



DANIEL NIGRO speaks from the Lions' mouth.

What did the band collectively learn between the recording of your first album, *Lafadio*, and the self-titled follow-up?

We were very new to being a band at the time we recorded the first record, and we were rushed into making it. We went into the recording process very blindly and unprepared. With the second record, we spent about seven months writing and two months recording it. We did a rather expensive demo process throughout the writing [period], and there was more care and thought put into the record in terms of getting together and talking about what kind of songs we wanted, how we wanted the album to flow, track listing... Stuff like that.

You mentioned how the record flows; what was the thought process behind each song segueing into the next?

We saw the record as going in waves. We didn't want one side to be too packed with upbeat songs and one side to be packed with slow songs. We understood that it is more of a downtempo record, and we wanted to place the faster-paced songs accordingly to give the record a certain momentum. We wanted the record to have a certain feel, and I think we accomplished it.

There is a lot of varied instrumentation; does anyone in the band have a classical background?

Not necessarily classical backgrounds, but we all listen to a lot of varied music, whether it be Latin music like Buena Vista Social Club, or soul and R&B like Curtis Mayfield and Marvin Gaye, or jazz [like] Miles Davis and John Coltrane. Within those various musical genres there are a lot of instruments that aren't normally used in rock music. It's almost sad because there are so many instruments that work great with guitar—like a trumpet—and so many of them are underused in music today. With this record, we decided if the song called for it, we were going to put it in there.

Any goals for 2007?

Just writing more songs that are personally exciting for us. We have two months off right now, and we've started the writing process for the new record. The most important goal is to continue to inspire each other and write music that we're all excited about. [JS]