans of pop punk. If this EP can be summarized in three words, then those words would be, 'Soundtrack To Wholesomeness.'



Favorite Tracks: *Food For Your Garden*, *Fake Frown*, *We Might Be Alright*

SCORE: