

# RUKUS

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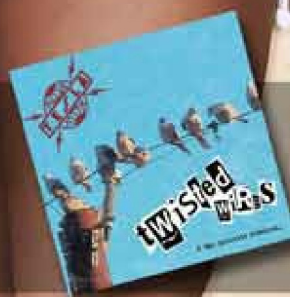
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Everywhere**

### Arachnophobia

2011 Porsche Boxster Spyder



August 2011





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EDITOR IN CHIEF

**Andrew Gates**

Art Director

**Trish Gates**

Senior Editor

**Mary Stafford**

Assistant Editor

**Larry Herman**

All Access Contributors

**Katie J. Norris, Silas Valentino & Jeremy Weeden**

Live & Loud Contributors

**Nicolas Bates, Michelle Oberg & Lindsay Murphy**

Pit Pass Contributor

**Nicolas Bates**

Game On Contributors

**Mike Lowther, Albert Marrero, Jr., Jesse Seilhan & Heather Spears**

Contributing Photographers

**Andrew Gates & Nicolas Bates**

Contributing Videographers

**Nate Olson**

Contributing Make-up Artists

**Crystal Tran, Arianna Jimenez & Sandy Nio Chen**

Contributing Hair Stylists

**Crystal Tran, John Barrera & Sandy Nio Chen**

Advertising

**Andrew Gates**

[andrew@RUKUSmag.com](mailto:andrew@RUKUSmag.com)

Mailing Address

**RUKUS MAGAZINE**

3940 Laurel Cyn Blvd., STE 973  
Studio City, CA 91604



# 20 QUESTIONS

Get To Know Your Cover Model

## DAPHNE JOY

Photography by Andrew Gates  
Make-up by Arianna Jimenez  
Hair by John Barrera



Daphne Joy was born and raised in the heart of Olongapo, Philippines. And although her family relocated to Los Angeles when she was just 7 years old, she was able to retain and relay her experiences of her Filipino culture and upbringing. Upon moving to the US, Daphne Joy was able to adjust to her surroundings quite well. While attending elementary through high school, Daphne became intrigued and inspired by American pop culture, which in turn sparked her interest in entertainment. She excelled in all facets, be it dance groups, choir, cheerleading or talent shows. At the age of 18 Daphne was able to officially pursue her passion for working in front of the camera and was quickly embraced and adored by the film industry, landing roles on hit shows such as *CSI: Las Vegas*, *Criminal Minds* and *Curb Your Enthusiasm*, along with popular, hit TV Show MTV's *WildnOut* with Nick Cannon. Not only can you see her on the small screen, music videos and magazine covers, but her most current achievement in her film career is her debut in *Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides*, starring Johnny Depp, where she plays the role of the principal Mermaid. Daphne Joy continues to hone and develop her her acting skills in hopes of landing major roles for television and feature films.











# 20 QUESTIONS

## 1.What's your Ethnicity?

I'm Filipino and Puerto Rican. My dad is Puerto Rican and my mom is Filipino.

## 2.What's your zodiac sign?

Aquarius.

## 3.Where are you from originally?

I was born in Olongapo, Philippines, and at the age of 7 came here to California and have lived here ever since.

## 4.What did you like most about growing up in the Philippines?

The best thing I could say about growing up in the Philippines is having an appreciation for my culture, family values, and especially, all the amazing food. My favorite food has always been Filipino food. I loved growing up as an islander because, although I am a girly girl, I'm the type who can scrape up her elbows and get a little dirty without freaking out.

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

I was an only child at one point in my life, before my little sister came along, but everyone always spoiled me. So no matter how much I would terrorize and pick on my cousins, my playmates, or even if I misbehaved in school, I never ever got in trouble for it. But I don't think I was ever "that" bad! I was just a silly kid and liked to play jokes on everyone. As a teenager I think the only times I ever really rebelled was when I didn't have my drivers license yet. I would sneak and use my mom's car to go to the movies or pick up my friends. Other than that, I was always an angel. [laugh]

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

To be perfectly honest, I still yet have to find the perfect answer for that question. I wouldn't say I'm too much of a wild or rambunctious person. I'm pretty low key. I'm afraid of heights, so rollercoasters, skydiving or anything like that is completely out of the question for me. But I think one day I'd love to learn how to fly a plane and get over that fear and maybe go skydiving one day!

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

I have a couple favorite hobbies: First, I have a love affair with food. I find so much joy in cooking and cooking for others. From the time I'm rinsing the vegetables and meats, down to plating and preparing. I love culinary art and I absolutely love to eat and explore new spices, flavors and foods from all different cultures. My second favorite hobby would be shopping (of course), haven't you ever heard of "retail therapy"? Well, I've been doing a lot of that therapy lately, and it helps. [laugh]

## 8.What's your guilty pleasure?

My guilty pleasure? Hmm...a big homemade, warm chocolate chip cookie with 2 scoops of vanilla ice cream on top. [laugh] I say this because I normally try and eat healthy and workout frequently, so indulging in sweets is definitely a guilty pleasure of mine.

## 9.Who do you admire?

I admire my mother because she is the epitome of what being an "independent woman" is. I feel like she is the perfect example of "hard working," and in some ways has really experienced a rags-to-riches life story. I feel so proud of her. Being inspired by her has given me the right attitude towards going forth with my own career.

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

Well, everyday I try and set a personal goal for myself—small ones—so when I accomplish them before my day ends, I feel really great. One of the goals I set for myself last year was that I was going to land a role in a big summer movie. I kept saying that to myself over and over again. To my luck, I was cast in this summer's blockbuster hit *Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides*, as a role of a mermaid. Not only that, but I got to work with Johnny Depp. My future personal goals are to continue challenging myself and hopefully work more in entertainment all around.

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

Oddly enough, I get a lot of compliments from men and women about my skin and my cheekbones. [laugh] I guess the second most frequent compliment would be about my legs. I have a naturally athletic shape, so I guess that stands out the most? [smile] It varies really. But the compliment I love to receive the most is when they compliment my eyes and only a few special people have complimented me on that.

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

I would say my favorite is my stomach. I always thank God for all the blessings he's given me, and I always say, "thank you for my fast metabolism, amen." [laugh] Because for how much I eat, I definitely should be at least 20 pounds heavier.

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

I don't want say because then my fans will tease me!

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

I've never "looked" for a guy, per se, but I can definitely appreciate a man who is masculine, exudes confidence and is charming. For example, a guy can be in great shape physically, but if I notice he's got some insecurities, I immediately get turned off. Being a "show-off" and being confident are two totally different things as well. Your confidence should speak for itself, not the other way around. A guy who is charming and can make me laugh is always a plus, because I love, love, love to laugh—who doesn't?

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

His personality; then his physical appearance.

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

Something out of the ordinary; it's kind of hard to surprise me, so I love things that are unexpected. Surprise me!

## 17.What turns you on?

When I can sense that the guy I am with is someone nobody wants to mess with. Masculinity, muscles and muscles...did I say muscles? And definitely No "bitch-ass-ness," please! [laugh]

## 18.What turns you off?

Guys who gossip as much as women do. That is such a turn off. If I want to hear gossip I will call one of my girlfriends. A show-off; rude and mean attributes in people are turn offs. My motto is: "Be nice or go home!"

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

When people sneeze and don't cover their mouths and when people touch their eyes. I don't know why that has always bothered me. [laugh]

## 20.Who's your celebrity pass?

That always changes for me, but the flavor of the month for me is Taylor Lautner. I'm definitely Team Wolf! **RM**



# PIT PASS

Get In The Driver's Seat

## *The Itsy Bitsy...*

Written by Nicolas Bates

By now, Porsche's line of automobiles can genuinely be called eclectic. From utter street-legal racecars, to performance SUV's—and now sedans—Porsche seems to have quite a few markets covered. And just recently, the roadster market received a little present from Porsche: The 2011 Porsche Boxster Spyder. Well, what's different from the new Boxster Spyder and the Boxster S model? Oh...a lot.

I suppose the question most will pose is: Well, why another model on that platform? I suppose the dear old folks over at Porsche felt there was an enthusiast who was looking for their roadster, but with a slightly heftier punch. What they came up with is a car with 10 more horsepower, pulls its torque lower in the rpm range and weighs 176 lb. less. Eh, not too shabby.

The Spyder steals its powerplant directly from the Cayman S's direct-injected, 3.4-liter flat-six engine, which is good enough for 320 hp—10 more than the Boxster S—and 273 ft-lb. of torque at 4,750 rpm. The Spyder also had its redline bumped up by 800 rpm's to 7,500. And although the Spyder only makes 7 more ft-lb of torque, it can be found 1,200 rpm's lower. Stock, the car comes with a 6-speed transmission and limited-slip differential (key in putting any power straight to that asphalt). Porsche claims a 0-60 time of 4.9 seconds; however, when equipped with the PDK transmission and Sports Chrono package, Porsche's claim shimmies on up to 4.6 seconds. And if you've got the straights in which to accomplish it, the Spyder will hit a top speed of 166 mph.





## SPECS

### 2011 Porsche Boxster Spyder

Price:	\$62,000+
Engine:	3.4-Liter Flat 6
Torque:	276 ft/lb
Horsepower:	320 hp
0-62 MPH:	4.9 secs.
Top Speed:	166 mph
EST. MPG:	19/city 26/hwy
Available:	Currently Available

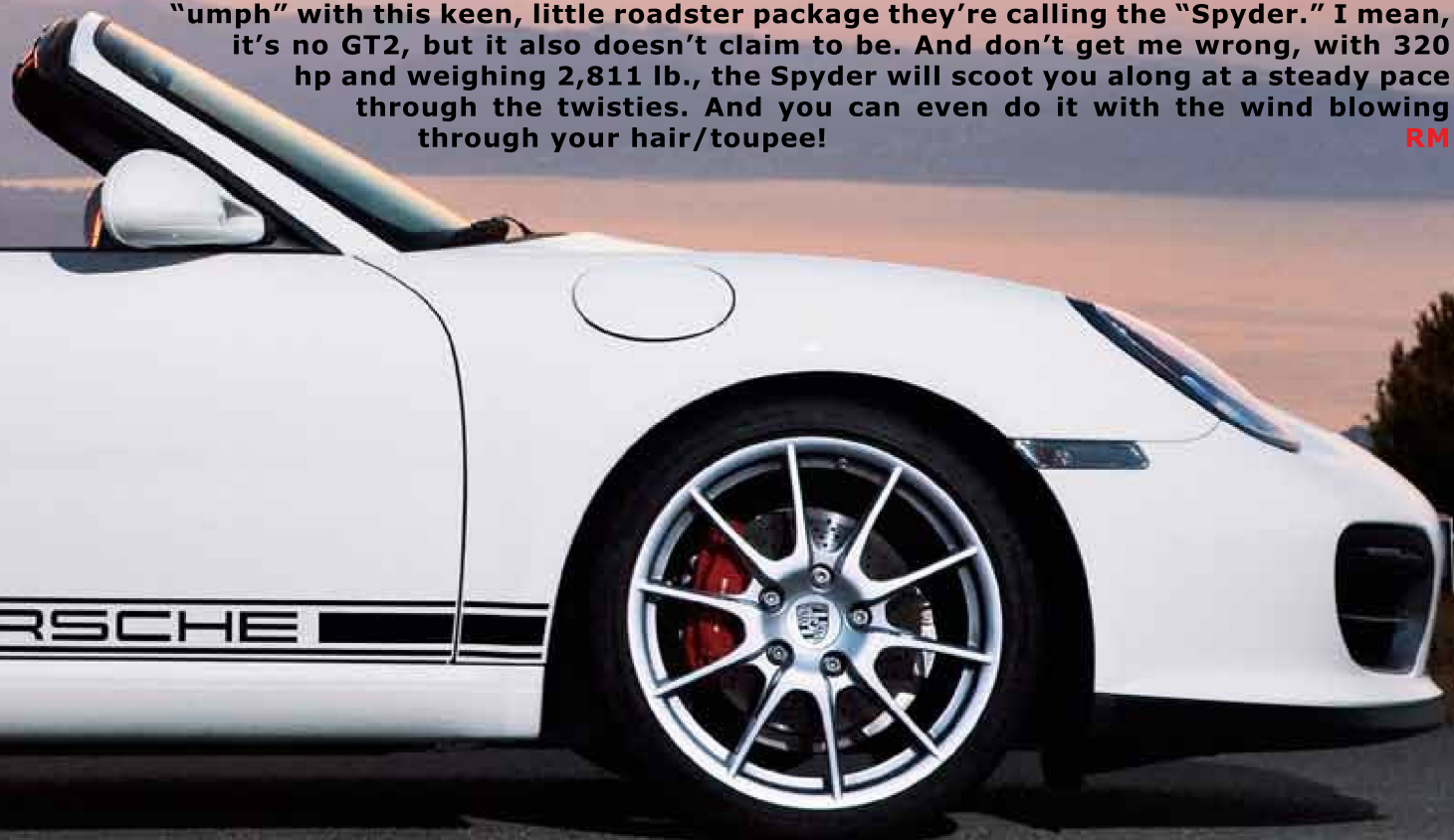


One of the most notable elements of the new Spyder is the weight reduction the car underwent to achieve its new, low curb weight of 2,811 lb. Nothing was really spared, and this includes the radio and A/C (although, as everyone knows, Porsche'll make it how ya want it). For a savings of 33 lb., its doors are made from aluminum—a feature found on higher-end models like the 911 GT3—and the seats were replaced with lighter, bucket-style seats. The Spyder's top, manually opened and closed, weighs 46 lb. less and the car's 19" wheels are the lightest to ever fit over a Porsche's rotor. Even a lightened battery (for \$1,700!) can be purchased.

Being a Porsche and all...the Boxster Spyder comes with a myriad of options and add-ons. Standard equipment includes: stability management, engine drag torque control, brake pad wear indicators and tire pressure monitors, among others, of course. But the special parts exist in the optional list: 7-speed PDK automatic transmission (no fun, but reduces 0-60 second time by 3-tenths of a second), self-dimming mirrors and rain sensor, park assist system, heated front seats and other amenities that only seem to add to the weight of the car. So who wants those?

All and all, Porsche seems to have done a great job giving someone that little extra "umph" with this keen, little roadster package they're calling the "Spyder." I mean, it's no GT2, but it also doesn't claim to be. And don't get me wrong, with 320 hp and weighing 2,811 lb., the Spyder will scoot you along at a steady pace through the twisties. And you can even do it with the wind blowing through your hair/toupee!

RM







...definitely no  
“bitch-ass-ness,”  
please!”





### STATS:

Birthday:	February 8
Height:	5' 5"
Weight:	120 lbs.
Measurements:	34C-23-36

See more of Daphne at  
[twitter.com/DaphneJoy](https://twitter.com/DaphneJoy)



# ALL ACCESS

The Latest Albums Reviewed

## Mr. Worldwide

Written by Jeremy Weeden

Miami-bred rapper Pitbull has come a long way since he started his career working with the likes of Uncle Luke and Lil Jon on his debut album, *M.I.A.M.I.* As his music gradually began to lean more towards dance-inspired tracks, Pitbull began to transcend the world of hip-hop and is now positioning himself as one of the top music stars of today. He has been featured on numerous hit songs over the past year, including Jennifer Lopez's recent comeback hit "On the Floor." As Pitbull says on the opening track of his most recent album *Planet Pit*, he went from "Mr. 305 to Mr. Worldwide." This seems to be in part due to his knack for making dance songs that are generally popular with everyone. This latest effort, *Planet Pit*, continues the trend and ensures Pitbull's days as a mainstay on your radio and in the clubs is far from over.

*Planet Pit* is essentially an early Christmas present to the dance clubs across the world. It is the perfect culmination of electro-pop and rap music; a Black Eyed Peas album with much harder rhymes. Almost every song features a pulsating, hand-clapping, booty-moving beat along with a catchy chorus that one could easily imagine singing along to while slightly inebriated in a nightclub. This is ever-evident on the second single from the album "Give Me Everything," featuring Nayo and production by Grammy award winning producer Afrojack. Nayo's smooth vocals and Pitbull's raw raps blend perfectly over a smooth bass-heavy dance track to produce one of this summer's hit songs. "Give Me Everything" is Pitbull's first single to hit #1 on the Billboard Hot 100 and has been played everywhere and often in the past few months. Another single, "Hey Baby," featuring T-Pain, is concurrently burning up the charts and peaked at #7 on the Billboard Hot 100. *Planet Pit* is full of songs similar to these, guaranteeing Pitbull a spot on the charts for months to come.

*Planet Pit* is a star-studded affair, from the production to the appearances from T-Pain, Marc Anthony, Sean Paul, Nayo, Enrique Iglesias, David Guetta and Chris Brown, just to name a few. The variation in the artists featured mirrors the diversity found on the album. "International Love" featuring Chris Brown has an r&b flavor while Marc Anthony is featured over a pounding, European dance track and Sean Paul provides vocals on a dancehall inspired reggae track. Pitbull mixes up different sounds and artists to create the perfect combination for mindless, fun dance music.

*Planet Pit* will not be for everyone as no traditional hip-hop or pop sounds can be found here. The album is full of shamelessly formulaic dance tracks and lyrics designed to make people dance and have a good time. Mixing up the tempos of a few of the songs also may have made the album more universal as the majority of the songs are very upbeat and up-tempo, but again, the album is for dancing so the chosen production formula makes sense.

*Planet Pit* does not break any new ground in the dance or euro-pop genres but it is fun dance music destined to provide the radio and nightclub with soundtracks for the coming months.

**Pitbull: Planet Pit**

**Label: J Records**

★★★★★

**RELEASE DATE: June 21, 2011**







# A New Spark

Photo by Ross Halfin  
Written by Katie J. Norris

This year marks the 25th anniversary of Tesla: the t-shirt-wearing, long-hair swaying, acoustic, heavy metal band extraordinaire. The bay area rock group was made popular in the '80s by hit songs "Love Song" and "Signs." In their heyday, Tesla played amongst other glam bands of the generation: Def Leppard, David Lee Roth, Poison, etc. Tesla was always known to put on great live show; a full on passionate performance. Another shining moment of their career was their unplugged album *Five Man Acoustical Jam*, released in 1990, which started the movement for releasing acoustic versions of rock songs—now a path taken by almost every rock band out there.

*Twisted Wires & the Acoustic Sessions* is another grand acoustic release by the band that set the style in motion. The album is half a compilation of their lesser known rock songs reworked and recorded acoustically, including "Edisons Machine," "Song and Emotion" and "Into the Now." Six of the tracks were recorded at bassist Brian Wheat's studio in 2005. These are also the last recordings with guitarist Tommy Skeoch before he officially left the band. Other than the Dave Rude replacing Skeoch, the band remains a tight group which is probably why they are able to span such a lengthy career and why their songs have so much heart. It doesn't hurt that they are strong musicians in their own right as well. Evidence of this can be found in some of the impressive instrument solos throughout the album. There are two new songs on *Twisted Wires*, "2nd Street" and "Better Off Without You." Both are catchy tunes that fall into the band's classic, trademarked sound while fitting in quite nicely with today's music. Not only that, but they are probably the two best songs on the album, proving Tesla's songwriting skills are strong as they always strive to improve. Jeff Keith's vocals haven't changed much at all in 25 years, giving this album another chance to become a gem for all loyal Tesla fans. With the right advertising, I don't see a problem with *Twisted Wires* finding a new generation of listeners as well.

To celebrate the bands' 25th anniversary, Tesla is currently on tour and promoting their new album. With rave reviews already filing in about their strong performances, it would be a summer highlight to catch them live. Tour dates, music, blogs, videos, and much, much more can be found on their website: <http://teslatheband.com/teslatheband>

**Tesla: Twisted Wires**

Label: Tesla Electric Company Recordings

★★★★★

RELEASE DATE: July 21, 2011







# ALL ACCESS SPOTLIGHT

[Myspace.com/BlackVeilBrides](http://Myspace.com/BlackVeilBrides)



## **Black Veil Brides,** *Set the World on Fire*

The minute Nirvana sang, "Here we are now, entertain us," '80s metal was decapitated by the ax guitar it once held so dearly. Since then, metal has made a few gasps of life but no band has been able to capture the image and essence like Black Veil Brides. Sporting more black shirts than the Hot Topic catalog and layering on makeup that rivals only Gene Simmons, Black Veil Brides are crashing onto the L.A. music scene and leaving bootprints. They have just released their second album, *Set the World on Fire*, to a much-anticipated fan base.

Black Veil Brides' sound is simple in terms of heavy metal music: heavy guitars, loud vocals and stomach-busting drum fills; but the band appears to be more interested in the metal bravado. The album sounds like a joyride on the highway to hell with minor bumps on the way. Every song, minus ballad "Savior," is fast-paced and heavy. Many religious references ("New Religion," "Fallen Angels," "God Bless You," and "Savior") are made on the album, separating them from other bands on the Sunset Strip.

On the cover of Penelope Spheeris's documentary, *The Decline of Western Civilization II: The Metal Years*, it says, "It's more than music... it's a way of life." This quote sums up a lot about metal music and acts as Black Veil Brides' credo. *Set the World on Fire* is full of heavy-metal charisma but if the Black Veil Brides aren't careful, they will become another one of metal's Iron Maidens.

Written by Silas Valentino, Katie J. Norris & Jeremy Weeden  
Edited by Nicolas Bates

## **Cali Swag District,** *The Kickback*

Cali Swag District is "fresh like Doug E." Skyrocketing to stardom with their interactive hit, "Teach Me How To Dougie," inspired by Doug E. Fresh, the song had the whole nation tuning into MTV to learn the new dance moves. Even Bruno Mars mentions this current pastime in his "Lazy Song"—now a radio favorite. With everyone talking about the Inglewood hip-hop group, CSD has a lot to live up to in order to escape the one-hit-wonder syndrome. *The Kickback* is their first album, which features "Teach Me How To Dougie" as the last track. Overall, as far as an L.A. rap/hip-hop trio, the songs aren't bad. There is some clever humor in the wordplay of some songs making them stand out and have personality. The criticism lies in the amateurish delivery in some songs and weak rhymes tossed in. And don't look too hard for a deeper meaning other than partying or cruising, aside from their one sweet note, "Me And U." But hey, as far as a fun set of songs, it'll keep the dance floor populated. The new addition of Ashley A. is their sparkle to the album. She gives a strong singing performance on "Can't Live Without My Music."

[Myspace.com/CaliSwagDistrict](http://Myspace.com/CaliSwagDistrict)



[Myspace.com/Razer](http://Myspace.com/Razer)



## **Razer,** *Dark Devotion*

Razer is a dying breed—a new hard-rock band trying to make it in a sea of endless pop rock. The band is composed of Chris Powers, Jeremy Graves, Paul Sullivan, Eric Bongiorno, and Chris Catero. Chris Powers' strong vocals, hard drums, metal riffs, and heavy bass lines fuel their album, *Dark Devotion*. Their brand of in-your-face hard rock is refreshing and the band has the unique talent of giving their songs mass appeal beyond just traditional hard rock/metal fans. With the level of songwriting the band possesses, they have the rare talent to transcend their genre and gain mainstream radio play. The lead single off *Dark Devotion*, "Do You Want It," exemplifies the band's style as Chris Powers' powerful voice echoes over a heavy-metal riff. Chris Powers' extensive vocals also help the band to stand out. Powers' has a wide range and excels at different vocal techniques and styles. This is evident on the band's cover of Led Zeppelin's "When the Levee Breaks." *Dark Devotion* should solidify Razer as a force to be reckoned with in the rock world and may even go a long way in bringing the metal/hard rock genre back to the mainstream.





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**Exclusive  
Coverage**

# **WARPED TOUR '11**

Written by Michelle Oberg  
Photos by Nicolas Bates



## **Woe, Is Me**

The hardest part about Warped Tour is undeniably the heat. But, the post-hardcore metal band Woe, is Me certainly got the shit end of the deal with their set time at Pomona. Dressed in all black and facing the sun for the hottest part of the day, and on the only stage that rest atop black pavement, they played an intense set to a wild and crazy crowd.

Patrons huddled tight to the stage and some ducked for cover under the half-foot width awning on the small building adjacent the stage. Woe, Is Me frontmen Derek Carter and Michael Bohn had an off-beat start—blame it on the weather—that was almost like a broken record. They redeemed themselves throughout the performance with their volumized energy. The seven-member line up acted upon their animalistic instincts by climbing rafters and jumping as if they were prepping to blast off into the sun.

They threw their own twist on pop sensation Katy Perry's hit "Hot n Cold" that thrust the crowd into a mosh-pitted rage. Surprisingly, this industrial bunch found inspiration in Katy's tune and spectators also knew the lyrics. Looks like you can't judge a book by its cover because there were some secret pop fans lingering behind their black mascara and hardcore façade. Not to mention their other cover, Ke\$ha's "Tik Tok."



The extreme *Wall of Death* [mosh pit] was commanded upon the minions by the frontmen and those who were still standing happily obliged, going overboard with their antics. "Our Numbers" had great hooks and vocals while the screams were solid. Their last number, "Delinquents," kept fans around to the very last note where they walked off stage most likely exhausted and even more likely to prompt these hard partiers to start their hydrating early. By hydrating, I mean boozing, but it is well deserved for the performance they put on.



### Unwritten Law

Unwritten Law's latest album *Swan* is painstakingly well done, making their appearance at Warped Tour a must see. Frontman and guitarist Scott Russo hasn't lost those boyish looks and certainly knows how to make the girls panties drop with his raspy voice. A wild crowd causes a few injuries as they bum rush the smaller stage and spill out into other artist's stages.

Playing tunes like "Up All Night" and "Nevermind" keep us on our feet between jumping (of course) to the beats. The band gave their all and replicated their recorded material live. The two most requested songs the fans wanted to hear were "Seein' Red" and "Save Me." Obliging the fans, Law supplied the masses.

The first single off *Swan*, "Starships and Apocalypse," was one successfully performed song. Seeing Law at Warped Tour, especially for SoCal residents, is what you expect from the festival. While they aren't an average punk band, and realistically fall into the category of alt rock, they represent everything that is summer-Cali style. Either we missed something at their show, or it truly didn't happen, but the only disappointment that came with their set was Big B not joining the quartet on stage. Scott and Big B's long-standing relationship of collaboration is always a smash hit. B was performing his own set from his latest album *Hard Times and Nursery Rhymes* (which RUKUS spotlight reviewed) later in the day.

Unwritten Law's set was executed to the best of their ability that day. Scott and his entourage that make up Unwritten Law do what they do even when obstacles get thrust in their direction (e.g. 102 degrees of desert heat) and march to the beat of their own drum. Luckily, their dedicated and loyal followers like this characteristic, and frankly so do I. Their music is rad and their attitude matches. We will certainly keep buying the albums if they keep making them.





## Lionize

Since RUKUS's interview with Lionize a few month back, we've become fans and friends with this laid-back bunch of soulful rockers who probably would've enjoyed playing in the '60s. They went into Warped stoked to find out that they'd be on the entire festival thanks to, not just their talent, but Kevin Lyman as well. Sharing a bus with The Aggrolites, they quickly made friends and put their best foot forward.

After the posse cooled off on their tour bus between catching shows, we walked with them to the stage as the ensemble set forth ready to rock. Most of the festival-goers were not too well-versed with their reggae/classic rock sound, so they got off to a slow start. But, patrons heard the smooth sounds of guitars, organs, percussion and the soulfully sexy voice of Bergman from afar and made their way over to the stage for a front and center show.

Between long guitar solos as transitioning pieces into the next tune, and watching Henry Upton (bass) literally feel his music, the only non-English dictionary word I can think to describe them with is: redonkulous! Watching Upton play is like watching Stevie Wonder play; you can see the music coursing through him. Chris Brooks' (organ) fingers move so quickly and he utilizes as many keys as he possibly can, creating sounds that the grannies in churches wish they were capable of creating even after 50 years in the trade. Drum solos are single handedly my favorite attribute of a band's instrumentals. With LaMel Randolph behind the skins, the talented artists that have come before him are easily forgotten. With a straight face throughout the set, Randolph beats his skins to a muddled mess.

Lionize played as many songs as possible off their latest album, *Destruction Manual*, and did absolutely no talking aside from the occasional "thank you" here and there. Do you love them yet? It's all music, all the time for these guys.

The dynamic each member has with each is just as apparent on stage as it is off. They might as well be brothers with the amount of respect they have for each other; and this translates into their music. If all artists believed in their music and each other as much as Lionize does, than we very well might live in an alternate universe. I love this truly rare characteristic about them and what makes them a top ten pick of favorite artists of today. If you haven't heard their music, check it out at [www.lionizemusic.com](http://www.lionizemusic.com). Their feel-good



music and fresh style for the times is unbelievably awe-inspiring. While jamming to their tunes you'll find yourself smoking a doobie with Gregory Isaacs in no time...well the latter part is probably a result of the weed.



## Moving Mountains

Labeled as one of the top ten must-see bands on Warped Tour 2011, Moving Mountains is just that. With the ever-evolving line up as the years march on, Kevin Lyman, founder of Warped Tour, knows how to stay relevant to the times. Years ago we expected to see the punk pandemic take its hold but now the festival features everything from the originating genre plus alt rock and reggae artists.

Gregory Dunn (vocals/guitar) pens all his emotional lyrics solo, but on stage with his band, it is a collaborative, non-stop hit-pumping machine. Greg is like an energy drink in human form as he jumps off the bass drum repeatedly throughout the set, never losing site of his vocals and delivery. Frank Graniero (guitar) offered up a long intro but watching him break it down is even more impressive with his jump kicks and metal-esque persona, strumming his better half from atop his head. Obviously the advice that comes from most mother's of "watch what you're doing" need not apply. Just blindfold Graniero and that would be the ultimate rock star move.

The band reached its full capacity just a mere 3 years ago where Graniero and Mitchell Lee (bass) finalized their line up. Warped Tour is their first festival where they can perform their first full studio album, *Waves* (released May 10th, 2011), as a whole.

Watching the band play their heart out keeps one more than just content. Greg has a "low-talk" style of vocal delivery when he so chooses, but can sing and scream with the best of them while Lee, Graniero and Nicholas Pizzolato (drums) play as if they're playing to a sold out Los Angeles Staples Center audience.

This indie rock band was brought into a world that they don't quite fit into. They are more the type to fill a tent at Coachella, but they impressed nonetheless. So much so that Kevin Lyman has them playing every Warped Tour date of the tour.

Aside from Warped Tour, they will continue to go on touring after the festival come to a halt, so check out their website at [www.movmou.com](http://www.movmou.com) for more info.





Written by Michelle Oberg  
Photos by Nicolas Bates

# Less Than Jake's Chris Demakes



**Less Than Jake**

For one of the most historic ska-punk bands in history, Less Than Jake's appearance at Warped Tour 2011 was no surprise. Being a staple on Warped Tour for almost as long as it's conception (1995), Less Than Jake have been on the tour since 1997. It's always a pleasure to be graced not just with their presence, but iconic style and sound.

The very animated bunch croons up with their signature brass sounds prompting not just the ever-favorite dance move, "the two step," but the thirst-quenching flavor of beer and "medical" marijuana—this is California, let's just call it medical for arguments sake. Self-deprecation is a must—no one likes a band that loves themselves anyway—and it's the ones that tell you they suck who always wind up making the hits. It's a love of music for crying out loud.

Speaking of crying, there were almost tears on stage for they're mid-afternoon, hot-as-the-surface-of-the-sun set, from a 12-year-old boy. This young buck was escorted on stage and received a mohawk from JR and Manganelli mid-set while Demakes, Fiorello and Schaub played on. Gentlemen, we thank you...I thank you...as the first gust of wind from the day allowed concert-goer's to get rained on by the gentle strands of soft, brown, little boy hair; a perfect accoutrement to any open mouthed beverage.

The 5 song EP, *Greetings From...* (released in time for Warped Tour), embodies their sound whole-heartedly with little change. Tracks "Can't Yell Any Louder," "Goodbye My Personality," and "Oldest Trick In The Book" can be heard on the tour along with some old favorites.



Demakes vocals and instrumentals mesh with his counterparts as they equally share the spotlight for each of their personally highlighted tunes.

We let the good times roll with punk legends, good tunes, huge crowds and dance-infused mosh pits at Warped Tour with Less Than Jake. I won't tell you not to miss them at Warped, only because they're probably at the top of your list anyway, so I'll leave you with this: Hide your wife, hide your kids, and wear a hat, because LTJ is in town.



RUKUS MAGAZINE caught up with them before their set to talk about the future of the band and their experiences on Warped Tour. Be sure to tweet them, facebook 'like' 'em, MySpace em—whatever social networking you can think of—to stay in the know, because they're not going anywhere. For that, again, we thank you, LTJ!

**RUKUS MAGAZINE:** This your 10th year on Warped Tour?

**Chris Demakes:** Tenth time? I actually don't know. I don't have it figured, but I know we played in 3 decades. Our first one was in '97. People can't believe how good-looking we are that we've played 3 decades. It's so shocking. Guys in their mid 30's looking this chiseled...I've been working out everyday, can you tell?

**RM:** So obviously it's number-one-fun summer camp. What's your favorite part?

**CD:** My favorite part would be getting to meet sweet journalists such as yourself and getting to talk about myself all day. That and we've been doing it for so long that we pretty much know everybody out here and the guys in production behind the scenes, so it's a lot of friends that dudes catch up with. It's cool.

**RM:** Are there any downfalls to being on such a large festival?

**CD:** We did 3 days in New Mexico and then in Las Vegas so we had a bunch of 100 degree days. That kind of sucks, but other than that, no.

**RM:** Are there any artists you're looking forward to seeing that you haven't seen already?

**CD:** Pablo Picasso. [I then proceed to show him the Picasso tattooed on my foot] NICE! That's a weird coincidence... Leonardo Davinci.

**RM:** I can't help you with that one, but seriously, is there anyone that sticks out to you that you've heard puts on a good show?

**CD:** Not really. I'm too old, I don't like music anymore. I listen to stuff from the '70s and '80s. There are a few bands out here that seem pretty cool. I'm loving Into Me and the Pepper guys are good friends of mine. Some of the younger bands too. There's a band called Bad Rabbits; they're really cool; they're really different. I like the bands that are different; that stick out.

**RM:** You should check out Lionize.

**CD:** Yes! I know those guys. They are different. Not different like they ride the short bus, but different for Warped Tour.

**RM:** Where do you think Warped Tour is headed now, musically?

**CD:** I mean, by 2020 it will probably be the biggest rave/gay dance scene party ever. It will take a few years to get there. Honestly, I think Warped Tour can go on for as long as it wants to go on for. The owner of Warped Tour, Kevin, he just gets it. He understands how to do this and he picks the right bands and the tour remains successful every year.

**RM:** When can we expect a new album?

**CD:** We just put out a 5-song record for warped tour. We're going to write some songs this fall and probably record again, but as far as a full length album I don't know if we're going to do that. We're probably just going to release a whole bunch of songs every year.

**RM:** Keep the fans listening. Real quick, run me through the pez collecting.

**CD:** My collection is small. I probably have over a hundred of them and they're all different, but people always throw pez onto the stage and our guitar tech collects them all and gives them to me to go through. I'll go through whatever I already have but I have about 120 from fans over the years, I don't really collect them. But our bass player has about 1,000 different pez dispensers from all over the world. It's crazy, he's put a lot of money into his collection.

**RM:** Has there been another show as intense as the Vanderbilt performance that resulted in massive rioting?

**CD:** I had to have my manager basically force me to get on stage in Brazil. We were all getting shocked. Nothing was grounded in this place and we literally put a show on in a Mexican restaurant that went out of business and this punk kid got people to put a show together and it probably legally held 200 people; there must have been 1,000 people shoved in this place. We were getting shocked really badly; there came a point where I thought I might die. It was jolting me and I could see blue going up my arm so I said I'm not playing, but it's shit like that. The unpredictability of it and then the next day we'll go play an arena somewhere to 40,000 people at a festival and it'll be perfect. Then we'll go back to playing a dump.

**RM:** It's about the fans, right?

**CD:** No, it's about me.

**RM:** Thanks so much for catching up and we'll see you on stage at 6.

**RM**



**WHOOZNXT**  
**WINNER**

## Exclusive Interview: Vampires Everywhere's Michael Vampire

By Michelle Oberg



Vampires Everywhere

WHOOZNEXT winner of the month went to Vampire's Everywhere. I caught up with Michael Vampire while the band was touring through Arizona. They'll be headed into the City of Angels at the end of the month for The Sunset Strip Music Festival, August 18th-20th. Here's what this self proclaimed "weirdo" had to say (for the record, he was remarkably nice and spoke like a scholar).

**RUKUS MAGAZINE:** Tell me about your image. Did this look start with the band?

**MICHAEL VAMPIRE:** It's always been me; it's always been in me but I've also been in a lot of bands. Whatever band I'm in, the concept is always different but I was just always the same. For the first time I really feel like I'm being myself.

**RM:** How about your band mates, did they come with the same branding you created for Vampire's Everywhere?

**MV:** When I was recruiting I only went for people that already had that and the knowledge behind what I was trying to do. Rather than try and dress somebody up and expect them to go for what I'm trying to achieve. I'm pretty happy with the line-up.

**RM:** Being an L.A. local, what is your favorite venue in the city?

**MV:** I would have to say House of Blues. I go there every Monday and go watch Steel Panther and shit like that. I definitely think that venue has ambiance and the best staff.

**RM:** Given Steel Panther's laundry list of guest appearances, have you had your opportunity to play with them yet?

**MV:** They're definitely cool guys and I have a lot of respect for them. We're actually in the process of talking with them now. But I let them do their thing. I am as far from the stage as you can possibly be in the House of Blues.

**RM:** Have you ever played the House of Blues before?

**MV:** Yes, I have. Not with this project but with other projects. It's funny, we [Vampires] have probably played every single place on Sunset [blvd.] and in Hollywood except for the House of Blues. I'm pretty sure that will be the next thing to hit that venue.

**RM:** Since forming in 2009, do you have any crazy fan or tour stories yet?

**MV:** Well, tour stories I would say are a little X-rated but I would say...

**RM:** We love X-rated tell me...

**MV:** No, no... [laughs] It's a little too Motley Crue, but I will say so far one of our fans was just the weirdest. He sent an actual vial of blood in the mail. I remember the person who got it was like, "What do I do?" And I said, "I don't know." To be honest with you, that was really fucking weird and we ended up throwing it away. There could be something brewing in there. It could've been anything, I don't know. It was pretty creepy.



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

**MV:** I listen to my favorite song or two just to get really pumped up on repeat while drinking. It's definitely a ritual to stop at the liquor store and get ice for my cooler. I get everything I possibly need for a picnic inside this van and then we show up and I have one drink before I get on stage and then drink while on stage. Even if we get a green room, we still like to come out to the van so that's part of the ritual too, that incorporation. We're not weird in that aspect.

**RM:** Is the make-up part of your everyday life?

**MV:** It's my every day life. I do change it though, based on how I feel. We have a sponsorship with MAC.

**RM:** I'm jealous. You get the top of line gear and I use CVS makeup...

**MV:** I'm sorry. The next time I see you I'll hook up

**RM:** Lots of black eyeliner, please.

**MV:** That'll work.

**RM:** Prior to Sunset Music Festival, what is on your schedule?

**MV:** We're doing a new conceptual Sims-type thing for Rock Band. We're being put in to virtual characters that battle in rock bands. It sounds really cool. We're also redoing our stage show and moving things around and making things better for upcoming tours— which is already being planned.

**RM:** Not bad. I'm really impressed that your formation was only 2 years ago.

**MV:** I appreciate that, but it only took me 10 years to be here. I'm happy. Things have been so contrived in the past and I was kidding myself between what I wanted to do and what was happening. This was something I wanted to do because I love it. This is what people, I believe, are grasping onto...this not-giving-a-fuck attitude. A lot of bands nowadays don't talk to fans at all and we try to stay in contact. It's hard and it's taxing, but it great.

**RM:** Is there anyone personally you would like to meet that you idolize?

**MV:** Of course, Marilyn Manson and Trent Reznor. The whole industrial, creepy feel that they got going on... There are so many different people out there but I definitely think those two people inspire me a lot.

**RM:** Have you met them?

**MV:** I actually met Trent Reznor very quickly. I've met everyone in Marilyn Manson except for Marilyn Manson. The one time I was going to meet him this one girl who I know that is friends with his whole family pulls me aside and said, "I [you] am going to creep him out." So, I was like, "Okay?" I mean, I must be very creepy because she wouldn't take me to meet him. I guess he's more withdrawn and I am more in people's face with my image. I have a lot of OCD and stuff and I guess she thought that it might not work.

**RM:** At least it didn't turn you off from him. Since you mentioned OCD, what kind are we talking about here?

**MV:** I can't really go through it. Everything has been in order and very neat. The last tour we got off with Aiden, they thought I was weirdest, freakiest person they've ever met. People in the Industrial Goth scene say that I bring on an extra creepy into their lives; which is funny to me because I just try to be myself and if that's what it is than that's what it is.

**RM:** What are 3 things that most people don't know about you?

**MV:** I try to tell everyone everything about me, but let's see: I grew up in New York City. There's not much that people don't know about me...I treat almost everything I do as me trying to make people understand without them trying to guess all the time. A lot of people try to stay very vague and I just try and put myself out there. It's funny you asked me this, I was supposed to tumble things about myself a while ago that people want to know and it's like I've already told everyone everything. There's not in depth things to tell, except there's nothing. I feel very '8 mile' about it, like at the end of the movie when Eminem is rapping everything about himself to leave the other guy with nothing to talk about. It's like I am this, I am trailer park and I thought that was cool. If everyone knows everything about you than it can't come back and haunt you. The only ridicule I've gotten online really was when I was in a really bad accident 6 years ago and it left me in a coma. I broke my jaw and I broke my arm it really did fuck me up and the only thing people have on me is an accident that is thrown in my face. Especially when it's something that was not my fault.

**RM:** Do you care to elaborate on some details?

**MV:** Oh, sure. I was in a tour van and an ex drummer was driving. A drunk driver was driving on the wrong side of a major Interstate in Miami, Florida. He was completely annihilated drunk and hit us head on. Our van flipped and he actually killed himself upon impact. I had woken up in the van holding a majority of my teeth; the drummer, because he was entangled in the seat, had a broken back. I ended up crawling out of the van toward the guy that hit us, and I'm walking near his body. Some guy on the highway gets out of his car to try and help and hands me his phone and I don't know how I did it but I called my mother who called an ambulance but it was already on the way. I blacked out and woke up in the hospital later on.

**RM:** Wow!

**MV:** Yeah, it was definitely a game changer in my life. I think that a lot of people don't understand that seeing people dead and looking back at yourself and feeling like you're going to die. I think that's a lot of reason why I started touring with this band because it's closer to me. Vampires Everywhere is a part of me.

**RM:** A life changing impact certainly influences your music as well.

**MV:** For sure. There is a lot of bits and pieces of music that have a lot to do with that. The girl who was in my life in that period, but not anymore, has a lot of presence on the album as well.

**RM:** Is there anything you want to share on behalf of the band?

**MV:** We're doing our best to get our name out there and spread the evil world and stay true to ourselves. Our next album coming out is called *Kissed The Sun Goodbye*, so go to Hot Topic and FYE to support us and check it out.

**RM**



# COMING UP...

Models To Keep An Eye On

## MARY CASTRO

Photography by Andrew Gates  
Make-up and hair by Sandy Nio Chen

M

ary Castro is a delicious and delightful mix of Irish, French and Mexican. Mary was born in sunny West Covina, California. The buxom brunette is a professional actress, model and also a trained classical vocalist. She began modeling in 2003 when she was discovered by the WWE RAW Diva search and became a finalist from Los Angeles. Mary's natural flair and outgoing personality lead her to television and the silver screen. Her acting career began to take off in 2004 with roles on the "King of Queens," "Las Vegas," "My name is Earl" and "The War at Home." She kept pursuing her passion for acting and landed roles in *Epic Movie*, *Reno 911: Miami*, *Hell Ride* and *The Goods*. Mary has also been a host and model for Viva Vision and an exclusive spokesmodel for the spanish variety show Estudio 2. Mary has also appeared in numerous magazines. Not only is she a looker, Mary Castro is also quite the academic. She is working towards a degree in Economics and plans to continue taking the world by storm with her brazen and fearless-bombshell spirit.













## THE STATS

**Birthday:**  
**April 14**

**Zodiac Sign:**  
**Aries**

**Measurements:**  
**36D-25-36**

**Height:**  
**5'7"**

**Weight:**  
**123 lb.**

**Ethnicity:**  
**Mexican, Irish and French.**

**Hometown:**  
**Redondo Beach, CA.**

**Turn Ons:**  
**Ambition; inner strength; chivalry.**

**Turn Offs:**  
**Negative people.**

**Guilty Pleasure:**  
**Mmm, I really love sweets. Sour patch kids are my favorite. And I really love beer!**

**Pet Peeves:**  
**Procrastination. You gotta get out there and make things happen.**

**Celebrity Pass:**  
**Megan Fox. She's Hot!**

**See more of Mary at**  
**[Myspace.com/marycastro](http://Myspace.com/marycastro)**



**COMING UP...**  
Models To Keep An Eye On CONT'D







# CATHERINE COLLE

Photography by Andrew Gates  
Make-up and hair by Crystal Tran

C

atherine Colle is an exotic girl, being Japanese, German and Italian and all. This beauty was born and raised in the tropical city of Sao Paulo, Brazil where she spent most of her childhood. At age 14 she was spotted by a modeling manager and has been modeling ever since. At 16, she moved to the United States where she lived and went to school in San Diego, California. She always knew she wanted to do something on the creative side and wanted to do more than model, so she took up acting. She then moved to Los Angeles at age 19 to start her acting career. Hollywood has simply fallen in love with her and vice versa. Besides acting, Catherine works part-time as virtual marketing manager for the biggest dietary supplement company in latin america. She would also love to write a book at some point in her life and reach all her professional goals in acting and modeling, as well as personal ones. From where we're standing, it looks like she's on the right path! There's nothing like having a beautiful woman with brains and a will to succeed.









## THE STATS

**Birthday:**  
July 2

**Zodiac Sign:**  
Cancer

**Measurements:**  
34D-25-34

**Height:**  
5'3"

**Weight:**  
110 lb.

**Ethnicity:**  
Japanese, German  
and Italian.

**Hometown:**  
Sao Paulo, Brazil.

### Turn Ons:

I'm an old fashioned kind of girl. I like romance, humbleness and matureness. I don't really care about looks because they don't last forever anyway. I honestly care about your personality and if a guy has a good one, then he is off to a good start.

### Turn Offs:

Cockiness. Is there a worse thing than hanging out with a guy that only talks about himself. I don't think so.

### Guilty Pleasure:

I'm addicted to chocolate. I need to have chocolate every day or else I go crazy. Chocolate puts me in a good mood; my body craves it every day. It's one of the best things in the world for me.

### Pet Peeves:

People honking in traffic for no reason. I think everybody can relate to this one.

### Celebrity Pass:

This is a funny question. I honestly don't have one right now, but I used to be really into Bradley Cooper.

See more of Catherine at  
[twitter.com/catycolle](https://twitter.com/catycolle)



# GAME ON

The Latest Game Reviewed



## NCAA FOOTBALL 12



# TOUCHDOWN!

Written by Albert Marrero, Jr.

There's something nostalgic about this time of year; the fresh smell of cut grass, the heat of the summer days, and the light humidity of each morning reminding you that it's getting close to football season. I remember at Carolina, the excitement for the fall semester was so thick you could feel it by just walking around. EA invokes that same sense of nostalgia with *NCAA 2012*, with lush graphics, spot on precision of detail, and an environment that takes you back to being on campus.

From the title screen, you can see the familiar ESPN integration, complete with our favorite announcers, including the much needed Erin Andrews. You got Texas players coming out of the locker room touching the horns, you've got Clemson players touching the rock, and stadiums right off the blueprints. Nike Pro Combat Uniforms? Awesome. It's this attention to detail, coupled with excellent camera angles that gives it that Saturday afternoon feel and keeps this game fresh year after year.

Gameplay is largely familiar. This year, they've added a collision tackling, which definitely adds a more realistic feel to the game. Crowd noise shakes things up, literally. And yes, its college, so I know all the players aren't NFL caliber... But it can get annoying; just because you're a QB rolling right and throwing to an open receiver running left, doesn't mean you over throw the ball. Other little things like glitchy sideline AI characters and such make this game a game, but it's a game, so it's not the end of the world.

I didn't do much in terms of Dynasty mode or Road to Glory mode, because I prefer to play this game versus friends. Online mode can still be a split second off, which affects gameplay, but not in an OMFG LAG!-type way. Passing is tight (when your feet are set and you have a window), running is always a joy if you can hit the hole (that's what she said), and defense is such a rush (literally) to "Engage Eight" and sack the QB. When I played against the computer for purposes of this review, I took the opening kickoff to the house with HB #24 for Oregon, who in real life is really, really fast. I liked that realism, that if you simply followed your blocks and chose your angles, you can actually break one.

Overall, *NCAA 2012* is a welcome game that comes at an odd time when professional sports are in lockouts and uncertainty. It's nice to know that regardless of the pro situation, we'd still be watching underclassmen on the gridiron. *NCAA 2012* doesn't disappoint. There's nothing earth-shattering about this presentation, however. It's polished but not perfect, it's fresh but familiar, and it's fun but not ground-breaking. But, I've said before, if it ain't broke, don't fix it. EA and Tiburon are experts at giving fans what they want and as in all the years before, 2012 is no exception.

**NCAA Football 2012**

PUBLISHER: Electronic Arts/Tiburon

PLATFORM: Xbox 360, PS3

RELEASE DATE: July 12, 2011

★★★★☆

RATINGS: E10+  
GENRE: Sports



**GAME ON**  
THE GAME REVIEWS CORSTEN





# Beer, Girls and Guns!

Written by Heather Spears

Duke Nukem is back and ready to kill aliens in order to save the world. Sounds clichéd when you say it, doesn't it? However *Duke Nukem Forever* is far from what you would see in your ordinary first-person shooter. With sexual content, drugs, alcohol abuse and intense violence, it's pretty safe to say this action hero has lived through his fair share of taboo topics. Duke has waited twelve years for the release of his new game so there's no doubt he's going to come in with a bang.

You start this shooter as Duke Nukem playing as himself in a video game. When he puts down the controller you are met by his twin school girl lovers. They tell Duke that they need him to leave so they could get ready for a party. Next, you take control of Duke in signing autographs and watching all your screaming fans adore you. All seems well until a flash and boom signaling the arrival of the hostel aliens. Despite presidential orders Duke takes the matter into his own hands and takes on the alien force almost completely on his own.

Needless to say this first-person shooter isn't like the rest in the crowded genre. The objective of the game isn't just shooting aliens to save the world. Weather you're drinking a beer or driving an action figure-sized Duke around in an RC car, the game is sure to set you up with surprises. *Duke Nukem Forever* provides the player with strategic additions to the game, such as taking control of a crane to knock down a barrier or using significant objects to get where you need to go. These options set the game apart from its competitors. Where first person shooter fans are used to running through a level killing all in their path, Duke Nukem combines gameplay with a bit of strategy. Who doesn't love a challenge?

The game is handled liked a basic first-person shooter, with regard to minor adjustments which are easy to get used to. Graphics are unrealistic but not bad - it's almost like playing a live cartoon. Aside from long loading times, I think gamers will have fun with *Duke Nukem Forever*.

Duke Nukem is compared to games like Doom, and some of the levels remind me of stages I've seen on Halo and Gears of War. There are multiple varieties of enemies but your choice in gun seems rather limited. The game is simple and humorous to those who understand dirty humor.

Overall, I think *Duke Nukem* is a masculine game which most men would probably find some enjoyment in. The game is definitely not for children and you might want to keep it out of reach from your wife or girlfriend. *Duke Nukem Forever* will give you a unique experience and no matter how cocky, dirty, and just plain ridiculous Duke is; you will learn to love him. If you've been a fan of the series I would say it's a good buy, but if you're skeptical about the game you may want to consider renting it. Dirty humor, naked ladies and alcohol can only mean one thing - keep *Duke Nukem Forever* your own guilty pleasure.

## **Duke Nukem Forever**

★★★★★

**PRODUCER:** 3D Realms, Gearbox Software

**PLATFORM:** XBOX 360, PS3, Windows PC

**RELEASE DATE:** June 14, 2011

**RATINGS:** Mature

**GENRE:** First-person shooter



**GAME ON**  
The Game Reviews CONT'D



# L.A. NOIRE



# Case Closed

Written by Jesse Seilhan

Rockstar Games has a legacy unlike any other company in modern gaming, with their unique blend of story-telling taking narratives to new heights while delivering mature (and sometimes immature) gameplay and active experiences. By teaming with Australian developer Team Bondi, Rockstar has added another feather on their illustrious cap in the form of *L.A. Noire*, right beside titles like *Grand Theft Auto* and *Red Dead Redemption*. Graphics, gameplay, audio, and narrative are all pushed beyond normal gaming expectations and come together in a way never before seen, but groundbreaking technology and a seven year development cycle can sometimes overstress a team and ultimately the product can suffer. The end may not justify the means, but taken on its own, *L.A. Noire* is one of the best games of this generation.

1940's Los Angeles is the backdrop and most of it has been faithfully recreated, using photographs by Robert Spence as the groundwork from which to build. Famous landmarks and streets fill the open world and real actors are used as the characters in the game. Vintage cars and clothing also shine in this post-WWII City of Angels. Add to this realism the most remarkable part of *L.A. Noire*: the facial scan technology. Using a series of computers and animation software, the actors voicing various characters actually have their face accurately recreated within the game, adding a layer of depth unseen in other games. This is especially important considering the core gameplay mechanic is interrogation and the fact that you can tell if someone is lying or not based on how they hold their arms, look around the room, or even gulp, is a remarkable advancement.

The entire scope of LAPD police work is taken into account, from the boring low-paying role as a traffic cop up to the more exciting homicide, vice, and arson cases. For the most part, each case is its own story with some rarely tying into the larger canon. Discovering clues is up to your own perceptive skills, as a crime scene is carefully designed to leave some things out in the open and others only visible after some searching or slight puzzle solving. Once clues are found, a small audible chime clues you in on your completion and now the fun part starts: interrogation. Between smug liars, slimy husbands, vindictive vixens, and jacked-up junkies, learning the way each person ticks is one of the things that makes a successful detective.

Story writing and acting are both superior and on par with some of the best network crime dramas of the past decade. Although some of the quips get old (you can only enjoy the misogynist quips about how dumb women are for so long), the dramatic writing and involved cases more than make up for it. The game is also less "videogamey" compared to the studio's prior work, as you cannot brandish your weapon in public and go on violent killing sprees. You are an LAPD detective, after all, and running over taxpayers for jollies wouldn't fly with the townsfolk.

Compared to its kin, nothing comes close. Whether you look at it as a period piece (it destroys *Mafia II* and *The Godfather*) or a detective story (also better *Heavy Rain* and any of the *CSI* games), this is signature moment in gaming, and an achievement of the highest magnitude. *L.A. Noire* deserves to be viewed as a work of art, not just the sum of its digital parts, and only a few brush strokes away from a masterpiece.

## **L.A. Noire**

**PRODUCER:** Team Bondi/Rockstar Games

**PLATFORM:** XBOX 360, PS3

**RELEASE DATE:** May 17, 2011

★★★★★

**RATINGS:** Mature

**GENRE:** Action-Adventure





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