

# RUKUS

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**CONCERT REVIEWS**  
Prince, Atmosphere,  
My Chemical Romance  
& Black Dub

Exclusive Interview with  
**Steven Adler**  
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**NATASHA VI**

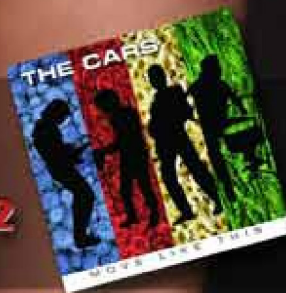
**Reviving a Legend**

*2011 Eagle E-Type Speedster*

**ALBUM REVIEWS...**

**Beastie Boys**

*Hot Sauce Committee Part 2*

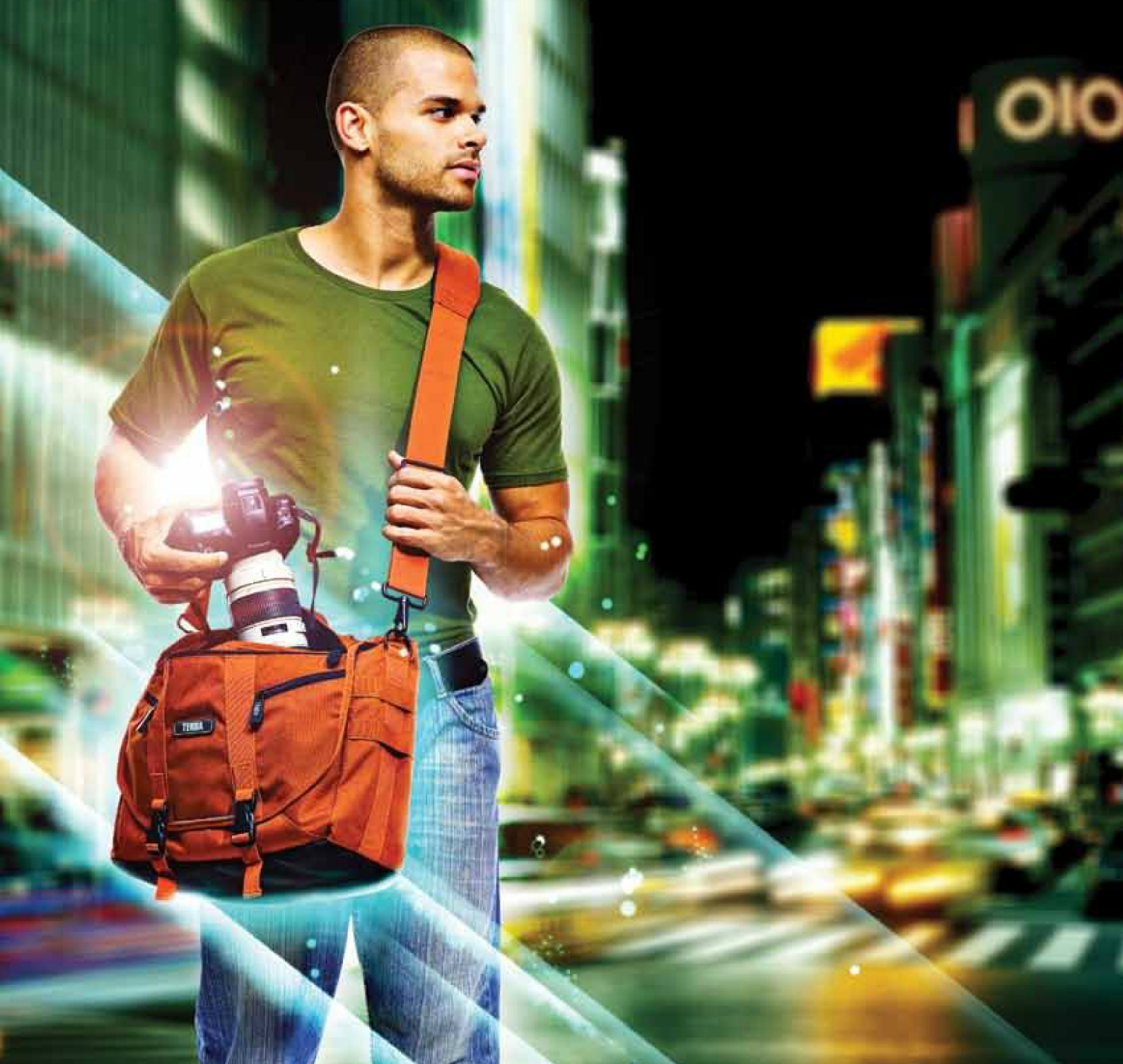


**The Cars**

*Move Like This*



June 2011



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RUKUS MAGAZINE brings its readers, not only beautiful women from around the world, but also video game reviews, album reviews, live concert reviews and photography, band interviews and information on the leading exotic cars from around the world. The magazine has been steadily increasing its readership since its launch on January 01, 2009 with a more than 2000% growth after only its second year. RUKUS MAGAZINE broke the mold on what a magazine should be and proves that digital media is the way of the future.

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# 20 QUESTIONS

Get To Know Your Cover Model

# NATASHA WI

Photography by Andrew Gates  
Make-up & hair by Lyndsay Gabrielle





**N**atasha Yi is not just another pretty face with an amazing body; she's also an actress, entrepreneur and hostess. Natasha exploded into the modeling world and quickly became a fixture on many magazine covers and pages around the globe. Natasha was the first Asian model to grace the set of The Price Is Right and their Primetime Million Dollar Specials. This gave rise to her many on screen performances and opportunities. Currently, Natasha stars in her own comic series, Nat's Adventures, which is based on the lifestyle and adventures of being a model and actress. She is also co-developing TV shows for some networks and preparing to launch her own internet television site, Yazook.com, where individuals will have the ability to express themselves without the censorship of regular TV. No matter what Natasha does it's sure to be a hit and you know we'll be watching.





# 20 QUESTIONS

## 1. What's your Ethnicity?

My father is Korean. I don't know who and what my birth mother's nationality is...long story.

## 2. What's your zodiac sign?

I'm an Aries on a Pisces cusp. That means I'm a strong fire sign but I can easily swim with the fishes.

## 3. Where are you from originally?

I was born in Boston. I spent my childhood years bouncing across the nation (Connecticut, Colorado, California) and went to High School in Colorado. Once I turned 18 and was on my own, I headed to Los Angeles. I've also lived in NYC, Los Angeles and San Francisco. I think that makes me an "official" gypsy girl!

## 4. What was it like for you growing up?

Growing up was a weird dynamic. My father was trying to raise 3 girls on his own. It was so hard and frustrating for him that he would just stop talking to us for months at a time. My sisters weren't the most loving either. We definitely had a love-hate relationship. One of them actually tried to get me in trouble by planting weed in my drawer [laughs]. True Story!

## 5. What kind of mischief did you get into while growing up?

Wow. I have so many stories. In high school, my best friend found a serious amount of drugs in her "boyfriend's" closet. We didn't know what the hell we were doing, but we sold some of it to buy make up and flushed the rest. The boyfriend went nuts trying to figure out how it disappeared.

## 6. What's the craziest thing you've ever done?

When I was 21, I was suppose to drive out to California from Colorado with \$10,000 from my Dad to give to my Aunt. We stopped in Vegas. I got so drunk that I told my friend I'm going to bet it all on red. She told me that I didn't have the balls. I did it. I'm not going to tell you what happened. If you see me at an appearance in person though, I promise I will tell you.

## 7. What's your favorite hobby and why?

I don't have a favorite hobby at the moment. I get really into stuff, but the moment it could be considered a hobby, I'm bored with it. My last big "thing" was riding motorcycles; not little wussy motorcycles, I like custom-built, heavy street machines. I bought one that my friend, Arlen Ness helped me custom built even before I knew how to ride it. I was determined to learn to ride it so I just went for it. It was a lot of fun!

## 8. What's your guilty pleasure?

Please don't kill me... I like Rebecca Black's *Friday* song.

## 9. Who do you admire?

I admire ALL PEOPLE that move out of their comfort zone to experience life or make a difference in other people's lives. I have A LOT of respect for Angelina

Jolie. I wish people only knew how much of her life is spent in 3rd world countries caring for children. She doesn't just talk about it for publicity. She is there in the middle of it more often than she is at home. I think most people with that kind of money would be on yachts and vacations 24/7.

## 10. What's one of your personal goals?

I'm really excited about starting my own internet television site and developing content for other stations. The site will start with just a few shows, but eventually I will be seeking other talented people and allowing them to express themselves without all the censorship that TV brings. Yazook.com soft launches this summer and will have more programs added 2012. Be sure to check it out. It's going to be a lot of fun!

## 11. What do guys compliment you on the most?

Guys compliment me the most of my parallel parking skills. If you ever watched me parallel park, you would have a new appreciation for women drivers.

## 12. What's your favorite body part on yourself?

I think most women worry more about what they don't like about themselves than what they do. You won't ever hear a woman say, "God I love my ass, isn't it amazing?" ...And if you do, would you slap her for me?

## 13. What's your least favorite body part on yourself? Don't you worry about that buddy!

## 14. What do you look for in a guy?

I like someone that makes me laugh. I like a guy that is honest. I like a guy that makes his woman feel special. I think that's what most girls want, yet it is so hard to find. I also don't mind someone that can give a killer back massage. [wink]

## 15. What's the first thing you notice about a guy?

The first thing I notice about a guy is the way he treats other people.

## 16. What's your ideal first date?

If a guy picks me up, takes me to meet Justin Timberlake backstage, then leaves us alone, that's a great guy! JUST KIDDING! Just be a gentleman and don't brag about what kind of car you drive, how much you get paid, or who you know. I don't care about any of that! Just keep it real and make me smile!

## 17. What turns you on?

Someone that can speak 3 languages at the same time in 3 different voices. Just kidding! I think making out is a big turn on; it's so much fun!

## 18. What turns you off?

Sloppy drunks, poor hygiene, people who can't admit when they're wrong and cockiness.

## 19. What's your biggest pet peeve?

Men in Hollywood that think they can get with girls because of what project they are working on or because they once worked with Quentin Tarantino. SHUT UP!

## 20. Who's your celebrity pass?

Brad Pitt, but only IF he reads RUKUS MAGAZINE! RM

# PIT PASS

Get In The Driver's Seat

## *A Legend Relived*

Photos by James Lipman  
Written by Nicolas Bates

The days of true, iconic-era automobile styling seems to have been all but killed off by automobile manufacturer's need to show the public that the "future" is here—and, apparently, design is tacky in the future. I don't want "the future"—I just want authentic style back. For me, the '60s and '70s represented authentic artistic touch when it came to car design. Manufacturers realized the potential in a market for those that wanted more than just a grocery-getter or a way from point A to point B. One manufacturer, British-owned Jaguar, created an iconic and truly recognizable automobile with which the likes of people still pay top dollar for: The E-Type Roadster. Long gone are the years these cars rolled off the assembly line, but thanks to Eagle Engineering, a fully restored and modified genuine Jaguar E Type Roadster can be yours.

Eagle calls their Roadster version (also available as an E-Type Coupe and V12) the E-Type Speedster, and base it off the Jaguar E-Type 4.2 Open Two Seater. When I say "base it off," I mean they take an actual E-Type, tear it down to its utter skeleton and rebuild it from the bottom up; only this time, with cornering, braking, acceleration, reliability, and, what I'd like to think, overall sexiness in mind. The actual process of rebuilding a seemingly perfect E-Type is one of serious nature.

Each car takes approximately 4,200 man-hours to complete, and customers are encouraged to spend time at Eagle while their car is being crafted. Each car is also built with the specific customer in mind; there are four series (Classic, GT, Sport and Super Sport) a customer can choose based on their use of the vehicle and desire of performance.



## SPECS

### 2011 Eagle E-Type Speedster

Price:	Unkown
Engine:	4.7-Liter Inline 6
Torque:	340 ft/lb*
Horsepower:	310 bhp*
0-62 MPH:	Sub-5 sec.
Top Speed:	160 mph
EST. MPG:	Unkown
Available:	Contact Eagle Engineering

\*Not final output as Eagle tailors each car to customer desires.

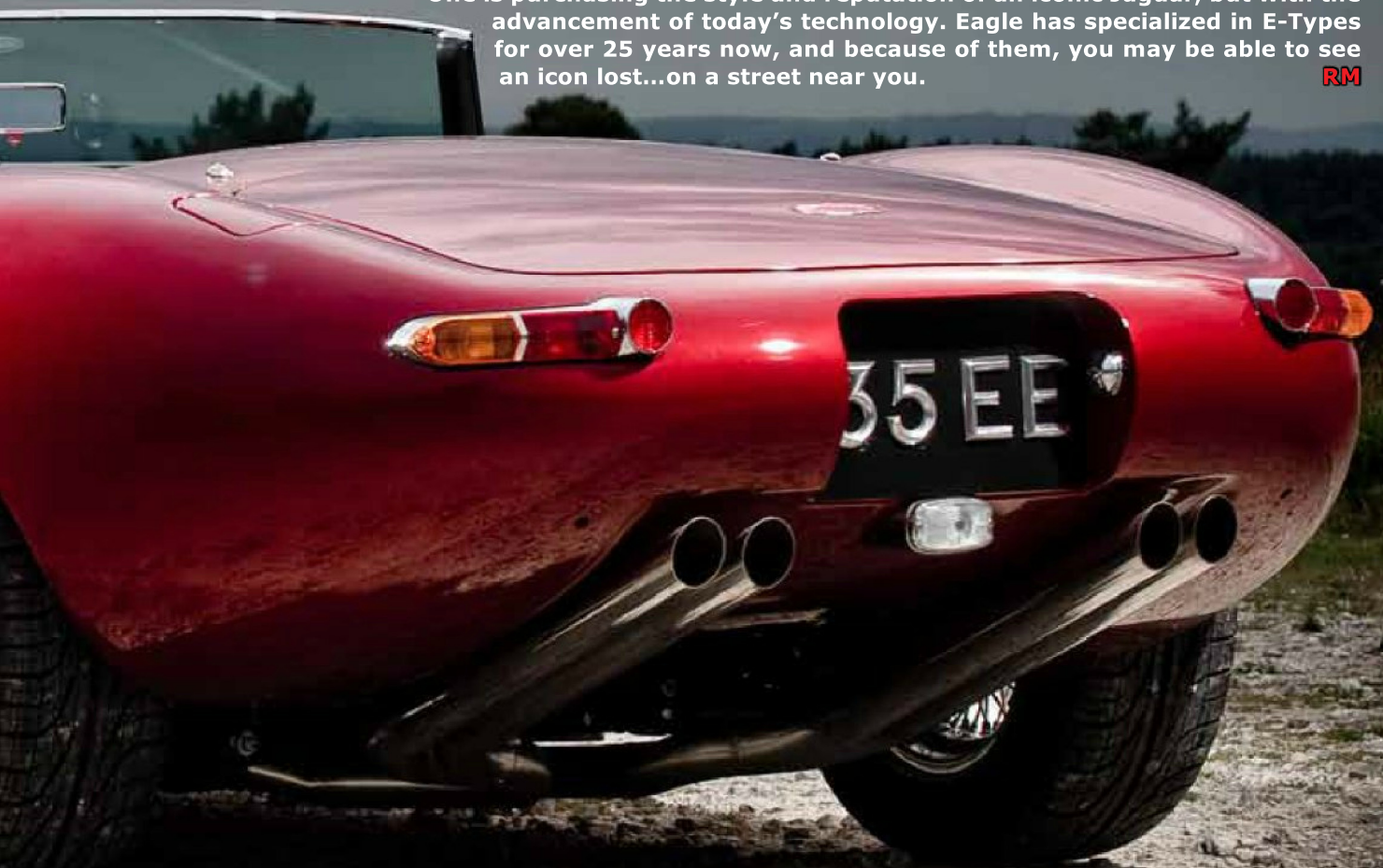


The Eagle E-Type Speedster's long, sprawling hood hides an Eagle 4.7-liter inline 6 producing 310 bhp and 340 ft/lb of torque. The power is transferred to the larger-than-stock rear wheels via an Eagle aluminum 5-speed transmission with locking differential. The horsepower and torque numbers are not off the charts by any stretch of the imagination; however, the Eagle E-Type weighs a mere 2,223 lb. (Eagle claims that power-to-weight ratio is in line with today's newest Porsche). Eagle states their E-Type will sprint from 0-60 mph in under 5 seconds and have a top speed of roughly 160 mph. Among these alterations is: a lowered and raked wind screen, lowered floor pan, a more sculpted cockpit, concealed handbrake, widened rear track and wheel arches and wide alloy spoked rims, among a myriad of other modifications.

Eagle has not released a dollar amount on any of their E-Type Speedsters, but then again, with how varied their cars can be, I don't blame them. You can find the price of an Eagle E-Type being compared to that of a new Ferrari or Porsche in the FAQ section of Eagle's website, and it's obvious that they defend their work—price comparison notwithstanding. But what exactly can you expect?

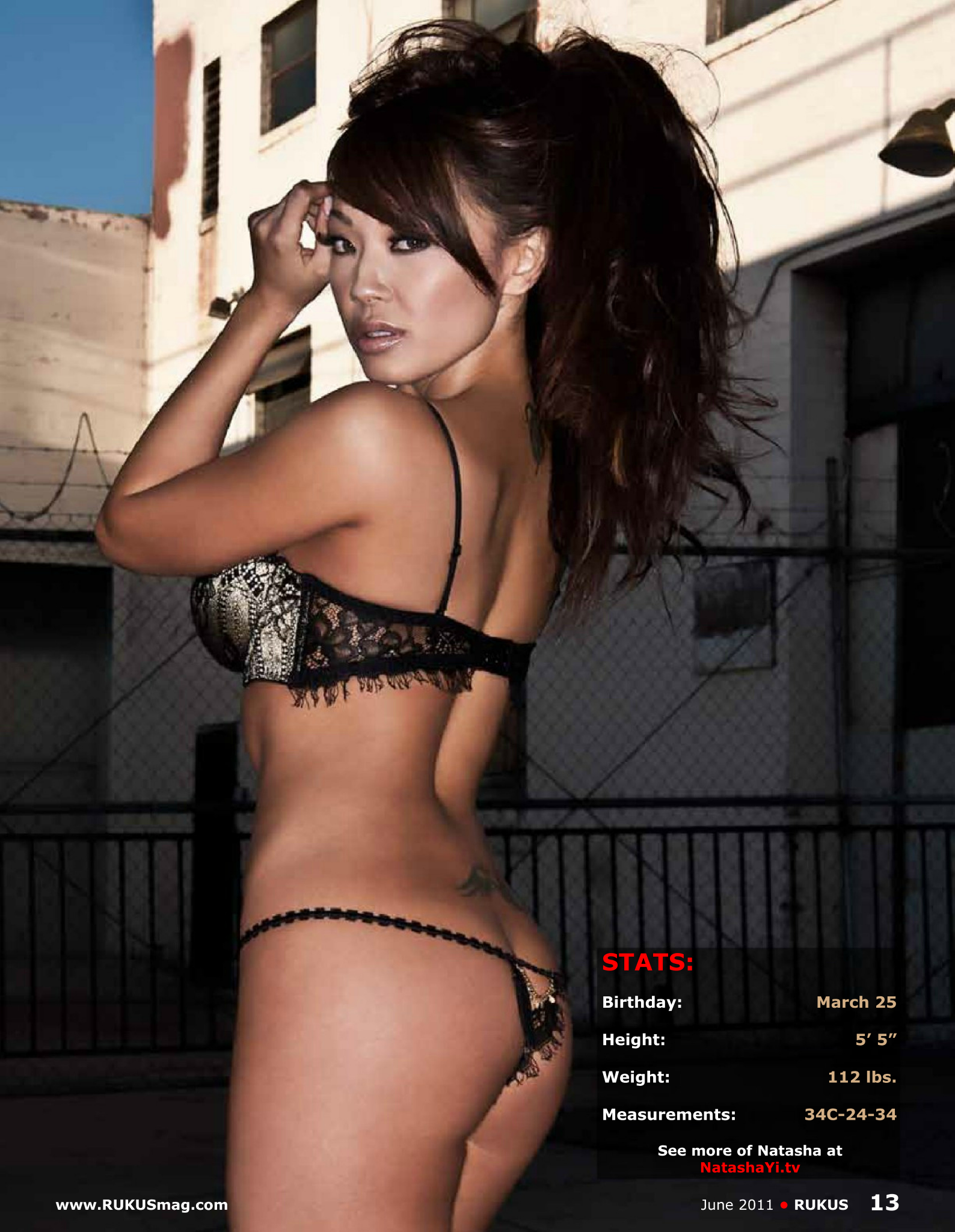
One is purchasing the style and reputation of an iconic Jaguar, but with the advancement of today's technology. Eagle has specialized in E-Types for over 25 years now, and because of them, you may be able to see an icon lost...on a street near you.

RM





*...making  
out is a big  
turn on...*



**STATS:**

<b>Birthday:</b>	<b>March 25</b>
<b>Height:</b>	<b>5' 5"</b>
<b>Weight:</b>	<b>112 lbs.</b>
<b>Measurements:</b>	<b>34C-24-34</b>

See more of Natasha at  
[NatashaYi.tv](http://NatashaYi.tv)

# ALL ACCESS

The Latest Albums Reviewed



# Bringin' tha Fire!

Photo by Phil Andelman  
Written by Jeremy Weeden

With *Hot Sauce Committee Part 2*, their eighth studio album, MCA, Mike D, and Ad-Rock show that, once again, they have a “license to ill.” The Beastie Boys, although non-traditional in appearance (how many white rappers are there in their 40’s?), have had one of the longest commercially successful careers in hip-hop. Having been around since near the inception of hip-hop music, the Beastie Boys are now celebrating over 25 years in the game. Since their debut album, *License to Ill*, was released in 1986 and became the first hip-hop album to top the Billboard 200, the Beastie Boys have been pioneers of hip-hop. That they are still around, delivering popular music today, is a testament to the quality of the music they make and the loyal fanbase they were able to build and keep over the years by staying true to their roots. They have struggled with adversity, including MCA’s bout with cancer and the music business changing as drastically as it has, yet, they have managed to stay relevant and deliver an album in *Hot Sauce Committee Part 2* that stays true to the roots of hip-hop.

The landscape of hip-hop when the Beastie Boys debuted was predictably, entirely different. Rakim, Run-DMC, Public Enemy and Salt ‘n Pepa are just a few of the artists who were on top of the charts then. Some hip-hop artists of recent times are popular for various reasons—such as Will Smith’s movie career and minister and reality TV show star Reverend Run’s TV appearances—but virtually none are still making popular music. This is what makes the Beastie Boys stand out: they have continually dropped new music and have had hit albums in every decade since they first released an album, and *Hot Sauce Committee Part 2* looks to be no different.

“Make Some Noise” is the third single, but to most people, is probably the first song heard on the album, as it is the most successful due to a funny video filled with Hollywood stars and featuring Seth Rogen, Danny McBride and Elijah Wood as MCA, Mike D and Ad-Rock. The song and video are a sequel to the original Beastie Boys hit “Fight for your Right” as the chorus goes, “We got a party on the left, a party on the right/We gonna party for the motherfucking right to fight/Make some noise if you’re with me!”

Throughout the album, the Beastie Boys display a lyrical prowess that not many MC’s have in today’s rap game. They sound hungry like MC’s used to when trying to make a name for themselves. In today’s music world, a rapper becomes popular because of a catchy beat and hook; when the Beastie Boys came out, it was about lyrics and flow. This album feels like they are trying to bring that feeling back with their classic pass-the-mic rhyme style. This is displayed prominently on “Too Many Rappers,” featuring hip-hop legend Nas. The album also is full of the funky, bass-heavy beats that Beastie Boys albums are known for.

For longtime fans of the Beastie Boys, *Hot Sauce Committee Part 2* will not disappoint. The album is classic Beastie Boys from the rhymes to the beats and the album will remind many of the Beastie Boys past albums as it manages to incorporate a little influence from all of their styles to make *Hot Sauce Committee Part 2* one of the better hip-hop albums to be released so far this year.

**Beastie Boys: Hot Sauce Committee Part 2**

Label: Capitol Records

★★★★☆

RELEASE DATE: May 3, 2011



# Classic Cars

Written by Katie J. Norris

The Car's new album, is a combination of The Cars meets The Cars. Almost twenty-five years since their last album and this new release sounds just as classic. The only major change is the loss of bassist and co-lead singer, Benjamin Orr, who died of pancreatic cancer in 2000. The band made a wise choice in not finding a replacement, and instead reunites the remaining members, despite Ric Ocasek's history of constant convictions that this would never happen.

*Move Like This* is as mainstream as it can be while sticking to the original, specific, independent-rock feel that has influenced so many other bands over the years. Picking up where they left off, and in the style of their biggest hits like "Just What I Needed," "Drive" and "My Best Friend's Girl," this album kicks off with a whole new set of singles sounding reminiscent of the aforementioned songs. "Blue Tip" opens the album with a synthy-pop percussion, bouncy keyboards, and Ocasek's famous vocals. "Too Late" follows a tune as catchy as ever with rhythm that bobs your head for you. Other hits on this album are "Sad Song" (surprisingly upbeat despite the irony of the title), and arguably, the ballad, "Soon."





However, no song on this album feels like a filler. Along with Ric Ocasek's vocals and guitar, Elliot Easton's springs on lead guitar, Greg Hawkes' controls the keys, David Robinson is on drums, and Jacknife Lee steps in to produce five of the ten tracks (the band producing the others themselves). Hawkes and Easton help out to alternate the recording of the bass line and harmonies in Orr's place.

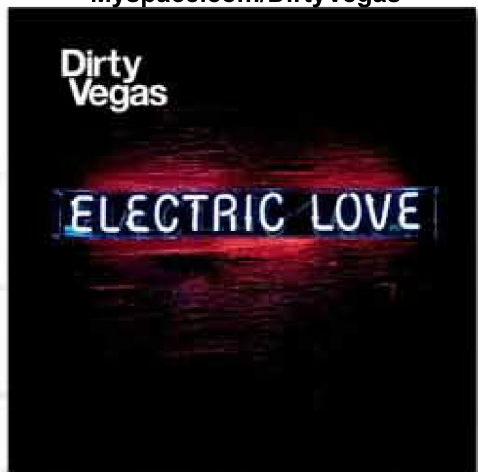
The light, colorful, edgy-pop sound of this album that keeps the new wave style new is so present some would argue that it deters from attracting a fresh set of fans in this day and age. However, the volume of avid Cars followers is enough to sustain a huge interest in this unique album and possibly even influence a new generation. The Cars are currently on tour for *Move Like This*, which was released May 10, 2011. Album info, tour dates and music videos can be found on their website: [www.thecars.org](http://www.thecars.org)

**The Cars: Move Like This**  
Label: Hear Music

★★★★★  
RELEASE DATE: May 10, 2011

# ALL ACCESS SPOTLIGHT

Myspace.com/DirtyVegas



## Dirty Vegas, *Electric Love*

British house-music trio, Dirty Vegas, have been around since 2003; subsequently winning a Grammy for their hit "Days Go By." The song was featured in a Mitsubishi Eclipse commercial and the band sprung from little, British clubs in to the American limelight. *Electric Love* is the band's third release and it sees them playing it safe with the sound that made them famous back in 2003. *Electric Love* is poppy, house music made for people caught in between the electronic noise of Daft Punk and the bubblegum pop of Phoenix.

Album opener, "Little White Doves," begins like a new day with an ambient beat backed against a throbbing drum beat. The innocent beat with a sing-along chorus would make Prince's doves truly cry. House music was made for the weekends at the clubs with your friends. It makes for the perfect soundtrack to that moment when booze and sweat combine to make an ideal Friday night. The aptly titled song, "Weekend," features a chorus that repeats, "Never going back to the place where I come from." This feeling of letting loose and freedom on the dance floor serves as the backdrop for the album. Dirty Vegas let it all go on *Electric Love*.

Written by Silas Valentino & Jeremy Weeden  
Edited by Nicolas Bates

## Manchester Orchestra, *Simple Math*

Manchester Orchestra formed in 2005, and since then they have produced three LP's and multiple EP's. Riding on the giant wave of indie rock, Manchester Orchestra make a name for themselves with their personal lyrics and distorted guitars. From love to religion to inner peace, newly recorded *Simple Math* exposes the complications of today's twenty-somethings. The band draws certain influences from fellow Athens-based bands like Neutral Milk Hotel. The sporadic use of horns in certain songs acts as a memento to Neutral Milk Hotel's classic *In The Airplane Over The Sea*. Lyrically, the album focuses a lot on the confusion of officially beginning your life. The song "Pensacola" features the lyrics, "It feels like 37 years and I am nothing but a bank/If we build our credit score 'incredible,' they'll surely say."

The idea of growing up is begging to get old. With today's mass media, the ability to hear everyone's take on life's greatest journey is slowly making the idea cliché—yet, we all have a story to tell. Manchester Orchestra's *Simple Math* offers all those who think they're alone a guiding light in the pursuit of happiness.

Myspace.com/ManchesterOrchestra



Myspace.com/WizKhalifa



## Wiz Khalifa, *Rolling Papers*

Wiz Khalifa's new album, *Rolling Papers*, will have fans dancing in their seats and some scratching their heads upon first listen. Although Wiz has had a very successful mixtape career, for his debut album, on Atlantic Records, he decided to create an album that has more mass appeal—one with pop-like choruses and beats. The downside to an album like this is that while it will have mainstream appeal, many long-time fans of Wiz may be disappointed. The album doesn't have the depth or creativity of *Kush* and *Orange Juice* but *Rolling Papers* represents an almost perfected formula for constructing songs that have catchy beats and fun lyrics that deal with what Wiz is all about: money, clothes, girls, and, of course, marijuana. This approach is not entirely without merit as *Rolling Papers* is an album that the masses will love. The album contains many catchy hooks and beats like the Too Short assisted "On My Level" with its grooving bass line and easily memorable hook. This process is repeated throughout the album on most songs, but this also makes the overall vibe of the album one of carefree fun, which makes *Rolling Papers* perfect for the summer.



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# LIVE & LOUD

The Live Show Reviews

# PRINCE

Photo Courtesy NPG Records  
Written by Michelle Oberg

Have you ever seen a Chupacabra? Us either, but thanks to live shows, video archives and relentless paparazzi, this could-be mythical beast is very real and took residence in Los Angeles for a 21 night show at The Forum. The very private and anti-camera man...symbol...legend that was once The Artist Formerly Known As (and now back to just "Prince") opted to play his hits (and then some) with his never-ending catalog for the near month-long stint. As an eccentric visionary who needs no introduction, Prince brought along some of the old gang and his heyday idols to, yet again, leave his fans foaming at the mouth with his sexy sorcery and power of persuasion.

Grammy nominated Janelle Monae opened the evening's act and continued to make appearances throughout the night for Prince's two encore, 28-song set. The adorable afro-punker not only has a set of pipes, but a pair of shoes to match. Dancing with the best of them, the 25-year-old super-star-in-the-making teamed up with the right man.

Prince entered through the middle of his symbol-designed stage floor to a standing ovation; wearing what you would expect. His bell bottoms swayed with his stride and his heeled shoes danced their way around the platform the moment the band played his first tune, "D.M.S.R." He brought along three back-up vocalists and two dancers; all women who changed outfits more times than an Oscar's host.

Early in the show, homage paid to Stevie Wonder put patrons a little closer to having rumors confirmed of his guest appearance. That moment came during encore one as Stevie entered the stage with Prince on one side and the insanely glamorous, original band member, Sheila E on the other. The trio—Sheila on skins—rocked the house with "Superstition."

The non-stop dancing (not just by the artist himself) was fueled by hits like "Musicology," "1999," "Purple Rain" and "Pop Life." Between battling instrumentals were beautifully long solos played by each musician and vocals that have only gotten better with age; this night's performance left some in tears. Perfecting the pitch changes of highs, lows and embellished vocalizations, this was the Prince concert you've waited twenty years to see. Gone are the times when he reinvents himself with alter egos and vocal tones to match each persona. Surprisingly enough, Prince, who doesn't let people cover HIS songs, covered everything from Sheila E's "Glamorous Life" to "Play That Funky Music" by Wild Cherry—all of which were done with his own personalization and truly talented techniques.

With a guitar strapped on his shoulder and fingers sliding down the frets, you'd have expected to see Santana or George Harrison on stage the way those notes cried. Smiling throughout the whole show, Prince showed no signs of wear and tear, or ever slowing down. You have to respect a man who respects his peers; he equally shared the stage allowing his back-up singers to have their moment during the cover song "Which Way is Up?" where they belted out the tune as Prince played guitar. At one point, he exited the stage for 10 minutes, letting the saxophonist, percussionist, bass player and guitar player share their time serenading the crowd.

Prince has been inspired by many people and artists, but many more have been inspired by Prince. Spending a night amongst the greatest talent in the world was a dream. Smoke slowly moved across the stage like a heated pool on a chilly summer night as white cloth-like fabrics fell from the ceiling and canons blasted out purple confetti for a perfect end to a perfect evening.

For more info and news of future tour dates: good luck—he travels his information via word of mouth, so while he sticks to that you can stick to sleuthing the information super highway. Perhaps you, too, can be blessed with his presence in a city near you.

**Show:** Prince  
**Venue:** The Forum

**Date:** May 2011  
**City:** Los Angeles, CA



**LIVE & LOUD**

LIVE SHOW REVIEWS CONT.

# Atmosphere

Photos by Nicolas Bates  
Written by Michelle Oberg

Every so often a hip-hop sensation will come along and remind us why we keep listening after thinking we've had enough of hearing about "slanging rock" or "hitting the tele." Atmosphere brings us back to the days when rapping was as fresh a pair of new Nike's and no one had said that a thousand times before. Slug and Ant, the independently successful duo that make up hip-hop sensation Atmosphere, have mastered the art form of storytelling with some added belligerence and a heavy set of stones. Actively performing and creating tales for 22 years, they brought along two additional pieces for the Family Tour at the Fox Theater in Pomona on Cinco de Mayo: ivories and bass

Slug (MC/vocals) and Ant (DJ) entered the swamp-themed stage design with their traveling entourage already assembled, starting off the evening with "Guns and Cigarettes." With a flow like Jay-Z and the mannerisms of Eminem, the non-stop spit fest commenced with full force. Though it felt an apocalyptic event was taking place, the herd flocked to the stage for the ground-shaking, heavy beats and fast rhymes.

The emotionally driven lyrics and performance oozed with passion, personal conflicts and conquests—but most of all: energy. For each number Slug offered a mini-skit type intro that prefaced the song with some form of sarcastic witticisms that were genuinely unique. Normally, banter between songs is as annoying as sitting in a long car ride hearing, "Are we there yet?" but Slug's prefaces deserved serious kudos. As if patrons were handed a set list as they walked in the door, each pre-song quip gave just enough clues to know the next tune. The tongue lashing was entertaining; like getting two shows for the price of one. If his music career doesn't work out, we've got a comedian in the making.

"She's Enough" was a personal favorite, the song opening with just strings and keys, then focusing more on the singing aspect of vocals in lieu of rapping (reminiscent of "Before I Leave This Place" by Big B featuring Everlast). Other noteworthy songs of the night were: "Puppets," "To All My Friends" and "God Loves Ugly." At some points throughout the show, Slug rapped a capella; Slug can handle a rhyme without a beat just as intensely if there were one.

Storytelling is defined as the conveying of events in words, images and sounds often by improvisation or embellishment. While that is present in Atmosphere's music videos, these visually stimulating storytellers just need a mic and PA to tell their tales and perform their chronicles for you live. This show left me sweaty, thirsty and yearning for more.

To be in the know, check out their website via [myspace.com/atmosphere](http://myspace.com/atmosphere) or through their label [www.rhymesayers.com](http://www.rhymesayers.com) for news and tour info.

**Show:** Atmosphere  
**Venue:** Fox Theater

**Date:** May 5, 2011  
**City:** Pomona, CA



Slug

# My Chemical Romance

Photos by Nicolas Bates  
Written by Michelle Oberg

The marquee at the Hollywood Palladium in Los Angeles screamed "SOLD OUT!" to city-goers (as if that were supposed to come as a surprise). My Chemical Romance graced the city with their presence for a two-night stint at the historic venue, baring the same signage for both performances. Gone are the years of the *Black Parade* and "all black everything" as Jay-Z would tell you, but you're still guaranteed a hard-hitting, crowd-rebelling, amped-up rock set sans the dark and depressed image fans had come to emulate. MCR's latest record, *Danger Days: The True Lives of the Fabulous Killjoys*, brought in a new look where everything seems to be brighter, more vivid, ALIVE, and come from both the artists and the hits they put out. The plant-eating quartet, who is frozen in time with their boyish good looks and cracked case of childlike energy, brought their A-game to the stage, encouraging thoughts that maybe we could benefit from a more roughage-filled diet as well.

As energies never seemed to dwindle or fade into the night, each tune got the same attention and personalized theatrical approach as the last, starting with the opening radio hit "Na Na Na (Na Na Na Na...)." The key to attending their shows is to never look away; you will miss something. Perhaps Ray Toro (guitar) tossing his guitar over his back while still strumming away or Gerard crawling across the stage belting out lyrics like a tantrum-riddled child. The latter, of course, is merely a metaphor as Gerard always gets his way.

Fans flock to see them for their ability to produce a show as reputable as their records (with the exception of louder vocals), extended instrumentals and a chance to party with band. "Planetary (GO!)" has the entire venue dancing at the command of the frontman. Regardless of Gerard's request, it's their pop-iest tune with an added club-hit dance factor that takes over your body, starting in your toes and moving its way up. The lengthened finish indulged in additional beats coming from Michael Pedicone (touring drummer) and Ray Toro's speedy neck-scaling chord changes.

In the midst of playing the new record's hits, some old favorites had their place in the show; "I'm Not Okay (I Promise)" and "Helena" were played. While those tunes are the epitome of their darker years, the exhibition of MCR's growth and not forgetting where they started is extremely favorable. Both tracks encompass the same heaviness as played for The Warped Tour six years earlier as each of the members jump, spin, crawl, head bang—you name it—across the stage.

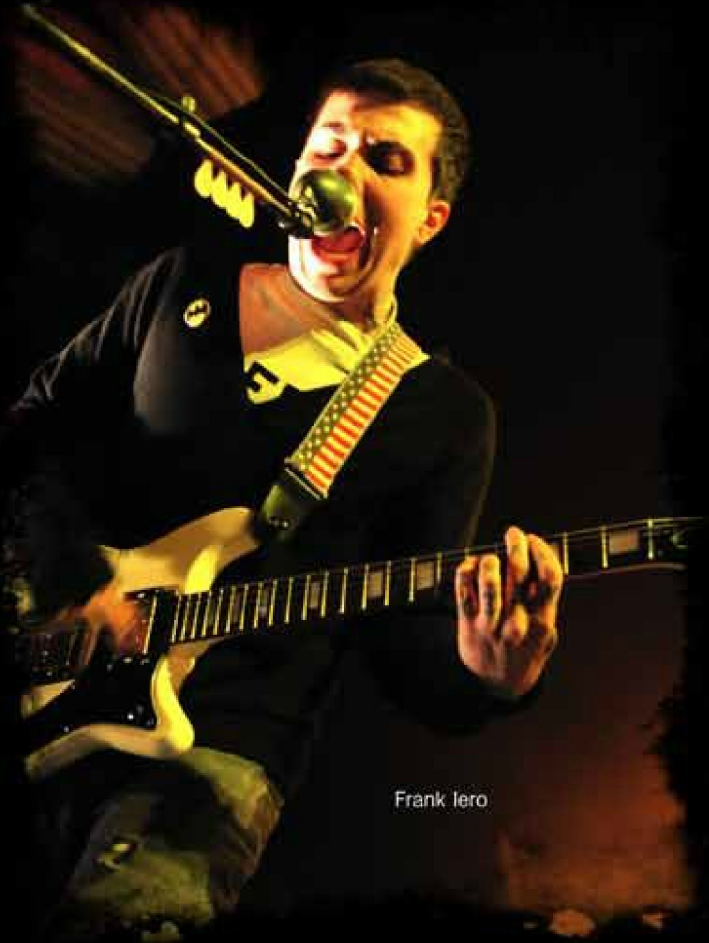
Fictional, futuristic-California smash hit "SING" saved its place at the tail end of the night, shortly before the two-song encore. If only Glenn Beck had been in the audience to see the reception and to better research his tongue-in-cheek statement of calling the record "propaganda." "SING" brought out one of the loudest echoing chorus's I've witnessed.

My Chemical Romance takes full control of their music, how they are represented, and how they want to portray themselves. While there are undeniably record label influences constantly playing devil's advocate, they don't fight against the naysayers; negative feedback fuels the artistic fire. If the day comes when their efforts begin to slow, that's when we should be looking for a new line-up, perhaps under a pseudonym. White Stripes is to Jack White is to The Dead Weather and Raconteurs. Until then, let's let the artists stick to their trade and continue to work hard for their fan's respect; they do it so well.

**Show:** My Chemical Romance  
**Venue:** Hollywood Palladium

**Date:** May 27, 2011  
**City:** Los Angeles, CA

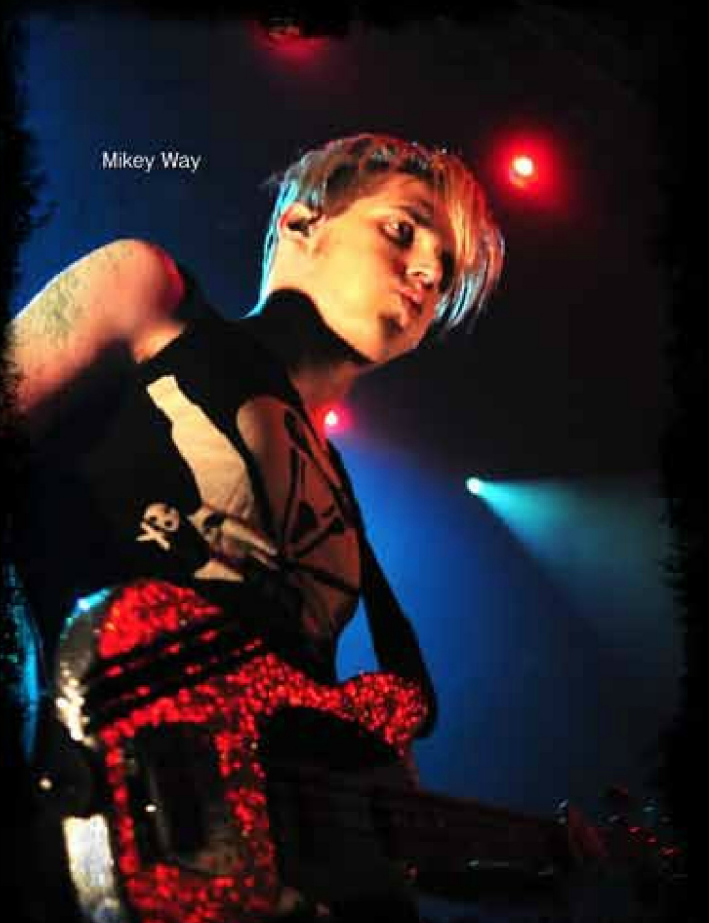




Frank Iero



Gerard Way



Mikey Way



Ray Toro

**LIVE & LOUD**

LIVE SHOW REVIEWS CONT.

# Black Dub

Photos by Nicolas Bates  
Written by Michelle Oberg

Being caught off guard by a band is a rarity now days since everyone wants to be a star. But what happens when you put a group of like-minded artists together in a room with a world-renowned record producer who wants his own band? Black Dub emerges and quickly gets deemed “one of the top 25 artists to listen to this year.” Sounds of gospel, rock and blues seep from the stage and respect seems to be imminent for their conjunction from the get go. Daniel Lanois (guitar/vocals) can write songs and play a one-man-show, but, as any good producer, or person for that matter, will tell you: “there’s no I in team.” He lets each member shine as almost all of them double (even triple) up for multiple roles in the band, emphasizing their talents as a group and sharing the spotlight.

Trixie Whitley has a serious set of pipes, combining the sounds of Aja Volkman (Nico Vega) with Janis Joplin and Ida Maria. Whitley’s voice shines brightly and has a masculine touch to her indefinite femininity—distinctly heard on “Silverado.” She also doubles as a drummer while simultaneously orating the tunes, playing alongside resident percussionist Brian Blade. Blade looks like Stevie Wonder circa 1975; a real handsome fellow with long arms and lots of rhythm that has him rocking to the beats. The other smooth sounding vocals emanated from the intimidating, large bass player, Daryl Johnson, who crooned us back in time with his bluesy tone.

Though the stage lacked artistic design, it was filled with tools for creating harmonizing melodies. Patrons fit the artist’s bill with the look that at any moment the person standing next to you would join the quartet, bringing yet another tenor to the forefront.

Black Dub highlights not just beautifully crafted vocals, but long instrumentals of weeping guitar cries and dueling drum solos. They’re a one-band festival of interchanging tempos from one song to the next. “The Messenger” integrated all four to be at the forefront of the stage singing in unison. “I’d Rather Go Blind” and “Brother L.A.” were two memorable performances to add to the list as Trixie picked up a guitar for the first time to cover her own song, “I.R.G.B.” While “Brother,” lasting just over six minutes, and taking me back to the 60’s, when rock music made its name, had a little heavier guitar and psychedelic feel.

For the first time in my history of concert attending, I witnessed all members line up on stage for their farewell and take a bow after a very gracious “Thank you for coming out to see us, especially on Memorial Day weekend.” Even if the music is not your particular style, you would be of unsound mind to dismiss a group of this artistic proportion. Going into the show and not knowing what to expect, except for the acclamation of the artists that formulate Black Dub, I left feeling uplifted, inspired and astonishingly intoxicated with their performance and music. They ended their set with an extensive instrumental piece for the encore and left the crowd with the aforementioned descriptions of appreciation.

They’ve embarked on their summer tour with a mid-July stint in Europe but will return home for more U.S. dates. Be sure to check their website [www.blackdub.net](http://www.blackdub.net) for all news and info. Disappointment is only applicable if you don’t see them.

**Show:** Black Dub  
**Venue:** The Music Box

**Date:** May 28, 2011  
**City:** Los Angeles, CA

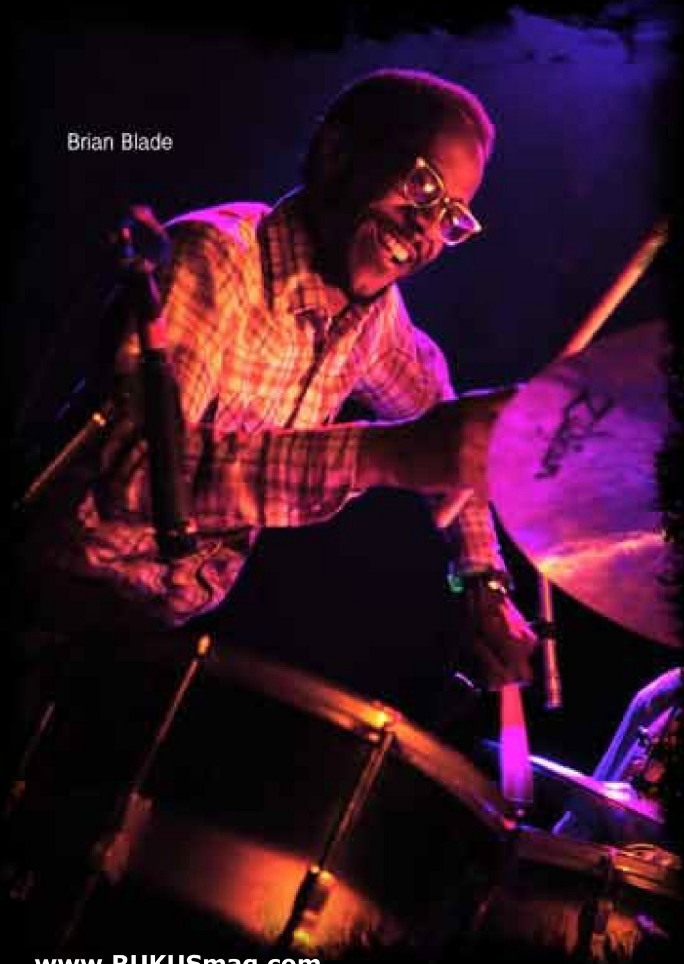
Daryl Johnson



Daniel Lanois



Brian Blade



Trixie Whitley



**LIVE & LOUD**  
LIVE SHOW REVIEWS CONT. 2

**Exclusive Interview: Adler's Appetite;  
Guns 'N Roses**

# Steven Adler

By Michelle Oberg



Steven Adler shared his dirt and kept it real candid with RUKUS to discuss his Good To Be Alive Tour with Adler's Appetite, new book "My Appetite for Destruction," Guns 'N Roses and overcoming his addictions. Here's what he has to say:

**RUKUS MAGAZINE:** Let's talk Adler's Appetite. Since '03 there's been several member changes and a hiatus. Are you happy with the current line up?

**STEVEN ADLER:** We're playing all summer—45 shows, and yeah, I'm really pleased with it. Everything has been going great between the rehearsals for this tour and the band. I have to say it's funner than ever. We're doing a couple GnR tunes we haven't done in the past and our new single that's just out on iTunes; we got a whole new show put together.

**RM:** I saw you guys play in L.A. last January. That venue was so packed you couldn't move. Are you expecting the same type of fan reaction?

**SA:** No, not at all. I'm expecting bigger and better.

**RM:** Have your fans been supportive through all these years considering everything that has been going on both personally and publicly?

**SA:** Oh yeah, they're great! But, for me I think of Steven Tyler, Nikki Sixx and Slash, you know those goofballs. I looked up to those guys; they made mistakes too and made it out okay. I feel that you get stronger after surviving shit like that [drugs]. Right now, I'm the happiest I have been in my whole life but I don't think I'd be happier than I am right now if I hadn't ruined 20 years of my life either [laughs].

**RM:** For the record are you clean and sober now?

**SA:** Yes, I am. I actually just finished my last stint with Dr.

Drew, Bob Forrest and Shelly on Celebrity Rehab. Since I got off the heroin and the crack and the pills my life has been just a turnaround, but I was still drinking Jagermeister and smoking the pot. My life was going to a place where I have wanted it to go for many years; heading in a positive direction, but I wasn't able to make the full commitment until I met Dr. Drew in 2008. I made 180 degree turn in my life and made the complete change—I got off the rest of the stuff. It's amazing how small of an effort it takes if you just give a little when you want to change. I never in my life would have imagined myself saying, "I enjoy being in rehab." I was here with a bunch of crazies, just a bunch of loony tunes, but they were good people.

**RM:** What was the turning point for you to finally get sober and join Celebrity Rehab?

**SA:** I didn't die. I tried killing myself, and you know, you'd think it's easy to do, but let me tell you: it's not easy. I could tell you there are two separate times I tried killing myself and both times I took 100 Valium, drank the big bottle of Jagermeister and shot up ¾ of a gram of heroin. The only thing that happened to me is that I had the best night sleep of my life. So, I just got tired of being sick and tired and feeling down. Unfortunately, you don't realize this until you're getting sober but the reason why you're depressed all the time is it's the drugs that are depressing you. Cocaine and Heroin are depressants; Valium is a depressant; alcohol and cigarettes are a depressant.

**RM:** Have you recognized the irony in Adler's Appetite's acronym being "AA"?

**SA:** Of course, I had a new bass drum logo made for this tour and I had two giant "AA" letters put on it...and it is fucking ironic!

**RM:** Tell me about your new book "My Appetite for Destruction."

**SA:** It's basically all the worst scars and tattoos of my life in rock and roll. I burned the candle with super stars and survived to share the story. I wouldn't have been able to do my book without the help Dr. Drew, Bob Forrest and Shelly. They helped me realize that

for 20 years I was angry with Slash, and especially him since we were the closest; we've known each other since we were 11, but with Doug, Izzy and Axel, I was wasting my life being angry with them getting high, destroying myself, but it took me until I got sober to realize that they didn't let me down—I let them down. So in my book, I take 100% responsibility for my life and for everything that happened. I got to sit down with each one of them separately with my sobriety and apologize for blaming them for all the downfalls of my life. When I did it with Slash it was a little more difficult because this was our dream for decades; we'd dreamed of being in a rock band and being successful making music, making records, traveling the world and fucking every girl that we possibly could, and do all the drugs that we possibly could and we did. So I apologized to him for blaming him for everything. I was blessed to be able to work and live and love with my generation of the Freddie Mercury's, Jim Jones's, Jimi Hendrix's and John Paul Jones's. I got to work with my generation of that caliber of people and it was a great time. All of that is in my book.

**RM:** How did it feel reliving those experiences on paper?

**SA:** My book came out when I was on tour so I read the book on the bus and after two hours of reading I was even like, "Wow, what the fuck am I going to do next?" I think Larry [Spagnola] and I did a really great job. Then, I came home from tour and I built a big fire in the fireplace and tossed the book in.

**RM:** Why?

**SA:** I let my past go. I'm thankful I came out of it and I already lived it but I'm ready to let go so I burned it.

**RM:** That's deep. Now that your book has been released do you hope to have it adapted into a film like the talks of Motley Crue's "Dirr"? You share a lot of similar stories and run-ins.

**SA:** Oh, hell yeah I want a movie. I wanted Lef Garrett to play me but he's just looking too hard dude, I don't think he'll be able to pull it off. I know who I want to have to play Slash though, the guy from Entourage, [pauses]...Adrien [Grenier], he's definitely playing Slash. The other guys I don't know, Axel is going to be played by Mickey Rourke not because they're buddies but Axel is a hard motherfucker; they're similar. The next time I see him I want a hug from the asshole real bad. You know how cool it was to have a life with Steven Tyler, Nikki Sixx, Robert Crosby...they were like my big brothers so yeah, there's a lot of similar stories. Nikki's book being turned into a movie is awesome. He's been a part of my life since I was 12 years old, and of course he's gonna talk about me. I saved his fucking life.

**RM:** Since you're raving about your former GnR bandmates, what's your current standing with them?

**SA:** We're like 5 brothers, and what do brothers do best...they fight. Shit happens but time heals all wounds. I just played in Europe a month and a half ago and for the last show in London, Duff came up and played "My Michelle" and "It's so Easy." He's so great. Slash was there, too. They're all great; I always say those guys are like my big brothers except Slash, he's my little brother because I'm 6 months older than him. Besides Duff being 6'6," I look up to him. I used to call him Dr. Love McKagen because back in the day he could walk into a room and he could be talking to any one and every girl would be staring and trying to talk to him.

**RM:** I thought it was drummers who get all the chicks?

**SA:** Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah, it usually is and there were many blow job contests (of how many received). I did win but it was Dr. Love with that tall body and steel abs that got the girls attention.

**RM:** Since most of your career has been under the influence has your stage performance and song writing changed since sobriety?

**SA:** Oh, yeah. But I got it back. I started taking drum lessons about a year and half ago to improve my playing and myself.

**RM:** GnR will be eligible for the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2012. Will you go with them?

**SA:** We're not eligible! We're getting in there. It's all about us, it's all about me and my brothers and we are going to be there and I'm not going to hear another fucking word about it.

**RM:** What is your craziest fan experience?

**SA:** I have to say, with undeniable doubt, it has to be having sex with 9 girls on the back of a bus with Steven Tyler. All time number one, best and craziest experience in rock and roll. I could die tomorrow knowing I've seen Steven Tyler's rig with 5 girls hands holding it and it was still sticking out. There's nothing greater I've seen in my life than Steven Tyler and his "red angry." Let me tell ya, Steven Tyler is a very, very powerful person. If he asks you to get naked, you don't ask questions, you just get naked.

**RM:** What was the most public place you've had sex?

**SA:** I was naked in front of 6,000 people in New Orleans but I wasn't having sex so that doesn't count. How about in the green room of the Howard Stern Show, does that count?

**RM:** Yep, that counts.

**SA:** Well, also, I guess underneath the stage while playing for 50,000 people but that happened all the time so that lost its specialness.

**RM:** If only we could say we've done the same. What is your favorite city or venue to play in?

**SA:** Every one. I love playing for people who enjoy and love rock and roll just the way I do. My band and me do what a big-league rock and roll band does regardless of the venue size: we bring it like we're playing a fucking arena.

**RM:** Thank you for catching up with us, this was quite the informational chat, have a great tour.

**SA:** It was so nice talking with you, thank you. Check out my website [adlersapetiteonline.com](http://adlersapetiteonline.com). You can see all our shows and where we're playing. I love meeting everyone and signing stuff, especially when you bring your GnR records.

**RM**

LIVE & LOUD

LIVE SHOW REVIEWS CONT.

WHOOZINXT  
WINNER

## Exclusive Interview: I See Stars frontman Devin Oliver

By Michelle Oberg



I See Stars won WHOOZINXT artist of the month and was awarded a guest spot on Jimmy Kimmel Live, May 31, 2011. We sat down with lead singer Devin Oliver before the show to talk about their new record, *The End of the World Party*, their first national TV glg, and some good ol' fashioned gossip!

Before getting into the dirt, we were invited to stay for the live performance. Don't be fooled by the smoke and mirrors that is Hollywood. I'll let you in on a little secret: It's live, but time delayed for content purposes. While I See Stars tuned up, the audience from Jimmy Kimmel's studio was shuffled into their indoor stage area, including curious I See Stars' first-timer Wee-man from the Jackass bunch. As they would any other stage glg, they were unfazed by the cameras, waited for their cue and broke right into "Glow." Devin's high-pitched voice, reminiscent of Chlodos [see Interview] original frontman Craig Owens, hits all the right notes as the band gets heavy alongside. Zach Johnson jumps off keys mid-song to unleash the demonic screams, that few can successfully belt out, while beating on his chest like an angry gorilla. After another 'take' we got to hear "What This Means to Me" as an added bonus.

Now, here's what Devin had to say:

**RUKUS MAGAZINE:** What are your feelings about being on national TV for the first time?

**DEVIN OLIVER:** I'm a little nervous. But, I try to turn that into something positive rather than negative.

**RM:** You've been on stage many times so I can't imagine it would be too far off from that?

**DO:** Yeah, you just have to keep the persona that there's only 75 people watching you as opposed to the 2 million people watching from the cameras. If you're on stage enough you just have to block out the cameras and play like you're playing any other show. We did a sound check so that eased the nerves a little bit. It sounded really good so now we're really excited.

**RM:** Let's talk about *The End of the World Party*. What's the story behind the title?

**DO:** We're a band that likes concepts when it comes to records. We don't just want to release a record like how a bunch of bands nowadays just pick a stupid name with a bunch of dumb song titles because they're funny; and while I like that, we like to have a theme. I like the whole 2012 conspiracy right now. I mean, do we believe in it? Not really, but it's about taking all those stories and looking at them through the most optimistic way that you possibly can. It's a dark concept but you should be looking at it that if something does happen, do you want to look back with regrets or just do what you love and live it up.

**RM:** So, this album is your party album?

**DO:** This album is definitely our party album. It's about cutting loose and living every day like it's your last, until it's the last. It's cool! I think it's a good concept!

**RM:** You spend all of your time together between touring and making new music, what is the secret to making it work and not want to kill each other?

**DO:** It's one thing to be like "I love to tour with my best friends," but reality is, you're living with them, you're waking up to them, you spend your entire

day with them, eating with them, sleeping right next to them... There was a point in time where we had a van with no personal space whatsoever, and the secret is that you have to be able to trust people that you're bringing into this project. We're obviously lucky enough to have known each other for our whole lives and our ability to stick together was our own natural choice before the band. We had hung out with each other every day so when we starting touring it was exciting at first. We butt heads every once in a while, but at the end of the day we're pretty understanding and compromising people. I think that's what it takes to really stay with each other.

**RM:** Do you have any advice for other bands on how to make it work?

**DO:** When it comes to music, it's just a hard business. You're trying to start up in one of the most dangerous industries. You really have to be in it for the love of music, otherwise, just turn around and walk away. If you don't love it for that than you'll hate it because it's tough, you don't make a ton of money unless you're a big band/artist and there's a lot of ground work—so be prepared. So my advice: love music, because if you do, you will love it 'til the bitter end.

**RM:** The Scream It Like You Mean It Tour will be starting up soon. What are you expecting out of the festival?

**DO:** I am expecting to see a lot of I See Star's fans, that's what I'm hoping for. And that the tour does really well but that I see Stars carries a lot of the weight. I think that's important. I love the bands that are going to be on the tour so there's going to be a lot of kids and I'm hoping that we bring our fair share of kids and that it's noticeable that we can bring a lot of people to these shows. Because that's ultimately what's important is that people love it and they keep coming out to your shows.

**RM:** Have you worked with the other artists on the line-up before, like Chiodos?

**DO:** Chiodos is from Michigan (I.S.S. home state) and we've been fond of them since we were little kids playing, but haven't played. We just toured with Crag's band Drugs on the AP tour but all the other guys I met at the Never Say Never Festival and they were really nice guys, so I'm excited to get to know them a little better.

**RM:** Do you have any stage rituals?

**DO:** Not really, I just huff and puff and sling a whole lot before I go on stage. I warm up a shit ton so I make sure I'm where I need to be to play a good show. The other guys have rituals that I'm not going to tell you because they're not legal but it's nothing too crazy; just a little weed. I guess I don't really have any rituals, and I don't smoke weed—weed and me don't get along too well.

**RM:** If you could have dinner wi...

**DO:** Natalie Portman!

**RM:** ...with any one person who would it be? Okay!

**DO:** Yeah, Natalie Portman. Definitely Natalie Portman.

**RM:** With child or without?

**DO:** Oh, dude, I don't care. I watched No Strings Attached on the plane and I was like, "Dude, this girl is fucking cute." I didn't like it but I thought she was adorable in it. I would like to sit down and tell her why she should divorce whoever she's with and just get with me for a little while. I'm not looking to be a homewrecker, but I'd definitely take her to a nice seafood dinner and call her back the next day.

**RM:** What was your first record?

**DO:** That's tough. I remember buying Blink 182's "Take Off Your Pants and Jacket." I don't know, I feel bad but I haven't really bought anything. A lot of music I get for free from the bands I tour with who give me records. I get a lot of stuff on the Internet too. I'm such a hypocrite; I'm always telling people "help the music industry and buy CD's," and I get mine for free.

**RM:** What are 5 things that most people don't know about you?

**DO:** Well, I'm 110% terrified of The 4th Kind. I watched it and I couldn't sleep for a week and if I pass it while flipping around on channels I'm reminded of how scary it is and I can't sleep again for a week [grunts]. God, what a baby fear, it's not even manly at all. Another one is, I can't fly...

**RM:** Like sprout wings or be on a plane?

**DO:** Just jump and fly away. I'm a big conspiracy believer and I do believe conspiracies like 9/11 being an inside job and government related theories. That's three, let me think of one more. I'm trying to think of things that people don't know...Oh, I love Spongebob Squarepants, it's fucking hilarious! It's like the Ren and Stimpy of our time. Oh, I got 5. That reminds me: I played the clarinet in high school.

**RM:** What has to come with you when you tour?

**DO:** Obviously my phone and my wallet but I would never forget my Tempur-Pedic neck pillow. I've had horrible experiences with touring and pillows and my neck always killing me so I went and bought this Tempur-Pedic pillow and I have never had that problem again. So, it comes with me everywhere.

**RM:** What was the most disappointing concert you've ever been to?

**DO:** I'm going to go ahead and say two. One band is probably less known than the other so I'll say two. Lydia is the first one. I figured most people wouldn't know but their singer is sick and I was so excited to see their show. I went in hoping to hear epic music and the singer couldn't even do the first song and walked off stage so a girl vocalist stepped in. I was so fucking pissed. The other was, we played with Lil' Wayne at Bamboozle and it just wasn't that sweet. I thought it was going to be so sweet. Bruno Mars too. I thought that both of them would be so off-the-wall amazing. Maybe it was because of the rock and roll environment they were playing, but it was not that cool. But, I'm not bashing, I'm just saying I was disappointed.

**RM:** What was your most embarrassing stage moment?

**DO:** That's easy: we were on tour with A Day To Remember and every show was sold out. This was the first really big show that we'd ever played. The floor monitors were on wheels and I didn't know they were on wheels. Right in front of the crowd, and I was singing a song and went to step on it. It moved forward and I fell right on my back. It hurt so bad that I couldn't move and I had to finish the rest of the set on my back on the floor. I was so embarrassed and so hurt and didn't want to stop playing.

**RM:** Where do you see yourself in 20 years?

**DO:** I hope to become a rock and roll legend. I want to know that I accomplished something big in the music industry, whether it's as a producer, manager, artist...something. I see myself doing something successful in this business and I will bring it back to life.

**RM**

# COMING UP...

Models To Watch An Eye On





# Amy Markham

Photography by Andrew Gates  
Make-up and hair by Kristee Liu



my Markham hails from the Lone Star State of Texas. This exotic beauty can be seen; all over the web, posing with the hottest cars in the automotive scene, signing her posters at different events and drawing crowds at your favorite drift shows like; XDC/Remix Events and Import Face Off. Her popularity has been on the rise with lightning speed, since she was only discovered a year ago. Her love for cars, exotic looks, and dangerous curves have made her quite the sensation wherever she goes. Amy is definitely a girl to watch for as she climbs her way to the top. The sky is the limit for this brunette bombshell!







## THE STATS

**Birthday:**  
December 26.

**Zodiac Sign:**  
Capricorn.

**Measurements:**  
32DD-23-31

**Height:**  
5'5"

**Weight:**  
107 lbs.

**Ethnicity:**  
I am Korean (mother)  
and Caucasian (father).

**Hometown:**  
Killeen, TX.

**Turn Ons:**  
Fruit dipped in chocolate!

**Turn Offs:**  
Guys who are uptight and  
who are too shy to tell me  
what they want or like. I'm  
not going to question you for  
ten minutes just to find out  
what you like in bed.

**Guilty Pleasure:**  
Carbs. I mean, I could eat  
pasta like every day. Oh, and  
steak, as a matter of fact  
everything grilled. How about  
I just say food in general?

**Pet Peeves:**  
People who are stuck up on  
themselves with big egos.  
Yeah yeah, no one cares.

**Celebrity Pass:**  
James Franco.  
He's my only one. [smile]

See more of Amy at  
[www.modelamymarkham.com](http://www.modelamymarkham.com)

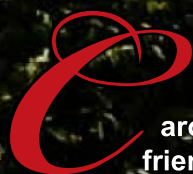
**COMING UP...**

Models To Keep An Eye On CONT'D



# Carolina Rusco

Photography by Andrew Gates  
Make-up and hair by Carolina Rusco



Carolina Rusco was born and raised in Riverside, CA. At age 18 she and some friends had a makeshift photo-shoot, using a bed sheet as a backdrop and her fathers camera. Surprisingly, the results of this photo-shoot we're better than expected. This gave Carolina a new found passion and a drive to make her dream of becoming a full-fledge model a reality. Over the next three years the modeling opportunities came in and became very steady keeping Carolina quite busy. Currently, she is working as a Miller Light girl as well as a Ring Girl for MMA and Boxing. She can also be seen as a featured girl in various magazines, music videos and calendars. Carolina is planning to parlay her new found stardom onto the TV screen, once she has honed her craft. Keep an eye on this one as she reaches for the stars.





## THE STATS

**Birthday:**  
April 14.

**Zodiac Sign:**  
Aries.

**Measurements:**  
34B-26-36

**Height:**  
5'2"

**Weight:**  
108 lbs.

**Ethnicity:**  
Peruvian, Italian  
and Irish.

**Hometown:**  
Riverside, CA.

**Turn Ons:**  
A guy that takes  
care of himself.

**Turn Offs:**  
Cockiness and laziness.

**Guilty Pleasure:**  
Foreign food and  
Disneyland.

**Pet Peeves:**  
When someone can't  
carry a conversation.

**Celebrity Pass:**  
Heath Ledger was my  
biggest obsession.

See more of Carolina at  
[@Carolinaxokitty](#)

# GAME ON

The Latest Games Reviewed



# DIRT 3



# RIDIN' DIRTY

Written by Mike Lowther

During the previous generation of consoles, the foundation of graphics has expanded what developers can do in the creation process of designing games. In flight games, we can see gorgeous rendered skylines and shooters can view explicit detail through sniper viewfinders. Though these are nice things to have in a game, the *Dirt* series always seems to carry beautiful graphics with extremely fun gameplay. With a flawless cross between simulation and arcade racing, *Dirt 3* releases itself as the second sequel in the series, and hopefully not the last.

Codemasters has strived to make this game different than the rest of the series by providing diverse features. Fantastic cosmetic effects such as fireworks in the distance and gorgeous sunsets pave the way to the finish line. Things like financial currency have disappeared, but the ability to tune your car has remained. *Dirt 3* has tons more driving conditions, including snow and variants of rain. I still enjoy the way the windshield wipers switch on when the interior view is on, as it's the best way to drive.

*Dirt 3* comes out of its shell with the brand new Gymkhana mode. It's like a *Tony Hawk* approach meshed with the racing genre. See how many spins you can do around a lamppost, strive for air off ramps, and drift longer than the rest of the competitors. Earn points to remain in the competition. The cars in this title are epic, as you're able to race in models from concepts to as early from the 1960's. As much fun as it is to race these beasts, crashing into mountainsides and concrete barriers at speeds in the triple digits never fail to get old. The same 'flashback' mode applies in this game, as you have a limited amount of times to revert to where you can correct your crash. You can also upload 30 seconds of your replays to Youtube, which is pretty awesome.

In my honest opinion, *Dirt 3* classifies itself as a sequel with its intense graphics and new additions in the gameplay department. But the challenging aspect has evaporated. No longer can you adjust the difficulty to earn more points. This idea spawned from *MSR: Metropolis Street Racing* (pre *Project Gotham Racing*) on the Dreamcast, where you wager Kudos to see how well you do in a race and how much you've gambled. Codemasters' *Grid* and *Dirt 2* have used this feature and it brought me back time, and time again. Gone is also the hip and upbeat extreme sports stars and their enthusiastic metaphors.

Ultimately, this game is a huge success in the racing world. Its advanced tuning system with auditory help can make anyone a more professional driver. The sound design is flawless through a great sound system, whilst crunchy snow and river runoff splashes can be caught through the ear. While some emotional and fizzy features are lacking, *Dirt 3* attempts to bring a more simulative racing experience to its fans, and delivers an overall addicting game.

**Dirt 3**

PUBLISHER: THQ

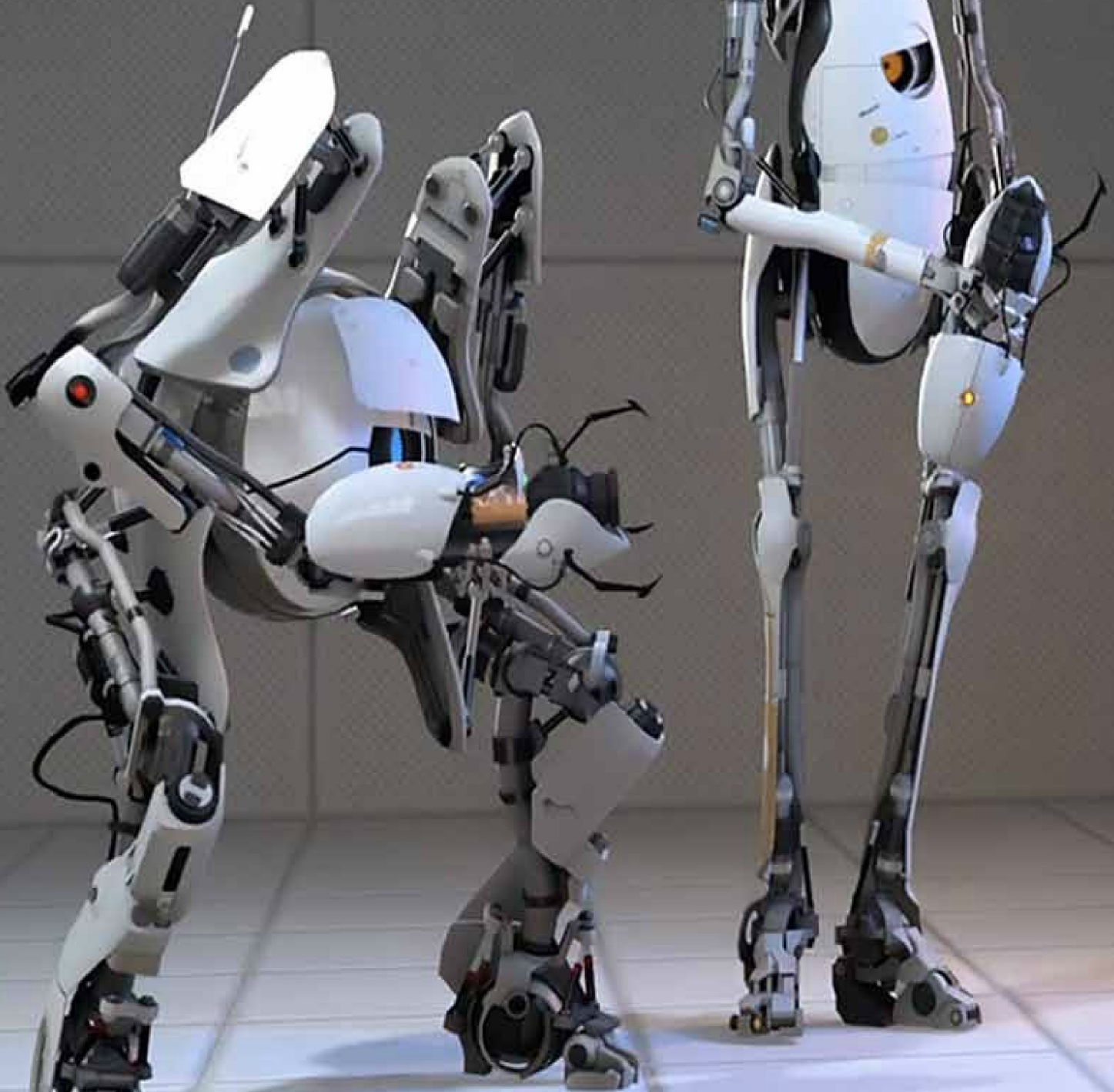
PLATFORM: Xbox 360, PS3, Microsoft Windows

RELEASE DATE: May 24, 2011

★★★★☆

RATINGS: Teen  
GENRE: Racing

# PORTAL 2



# They're Back

Written by Albert Marrero, Jr.

If it 'aint broke, don't fix it. At least that's what they say where I come from. And that's just what Valve decided to do with *Portal 2*. GLaDOS is back, and with a more immersive story line, and insane puzzles, this game kicks major rear end. The cool part about it is that it's actually a game that can be enjoyed by people of all ages, showing that violence isn't the only way to sell a game. (Not that there's anything wrong with bustin' a cap in someone's ass, virtually speaking...)

I used to think my girlfriend could be the world's ultimate bitch, until I played this game. GLaDOS as she is "officially" known is actually a computer program housed in a robot, and back for more after we spanked her thoroughly in the original *Portal*. You begin the game in a futuristic housing and quickly come to learn that things aren't quite correct. Wheatley is your robot buddy, and you will soon learn that he isn't the sharpest tool in the shed leading to the rebirth and your fave blast from the past, GLaDOS.

The puzzles are excellent. You're really challenged to think in all different planes, and use every "weapon" at your disposal. The game starts off rather simply, but you'll soon discover that She's a super-smart villain with only your demise as her main interest. What's cool about this is that if you haven't played the original *Portal* since your Orange Box days, you can pick it up and use the earlier levels as refreshers. If you're a total n00b, you can get the hang of it fairly quickly. What makes this game truly special is that just when you think you're a genius, you're left scratching your head or worse... searching the internet for the answers to certain puzzles. Oh the shame...

For me personally, one of the coolest surprises in the game (don't worry, no spoilers) is that Cave Johnson, CEO and owner of Aperture Science Technologies, is voiced by J.K. Simmons. Totally hilarious, and totally a character, there's a reason why this guy is in our fave comedy films and yet fits perfectly into this game.

Fans of this game will surely appreciate the same game model and love the new challenges. Newbies will be hooked and become Portalites overnight. My only knock against this game is that I wish it was longer. The puzzles, albeit challenging, are sadistically addicting, and leave you wanting more. As mentioned earlier, the immersive story line is compelling and involved. It's like *LOTR: The Two Towers*, you are satisfied, yet praying that there's a third act. I can't wait for part 3, which, judging by the success and awesomeness of this one, is probably in development as we speak. One can only hope...

## Portal 2

PRODUCER: Valve/Nuclear Monkey Software

PLATFORM: XBOX 360, PS3, PC/Mac

RELEASE DATE: April 19, 2011

★★★★★

RATINGS: E10+  
GENRE: FPS/Puzzler



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