

# Long Island Spotlight

An In-Depth Look At The Hottest Area Artists

## Lawrence

Jaw-Dropping Musicianship & A Sound Both Reverential & New

After years of consuming Stevie Wonder, Janis Joplin, and Eggo waffles, Lawrence released its 12-song debut album, *Breakfast*, in March 2016. Led by siblings Clyde Lawrence and Gracie Lawrence, the area-based soul-pop group doesn't shy away from the oft-maligned idea of "pop" music, but instead is on a mission to write the music they wish "pop" sounded like. The band blends old-school and new-school vibes, combining their love of The Beatles, Randy Newman, and Etta James with Beyoncé, Ben Folds, and Amy Winehouse to create



songs that are as tender and soulful as they are explosive. The group wowed a packed house when it performed at The Space At Westbury Theater this past year, and left more than a few area fans clamoring for more.

For the *Breakfast* album, Lawrence teamed up with Grammy Award-winning producer Eric Krasno (Lettuce/Soulive/Tedeschi Trucks Band), and brought in several New York City soul/funk mainstays, including Adam Deitch (Lettuce), Cory Henry (Snarky Puppy), and Maurice "Mobetta" Brown (Tedeschi Trucks Band) for guest appearances. After several tours and following the success of *Breakfast* — which reached #6 on the iTunes R&B/Soul charts — Lawrence signed with the major label Warner Bros. Records in November 2016.

Lawrence spent most of 2017 promoting *Breakfast* with a national tour of headline shows, support dates, and appearances at colleges and festivals around the country. After playing Bonnaroo in 2016, 2017 featured an extensive list of festival appearances for the band, including Firefly, Outside Lands, Hangout, Okeechobee, Karoodinha, Kaboo, and several others. Lawrence was also the featured opening act on The Lake Street Dive 2017 Summer Tour, and has opened for other notable acts such as Vulfpeck, Soulive, Jon Bellion, K.T. Tunstall, Jacob Collier, Robert Randolph



& The Family Band, and Blues Traveler.

Clyde and Gracie Lawrence have been writing and playing music together since childhood, performing regularly at small cafés and clubs around Manhattan. During Clyde's time at Brown University in Rhode Island, they met the crew of musicians that would ultimately form the full-time Lawrence lineup: an eight-piece keyboard-driven powerhouse with a dynamic horn section. It was with this group that they began to garner a passionate following at venues and colleges across the Northeast.

In addition to working with Lawrence, Clyde has composed songs and scored for *Miss Congeniality* (2000), *Music And Lyrics* (2007), *The Rewrite* (2015), *Hard Sell* (2016), and *Landline* (2017). At age six, Clyde was admitted as the youngest member of The Songwriters Guild of America for his work on *Miss Congeniality* (2000). Gracie is also an actress; she has performed on Broadway in Neil Simon's *Brighton Beach Memoirs*, in films such as *Did You Hear About The Morgans* (2009) and *The Sitter* (2011), and on TV shows such as *The Good Wife* (2012) and *The Americans* (2014).

The full roster of Lawrence boasts outstanding musicians; in addition to the Lawrence siblings, the band is comprised of Long Island's Jordan Cohen (tenor sax), Sam Askin (drums), Sumner Becker (alto sax), Michael Karsh (bass), Jonny Koh (guitar), and Marc Langer (trumpet). Together, the group issues a mature and informed multi-genre sound that makes audiences marvel: "They're so young ... but so good." Log on to lawrencetheband.com, or find them all over social media.

Photos Provided By Artists & Venues Or Their Representatives; Photos courtesy Warner Bros. Records

## Rhythm Tracking

With Jimi LaLumia

**Mariah Redeemed:** On New Year's Eve as 2016 turned to 2017, one of the most successful recording artists in history, Mariah Carey, suffered a malfunction meltdown on "New Year's Rockin' Eve," the show that has become a TV tradition since Dick Clark gave it birth during the 1970s. Carey

singles chart, hitting the Top 10 for the first time ever. As they say, if at first you don't succeed, try, try again — and that's exactly what Mariah Carey did.

**D.O.A. Is Alive Again:** D.O.A.: A Right Of Passage, released in 1980, is probably one of the most insightful films dealing with the first wave of punk. It was the product of a longtime friend of

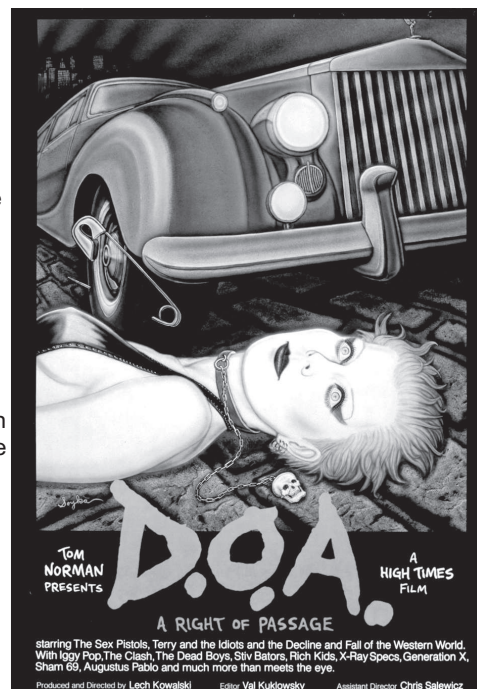
Mariah Carey



reportedly hadn't shown up for a soundcheck, and when she showed up for her performance during the live broadcast, she apparently couldn't hear herself over the music (a monitor is usually placed in front of the vocalist and sound-checked to set a balance so that the singer can find his or her place in the mix while everything else is blasting). Carey couldn't hear herself, flipped, and sashayed her way off the stage to the bemusement of the crowd and millions of viewers.

Needless to say, as the year progressed, that moment was all she heard about or was asked about; it was something that seemed on the verge of becoming an eternal ghost haunting her — so what did she do? She bravely decided to return to the scene of the crime a year later and do the show again, obviously with a proper sound check this time. The result was a sensational turnaround, both for her and the show itself; 26 million viewers tuned in to see what would happen, delivering the show's highest ratings since the early 1990s. Carey delivered two of her biggest hits, "Vision Of Love" and "Hero" as the crowd went wild and sang along. At the same time, her "All I Want For Christmas Is You" hit found its way back onto the *Billboard*

mine, Lech Kowalski, who produced and directed this document of the short-lived Sex Pistols tour of America, which led to the band's breakup. Lech, who is stirring things up in a good way in Europe, had no hand in this new DVD reissue, but his brilliant style and craftsmanship shines through. Footage of The Pistols on stage, as well as early Gen X with Billy Idol, The Rich Kids, X Ray Spex,



and more, all stands up quite well, powered by all the vivid energy that Lech brings to all his work. He has told me that a true depiction of the era, and punk, will be forthcoming in a new documentary some time in the future, which is exciting news. In the meantime, D.O.A. is back on the racks; see it ASAP.

The New Single!

"Leave My P\*\*\*y Alone"  
Jayne County With Jimi LaLumia  
(DiCarlo/LaLumia) • Lyrical Video On YouTube Now!