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New York State Music Guide

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1 on 1 with DISASHI from
GYM CLASS HEROES



Umphrey's McGee

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UpstateLIVE Music Guide

Welcome to the first issue of the UpstateLIVE Music Guide. It was created to help promote LIVE MUSIC and MUSICIANS in Upstate New York.

It is distributed to live music bars and theatres, music stores and shops, cafes and restaurants, and circulated by staff, street team members, bands and fans at concerts and festivals throughout the Upstate New York Region.

The goal of UpstateLIVE is to create one statewide Live Music Community, joining each of the state's local music scenes into one regional network.

UpstateLIVE's main objective will be to showcase all of the outstanding local, regional, and national bands playing Upstate New York. Festivals, concerts, music venues, music shops and sponsors will also be highlighted.

UpstateLIVE will be published 6 times per year (every 2 months), and will be an everlasting archive of the great music we share in Upstate NY. For more information visit us on the internet at our website, myspace and facebook pages.

VISIT UpstateLIVE on the Internet

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UpstateLIVE

New York State Music Guide

Herby One : editor/ad rep

Erik Jensen : senior writer

website: www.UpstateLIVE.net

Upcoming issues

Issue #2 : JULY-AUG (*June 25)

Issue #3 : SEPT-OCT (*Aug 20)

Issue #4 : NOV-DEC (*Oct 22)

*Ad Deadline

photo credits:

Gym Class Heroes c/o Fueled By Ramen

Disashi c/o Brandy McClarnon

Joe Driscoll c/o Celtronic & deepfriedfunk

Umphey's c/o C. Taylor Crothers, Brett Saul

Slow Natives and Cry To The Blind

c/o their websites

NEXT ISSUE

festival previews for

STRING FLING

CAMP BISCO

MOEDOWN 9

band profiles

MILLIONAIRES OF LOVE

JEFF BUJAK

DROPCLUTCH

venue profiles

VALENTINES

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Gym Class Heroes

Disashi Lumumba-Kasongo is the guitarist for the Gym Class Heroes. He also represents something special to all of us. He is an upstate kid with amazing talent and big dreams, that has broke through onto the national music scene. Disashi is the ultimate musician. On top of touring with GCH, he also has been writing and recording his own music with the Midnight Society; a musical venture that started as an assignment for a class he was in at Cornell. He is one of the faces of Ithaca, the Finger Lakes, and Upstate NY in general. And quite frankly, we are all proud of our "hometown heroes." I caught up with Disashi, in between another round of relentless touring, to bring you this interview.

Erik Jensen: It has been a whirlwind 3 years for you, how are you holding up?

Disashi: Things have definitely been crazy, especially throughout the past year and a half or so. I've been holding up well and that's partially because our success has built up gradually so I was prepared for it. I've stayed close to my loved ones, friends, and family who have all helped me stay grounded. It can be very easy to lose touch with reality on the road! I stay sane by eating microwaveable mac 'n' cheese and listening to the Beatles, and I bring along my tempurpedic pillow and a blanket from home so I don't feel like I live 2 separate lives.

Erik: Are you still attending classes at Cornell in the middle of all the touring and recording chaos?

Disashi: I currently do not attend classes. I don't think a lot of people realize we have pretty much toured every day straight for the last 4 years, with no solid time off. For now, my focus is on this opportunity I've been given, but I do think a solid education is extremely important. I should also point out that touring the world for 4 years is an educational experience in and of itself. Last summer we had stretches where we were in 3 or 4 different countries within a 3 or 4 day span. Psychology, business/finance, cultural studies, art, technology... trust me it's all in there.

Erik: How did the Midnight Society come to fruition?

Disashi: The Midnight Society is a rock-based project that I started in 2001 while I was attending Cornell University. I was still performing in my high school band, Earl's Garage, but I decided that I had some ideas that I needed to record by myself. I took a digital music class in which my final project was a live performance! I performed the song "Washington." The student and teacher reactions were extremely stoked. I felt like I had figured out where I belonged and what I should be doing with my life. I released an EP in 2004 called "9 Years Later..." I had planned to send it out to record labels before I joined GCH.

Erik: Do you plan on performing any dates, and are there plans to put together a band to get the Midnight Society seen live?

Disashi: Yes and yes. I actually already have a few friends who are ready to get on the road. I plan to have new music available this summer, with this new band name, but its been a surprise before now. You're the first press to even hear of the new name! I've already had many offers to book Midnight shows and even a couple of full tours with The Midnight Society headlining. I've been spending all my time touring and writing new music for GCH and TMS. Right now GCH is my main focus but in the future TMS will be seen live. I plan on making music all my life.

Erik: You are adding your legacy to the rich tradition of Ithaca music. To many that live in other areas, they may not know the importance of that. What does Ithaca mean to you?

Disashi: Ithaca is a very unique place. After being in so many different parts of the world throughout the past 4 years, I've definitely come to appreciate a lot of things about my hometown. I met my girlfriend thanks to the rich music scene in this country that has grown out of Ithaca. I also appreciate the community of open-mindedness combined with the abundance of education. There are a lot of cultural dynamics in Ithaca that are not commonly found in other parts of the country, which is a large part of why it's so rich in music and art. I'm definitely proud to be a member of the growing city and to represent it wherever I go. Of course, Ithaca is Gorges.

Erik: To the unknowing, how did you get the job in GCH after the departure of Milo?

Disashi: At some point my old band, Earl's Garage, played a show with Gym Class Heroes at a club called Planet 505 in Syracuse. That's where I met the guys for the first time. A year or two later in 2004 Milo, GCH's original guitarist, decided to leave the band to pursue an education. The guys were just getting signed to an indie label called Fueled By Ramen, and they needed to find someone who would be serious enough to tour 9 months out of the year. That person was me. Apparently I was the first name on their list of guitarists so they got a hold of me and asked me to come over to what I thought was an audition, and turned out to be rehearsal. I showed up and that same day we wrote "Cupid's Chokehold", the same song that ended up giving us mainstream success about 3 years later. So needless to say it was meant to be.

Erik: I have known Travis and Matt since they were 13 year old kids jamming at little block parties. Everyone that I know that is in the now predicted the success as early as 1999. Did you feel pressure stepping into that Geneva circle of love that they have weaved over the last 15 years? Were there any acceptance issues with the faithful, initially?

Disashi: When I joined the band I really didn't even think about any acceptance issues. After our first tour we played a show in their hometown of Geneva at the Smith Opera House. It was then that I realized I would have to play for the people who had supported this band locally for 7 years or so. I'm not going to lie, I was nervous. After the performance all of the GCH friends and family gave me nothing but positive responses which I was stoked about.

Erik: I see that you are on the main stage at Warped Tour this year, and that you have a show coming up in Ithaca. How bittersweet will that hometown show be for you? And explain how the Warped Tour community has expanded genre boundaries?

Disashi: Since I joined GCH, we have not had an I-Town show so I thought it was important for us to get one together. I worked with our booking agents to get the Slope Day show at Cornell because I think it's important to show people, that you can truly become whatever you want if you follow your heart, work hard, and stay focused. A little faith also helps a lot. I want them to understand that once I was a student, just like them. Even though my life is sometimes difficult for me to believe, the truth is I always thought that I would be doing this. I have a lot of support from those closest to me, but truthfully there were always people who tried to discourage me along the way. So this show definitely holds a lot of emotions for me. As for Warped Tour I can definitely say that it has been broadening musical horizons for years. The tour consists of mostly rock-based bands but every night kids who are not necessarily self-proclaimed fans of hip hop are going to come out and watch Gym Class Heroes. That alone will open them up to new genres they have never heard before. The last year that we did Warped Tour there was a "Code of the Cuts" tent that was dedicated specifically to underground hip hop. And years before that Eminem headlined the tour. One great thing about a tour like Warped is the direct access to new types of music with different influences.

WWW.UPSTATELIVE.NET

Erik: Does GCH have plans to lay some new stuff down in the studio?

Disashi: As a matter of fact, we have been in the studio since January recording "The Quilt". For a lot of these tracks Matt, Eric, and I recorded the drums, bass, and guitar together live. Musically it was a very cohesive and refreshing process. There are so many different elements from our influences that have been fused together for our songs. I can't wait for people to hear them! The release date is currently scheduled for June. Get ready!!

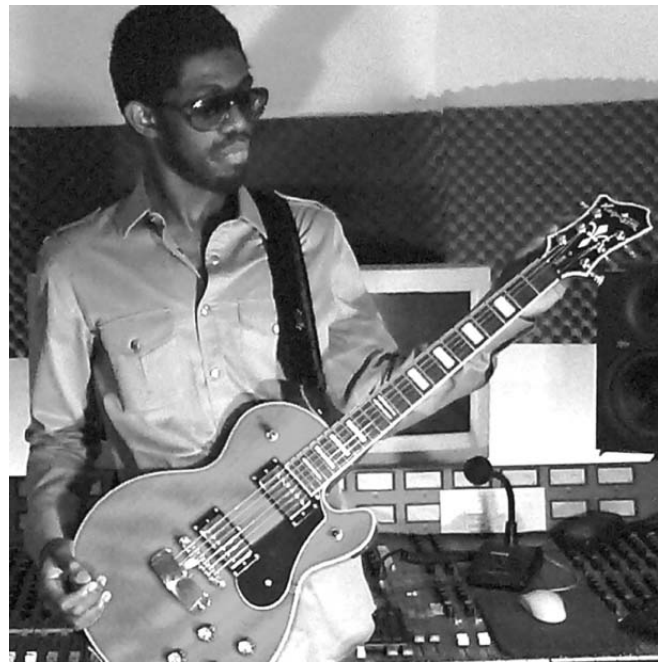
Erik: Waiting on a live DVD??? Please! Haha!

Disashi: Haha. I was just out in Cali walking through the live music DVD section of an FYE and I thought the same thing to myself. No promises right now, but I'm sure that it'll happen. Those of you who just can't wait should know that last November we released a limited-edition MVI version of our album "As Cruel As School Children" which contains live performance footage from Hawaii along with plenty of other bonus material.

Erik: What was your reaction to being named one of the top three guitarists in Alternative Press end of the year poll?

Disashi: I was very overwhelmed because I didn't see it coming at all. Before I knew anything about it, a fan congratulated me on My Space and sent me a picture of the magazine page where I was featured. For a second I really didn't believe it! I was even more excited when I realized that I was honestly a fan of the other two guitarists who had been selected. It was very intense because it forced me to acknowledge that people recognize and appreciate me individually as a serious musician. It was one of those "oh my God I'm actually fulfilling my dreams" moments. As if meeting Dave Grohl and doing Australian tours with Gwen Stefani wasn't enough, this was a very surreal end to the most surreal year of my life so far.

Erik: I met Pete Wentz at one of your tour stops in NYC. How great has it been having Pete and Fallout Boy in your corner from the get-go?



Disashi: Having Fallout Boy as our rock n' roll "big brothers" has been amazing. Being friends with them and watching their careers has helped us learn a lot. The only downside has been that, especially after "Cupid" got so big, a chunk of people started associating us with them in a musical sense. FOB has definitely played an important part in helping us get to where we are and I definitely appreciate that, but I look forward to the release of this new album because it will get people to look at what we can do as a band which also happens to be what we do 365 days a year as GCH on the road.

Erik: On a personal and professional level, where do you see yourself in the next 10 years?

Disashi: Well, the short answer is making music. I don't know who, what, where, when, why, or how but I'll be making music. I personally will be just as happy whether I'm traveling in a van or a tour bus as long as I'm making music and I'm true to my beliefs and the people I love.

Erik: Any shout-outs?

Disashi: Bluejay, I love you. My family. Viola and Banjo. Wegmans. Hmmmm... and all the Guitar Hero addicts around the world. I empathize with you sincerely.

Joe Driscoll

Joe Driscoll is a man, a myth, a legend. He is a nomad, an innovator, and one of the most talked about indie artists in Europe. He comes from Central New York roots, as he grew up in Syracuse. Joe is a mega star in the making! Driscoll will make his triumphant return home in May, to play a handful of dates on the east coast. "There's nothing like coming back to Upstate," Joe says, "This last tour has been amazing. I have been to Austria, Germany, and Ireland, but there's nothing like catching up with all of my true peoples back home. I need it every few months to stay sane." For those who know Joe, this is an exciting time for all of us. He is fresh off a win as Best Solo act at the European Indie Music Awards. His record on Localization Records is selling extremely well, and he has seen the world in an effort to conquer all the continents. Upstate New York has few people with the resume that this man has amassed. We are all proud of his achievements.

Joe's musical performing life started in the Central NY marketplace. After doing some regional and local touring runs. He decided to try his hand overseas, an unprecedented move for any musician in those shoes. What has transpired since that first trip to Europe is nothing short of magic. Joe has released his debut album, Origin Myth, to major critical acclaim, sell out shows in London and New York, and Radio One Airplay. He has been confirmed to play major European festivals such as Glastonbury, Bestival, and was the headline act at The Lake of Stars Festival in Malawi, Africa.

This musical nomad has called many places home. I need to know what he thinks of his title as a musical nomad. Joe replies, "I say in my song Nomad that my home is in my heart, my head, and 1000's of houses. That's really true, you know. I lived out of a backpack, half my life. For now London is my homebase, and Syracuse will always be my home at the end of the road. I would love to do more tours of the states, but there has been such a demand for my shows in Europe that its hard to turn down. I suppose I will know alot more about that after completing these next recordings."

This definitely had me wondering about what was next on Joe's agenda as far as the recording process. Joe is very excited about what is happening with that aspect of his life. Joe adds, "I finally got my own studio together after much struggling and studying. I have a few new albums in the works that have me really, really excited. The music is changing and growing in this crazy organic way. I don't know how people will react to all the different things I've been recording, loads of different collaborations. All I can say is, I am happier with the sounds I've been making than I've ever been before."

With all of the success Joe Driscoll has had in the European marketplace, I had a glaring question that was clearly bothering me. I could only wonder, was he bitter or concerned about the fact, that us Americans always seem to be the last to latch onto something totally groundbreaking. Thinking back, The Strokes come to mind! Joe's response was one of surprise to me. "Yes, it is a bit frustrating. There are so many factors at play, cultural differences, geography, and such. You have just got to take it as it comes. I am just glad to be able to keep pursuing my passions, whatever the continent. Hopefully soon I'll break through more in the states like I have in Europe."

Catch Joe Driscoll when he returns home this May. He is the quintessential one man band. His looping strategy on foot pedals is unique. With his mix of folk and hip hop, he is someone who has, and will continue to smash all kinds of genre defining hoopla. There is no word to define what he does. That is what makes him an original, and a genius. Big ups to Joe D. Check him out at myspace.com/joedriscoll



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Free Grass Union - Hot Day At The Zoo - Appalachian Still
Blue Sky Mission Club - Mike Smith and the Grassholes
Jatoba - Cabinet - Jamie Notarthomas - William Nicholson
Painted Blue - Larry Hoyt & the Goode Acoustics & more

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Donna Jean & the Tricksters - U-Melt - Natural Breakdown
Giant Panda Guerilla Dub Squad - The Buddhahood
Raisinhead - Buzz Universe - Second Class Citizens & more

Sterling Stage

Upstate New York has become a hotbed for some of the best summer festivals in the country, and Sterling Stage has been leading the way, a constant success since 1995 hosting the best touring bands this country has to offer.

"I got turned on to the idea of music festivals when I was a kid (about 10) and always loved the idea." proclaims Eric McElveen, Sterling Stage booking and production manager since its inception. "As it turned out though, the 80's were a pretty conservative decade and by the time I was old enough to attend on my own, they were pretty much all gone. On top of that, most club's became 21+ and DWI began to be taken very seriously (as it should be), resulting in an ever diminishing local and regional music scene. As I got to know more disgruntled bands and fans in the early 90's it started to become clear to me that there had to be another way to go about this. A place where they weren't going kick you out the second the band stopped and where bands could pull their friends and fans in to something bigger and more exciting than the bar environment. We started throwing backwoods parties in the early 90's and subsequently I was introduced to Tom Ryan through a mutual friend. He had been operating this Christmas Tree farm and was looking for something else to do with his beautiful land, and we hit it off immediately. The idea for the Sterling Stage Kampitheater started to be formulated in the fall of 1994, and we officially held our first event on Memorial Day weekend 1995 for about 100 people and it just started to take off from there."

On the weekend of May 23rd to May 25th 2008, the venue's rich history comes full circle with their 50th ever scheduled event, with well over 1,000 people expected this time around. Folkfest is loaded with great regional and national touring acts and figures to be one of the top Upstate festival tickets of the season. Great acts like the Ryan Montbleau Band, The Breakfast, Giant Panda Guerilla Dub Squad, The Buddhahood, Natural Breakdown, and many others, will be making this historic gathering a weekend to remember.

As well as the fine display of music at hand, this venue is extremely unique for it's built in amenities. Groovin' Lumens does a light show at the left and right of the stage that is among the finest in the country. Bands play on 3 stages without any downtime, the music never stops at Sterling Stage. Food and craft vendors, art installations and a Memorial Parade through the concert site make this event a one of a kind experience. This is Sterling Stage - community, family, music, art, fun!

Like most festivals, there are some things that are perpetual no-nos. No glass, dogs, or fireworks are permitted at the festival site in an attempt to preserve the natural habitat and order of the land. It seems to be working. "Kampers keep coming back to Sterling mostly for the overall atmosphere and the convenience and safety it provides." says McElveen. "We of course continue to have a cutting edge line-up of spectacular music playing nearly every waking minute of the fests, plus folks can bring their coolers, grills, have small campfires, can dance the night away and then retire to their tent or camper for a safe and restful nights sleep. New attractions to this years events including a family camping village, morning yoga/sound healing workshops, and a drum camp for all of the percussionists to gather for late night jams."

Being the 50th such event at the stage, Folkfest will be marked with a few extra things for your eyes and ears to adorn. The Sterling Stage Archive will be on display all weekend at the Super Kind Imports vending booth. You will be able to revisit the venue's rich history as they will have pictures, posters, video, and audio of past Sterling Stage events. They will also display every issue of The Revolving Door Music Guide, as May also marks the paper's 10 year anniversary.

Call 323-644-0429 or visit www.sterlingstage.com for information on tickets and ticket outlets, band schedules, directions, and information about their other summer events: the Sterling Stage String Fling July 3-6, and the Last Daze of Summer Fest Sept. 12-14. Sterling Stage is located 15 minutes west of Oswego at 274 Kent Rd, Sterling, NY 13156.

Mountain Jam

If you want to see some of the scene's best bands this summer, look no further! Radio Woodstock, and legendary Allman Brother and Govt. Mule guitarist Warren Haynes, have announced the line-up for the 4th annual Mountain Jam Festival. The event returns to Hunter Mountain Ski Resort in the Catskill Mountains the weekend of May 30th to June 1st.

As in past years of the event, Govt. Mule will headline the 3 day event with a pair of two set performances. The event will also feature an ultra rare festival performance by the one and only Levon Helm of The Band. Like in past installments, the festival offers a stunning variety in great music. The line -up includes the following bands: Gov't Mule, Bob Weir & RatDog, Levon Helm's Ramble on the Road, Michael Franti & Spearhead, Umphrey's McGee, Medeski, Scofield, Martin & Wood, Citizen Cope, Ray LaMontagne, Drive-By Truckers, Dark Star Orchestra, Galactic, Grace Potter & The Nocturnals, Sharon Jones & the Dap Kings, Ingrid Michaelson, Ivan Neville's Dumpstaphunk, Felice Brothers, JJ Grey & Mofro, Jackie Greene, Dr. Dog, Lotus, Pete Francis, Jim Weider's Project Percolator with special guest Lucy Bo, Larry McCray, Pnuma Trio, Giant Panda Guerilla Dub Squad, O' Death, BuzzUniverse, Phonograph, Dark Meat, Ratboy, and DJ Lady Verse.



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May 10 8:00PM @ valentines
the red lions
w/s/g the dig and ben karis-nix

Jun 3 8:00PM @ valentines
zach deputy

Jun 7 8:00PM @ valentines
raisinhead
featuring members of the ominous seapods

Jun 8 7:00PM @ revolution hall
the adrian belew trio

Mountain Jam was originally conceived as one day celebration in conjunction with the 25th anniversary of Radio Woodstock. The festival has catapulted into a three day multi-stage event with great attractions other than the music. Something interesting to check out is the The Awareness Village. The Awareness Village will play host to Headcount, a voting advocacy group of musicians who are making unbelievable headway in helping voter turnout at the polls. The Village will also host Rock The Earth, a not for profit environmental advocacy group, and Community Energy, a company committed to increasing the domestic supply of clean, fuel-free energy. Other great features at the festival include, on site camping and lodging, indoor restroom facilities, and one of the most beautiful looking natural amphitheatres you have ever seen. This is by far one of the best festivals in the Northeast! www.mountainjam.com

I was lucky enough to track down one of the headlining attractions at Mountain Jam for an interview : Umphrey's McGee - just turn the page.



Umphrey's McGee

To many on the tour circuit, Umphrey's McGee has become the "next big thing." Some people have even called them "The next Phish." They are much more than that. This prog rock spewing super band from Chicago may obtain that size audience in the future, but they are an original in every sense of the word. This band has been great for over ten years, but with the addition of guitar god Jake Cinninger in the fall of 2000, this band took it to a whole other level. In my opinion, and many others, you are looking at the best band in the country! They deserve the accolades, they have earned it.

Recently I caught up with Jake, and bassist Ryan Stasik for an impromptu rap session. You will be able to tell right away that these guys haven't let stardom go to their head, and that having fun is what drives the bands success. Make sure to check out Umphrey's McGee at the Mountain Jam. If you have never seen them, they will probably rip your skull off!

Finger Lakes LIVE
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Erik Jensen: How did the members of Umphrey's meet, and become a band?

Ryan Stasik: Not many people know this about South Bend but there is a club called "Swinger's" that Joel, BB, and I frequented in our early college years. We met there and started talking shop about music and it's all downhill from there.

Erik: How did you guys come up with the name of the band?

Ryan: Sitting around drinking, and couldn't come up with anything better at the time...oh well, Umphrey's McGee it is forever.

Erik: A lot of people are not familiar with the pre-Jake days of the band. How was it in the beginning?

Ryan: Well, we were all in school still at Notre Dame so we were students, pretty much a bar band playing for friends and free beer. We didn't become an official touring band until we moved to Chicago and had Jake with us.

Erik: Herby and I were getting all nostalgic about the 10 year anniversary of the Revolving Door. Jake you stayed with us off and on over a period of three weeks while you were with Alibaba's Tahini. I remember Herby rounded up some gigs for you in Upstate NY and Burlington, and Bryan Williams wrote an article about it in one of the early issues. What do you remember about those times?

Jake: I remember hanging out at the old Revolving Door headquarters. Living on Genesee Cream Ale, and Karl's garlic-heavy "road pasta." Getting stupid, and hanging out on the porch, writing tunes for seven days or so. We were kind of stuck in Rochester, because we couldn't get home. We had no bread to make it! We were always looking for gas money.

Erik: Do you remember your gigs at Acme Pizza and the Hootenanny? People are still talking about those shows like there is going to be a triumphant return.

Jake: The Hootenanny show was quite memorable. I still have the master cassette from that show. Great energy that weekend, hilarious banter on the show.

Erik: I miss Krojo and Karl, how the hell are they doing these days?

Jake: Karl is around the Asheville area under the alias Mother Vinegar. Krojo is currently back home in South Bend, and moving to Chicago to get his musical steep on with his band Half-Pint Jones.

Erik: How did you get involved with Umphrey's?

Jake: I was in a real rut living around my home town when Brendan phoned me up to come join Umphrey's McGee. I knew we could dominate with the twin-guitar attack idea, as we had talked a couple of years prior about the possibility of doing this. Then it all came down to getting out of Michigan, for good reasons.

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Erik: Ryan, what was it like, signing to SCI Fidelity? The roster has blown up over the last couple years.

Ryan: It seemed like the right thing at the right time. We love SCI Fidelity except for Kevin Morris's love for the University of Michigan. Proud to be part of the team.

Erik: Jake, what has been the best part of being affiliated with a company like Madison House?

Jake: I think it comes down to being able to simply hang out as friends, and not really talk too much business.

Erik: Are you planning on recording anything with Alibaba's, or doing any reunion shows?

Jake: Alibaba's Tahini always has something boiling on the burner. In May, Karl and Kroj will be coming to my studio in South Bend to finish a long-overdue follow up to Rockstars & Lawnmowers. Shows are always a thought, but we're more into recording at the moment.

Erik: Ryan, speaking of side projects, what's up with the Omega Moos, any shows coming up?

Ryan: Omega Moos is a side project with the New Deal guys that plays a few originals and covers from 75'-89', alot of improv, and tons of fun! We don't really have time to get into recording but we will see what the future brings. Some NYC dates have been talked about and perhaps Toronto as well.

Erik: What will be the final legacy of Umphrey's McGee???

Jake: These days, there are so many musical options to spend your time on. If a handful of music lovers grab hold of what we have, and can enjoy it, that's the final testament.

Check out the band's website for more information: www.umphreysmcgee.com, and check them out on Archive.org they have many great shows posted.



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Rochester International Jazz Festival

The Rochester International Jazz Festival, now in its seventh year, has quickly become one of the top jazz festivals in the country, and certainly Upstate New York's finest jazz event. Well over 100,000 music fans from all over the world will visit Rochester's East End June 13-21, and enjoy 9 straight days of live music from some of the world's finest musicians.

The festival is the brainchild of John Nugent and Marc Iacona. Nugent is a tenor sax player, who has traveled the world with many jazz artists including Tony Bennett, Ella Fitzgerald, Rosemary Clooney, The Woody Herman Orchestra and The Vanguard Jazz Orchestra. Iacona, a Rochester native and trumpeter in his own right, is a community leader and President of Simcona Electronics. Together these two, with help from city leaders and county executives, have put together one of the state's finest events, and in only six years time.

I was eager to learn more about it, so I emailed John Nugent to see if I could get the goods on this incredible event. He graciously accepted my interview request, and was glad to share some festival information with all of you.

Herby One : When and how did the idea for the R.I.J.F. become reality?

John Nugent : I had visited Rochester in 2000 to give some workshops, and it was suggested by some folks that I should investigate to see if a jazz festival was viable there. At the time I was producing the Stockholm Jazz Festival in Sweden, and producing European tours from my office in Brooklyn, NY. We did a study to see if the event would work successfully, and the City of Rochester, the local government, Monroe County and State Senator Jim Alesi all agreed it could, and they supported the event from the start. RIJF became reality in 2001, and had its first run in 2002.

Our first year was a great success, and now going into the 7th year, we've been honored with the keys to the City twice for our work, I've moved my family here, and our event has been rated one of the top jazz festivals in the nation. And we've generated over 50 million dollars in economic impact for the city! It's rewarding on a number of levels producing this event, as it's now considered a signature event for the city of Rochester.

Herby : Looking at the schedule, it seems like there is something for everyone, and that live music fans of all ages can enjoy this music.

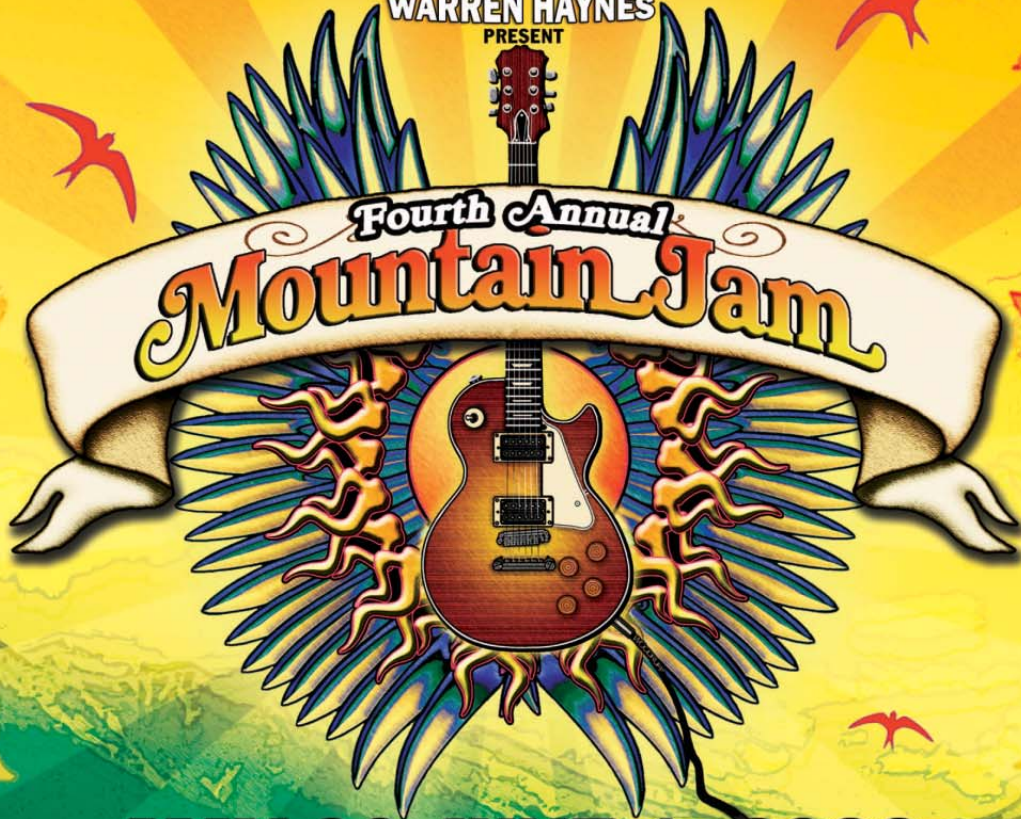
John : Absolutely. We purposefully program something for everyone in this event, albeit the music has to be quality and have integrity. It's an extremely diverse program, focusing on acoustic jazz but including all types of creative improvised music. We have bands from all over the world: jazz, blues, soul, r&b, big band, a Nordic series, fusion, zydeco, singer-songwriters, jam bands, etc. The power of our event is in its diversity, and because of this focus, we attract a well rounded audience.

This year our ticketed headliner series has Frank Sinatra Jr, Boz Scaggs, Al Green, Dee Dee Bridgewater and tribute shows to Dizzy Gillespie and Jazz @ The Philharmonic in the Eastman Theatre. We also have a fantastic lineup of free shows supported by the City of Rochester, including Soulive and Medeski Martin and Wood, plus a well stocked club series of groups from all over the world. The Club series has over 150 sets of music you can go to with a \$125 Club Pass ticket, GA first come first served seating. One doesn't need a Club Pass to go to any of the club shows, there's a \$20-25 cover with no pass but no single tickets are sold in advance. The Club Pass is really a value pass, the more shows you go to the lower the cost. It's a real crowd pleaser.

If you are looking to attend a live music event this summer unlike any other, then I suggest the Rochester International Jazz Festival. One of the great things about this event in my eyes is the fact the outdoor stages and the indoor venues are all within walking distance of each other. I can't wait to hit the East End in June. For more info visit www.RochesterJazz.com



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Operation Metal Siege

Operation Metal Siege (O.M.S.) is a two day metal event happening June 14-15 in Brooklyn at Peggy O'Neill's in Coney Island. It will bring 35 national, regional and local metal bands and fans together for the first metal throwdown of the summer. For most of these bands, it will be a chance to finally see and meet some of their contemporaries. But thanks to the internet and Myspace, their friendships have already been forged solid.

The same can be said for two friends from Syracuse and Queens respectively, who have formed a friendship through the internet, and will be meeting for the first time at the Siege's Upstate showcase May 9th in Syracuse. What makes this story even more surprising is the fact they are the event organizers. "Believe it or not, Anno and I have not "officially" met yet." admits Astoria, Queens resident Princess F'in Hacksaw, creator of the Operation Metal Siege event. "Our Operation Metal Siege showcase May 9th at The Lost Horizon in Syracuse is the first time we will be meeting each other in person."

Anno MaLystic is a Syracuse based booking agent for the band Descending Angel, and she met Princess F'in Hacksaw over the internet. "I was talking to and attempting to work with a female promoter in Connecticut. I saw Princess F'in Hacksaw's name everywhere! Pushing her bands, pushing her events, etc. I decided to send her a friend request and told the chick in Connecticut that Hacksaw seemed to be unbelievably good at promoting. The 3 of us starting working on a "metal fest" that was to take place in New Hampshire. Shortly thereafter, Princess Hacksaw and I realized that we were not working with professionals."

Sensing that this event was not going to work, the two pulled out all of their bands, and started planning their own event, Operation Metal Siege. "When I made that decision, because Anno and I rocked out and worked together so amazing, I asked her to sign onto the new event I was arranging." says Hacksaw. "We have been working non-stop, everyday since the beginning of January and have become very close."

To help introduce O.M.S. to Upstate NY metal fans, Hacksaw & MaLystic booked a showcase at the newly reopened Lost Horizon in Syracuse, and booked 3 bands from O.M.S. to participate: "Descending Angel" from Syracuse, "Dropclutch" from Binghamton, and "Bullistic" from Richmond, VA. "Thriving Ivory" was later added to an already potent O.M.S. showcase, now sure to be the venues biggest event since the reopening. "The May 9th show at The Lost Horizon, Operation Metal Siege, and the Princess' Dawgs of War Troops Benefit are just the beginning for the Hacksaw F'in MaLystic Express." proclaims Anno-MaLystic. "What makes us so good at what we do is that WE put the bands, the fans and the music FIRST....We do it for the love of all things METAL!"

To find out more information about both events visit : www.myspace.com/operationmetalsiege



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4:30 - 5:00 - Gear Head
5:15 - 5:45 - Mark M.E. Edwards
6:00 - 6:30 - Steve Bello
6:45 - 7:15 - Dormitory Effect
7:30 - 8:00 - Anaka
8:15 - 8:45 - Bullistic
9:00 - 9:30 - Borgo F'in Pass
9:45 - 10:15 - Constricted
10:30 - 11:00 - Darkling
11:15 - 11:45 - Rage From Within
12:00 - 12:30 - Caustic
12:45 - 1:15 - Brand New Sin
1:30 - 2:00 - Descending Angel

SUNDAY - 15 JUNE 2008

12:45 - 1:15 - The Last Alliance
1:30 - 2:00 - Empyreon
2:15 - 2:45 - Vicious Disorder
3:00 - 3:30 - Born Again Rebels
3:45 - 4:15 - 12 Eyes
4:30 - 5:00 - Love Hate Theory
5:15 - 5:45 - Rez-Erection (Trashed MC)
6:00 - 6:30 - Voodoo Terror Tribe
6:45 - 7:15 - Killjoy
7:30 - 8:00 - Shadowgate
8:15 - 8:45 - Zandelle
9:00 - 9:30 - System Torture
9:45 - 10:15 - Code 6
10:30 - 11:00 - Castrofate
11:15 - 11:45 - Diary of Demise
12:00 - 12:30 - Dropclutch
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Muggsy's Boneyard

Muggsy's Boneyard is quite simply, one of the best punk bands in upstate New York. Although, they have not been touring on a regional basis, the buzz is starting to pick up on these four guys from the tiny town of Seneca Falls. With the recording of their new CD, being produced by Will Russell (Electric Wilburland), the sky is the limit for these four veterans of the upstate scene. They are the band that you may have never ever heard of, but soon will know all! I had a chance to sit down with the band which consists of Jason Acevedo on vocals, Adam Christensen on drums, Joe Christensen on guitar, and Steve Sarratori on bass. If you are not familiar with these guys hit up their my space page. Frankly, they are a diamond waiting to be discovered!

Erik: Where does the name of this band come from?

Joe: The name actually comes from a fantasy football team I had in some Yahoo League or something with some friends. My team was Muggsy's Boneyard. My parents' dog, Muggsy, has like 50 bones that he scatters all over the family room. Every once in a while someone will pick them up and put them all in a basket. An hour later, they'll be scattered all over the place again. We would call the family room floor Muggsy's Boneyard. When we were trying to come up with a name a friend of ours, Dan Longo, actually suggested using the name from the Yahoo Fantasy Football League. It sounded corny to me at first, but the guys liked it and it stuck.

Erik: You guys come from a vast array of musical backgrounds, who are your biggest influences individually?

Steve: My influences are Steve Harris, Billy Sheehan, Geezer Butler, Les Claypool, Victor Wooten, and Michael Manning.

Jason: As a youngster my uncles had me listening to bands like Judas Priest, W.A.S.P., Maiden and other metal stuff. In my later teens I found a liking for the succinct and straight-forward nature of punk rock. I love the old school stuff like The Clash, Social Distortion, The Ramones, etc. My favorites are NOFX, Rancid, Pennywise, Bouncing Souls, And Goldfinger. Although Prince and Mike Jackson are cool too!!!

Joe: I always admired guys I could never play like. Eddie Van Halen is tops.. Randy Rhodes, Steve Vai, Joe Satriani, Yngwie Malmsteen, and of course C.C. DeVille. I named my cat after C.C. in 5th grade. He just died last year at 22 years old. Anyway, it's cool to be involved and passionate about music I can actually play.

Adam - Well, it was The first thing I ever heard that caught my attention was, Kiss. Prior to that, up until the age of 3 or 4 I was exposed to a lot of Motown, Rod Stewart, and Kenny Rogers by my parents. By elementary school, I was a huge Motley Crue fan and that whole genre. In 7th grade, I discovered Slayer and Metallica, got into thrash and death metal and had a radio show at Cayuga Community College called "Sounds of the Underground". That's where I learned the most about the music business. Although into metal, I became a huge Pearl Jam fan along the way, they are the best live band in the universe. I love hardcore, old school rap, new punk, old punk, and 90's metal. I would say drummers who have influenced me the most are Tommy Lee, Tim Alexander (Primus), Matt Cameron (Soundgarden/Pearl Jam), Danny Schuler (Biohazard), Riggs Ross (Madball), Eric Sandin (NOFX), Scott Rockenfield. Travis Barker always impresses me.

Erik: Are you currently working on a tour or working with an agent to spread out regionally?

Joe: Short answer... no.

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Adam: Lots of things would prevent a full scale tour for Muggsy's Boneyard, but we love to play out and are always looking to play to a different audience. We'll be at Nikstock later this summer and are hoping our CD will open some doors for us in the Syracuse and Rochester areas. Also, no, we don't have a manager. We've worked with local promoters and booking agents in the past and let's just say that it didn't work out well from our perspective. We've all contributed to booking shows from different leads in the past and will continue to do so in the future. We've been around for over 6 years now and we know we can call a bar owner and send him a CD when we are trying to book gigs.

Erik: I understand you are working with Will Russell at Electric Wilburland, how has that been going?

Adam: Will is an amazing engineer. More importantly, he is patient, genuinely open-minded, and a great teacher. Will engages during every single guitar strum, bass pluck, tom hit, and vocal line. He's like a dog; he hears things humans can't and pays specific attention to the slightest detail. We went in wanting to record a demo but, after we realized our potential mixing under Will's guidance and skills, we felt we had to continue working beyond a demo.

Joe: It has been an amazing experience. I was full of anxiety going into the process but Will makes you feel very comfortable and not at all like you're in over your head. He's a fantastic person to work with and he really knows his shit... to say the least.

Jason: Will Russell is an amazing engineer, producer and an even more kick ass human being!!! Those who know or have worked with him know exactly what I mean. I could go on forever about how awesome Will is. He is no doubt my idol.

Erik: When did the emphasis on writing music as compared to playing covers really take hold. By the way, I love your original stuff?

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Jason: I always felt like we were cheating ourselves by only playing covers. There is way more of an emotional connection within a band when you cohesively write something that you grow to love. So, we ended up writing a few songs, liked them, and in between some highs and lows wrote a bunch more.

Joe: We've been writing original music for about 5 years but as you know, we used to focus 99% of our time on covers. It simply got to the point where I think we were all thinking, that this can't go on forever and when it ends, what do we have to show for it? The answer was "nothing". I think at that point we wanted to try our hand at being a "real" band that can leave a mark, no matter how small it may be. We probably wrote 3 originals over the course of 3 1/2 years and 10 in the last 18 months. We focus more on being creative these days as opposed to covers although I still love the covers. Don't tell the other guys!

Adam: I, honestly, was happy playing covers. I love playing NOFX, Green Day, Face to Face, Rancid... so fun! But the originals started flowing, I threw beats to them and realized how much more we could do. Joe or Steve will come in with an idea, I'll work some ideas with the drums in and Jason will lay his words over the top. Over time we fine tune things and come up with a finished project.

Erik: No sibling rivalry in this band, is there?? Would hate to start calling you Adam and Joe Robinson! What is it like working with your brother in a band?

Joe: Working with Adam is no different than the 22 + years we lived together at home. One day we love each other... the next we want to slit each other's throat. It'll always be that way when working with family although we're all so close it's like we're a family. We've all had our moments with each other. I think Adam and I have had more than most simply because after 32 years of dealing with each other's shit, we're a touch less tolerant of each other than we may be of Jason or Steve.

Adam: No rivalry, per se. Joe and I both have strong personalities, and we push each other to be the best we can be. We have a strong connection when writing music, as do I with Jason and Steve. We're on the same page 99% of the time because we have very similar music backgrounds. Joe started playing guitar when he was 8 and I started playing drums when I was 10 (same time). As Joe said, we're definitely more intolerant of each other since we're brothers, but that's brotherly love, isn't it? Joe is my brother and Jason and Steve are my brother's from another mother. We have all known each other for at least 20 years and we really pride ourselves on that bond through thick and thin.

Erik: To Steve, how does this compare to many of the projects you were involved in the past, definitely a different direction?

Steve: Muggsy's Boneyard is a lot like two of the other bands I was in they both had two brothers in the group. This is the 3rd time I've played with two brothers in a band and I have to say the 3rd times a charm. Musically definitely a different direction for me, short fast songs that are about 2 to 3 minutes and faster tempos than the rock bands I was in. It's more of a do what you want attitude with Muggsy's Boneyard. I try to take a different approach writing bass lines for this style of music more walking bass lines, bass chords, pentatonic and chromatic scales, different effects pedals and still keeping root bound bass parts. I also changed my technique from playing with my fingers which I still do to playing with a pick on most of the songs it gives me that punk rock bass sound more attack and punch kind of like Matt Freeman from Rancid.

Erik: To Jason, where do you see this project heading in the next couple years?

Jason: I can only speak for myself on this one. All I know is that music is a huge part of my life that keeps me from going insane. I've had the time of my life playing with these guys and we've been through alot. I think we have the potential to play greater venues and with the upcoming release of our EP, I hope it opens some doors for us! There's no where to go but up from here baby!!!!



Slow Natives

Out of Plattsburgh, comes one of the best new reggae bands in the northeast, the Slow Natives. The Natives are an original reggae, rock, and pop band that writes from the heart, but is not afraid to tackle politically and socially relevant issues.

We contacted percussionist Christina "Krit" Woods by email to find out more. "The Natives formed during the summer of '06 after Jamse was finished playing with Mountain Mojo Authority." Woods wrote back. "We met through mutual friends in the Plattsburgh music scene."

Just two months after getting together, they traveled to Puerto Rico for a show. "Our drummer, Ricarte is a native of Caguas, PR and had no problem setting us up with the right shows. The opportunity came a knockin' and we just had to run with it."

Since then, they have played many venues and festivals in New York State and New England. The band also opened for Maxi Priest at the Higher Ground in Burlington, VT. If you are doing the festival circuit this year, you will have a couple opportunities to see the band in the next few months.

"This summer we are hitting the road for a Northeast summer tour! We plan to play as much as possible, sometimes even twice or thrice in 1 day. As far as the Fall and beyond, we plan to be touring/ recording new music. We've chosen the path of musicianship and plan to stick together for a while. We're looking forward to reaching the people through sincere and conscious music. We hope to see you at a show!"

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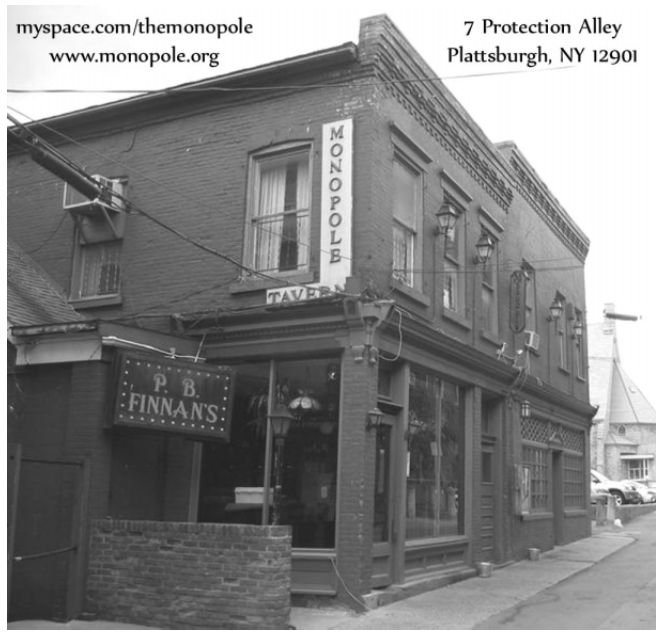












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Cry To The Blind

Cry To The Blind is an amazing 5 piece alternative band from the Finger Lakes area. Rooted in Geneva, the band rose out of the ashes of the now defunct 40 Oz., which was arguably one of the best nu-metal bands of the last 10 years in the Northeast. The band consisting of Jon Lamanna on vocals, Jay Talarico on drums, Jesse Maty on guitar and vocals, Ryan Mcfaul on guitar, and Kory Maclauchlan on bass, is on their way to great things nationally. Herby and I have known this for years! I recently had a chance to catch up with Jon Lamanna to discuss what is up with the future of the band and their endeavors. It is also worth noting, that this band won the Heineken 2006 Best Unsigned Band competition, was the most played artist on Time Warner Cable's Radio TV, and was named XM Radio's artist of the week in 2007. This is the beginning of what many think will be a long road for these guys. One full of great success!

Erik: Are you working on putting together a full length CD, what are your recording plans??

Jon: We're planning to release a full length CD this summer, we've got 7 songs recorded so far, 4 more to go. We just want to make sure we record the best stuff we have and don't rush it, it's gotta be as good as it can possibly be.

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Erik: I remember the old dynamic in 40 OZ. In putting together the new stuff, what influenced the shift in sound?

Jon: We really felt like we needed to get away from the hip hop element and focus on rock music, which is what all of us want to make, great positive rock music. With all of the national rap/metal bands basically falling off the face of the earth, we had enough evidence that people were sick of that style anyways!

Erik: Are there any regional or national booking plans in the immediate future? Who are you working with?

Jon: We're working with a few area bands, trading shows, trying to branch out into Ohio and PA and other parts of NY. We're working with Ayurveda from Ithaca NY, and Asleep from Ohio so far. Others are sure to come along down the road.

Erik: Who are your biggest influences in the realm of songwriting?

Jon: Our favorite bands are Incubus, Breaking Benjamin, Flyleaf, and Chevelle. All of these bands that are currently putting out great music influence on the band as a whole. I personally am influenced by alot of older music, such as Journey and other corny 80's stuff. You can learn alot by listening to old music and figuring out specifically what makes a song great, what parts are repeated to give it that catchy vibe.

Erik: Tell us about the back history of the members of the band?

Jon: I'm basically a lifelong musician, I've got a degree in Psychology that I don't use either.....Kory is a lifelong musician as well, he wanted to be a hockey player but he wasn't fast enough. Ryan was a great athlete in high school, he discovered music and fell in love with playing guitar in his late teens and hasn't looked back. Jesse has always been a singer in bands, this is his first band playing guitar. And Jason has always been a drummer and not had much interest in doing anything else.



The Mom & Dad Parade

The Mom and Dad Parade are quickly becoming one of the top bands in Buffalo, NY. Cameron Spivey and Bernice Marie make up this incredible duo. They are a rather versatile band, but shine in the realms of electronica, keyboard madness, and mood altering acoustic songs. The duo, who in life, are partners in love, have been playing together for the last six months. Alternative minimalists at heart, all of their recordings are done on a laptop that has a half black screen due to falling off the couch, one cold fall day. Their instrument arsenal contains over five casio keyboards that they bought from thrift stores and friends. Some have funny colored keys because they are from the 80's. They also have a unique Wurlitzer 3 tiered organ funmaker, that is 400 pounds. The band's unique sound is rounded out by a violin, harmonium, a fisher price xylophone, a bell harp and anything else that makes fun noises.

Erik: Jay and yourself, as well as the other guys, have been at this for a long time, you deserve a break. Your sound is phenomenal! What would be the ultimate break that could happen for you right now, where the band is concerned?

Jon: We're waiting for that email that says, I'm from "record company X", and we think you're going to be huge, and we want to sign you. We've had a few nibbles, but no bites so far.

Erik: I see you are in the hunt for the coveted warped tour spot, how is that going?

Jon: It's going well, all of our fans have been voting, so we'll have to see. It would be a big break for us!

Erik: Upstate bands are getting alot more attention with the signing of Gym Class Heroes. How do you think this has helped your situation?

Jon: Since Gym Class Heroes used to open for US, it's been great telling the stories! However, we're insanely jealous, and want the same recognition! It will come in time. We've got to believe that they have helped the scene, and will only draw attention to Upstate music.

Cameron records and edits the music, plays guitar, keys, tambourine, violin, bass among many other things. Cameron is 21 years old and is a fine arts major at Buffalo State college. Bernice Marie is 21 years old, and just moved to Buffalo from Palm Springs, California to pursue a music career. She is the lead vocalist and lyricist. Bernice also adds guitar, piano, cowbell, tambourine and other fun things, to the bands crazy mix. Together, they have over a hundred songs that can be performed live. The Mom and Dad Parade have an EP out titled Deep Sea Diver, that has seven great songs. The album genres range from fun keyboard music and acoustic bliss, to discofied electronica and dance music.

The band's initial goal was to write music to listen to. They never had any desire to play shows live, however, recently they have discovered that it is not that hard to play the electronic music, with the help of their laptop. The duo recently played Trimania, one of the biggest art and music shows in Buffalo. They sold out their allotment of records before finishing their set. If you have not seen this wonderful pair of talented studio musicians, the time is now. Look for upcoming tour dates soon!

Sirsy

This must be the time of the duo, in Upstate, New York, because we have several good ones in this region. Albany, has arguably the best one for sure. Sirsy, is a band on the rise. This great project has been garnering critical and public praise since their triumphant arrival on the scene in 2000. The band has earned the label of best band, and has won a best concert award over the years in polls based out of several Albany publications. They also won a battle of the bands competition in 2002, at CBGB's in New York City. For those of you who watch the WB Network on television, they can be seen and heard daily there. This incredible band is definitely on the path to success, for sure.

Melanie Krahmer and Rich Lubitti are the members and brainchild of this great act. The band is a master of alternative indie pop. Melanie, is kind of the do-it-all musician, and lyricist for the group. She often sings, plays flute, and drums for the band. In some cases, she does this all at the same time. Rich is amazing on guitar and bass, and sometimes plays the snare with his foot, while Melanie is playing the flute. Both are super talented, and both are multi-taskers of the highest degree!

Sirsy is getting a lot of exposure, and can be caught many times this summer all over New York state. The capital region has many fine bands, and this one may be the band that actually ascends to the highest of plains. Catch them now, so you can say, "You saw them before..." Yes, they are that good!



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Mad Moose Saloon

Located on Henry Street in Binghamton, the Mad Moose Saloon is one of the best places to catch live bands in the southern tier. The Saloon is an upscale venue that takes great pride in being a place that you can do and see it all, so to speak. The bar and lounge create a casual atmosphere where you can chat with friends over a beer, watch the game on their jumbo screens, or see your favorite local and regional bands play live. You can come to dance, party in the VIP area, or sit next to a cozy fireplace and enjoy a nice dark stout. Those things, all in one venue, quite frankly, make it my kind of place. The people of Binghamton, and the southern tier also agree with me on that fact, as the place is almost always packed. The Mad Moose will soon be adding food to the wide range of amenities that you receive by simply walking in the front door! So, go check it out. I would also be foolish not to mention one other thing. The place has the longest happy hour in the city of Binghamton. That takes place from 5:00 to 8:00 PM Tuesday through Saturday. This is a nice place that is gaining a lot of respect among bar and entertainment venue owners. See what the buzz is about. For more info on live shows and other great things going on there, check out www.madmoosesaloon.com

The Town Ballroom

The city of Buffalo, has some of the best concert halls in New York state. Over the last couple years, the Town Ballroom has rejuvenated and helped build the city into one of the key places for touring bands to perform in the Northeast. The rich history of the building that houses the venue, dates back close to 60 years. In the 40's, 50's and 60's, the venue was known as the Town Casino. The Town Casino was one of the top nightclub's on the American touring circuit. The Town Casino was a room that hosted some of the finest performers of the last century. The list of legends includes Frank Sinatra, Nat King Cole, Sammy Davis Jr., Miles Davis, John Coltrane, Jerry Lee Lewis, and Bobby Darin, to name a few. Now as the Town Ballroom, the great tradition has been re-born with a modernized twist. The venue hosts national and regional touring acts, and has become, once again, the place to play in the Queen city. Acts as wide ranging as the Goo Goo Dolls, to Avenged Sevenfold have graced the stage there. The Ballroom also has a one of a kind promotion package for music lovers. For 1250 dollars a year, you can become a VIP keyholder at the venue. This gives you two tickets to every concert that is taking place at the venue, for the whole year. That is an unbelievable deal. The package entitles you to many other interesting options. If you want to know more you can check the website at www.townballroom.com. So if you are an outsider who is making their way through Buffalo, or you simply have not been there, check out a show at this historic downtown venue. The Town Ballroom is located at 681 Main St., right in the heart of downtown Buffalo.



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Station 58

Syracuse has had it's share of venues that have come and gone. There is one venue, however, that I think may be here for the long haul. That venue is Station 58. Located in North Syracuse at 3504 Brewerton Rd., the club is a constant for your live music jones. Station 58 offers a wider range of musical tastes five nights a week. The venue books rock, metal, alternative, classic and southern rock bands. From the looks of their my space page, it does appear, however, that death metal is not on the menu there. Not a big deal! The venue also hosts two open mic nights each week. One Wednesdays, Alyist is the host band for the event. On Thursday, the event is hosted by Shocker, which features the wonderful Nikki Feroni on vocals. Station 58 is also a place that is getting a reputation as a place where musicians hang out in their downtime. All in all, it is a great place for the type of music fan that has wide ranging taste. One thing is for certain, Station 58 is not going anywhere. A nice treat for the people of Syracuse.

The Ugly Truth- (or the column formerly know as Relevance)
“BLAME METALLICA” by Erik Jensen

You may know me as The Edge from Revolving Door, or E.J. It is irrelevant really, what is relevant is that in each upcoming issue I will be spewing THE UGLY TRUTH for all of you to read. If you are a Revolving Door reader from the past, you know what that means! I will not disappoint you.

Recently I read about Billy Corgan from the Smashing Pumpkins, and his lawsuit against his record company Virgin. He is suing the company because they allowed Pepsi to use their music in ads. He claims they were not authorized to do this because of fine print in their recording contract. Corgan also alleges that the ads have hurt the the band in the eyes of the public, and have ruined their artistic integrity. He, like many others, is afraid of being labeled a sellout. Well, at least that is what I think!

How about another spin on this one Billy! I was one of your biggest fans for years, and here's my take on it. You are an egomaniac. You have not released a good record in at least 10 years. As matter of fact, in my humble opinion, they are all just mindless fodder. You have alienated your fans, and because of that, you don't sell records! This is a business. Signing a contract also means you need to deliver the goods! When you don't, the company needs to recoup their losses, **BOTTOM LINE!** Stop blaming ad placement for your demise. If anything, it only expanded your fan base at minimum. This is not a first in recent times either. Wilco allowed the use of some of their songs for product placement. In turn, people started buying their latest album, "Sky Blue Sky". I personally thought it was great way for the band to be heard. This is a band that has released three of the best albums of the last 25 years, with modest sales boom. Good for Wilco, this is business. Those who call them sellouts, put yourself in their position! I am so ridiculously sick of how fast people throw that sellout tag on people looking to keep their trade afloat.

Ten years ago when we started the Revolving Door, I had a vampire kid tell me that we were sellouts because we were “not indie enough.” She went on to say that we had no DIY (do it yourself) work ethos. It pissed me off, because she had personally done nothing to promote her own scene. She lived under the false pretense that normal could not be anything other than bad. A widely known falsehood! People need to live and work and support their families too. They should not have to worry about a small cross section of negative vibe merchants that are too cool to understand that living good is not a bad thing! So for now, I will blame Metallica. Why, you ask? Because everyone else does - Hypocrisy in action!

One more shout out needs to be delivered for the month! Back in the early days of The Revolving Door, I wrote a piece about someone out on the festival scene who was a blatant scam artist. I am proud to announce that after 10 years, he is still the same scum sucking conman that he ever was. That's right folks, some people never change. Let me tell you about him. He claims that when production of the Revolving Door stopped in 2004, Herby handed the company over to him to run, and his street team is now telling people that his publication is The Revolving Door with a different name. He is also lying to his advertisers giving them insane distribution numbers and locations that are not even possible. More important, the rag has little to no symmetrical value and has even less content. Its only filled with his own blatant self promotion. Like in the past, he is a thief of ideas, living in his own self serving arrogance. I remember the Revolving Door ad when the Harvest Moon Jamboree moved their festivals from The AMP concert venue. It depicted a flock of owls fleeing the nest to escape the rapture of a poisonous snake. Guess who the snake was?? The same snake who claims he is running the Revolving Door under a new name! **DON'T BE FOOLED BY IMITATORS!** Herby said it best when he told me, "His supporters won't get much sympathy from me, especially the ones that know the truth. They should know better, I shouldn't have to tell them." I agree, It's time for the truth to be known. You know what they say - Karma is a bitch! Until next time - E.J.

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