

MUSIC

ROCKERS ON THE RISE

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Members of We Are The Fury are, from left, Christopher Hatfield, Stephan Lublin, Alan Hoffar, Jeremy Lublin, and Todd Wehrle.

By **ROD LOCKWOOD**

BLADE STAFF WRITER

We Are The Fury has found the unlikely intersection of classic mid-'70s glam rock and late-'90s emo/screamo, a discovery that has fueled its rise from a local band to one with national aspirations.

The exciting five-piece unit from Sylvania, started seven years ago sounding like many other bands. The members were kids, literally — some were as young as 13 — and their goals didn't extend much beyond being the best band in town.

But when lead singer Jeremy Lublin drove around in his car — the one with the broken CD player — he listened to the radio and came across an era of music that often draws young, disaf-

Toledo-area band We Are The Fury is aiming for a national audience

ected rockers. He discovered bands like T. Rex and David Bowie and things started to change.

The guys in what was then known as The Fury weren't kids anymore, and some of the limitations they felt early started to fade. Instead of sounding like The Used or Linkin Park, they were discovering more melodically challenging music with a different energy, Lublin said.

"Glam over the years has developed beyond early-'70s glam. I think it's about big rock and roll and a very

theatrical sense," he said. "It's about putting on a show and more about fun and having a good time with the music. There's also an element of androgyny to the music, something we have, which is very natural for us."

It's working. The band's six-song introductory disc, "Infinite Jest," on East West Records brims with energy, thanks to the band's tight arrangements, Lublin's natural charisma, and songs that overflow with mix glam, power pop, punk, and even a bit of emo/screamo razor-shredding vocals

on the roaring "Soap Opera."

We Are The Fury recently played three shows at the influential South By Southwest music festival in Austin, appeared on MTV's *You Hear It First*, and spent time in California meeting with record companies.

Numerous media interviews and performances had left Lublin feeling pretty numb until the MTV gig knocked him out of his reverie.

"The weirdest thing was to hold the MTV microphone. That was the biggest trip for me," he said. "You kind of become a drone to it all, and it's 'Oh my god, this is MTV, all right.'"

Now back home after performing record company showcases in Los

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Fury

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Angeles, the band is working on new songs and planning to head to Ann Arbor to record a full-length disc with some

production by Mark Hoppus of Blink 182.

Lublin said the attention seems like a natural progression from the hard work the band has put in touring the country and playing the local scene. He, his brother Stephan Lublin (drums), Chris Hatfield (guitar), Alan Hoffer (bass), and Todd

Wehrle (keyboards) all attended Southview High School, he said.

He said the members have grown up together and learned a few things about themselves, which has informed the music and allowed it to evolve.

"I think as you grow and mature as a person and musician, you want to find out what else is out there," Lublin said.

That's carried over to the band's stage show and look, which tap into the heavy theatricality of acts like David Bowie, who used makeup and a gender-bending appearance to help deliver his songs.

"For me it's just natural, and definitely on stage it shows through a lot more," Lublin said. "I'm definitely a different person on stage than I am at home."

Like a lot of young men and women, the band members had

The band's stage show and look tap into the heavy theatricality of acts like David Bowie.

to shed a few preconceived notions of what's expected of them in the search for an identity.

"Another thing about growing up and playing in a lot of cities, you have to feel like the most macho guy and playing with the most macho sound, and not everyone is like that. We've learned that not everyone is a jock. We were skinny, 5-foot-8 kids and we were music kids."

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