



## ALESANA

### INTERVIEW WITH VOCALIST/ GUITARIST SHAWN MILKE

**By Drew Ailes**  
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**For anyone who may be unfamiliar with the band, can you give a brief description of your sound?**

Well, we call ourselves "sweetcore". We came up with that term because we thought it was the best way to describe how we bring the heavy end of music and the softer end of music together without using as generic of a term as emocore or something like that. So many bands are throwing around terms like that and other typical genre terms and we really feel that we're pushing the envelope a little bit and needed a new term out there for us. Some of our merchandise even has "sweetcore" on it.

**What would you say sets Alesana apart from other bands? What makes Alesana "sweetcore" as opposed to something else?**

Because our songs always keep you guessing. It's our goal to not be predictable when you're listening to any

one of our songs. If you're listening to our record, every single song offers at least something different than the rest of the album does. We somebody listens to one of our songs, we don't want them to be able to guess what the next part is going to be. That's why we'll have a pretty piano falsetto singing part followed by a breakdown. We'll do whatever we can...that way whenever everybody is listening to our record, they're going to catch something new.

**How did your recent signing with Fearless come about? I understand you had a few labels that were interested.**

Yeah, we had a few labels coming after us. Obviously, when it came down to it, Fearless was the best place to go because we really believe in a record label being like a family. Tragic Hero treated us like we were family the whole time we were there and we didn't want to leave that and wanted to keep it the same.

**I remember on your voicemail you actually mention Tragic Hero Records.**

**Do you do work for them as well?**

Yeah. Now that the band's not on the label anymore, I do work for Tragic Hero, now that it's not a conflict of interest to be working for them. Primarily, I do scouting, but I do a lot with getting bands connected with booking and I'll do a lot of PR work for the bands and help set up photo-shoots and things like that. But primarily scouting.

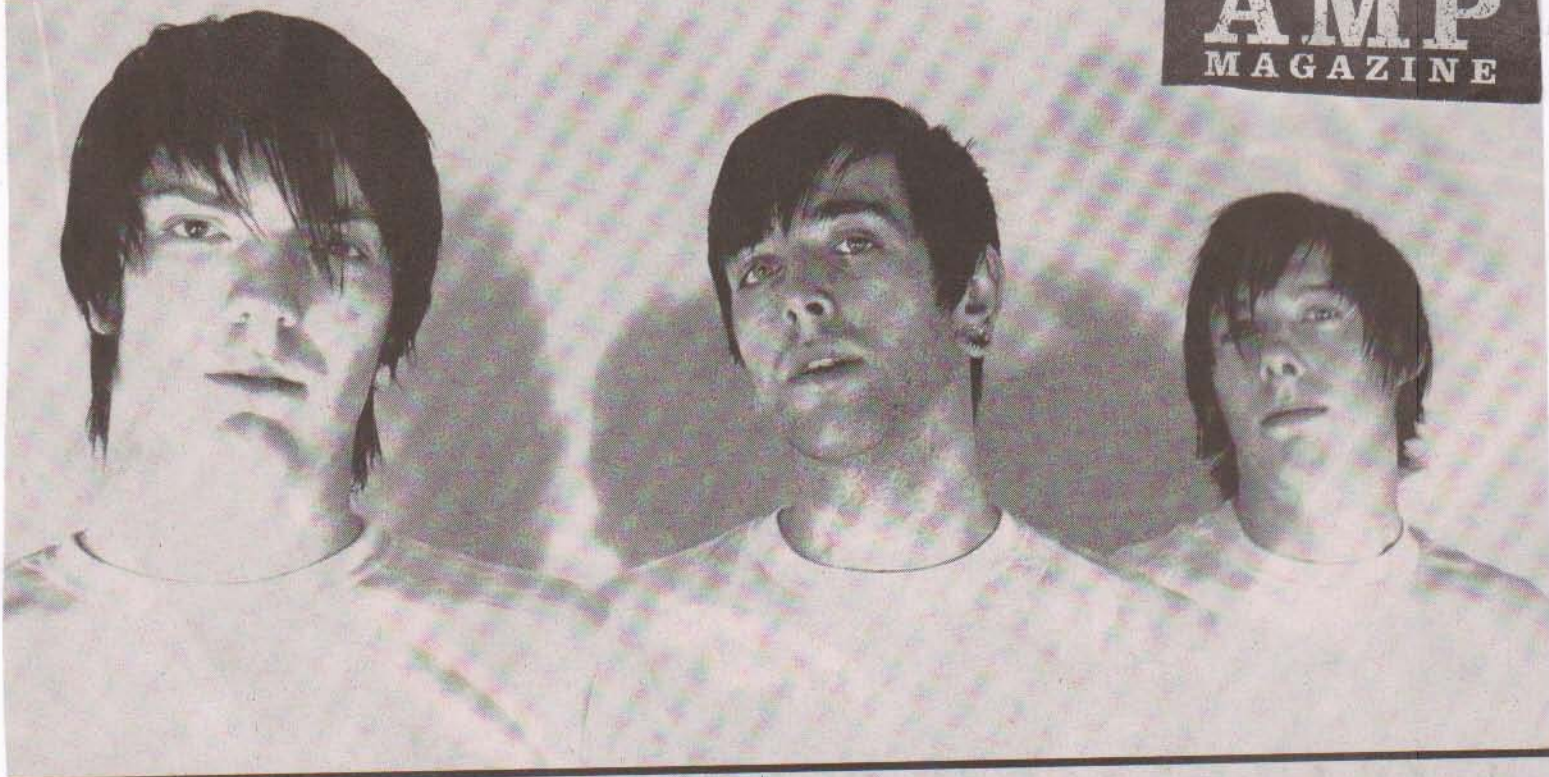
**Why the decision to go with Jamie King, who has also worked with Beloved and Between The Buried And Me, for the recording of the new record?**

You just answered your own question. When it comes to North Carolina music...

**He seems to be the premier producer to go with these days.**

And honestly, as a band, we are very proud of where we come from. We're proud to be from North Carolina and when we're on the road we let people know that we're very proud to be where we're from. There's no better way to get the North Carolina sound than to go with the best producer in the state. We also did a lot of the engineering and producing with Kit Walters of Scapegoat. He's like a brother to us and the record wouldn't sound the way it does if it without Kit. He helped a lot to shape the record.

**So I understand that Fearless will**



**be re-releasing *Frail Wings of Vanity* and *Wax* on March 20th of 2007. How soon do you anticipate finding yourselves back in the studio for a follow-up?**

Well, we just were in the studio because we're putting two bonus tracks for the re-release. There's also going to be some live footage on the enhanced end of it. As far as doing the new record, we'll probably get into the studio shortly after Warped Tour. Or at least into the writing process, anyhow. We're looking for a release of the new record right around a year from the re-release.

**Now I understand there was some buzz going on with the band earlier this year for working with MTV. Can you elaborate on that for me?**

What it was is that there were a couple of production companies that were really interested in our sound and the image that we portrayed. Not necessarily the look of the band, but we're a very positive band. We're anti-drug and anti-violence. We always try our best to campaign these things and they were really interested in that. They filmed us on a couple of separate occasions but the footage was just tied up in the whole money and legal processes of the way that MTV works. There are several different production companies that work for MTV and they were all arguing what they wanted to do with the footage. It

became our decision in the end to just squash it all because we didn't want to get mixed up in all that crap.

**Another odd kind of fact is that I've heard Alesana has a pretty strong fanbase in Mexico. What can you attribute this to?**

Yeah, in Mexico it's unbelievable. We honestly don't know. We can only attribute it to Myspace. When the band first started and even today, we worked the internet really hard. It's there, why not use it? I guess our sound just became really popular over there. Through Myspace, we made a couple of connections with booking agents out there and set everything up. It was unbelievable. We couldn't believe it. We were expecting a couple hundred kids a night, but it was over a thousand kids. We'll be heading back into Mexico for seven shows at the end of February. When we go back, we actually have to play a few nights, because we sold out and there were still hundreds of kids wanting to get in.

**If the band continues to succeed out there, is there any chance that you'll relocate to Mexico?**

Oh, absolutely not. North Carolina is our home and always will be.

**On the same thought, given the numerous bands in North Carolina that seem to be making a name for themselves as of lately, are there**

**any local bands that you believe people should be keeping their eyes out for?**

Unfortunately we haven't been home a lot. We've been touring. I will say that there's one new band that just got signed to Tragic Hero Records called Ghost Of A Fallen Age. It's former members of Winter Solstice. Those guys are going to get big. They're really good at what they do. Tommy and the rest of our scouting team, we're really picky when it comes to putting a band on Tragic Hero. They're definitely worth looking at. So I'd say if you want to keep an eye out for good North Carolina bands, keep an eye on Tragic Hero.

**If you could force every last one of your fans to buy one record, which of course is not yours, what would it be?**

Anything by Spitalfield.

**What does the future hold for Alesana other than games of beer-pong and harvesting various insects out of your bassist's winter beard?**

[laughs] We will be on the road non-stop because of our fans and it's the way we are. We won't stop until everybody gets an opportunity to see us whenever they want.

**Any major plans for 2007?**

Lots of big tours coming up and they will be announced very shortly. Ⓜ