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Snakes & Music

Andrew Low (Guitar and Vox)

How did the recording sessions for the new album go? They were stretched out over a few months, so we had time to really edit things and experiment a lot. We were also able to write some things at the studio and add them as segues from song to song. We would all just grab an instrument or percussion piece and let the tape role.

What goals did you set yourself before you started recording? Basically to think the songs through from basic tracks to final production. We did a lot of home recorded demos before hand, so everything from extra guitars, keyboards and back-up vocals were all written before we went into the studio. In the past, we have gone into the studio with songs half written and just threw down whatever came to our heads at the moment. Everything was well planned out before hand.

What do you feel are your own limitations when it comes to creating/writing music? Time and money. Work, having a life, and paying bills etc. music always is something I do when all those other responsibilities are fulfilled. Money is always a problem. We could have more instruments, recording gear, pedals etc. with more money. We could hire a bloody orchestra to back us if we had the money.

Tell us 3 of your own/bands favorite songs and the inspiration behind them?



FESTIVALS 06



1) Heavy Strings - Simple song, simple theme. Tying up all the heavy strings that make you depressed, or stop you from getting on with your life.

Philadelphia - This song took a long time to write. I used lyrics from my friend Will's poem and mixed them with one I wrote about my wife. Good friends and love. What more do you need?

Burn the Bush's - You can guess who this one is about. Worst president ever!

What do you enjoy most about recording, and in contrast what do you enjoy most about playing live? I love/hate recording because you have to play perfectly, and you get to over-analyse everything and let all the ideas flow. Playing live is a war; you have to give all you got until it's over. I push myself to perform, entertain and enjoy myself more and more every show we play.

What are the bands plans for the rest of the year? We have the record coming out in May, so we plan on playing every place that will have us in order to get his thing out to the people.

Who is currently moving you musically at the moment? Neil Young is the greatest man in rock and roll - ever.

What album changed your life and why? Pavement - Slanted and Enchanted. I was 15 sitting in the back of my friends car on acid and I was like, "Wow, this is the craziest, greatest thing I have ever heard." Musically, it opened up my mind for the music I would be playing and listening to this day.

A moment in your life and a song that seem so perfectly intertwined in your memory? "You Make me feel like a Natural Women" by Carol King (Sorry, bad joke). "God Only Knows" by the Beach Boys has been my anthem for love and life at different times throughout my existence.

Your proudest achievement so far? Musically -My old band (The Jazz June) had a full-page write up in Thrasher. I have read that magazine since I was 8 years old. As far as I'm concerned I have achieved all that I ever set out to do.

If you could erase one single/album from history (your own or someone else's) which would it be and why? Wow, this is hard, so many. Um...I really, really hate a lot of music.

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Actually, I wish that all of this American Idol crap never existed. I think it is ridiculous that it is a made up TV show that turns into reality. It would be like having Homer Simpson all of a sudden be a real person. It is totally fictional and then it takes on a life beyond the show. It really hurts real artists who are writing their own music and trying to get known.

How do you see yourself altering the band and your sound in the future? Is there anything you wish to attempt in the future that's inspiring you right now? I would like to open up our songs more and have them be a little looser. I feel like our songs need to go beyond the rock structure and have some more experimental, ethereal business going on.

A rumour you'd like to start about yourself, or one you'd like stopped? I would love to start a rumour about myself that I was a hermaphrodite. It would be very confusing to people. They would want to ask/find out but they would be too afraid. And how could they really ever know the truth unless I just whipped it out one day so they could see for themselves? There is a story about a turkey baster that has been going around about me since H.S. It actually spread across different states and came back to haunt me in college.

What drives you? Getting old. I am definitely in a rush to do a lot of things before I get too old and settled down.

What are your fears? I'm really scared of getting a disease or something that kills me slowly. I just want to not wake up one morning. The thought of knowing you are going to die scares the shit out of me.

Best piece of advice you'd give to aspiring musicians, or the best piece of advice you were given when you started? Just keep on doing it and challenging yourself. If you put out demo and no one likes it, or it doesn't do anything for you, put out another one. There is good music in every musician, it just takes time to find it. Also, a writer writes - you have to play and write music everyday if you are going to get anywhere. That means going home on a Friday night and working on music or recording instead of wasting your time going out and spending money.

Upcoming Snakes and Music shows:
 March 24th @ Rex's in West Chester, PA
 March 31st @ The Khyber, Philly w/ the A-Sides
 April 9th @ Synapse Fest day 2
 College Hill Civic Association, Worcester Mass
 w/ Vanna (epitaph records), Therefore I Am, Souvinir's Young America
 visit www.myspace.com/retiredexplorer
 April 15th @ Soapbox Laundro Lounge, Wilmington NC





www.universalwarningrecords.com

Thanks to Clint @ MVD...



By **Jeremy Chick**

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