

RUKUS

RUKUSmag.com

20

QUESTIONS WITH

Siray Kong

GAMES REVIEWED



ALBUM REVIEWS

SOJA (Soldiers of Jah Army)
Strength to Survive



Exclusive Coverage
MEGADETH,
Cursive and
In Flames

Celebrating Greatness
2013 Chevrolet Corvette



March 2012



Van Halen
A Different Kind of Truth



Shoot. The Messenger.

A sleek, lightweight, street-smart satchel that hugs your body, moves with you, and doesn't cramp your style. Carries a DSLR, 3-4 lenses, laptop and accessories. Removable photo insert lets you convert it quickly from a camera bag to a book bag, school bag, briefcase or general-purpose carryall. Available in small and large sizes to hold laptops up to 15 and 17 inches. Pack what you need. Shoot what you want. **Tenba Messenger.**

 See it for yourself at TenbaTV.com



 **TENBA®**

Available at:

Samy's Camera

www.samys.com | 800.321.4726

6

Siray Kong

March Cover Model

20 Questions with Siray

Photography by Andrew Gates

Make-up & hair by Inara Akin

10

Pit Pass

Get In The Driver's Seat

Featured Car:

2013 Chevrolet Corvette 427

60th Anniversary Edition

By Nicolas Bates

16

All Access

The Latest Albums Reviewed

Albums Reviewed:

Van Halen

A Different Kind of Truth

By Paul Lyons

SOJA (Soldiers of Jah Army)

Strength to Survive

By Jeremy Weeden

20

All Access Spotlight

Artists/Bands Featured:

Royal Bliss, M-Phazes and Prima Donna

By Silas Valentino & Jeremy Weeden

On The Cover

Photo by Andrew Gates

Hair & make-up by Inara Akin

www.RUKUSmag.com

22

Live & Loud

Live Show Reviews

Featured Artists/Shows:

Exclusive coverage of

Megadeth, Cursive and In Flames

By Nicolas Bates & Andrew Gates

28

Coming Up

Models To Keep An Eye On

Featured Models:

Crystal Leigh

Riverside, CA

Elizabeth Deo

Riverside, CA

36

Game On

The Latest Games Reviewed

Games Reviewed:

The Darkness 2

By Heather Spears

Soul Calibur 5

By Jesse Seilhan

This Page

Photo by Andrew Gates

Hair & make-up by Inara Akin

Going Green

Has Never Looked So Good!!!

RUkus MAGAZINE has been revolutionizing the way we view print media for nearly three years by becoming one of the first men's magazines to go exclusively digital.

RUkus (RUKUSmag.com) is an online men's lifestyle magazine designed to appeal to men and women everywhere. Its viewership spreads around the globe, making it a truly international publication.

RUkus MAGAZINE brings its readers, not only beautiful women from around the world, but also video game reviews, artist interviews, album reviews, live concert reviews and photography and information on the leading exotic cars from around the world.

RUkus MAGAZINE has seen an over 3,000% growth in its monthly reader average from 2009 to 2011. This just goes to show that digital is the way of the future and RUKUS MAGAZINE is on the front line to proving that.

Click Here to Subscribe Free

RUKUS MAG.COM

For advertising rates email us at:
Advertise@RUKUSmag.com



RUKUS

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Andrew Gates

Senior Editor

Mary Stafford

Associate Editors

Nicolas Bates & Jesse Seilhan

Art Director

Andrew Gates

All Access Contributors

Silas Valentino, Jeremy Weeden & Paul Lyons

Live & Loud Contributors

Nicolas Bates & Andrew Gates

Pit Pass Contributor

Nicolas Bates

Game On Contributors

Jesse Seilhan & Heather Spears

Contributing Photographers

Andrew Gates & Nicolas Bates

Contributing Videographers

Nate Olson & Dylan Pfohl

Contributing Make-up Artists

Cynthia Luran & Inara Akin

Contributing Hair Stylists

Cynthia Luran & Inara Akin

Advertising

Andrew Gates

advertise@RUKUSmag.com

Mailing Address

RUKUS MAGAZINE

3940 Laurel Canyon Blvd., Suite 973

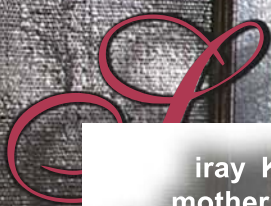
Studio City, CA 91604

20 QUESTIONS

Get To Know Your Cover Model

Siray Kong

Photography by Andrew Gates
Make-up & hair by Inara Akin



Siray Kong was born in Thailand, but raised in Minnesota by her mother. She is half-Thai and half-Cambodian. Although she was raised by her single mother, she used this to her advantage: thinking of the struggles her mom went through to give her what she has keeps her motivated and on the path she leads. Modeling may be her main gig for now but, she has been working on a few other things since we last saw her. She now has a t-shirt line out and she's working on a swimwear line which is due out shortly. Siray also just signed with a record label and has been in the studio working on an album. In all her travels she hopes to be successful enough to be able to start a non-profit to help give back to Cambodia. She may be a small, but there are many good things wrapped up in this package for sure!



20 QUESTIONS

Your Cover Model Cont'd



20 QUESTIONS

1.What's your Ethnicity?

Thai and Cambodian.

2.What's your zodiac sign?

Pisces.

3.Where are you from originally?

I was born in Thailand, but raised in beautiful Minnesota.

4.What did you like most about growing up in Minnesota?

What I liked most about growing up in Minnesota is all the lakes and learning how to deal with climate change. Winter was the hardest, especially because me and my mother didn't have a car, so we rode the bus everywhere, even when it was freezing cold. It humbled me a lot and taught me to never take anything for granted—not even the weather.

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

Well, this is a question I can go on forever. [laugh] I was a tomboy growing up. I played all the rough games with the boys on the block. I was also very curious about make-up. I always got into my mother's things and destroyed her make-up by mixing it all together. Boy she was so upset. Then she bought my own cheap one for me to mess with.

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

The craziest thing I have ever done in my life was on a dare. I ran around the lake naked. Well, at least half way around the lake.

7.What's your favorite hobby and why?

I have many favorite hobbies. One is poetry. I love expressing myself in a way that is so creative through words. Also, I love to draw. I love zoning out and putting my feeling into images and in colors. It helps me relax and center me from the world.

8.What's your guilty pleasure?

Fast food and beer.

9.Who do you admire?

My mother. She is my strength, my world and my fire that burns deep down in my soul!

10.What's one of your personal goals?

To give my mother all that her heart desires until the end of her days.

11.What do guys compliment you on the most?

Honestly, the guys compliment me on everything, but the first thing would have to be my face.

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

My favorite would be my lips.

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

My nose, because I feel like I have no bridge, and my stomach—I hate doing sit ups.

14.What do you look for in a guy?

He must be over 5'9", have a nice smile, great personality, care about his appearance but be humble. Oh, dimples are nice too.

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

His eyes.

16.What's your ideal first date?

A sunflower gift. A chill dining place that we can chat and not be overwhelmed by the noise. A place that's kinda fancy, because I like dressing up, looking nice for him, instead of a bar or something; maybe save that for the second date. I don't mind that.

17.What turns you on?

Soft touches and great kisses with fresh breath and he smells good too.

18.What turns you off?

Bad breath, sloppy kisser, rude, impatient, can't make eye contact and cheap.

19.What's your biggest pet peeve?

Someone that is just rude to people.

20.Who's your celebrity pass?

Channing Tatum for sure!

RM

PIT PASS

Get In The Driver's Seat

100 Years Counting

By Nicolas Bates

From 1966 to 1969, Chevrolet produced what would become one of the most coveted collector cars ever: The Corvette 427 Convertible. Now, 60 years later, and for a short time (until the new C7 Corvette is released), Chevrolet will be manufacturing the 2013 Corvette 427 Convertible Collector Edition, which Chevrolet is calling the "the fastest and most capable convertible in Corvette's history." From its exterior to its monstrosity of a motor, this 'Vette doesn't look like it will give anyone a chance to be a "let down."

Just to give you an idea of how the 427 Convertible is being deemed "the fastest and most capable convertible in Corvette's history," it must be made known that this Corvette will share design elements with Z06 and ZR1 'Vettes! Perhaps the most important shared



SPECS

2013 Chevrolet Corvette 427 Convertible Collector and 60th Anniversary Edition

Price:	\$80,000+
Engine:	7.0-Liter V8
Torque:	470 ft/lb
Horsepower:	505 hp
0-60 MPH:	3.8 secs.
Top Speed:	190 mph
EST. MPG:	Unknown
Available:	Early Summer 2012



element is the 7-liter LS7 motor out of the Z06 model. The LS7—assembled by hand and made with lightweight rods and intake valves and utilizing a dry sump system—will provide a hefty 505 hp at 470 ft.-lb. of torque. This motor is hand-built, which only adds one more element of prestige to this fine, modern-day muscle car. Other elements taken from the Z06 will be the driveline and rear axle system. Also a standard feature, will be Magnetic Selective Ride Control, which, according to Chevrolet, “provides increased wheel control by dramatically reducing heave, pitch and roll even on the roughest of roads or during difficult maneuvers at high speeds.” The 427 Convertible will also only come in a 6-speed transmission version. Really though, to the chagrin of very few, I am sure.

Horsepower-to-weight ratio is among one of the most important elements in a car designed for performance (especially a heavier convertible), and Chevrolet has not forgotten this. Among some of the weight saving components on the 427 Convertible will be: a carbon fiber hood, Z06-style carbon fiber fenders and carbon fiber floor panels. The car will have a curb weight of 3,355 lb., and thus, a power-to-weight ratio of 6.64. With this ratio, it is currently lower than the Porsche 911 Turbo S Cabriolet, Audi R8 Spyder, Aston Martin DBS Volante Convertible and Ferrari's California Convertible. The car is said to have a top speed of 190 mph, a 0-60 time of 3.8 seconds and a quarter mile time of under 12 seconds.

The 427 Convertible will come in a variety of trim options, including: 2LT, 3LT and 4LT; each carrying a VIN number similar to that of the Corvette ZR1 models. Also available, will be the 60th Anniversary Package, featuring an “Arctic White exterior with a Blue Diamond leather-wrapped interior with suede accents,” and a blue top. Additionally, this model will also come equipped with a ZR1-style rear spoiler, grey brake calipers and a “60th” logo on its wheel's center caps and steering wheel, as well as it stitched into its headrests.

Although the first 427 Convertible that rolled off the line fetched \$600,000 at a Barrett-Jackson auction, proceeds went to charity. The production 427 Convertible is said to have a sticker price of less than \$80,000.

Chevrolet has released anniversary editions and collector editions in past years; however, never at the same time and both available on the same car. The Chevrolet 427 Convertible Collector Edition and 60th Anniversary Editions will sure be sought after in the coming years, and, unlike many of the same cars in that category, you're very likely to see one in a town near you.

RM

20 QUESTIONS

Your Cover Model Cont'd



Studio Auto Works Inc.

Body Shop & Auto Repair

Complete Auto Repair & Service

- Oil Change
- Brakes
- Tune-up
- Suspension
- Tire Repair
- Wheel Balancing
- Complete Engine & Transmission
- Air Conditioning & Heating
- Warning Lights & Sensors

Complete Auto Body Repair

- Specialized in Foreign & Domestic
- Paint Color Match
- Frame Unibody Specialist
- Restorations
- Custom Paint

Free Estimates

All Insurance Welcome

(818) 760-1400

StudioAutoWorksInc.com



11481 Ventura Blvd.
Studio City, CA 91604
StudioAutoWorks@sbcGlobal.net



20 QUESTIONS

Your Cover Model Cont'd

*Soft Touches and
Great Kisses...*

20 QUESTIONS

Your Cover Model Cont'd



STATS:

Birthday: March 2
Height: 5' 1"
Weight: 100 lbs.
Measurements: 34C-24-34

See more of Siray at
[Facebook.com/SirayKong](https://www.facebook.com/SirayKong)

ALL ACCESS

The Latest Albums Reviewed

Rock Legends Unite

Photo by Robert Yeager
Written by Paul Lyons

Van Halen has an odd history. Bassist Michael Anthony, powerhouse drummer Alex Van Halen, charismatic vocalist David Lee Roth and virtuoso guitarist Eddie Van Halen ruled the airwaves and the charts in the early 1980s, then became even bigger with their second lead singer, Sammy Hagar. After a brief detour with Extreme vocalist Gary Cherone, they reunited with Hagar for a huge tour in 2004. Three years later, they kicked out Michael Anthony, hired Eddie Van Halen's 16-year-old son Wolfgang to play bass, and re-hired David Lee Roth to sing lead vocals on a huge world tour. With this revamped lineup, Van Halen has released their first studio album in 14 years, *A Different Kind of Truth*.

Produced by the band and John Shanks, *A Different Kind of Truth* contains 13 tracks that sound very much like the songs you know and love from the Roth-era days of *Van Halen II*, *Fair Warning*, and *Diver Down*. Part of the reason for this is because seven of the album's songs were culled from demos that date back to the 1970s. The other reason is because the band still sounds great.

"Tattoo" kicks things off with a bang, representing everything that's great about Van Halen: heavy riffs, pounding drums, roaring vocals, silly, sexy, yet fun lyrics, a catchy chorus and a signature Eddie Van Halen solo. It sounds like something straight out of the band's 1980 masterwork *Women and Children First*. This is followed by another strong track, "She's The Woman," which has a great dance groove, a pop chorus and lyrics that only David Lee Roth could get away with, like "She wanted something to regret tomorrow morning. This suburban garage-a-trois was worth exploring."

The excellent "You and Your Blues" leans heavily on the past. David Lee Roth's vocals have never sounded better as he belts out classic song titles like "Red House," "Communication Breakdown," "19th Nervous Breakdown" and "Midnight Train to Georgia," coupled with a great Eddie Van Halen wah-wah-infused solo. "China Town," on the other hand, is fast and furious filler, in the vein of past Van Halen nuggets like "Sinners Swing" and "Hang 'em High." The lyrics are silly, and the music is forgettable, yet somehow the song still rocks.

"Blood and Fire" is among the best of the new songs. One can't help but note its autobiographical tone with the chorus of "We came, we came, we came through blood and fire" and lyrics like "Told ya I was coming back." It even features David Lee Roth's signature catchphrase (which he uses at every public appearance and concert), "Look at all the people here tonight."

You can hear the ghost of "Ice Cream Man" (from 1978 album *Van Halen*) in "Stay Frosty," a fun and bouncy acoustic number with religious themes, that turns into a bland full-band blow-out. "Big River" is pure filler that sounds like an Aerosmith outtake with a big chorus, yet no real song to speak of. Thankfully, *A Different Kind of Truth* closes on a high note with "Beats Workin'," a commanding track with a raw, AC/DC feel, and a catchy chorus of "This beats workin', baby, 'cause I'm red hot, baby, like it or not."

Although by no means perfect, *A Different Kind of Truth* is a terrific album, with plenty to offer. Similar to Van Halen albums of years past, it functions as a great dance partner who pulls you out on the floor and shows you how to have fun. It's good-time party music, suitable for birthdays, football games, keg-bashers and strip clubs alike. Undoubtedly, *A Different Kind of Truth* is what Van Halen does best.

Artist: Van Halen
Album: A Different Kind of Truth
Website: Van-Halen.com

★★★★★
Label: Interscope Records
Release Date: February 7, 2012



Cause For Change

Written by Jeremy Weeden

Soldiers of Jah Army (SOJA), a roots reggae band, returns to the music scene with their fourth full-length studio album, *Strength to Survive*. While not widely known outside of their genre, the band's latest album, released on Dave Matthews' ATO label, may change that. The album is produced by John Alagia (producer for Dave Matthews, Lifehouse, Jason Mraz and many others) and has enough of a pop feel that the band may garner widespread recognition and radio play. Regardless, SOJA is a band with a socially-conscious message about the state of affairs in the world. This message within their songs, combined with infectious rhythms and lyrics, should send SOJA to greater heights in 2012.

The band's founder and lead vocalist Jacob Hemphill has said the album *Strength to Survive* was strongly influenced by the album *Survival* by Bob Marley & The Wailers. This is evident in the first song you hear, "Mentality," which has strong blaring horns and an upbeat, traditional reggae riff. Jacob sings crisp, clear lyrics for the new generation like, "We were the students, but now we're the ones who teach/We were the children told the lies that we believed." This is just the beginning of an album full of passionate, well-crafted reggae songs. Jacob Hemphill is a talented songwriter with the ability to make even the casual listener think about their actions with his songs about faith and idealism. In a world controlled by the almighty dollar, SOJA asks that we stop and think about what our behavior is doing to the earth and world around us.

The next track on the album is the uplifting title track "Strength to Survive." This song has gotten some recognition, as the video, with its giant wooden man, is in rotation on both VH1 and MTV (on the rare occasions the latter actually shows music videos). The song has a slow reggae riddim as the band asks who has the strength to survive when one is caught in the revolving door of life and has to leave some things behind to move on.

The next song, "Don't Worry," is one of the only tracks that really shows the Dave Matthews/John Alagia influence. This song has more of a pop feel than a reggae feel, despite the typical reggae guitar riff over the chorus. "Don't



Worry” comes off as one of those songs that is on an album only because the record label insisted. However, as that song says, don’t worry, the majority of the album is true grassroots reggae.

“It’s Not Too Late” is a standout track on the album that truly draws on Jacob’s Bob Marley influences. He may not sound exactly like Bob but he definitely could pass for one of his many musical sons on this track. The song’s message also speaks to the responsibilities all humans share in making our world a better place. Another excellent track on the album is the beautiful ballad “Slow Down,” which finds Jacob singing easily relatable lyrics like, “You can trust another like no other/ Watch them fall and then you fall apart/It tears you apart /Always see myself alone but in my darkest hours there you are.” This is a slow reggae song with a hypnotizing rhythm that will cover you like a warm blanket. You can almost feel the warm breeze of the Caribbean and see the palm trees swaying as the music plays.

Hemphill has stated that he could go on and on about the damage we have done to the Earth or the problems that arise when countries compete for money or fight over an imaginary border, but *Strength to Survive* has one central theme, and that is the band’s hope for the world to be one family. This notion is felt throughout the album. Whether the song is a moving love song such as “Let You Go” or the traditional reggae sounds of “Gone Today,” with *Strength to Survive*, SOJA is making an impassioned call for unity and change with songs about faith, hope and love.

Artist: SOJA (Soldiers of Jah Army)

Album: Strength to Survive

Website: SojaMusic.com

★★★★★

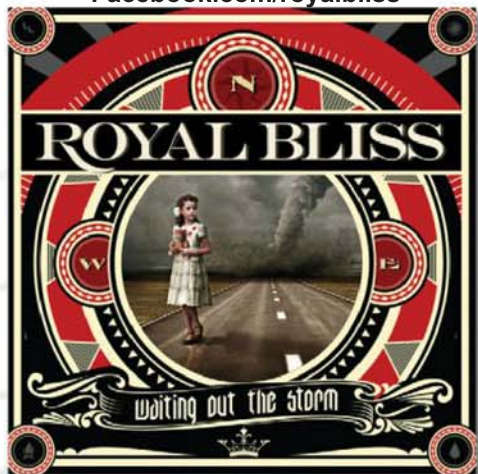
Label: ATO Records

Release Date: January 31, 2012

ALL ACCESS SPOTLIGHT

Written by Silas Valentino & Jeremy Weedon

Facebook.com/royalbliss



Royal Bliss, *Waiting Out the Storm*

Royal Bliss just can't get a break. They've been rocking since the late 1990s, released eight albums and have played sold-out shows throughout the country, but even with all of these accomplishments, they still haven't found any major success. This could all change now with the release their latest record, *Waiting Out the Storm*. Their eighth album is packed tight with loud, rock anthems and sing-along choruses just waiting to ring through a downtown venue.

Album highlight "Bleed My Soul" is an honest love letter written from a struggling rock band mailed to the rock gods above. It showcases lead singer Neal Middleton's vocal talent and the band sounds like they've picked up where The Black Crowes left off. The rest of the album keeps up the momentum and only slows down on the single "Crazy." Royal Bliss are often praised for their live shows and onstage personalities. To hear them at their best, you have to see them live. That's where *Waiting Out the Storm* will truly shine and sound its mightiest. Royal Bliss is for any fan of modern-day rock and who have Steroside and Deepfield in their music collection. Rock music hasn't been in the limelight in recent years, but that hasn't stopped bands like Royal Bliss.

M-Phazes, *Phazed Out*

M-Phazes is an Australian hip-hop producer and artist based in Melbourne, Victoria. Originally known for his production work, he has produced for artists such as Pharoahe Monch, Talib Kweli and Slaughterhouse. M-Phazes' latest LP, *Phazed Out*, may help him to become better known among American hip-hop fans. M-Phazes has developed a particular style of tracks that fall in line with the vintage boom-bap hip-hop sound. This works well with the guests featured on the album like Emilio Rojas, Termanology, Heltah Skeltah, Masta Ace, Torae, Sadat X, Saigon, Inspectah Deck, Skyzoo and CL Smooth. The album is available in two forms: one untagged (meaning no DJ) and the other featuring the turntable stylings of the legendary DJ Rhettnatic of the Beat Junkies. The DJ Rhettnatic version feels like a seamless, old-school mixtape where actual DJs would control the music and cut and scratch as necessary. The untagged version still stands very strongly on its own due to the flawless production of M-Phazes. This is an album full of head bangers and dope beats developed by and for true hip-hop heads. There are no popular radio artists or songs for the ladies on *Phazed Out*, just hip-hop in one of its purest forms.

Facebook.com/mphazes



Facebook.com/primadonna



Prima Donna, *Bless This Mess*

Marc Bolan of T. Rex is dead, Mott the Hoople only exist in the world of Juno and David Bowie will never resurrect Ziggy Stardust; so where does that leave power-pop and glam rock n' roll? It rests on the laps of Prima Donna, the Los Angeles band that infects your foot-tapping desire and bobs your head to and fro. They've recently released their third album *Bless This Mess*, a record with enough pop glitter to satisfy Rip Taylor.

Starting off with a bang on "Sociopath," *Bless This Mess* never slows down to catch its breath. Album highlight "Starling Daggers" sounds like a modern Elvis Costello tune equipped with handclaps and a bouncing drum beat. The song stirs up memories of "That Thing You Do!" (minus Tom Hanks). Guitarist Kevin Preston played with Foxboro Hot Tubs, the offshoot project from Green Day, and their influence can be heard in Prima Donna's approach to pop rock. Songs are fairly short and concise, and they never step out of the power chord circle. Prima Donna's energy never dies down, which can be tiresome and exhausting at times. The group has been around for almost a decade and they have yet to ditch their formulaic style and begin to progress, but they seem to be fine with providing us their neatly packaged power-pop songs.



WE CAN MAKE YOUR STAR SHINE!

AWARD WINNING
ADR
FOLEY
DX MX FX EDITING
SOUND DESIGN
5.1 DUBBING
...and more!!



DIGITAL DREAMS SOUND STUDIOS

1308 WEST BURBANK BLVD

BURBANK, CALIFORNIA 91506

818-557-0130

email: post@digitaldreamssound.com

www.digitaldreamssound.com

www.myspace.com/digitaldreamssoundstudios

LIVE & LOUD

The Live Show Reviews

Megadeth

Photos by Andrew Gates
Written by Nicolas Bates

Megadeth—whether you like them or not—has been one of those bands that have influenced many other bands and musicians throughout the years. Even though their heyday was in the 80s, you're still likely to see Megadeth shirts here and there. Okay, maybe those wearing them are 40s rocker dudes or pimply faced teens, but that's beside the point that after 25 years, this band still has a following.

On that school night, the Gibson Amphitheater was packed with eager fans (for Megadeth fans, the line-up was probably somewhat of a wet dream: Lacuna Coil, Volbeat and Motörhead). Old, overweight metalheads and old, overweight metalheads-to-be (read: teens in denim vests with long hair) were ready to rock and get their pit on!

Megadeth entered the stage to a roaring crowd and headed straight in to "Trust" without addressing the crowd. After the song is completed, Dave Mustaine calmly, and with almost no emotion, slowly walks to center stage and throws his arms up in to the air. The Amphitheater erupts; the show has commenced.

Megadeth proceeded to play "Foreclosure of a Dream" and "Sweating Bullets." However, unlike the video for "Sweating Bullets," there was no Mustaine scowl in sight. In fact, he kept pretty much a straight face the entire length of the song.

The next song, "A Tour le Monde," was co-sung by Lacuna Coil's Christina Scabbia. Dressed as if trying to sucker folks into the "oddities" tent at a carnival, Christina came in and took the level of excitement up a notch. Her voice is a powerhouse, and the crowd dug in.

Mostly a seated venue, the GA crowd was nowhere nearly engaged in a pit as potentially expected for a Megadeth show. Mustaine played with great poise, but seemed somewhat distracted (per se). This did not stop him from showing off his skills as an excellent guitar player, however. His vocals were spot-on as well.

Megadeth went on to play "Headcrusher," "Whose Life (Is It Anyway)" and "Public Enemy No. 1," where both Mustaine and Chris Broderick played their solos as calm and collected as grandma at her Sunday brunch. Just as expected, Megadeth, as a whole, plays flawlessly. Regardless of how much of this is expected after decades of playing, respect should be given where it is due. Mustaine is an extraordinary guitar player, and even after an injury left him unable to play while he underwent physical therapy on his hand after an accident in 2002.

By this point in their set, the crowd became a little more riled up. While still somewhat subdued overall, the pit seemed to see more action. Men were sweaty. Women wished the men weren't sweaty. Teens, of both sex I am sure, wished the men weren't sweaty as well. But all is fair in love and Megadeth.

The rest of Megadeth's set consisted of the likes of "Guns, Drugs & Money," "She Wolf," "Hook in Mouth," "Ashes in Your Mouth," to which both Mustaine and Chris Broderick, back to back, slammed in to solos, and the classics "Symphony of Destruction" and "Peace Sells..." During "Peace Sells..." a creature resembling the skeleton in Megadeth's logo sauntered on stage and walked stage left to stage right, gesturing a slit of the throat every time Mustaine sang, "Peace sells...but who's buyin'?" It's not every day you see a 5'8" tall skeleton in a suit.

"Peace Sells..." wrapped up the set and the band walked off stage. Their obligatory wait for the encore was short, and that is always respectable (there is no need to make your fans wait to see your last few songs!). Mustaine slowly came back out onto the stage and addressed the crowd. No controversy here, just an extremely vague political comment about needing change. The band then ripped in to "Holy Wars" and the crowd erupted. The pit was on fire and sweat dripped off of everyone in GA (even those who didn't want it to).

After their set, the boys in Megadeth acted grateful and loyal to their fans. After all, they have been coming to see them play for over 25 years. Many a person walked out of the Gibson Amphitheater that night with a hoarse voice from belting out lyrics as loudly as possible. Try to tell those people that's a bad thing...

Venue: Gibson Amphitheater
Website: Megadeth.com

Date: February 24, 2012
City: Los Angeles, CA

Shawn Drover



Chris Broderick



Dave Mustaine



David Ellefson



Christina Scabbia



In Flames

Photos by Nicolas Bates
Written by Nicolas Bates

The Wiltern in Los Angeles, CA is often the venue for subdued rock n' roll outfits or soothing indie-rock bands, but on Feb. 7, it was to be home for melodic heavy metal band In Flames. Being of Scandinavian decent, In Flames doesn't play as often as in the States as their fans would like. This means when they do tour and play in the states, their shows bring in a large volume of metal fans. Once inside the Wiltern's main theater, it was apparent this show would be no different.

In Flames commenced the evening with the title track to their latest release, "Sounds of a Playground Fading," to which the crowd was obviously happy to hear. After ten studio albums, In Flames still draws in the most loyal of fans, and if one were unfamiliar with In Flames' catalogue, they'd be unable to determine if this song was old or new, judging from the crowd's engagement and excitement.

After playing "Deliver Us" and "All for Me," In Flames ripped in to "Trigger." During the middle of the song, the band cut out, and all that was audible was the crowd chanting in unison: "From green to red our days pass by/Waiting for a sign to tell us why/Are we dancing all alone?" In Flames slammed back in to the song with a fiery rage, and as they wrapped up the song, the crowd seemed to appreciate the chance to be vocal, as they screamed louder and louder.

Lighting was set low, and mostly comprised of reds, blues and greens. Sometimes it appeared that a band member would be lost on stage due to the heavy fog mixed with the aforementioned colors. Anders Fridén often seemed to disappear as he crouched down low while belting out his guttural screams into the Wiltern.

After playing "Alias," Anders Fridén addressed concertgoers and spoke of how In Flames now has ten studio albums, and then notes the next song will be "Swim," (off one of their most popular albums, *Clayman*). By now, it's apparent that whatever Anders or In Flames do, the crowd will go ballistic with cheers, whistling and screaming.

The band plays an extremely tight set and the FOH engineer does In Flames justice with his mix. Anders, almost crawling at times, makes his way from stage left to right, then center, then back again. While guitarists Björn Gelotte and Niclas Engelin rocked out in one spot, for the most part, bassist Peter Iwers made his rounds on stage, walking across it numerous times.

That night, In Flames played songs off multiple albums. Tracks like "Where the Dead Ships Dwell," "Come Clarity," "Cloud Connected" and "The Mirror's Truth." Song "Delight and Angers" had a strong, driving chorus-assault provided by drums and bass. During the song, I briefly looked to my left and thought I was witnessing a seizure—but, no, just an extremely intoxicated fan shaking with joy (apparently?).

Overall, the crowd stayed loud and energetic throughout In Flames' set. As the night came to a close, Anders announced the last song: "Take This Life." The crowd reacted to this song like all the rest before it: with whistles, screams and yelling! That night, In Flames had Los Angelenos leaving with nothing but smiles upon their faces.

Venue: The Wiltern
Website: InFlames.com

Date: February 7, 2012
City: Los Angeles, CA



Anders Fridén



Björn Gelotte



Niclas Engelin

LIVE & LOUD
LIVE SHOW REVIEWS CONT'D

Cursive

Photos by Nicolas Bates
Written by Nicolas Bates

On Feb. 25, the Glasshouse in Pomona, CA hosted an evening with Cursive. Just one night before, Cursive had sold-out the Troubadour in West Hollywood, CA. A few minutes before Cursive was set to take the stage, a large crowd, not previously formed, sauntered in, in what seemed like only a few minutes—the Glasshouse seemed to fill to capacity. The last time Cursive toured in 2010—fairly recent—but you'd never know it judging by the excitement and anticipation in the air. It was almost like they hadn't played in a decade. And, perhaps, the fact that Cursive would be shooting a live DVD made the crowd slightly more excited.

Tim Kasher and company walked casually on stage and were greeted by massive cheers. Cursive isn't your run-of-the-mill rock band, and nothing about the crowd's reaction said otherwise.

Cursive opened their set with "Drunken Birds," off their latest release, *I am Gemini*, to a well-lit stage and somewhat muggy Glasshouse. Tim Kasher seemed reserved in his movement and playing, but exuded the confidence of a great guitar player. Perhaps a song or two later, Tim Kasher opened up for "The Casualty," stepping back from the mic and swinging his guitar through the air, really diggin' in to the song. As he made his way back to the mic for the first verse, the crowd threw up their hands in anticipation of the vocals. During the song, Tim Kasher and guitarist Ted Stevens trade off vocals duties during the chorus. If not watching the performance, one may have thought it was Tim Kasher the entire time, as the two sound incredibly alike.

Cursive went on to play the likes of "Sierra," "The Cat and Mouse" and "The Sun and Moon." A highlight of the night was listening to the piano in "Driftwood: A Fairy Tale." It was so crisp, clear and fitting for the song. As Tim Kasher sang the lyrics "liar, liar..." it seemed as though the entire crowd sang it along with him. There really was a happy, cheerful vibe at the Glasshouse that night, and many lyrics were sung aloud by the crowd.

Throughout their set, the members of Cursive generally maintained a calm demeanor. Tim Kasher would get a little wild here and there, as if something had suddenly been injected into him, but for the most part, he remained calm as well; but always played with emotion.

As the night came closer and closer to an end, Tim Kasher stopped to greet the crowd with: "How is everybody?" and then went on to thank them for being a part of the tour. Other songs played included: "The Martyr," "I Couldn't Love You" and "Twin Dragon/Hello, Skeleton." After their last song, "From the Hips," Tim Kasher declared they'd be back after a couple shots to play a few more songs.

Cursive played a rather lengthy encore, at four songs: "Dorothy at Forty," "Sink to the Beat," "Art is Hard" and "Eulogy for No Name." The crowd's need for Cursive had been satiated, but it was apparent they would've stuck around longer.

Cursive played a diverse set that night at the Glasshouse, and that seemed to please concertgoers to the utmost. Older tracks, of course, seemed more favored than new ones. Regardless of old or new, it is always a pleasure to see such an eclectic band play a show. Be on the look out for their live DVD, whenever and wherever it may be available.

Venue: Glasshouse
Website: CursiveArmy.com

Date: February 25, 2012
City: Pomona, CA

A full-page photograph of Tim Kasher performing on stage. He is singing into a microphone with his eyes closed and mouth open, holding a red electric guitar. He has a beard and is wearing a light-colored button-down shirt and a red patterned tie. The background is dark with blue stage lighting. The photo has a distressed, torn-edge border.

Tim Kasher

COMING UP

Models To Keep An Eye On

CRYSTAL

LEIGH

Photography by Andrew Gates
Make-up & hair by Cynthia Laurant

C

Crystal Leigh was born and raised in sunny Southern California and began modeling roughly 4 years ago. She didn't intend to be a model, but when she started working for an energy drink company, the offers started coming in. Since then, she has been featured in numerous magazines, as well as calendars and billboards. She has no plans on modeling forever, and would actually like to become a chef and has hopes to open her own restaurant at some point (yes, she's not only beautiful, she can cook too). Until then, we're sure you'll be seeing a lot more of this beauty outside of the kitchen. She's planning on moving to Las Vegas soon and has some engagements on the east coast. Who knows, she may be coming to a city near you, so keep an eye on this one.



COMING UP

Models To Keep An Eye On Cont'd





THE STATS

Birthday:
August 21

Zodiac Sign:
I'm a leo.

Measurements:
38D-24-36

Height:
5' 5"

Weight:
120 lb.

Ethnicity:
Scottish

Hometown:
Riverside, CA

Turn Ons:
I love manly men with brains. And, of course, confidence—especially in the bedroom.

Turn Offs:
Cocky, over-the-top show-offs. I hate a guy who brags.

Guilty Pleasure:
Sunflower seeds. I love them, but only the broken, super salty ones. I'm a sunflower seed snob. Also, watching cheesy shows like Bait Car and Operation Repo.

Pet Peeves:
Rudeness and guys who spend more time on their hair than me. It's just not that serious.

Celebrity Pass:
Rodger Huerta, a UFC fighter, or Jared Leto of 30 seconds to Mars.

See more of Crystal at
[Twitter.com/XoCrystalLeigh](https://twitter.com/XoCrystalLeigh)

COMING UP

Models To Keep An Eye On Cont'd



ELIZABETH DEO

Photography by Andrew Gates
Make-up & hair by Inara Akin



Elizabeth Deo is a spitfire from Southern California. She first came on the scene as a ring girl for MMA and an umbrella girl for drift car racing events. Since then, her modeling, acting and music career has taken off full speed. You may recognize her from her three seasons as a *Manswervers* girl. She's also been featured or graced the cover of dozens of magazines. Elizabeth is currently in a band called Get Ugly, and although they haven't filmed any videos yet, they are in the process of making it happen. She's got a lot of irons in the fire and plans to take over as many screens, stages and pages as she can get her pretty little hands on!

COMING UP

Models To Keep An Eye On Cont'd





THE STATS

Birthday:
March 6

Zodiac Sign:
Pisces

Measurements:
32C-24-34

Height:
5' 4"

Weight:
99 lb.

Ethnicity:
Caucasian

Hometown:
Riverside, CA

Turn Ons:
A gentleman turns me on. Just because I'm perfectly capable of opening the car door doesn't mean it wouldn't be sweet of you to do it for me.

Turn Offs:
If a guy doesn't like dogs, it's not just a turn off, it's a deal breaker. If you don't go crazy for that unconditional love and attention...and licking, then you, sir, have no heart!

Guilty Pleasure:
Chocolate and Irish Whiskey!

Pet Peeves:
Being on a date and hearing, "I dunno. What do you want to do?" Really boys? Get it together!

Celebrity Pass:
I just wish I had a time machine so I could crash Elvis's 21st birthday. party.

See more of Elizabeth at
[Twitter.com/ElizabethRocks](https://twitter.com/ElizabethRocks)

GAME ON

The Latest Games Reviewed

Embrace the Darkness

Written by Heather Spears

The Darkness II has made its way into player's homes this month and has not failed to impress. This game forces the player to clinch the havoc of a dark force bestowed upon protagonist Jackie Estacado and if someone has played the first installment of 2K Game's darkest title, they learned to adore the hidden yet mysterious power of this ancient force of darkness. From a storyline that is nothing less than amazing to the immense range of weapons available; anything a first-person shooter fan could ask for is offered in *The Darkness II*.

The player takes control of Jackie Estacado, the don of a crime family centered in New York. If there is anything that matters to Jackie, it is those he keeps close to him. After a hit was called on Mr. Estacado and his family at a local diner, Jackie made it his mission to track down those responsible for the murderous attempt. Little did Jackie know that a near death experience was going to bring back an ancient power that allowed him to control two dark beasts. This dark force is the only thing that allowed Jackie to survive.

The gameplay in *The Darkness II* is some of the most unique I have seen in a first-person shooter game. The darkness is a force in which the player is allowed to control. You have two dark creatures that act as weapons as well as the ability to carry two guns. Almost every weapon on this game can be dual wielded as well as having the capability of controlling the dark beasts. The ability of shooting a pistol and sub machine gun at the same time was something I had never had at my disposal before *The Darkness II*. Being able to cause chaos in four different ways in the blink of an eye makes the player feel unstoppable!

Aside from an amazing story mode, *The Darkness II* offers a four player co-op mode. This cooperative mode gives the player the capability of playing with their friends online in two different ways. The player can take part in a separate campaign that lightly follows the single player narrative or they can choose to play through quick sessions of individual levels. This mode adds a lot more play time to *The Darkness II*. The only thing that I did not love about this game is that it did not offer split-screen co-op. As an alternative, players can run through this campaign as well as some of the separate missions by themselves; however in all honesty it would have been nice to play cooperatively from the comfort of your own home as well as playing with friends online.

In conclusion, *The Darkness II* was much better than I had expected it to be. It is not your average first-person shooter and is sure to house enjoyment for fans of all types of games. However, the game could get a bit violent I would advise keeping the game away from small children. All in all, this game was very impressive and something at first glance I wouldn't expect to enjoy as much as I did.

Game Title: The Darkness II
Producer: 2K Games
Platform: Xbox 360, PS3, PC
Website: EmbraceTheDarkness.com

★★★★★
Ratings: Mature
Genre: First-person shooter
Release Date: February 2, 2012



THE DARKNESS II

GAME ON

The Game Reviews CONT'D



SOUL CALIBUR V

Good For Your Soul

Written by Jesse Seilhan

It's been four years and endless quarters since fighting fans took on Namco Bandai's last *Soul Calibur*, and the refinements and additions needed to sustain the series is back with *Soul Calibur V*. This is not your traditional fighter, so *Street Fighter* fans need not apply, but 3D fighting has taken a back seat since the resurgence of the *SF*, *Mortal Kombat*, and *BlazBlue* franchises. *Soul Calibur* also ditches the fireballs and tag-team crossovers for weapons and three dimensions. Weapon-based fighting lends itself to the 3D environment so much more than a hand-to-hand brawler, as weapons have varying lengths that create varying areas of contact. So vertical and horizontal attacks mean a lot more when you have daggers and your enemy has a six-foot long staff.

While *Mortal Kombat* set the standard for story integration, the team jam-packed tons of environments and battles in the main story, but seemed to have skimped on production of cutscenes. Most story pieces are told via hand-drawn pieces of art with voice-overs dictating the story. The studio took a curious turn in replacing beloved characters with fighters that move and perform in the exact same way, but redone to be the original character's kin or predecessor. *Soul Calibur* has a history of adding in non-SC characters, from the good (*Zelda*'s Link), the bad (*Star Wars*' Yoda), to the ugly (*Tekken*'s Heihachi), but *Assassin Creed* star Ezio Auditore fits so well into this universe, given his historical nature, range of attacks, and weapons of choice. Almost 30 characters fill your selection screen, and while some are mimics of others with slight changes, almost all players should feel satisfied with the wide range of fighting folk.

The game gets insanely difficult toward the end of the story mode, only to unlock an even more insanely difficult mode as a "reward." For those masochistic button-timers that adore fighting games above all else, the increased challenge will keep them coming back for weeks and weeks. For those just hoping to whoop on some robots for a bit before fighting the worldwide community, the unrealistic "skill" of some of the later bosses won't really prepare you for human competition. Namco tries to balance this with new layers of depth, including super moves which some fighting purists may not consider deep at all, with their 1-second ability to decimate half a life bar. Luckily, there are tutorial and practice modes so you can perfect those moves before battling in one of the many online avenues.

Continuing a fighting franchise in an era where arcade machines collect more dust than a library is a risky move. You have to assume that your audience wants to play your style of fighter, compared with the dozens of different choices at their disposal. You have to also assume that there will be enough customers to create and maintain an online fighting community, something integral to a franchise's longevity and relevance in a dense atmosphere. Most importantly, however, you have to give your audience a reason to pick up the nth title in a series of titles that have gone to the well over and over again. *Soul Calibur V* learned from its competition, listened to its community, and breathed some new life into a franchise kicked to the wayside by the top-tier fighting franchises. While it won't make *Street Fighter* or *Tekken* fans horde their quarters, it will get those looking for a different type of fighter something to play for months on end and will do it in style.

Game Title: Soul Calibur V
Producer: Namco Bandai
Platform: Xbox 360, PS3
Website: SoulCalibur.com

★★★★☆
Ratings: Teen
Genre: Fighter
Release Date: January 31, 2012



For Advertising Rates Visit
RUKUS
MAG.COM