

Long Island natives

As Tall As Lions boast distinctly British sound

18769AF
By JEFFREY SISK
Daily News Managing Editor
jsisk@dailynewsemail.com

Indie rock quartet As Tall As Lions hail from Long Island, but it's easy to mistake them for British artists such as Keane, Snow Patrol and even Coldplay.

That's due, in large part, to the vocal work of frontman Daniel Nigro, whose soaring tenor voice is As Tall As Lions' most identifiable characteristic.

The band roars into Pittsburgh Friday for a 7 p.m. show at Mr. Smalls in Millvale. Also on the bill are openers the Dear Hunter and local bands Vinyl 6 and Under City Lights.

Their current tour is winding down, but there will be no rest for As Tall As Lions. The band has landed a plum spot on



As Tall As Lions will perform at Mr. Smalls Friday night.

Alternative Press magazine's "Bands You Need to Know Tour," where they and Envy On the Coast will open for co-headliners Cute Is What We Aim For and Circa Survive. The 28-stop BYNTK tour kicks off March 16 in Houston, but the closest it will come to Pittsburgh is an April 8 show at Cleveland's House of Blues.

Some seven months after the release of their self-titled sopho-

As Tall As Lions

When: Friday, 7 p.m.

Where: Mr. Smalls, Millvale

Tickets: \$8/\$10

Info: 412-821-4447

more album, As Tall As Lions (the band's name springs from a line in a poem written by guitarist Saen Fitzgerald) find themselves making inroads with their dreamy melodies, strong songwriting and, of

course, Nigro's powerful vocal cords.

Nigro said the new record is more polished than its predecessor, 2004's "Lafcadio," because he solicited more input from Fitzgerald, drummer Cliff Sarcona and bassist Julio Tavarez.

"Our first record was not much of a collaborative effort," he admitted to Amplifier magazine. "It's fair to say on that one I wrote most of the initial chord progressions, lyrics and melodies. For this record we realized that four brains are better than my one brain. Now, no member is the be-all and end-all, which is important when it comes to keeping a band together.

"There's more emotion in these new songs because of the creative energy and all of us are capable of coming up with great material."

Of course, with so many cooks in the kitchen, disagreements arose.

"Recording this record was not a walk in the park," Nigro acknowledged. "There were a lot of passionate and vibrant discussions during the creative period, and at one point I had to just leave for a while to get away from it all. I came back with a clear head and was ready to write, record and be with my band. It all clicked after that."

For more on the band, visit www.astallaslions.com or www.myspace.com/astallaslions.