

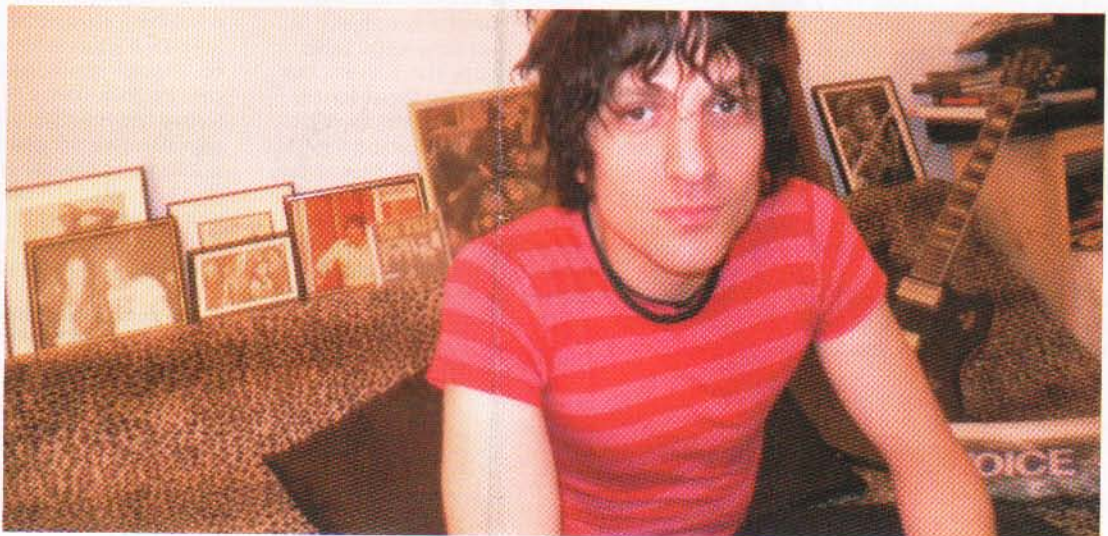
ALL THAT GLITTERS



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New York City is a city that is brimming with creative energy, which is why so many incredible artists from far and wide call it home. Musically, it's the place to be. Bands such as the Ramones, Velvet Underground, and The Stooges defined the New York rock scene, paving a concrete path for a new school of rockers like The Strokes, Interpol, and now **Jesse Malin**.

Malin reps New York harder than any musician out right now. He lives and breathes the city, lending to an attitude and way of life that permeates through his music. On his third album, *Glitter In The Gutter* (Adeline/East West), Malin blasts through the singer/songwriter genre, showing audiences that he knows exactly what it means to be a rock-and-roll star. This record is not a shoulder to cry on. It's filled with bold, positive themes in songs weighted by intent and exaltation. *Glitter In The Gutter* also boasts a variety of guest performances by a few of Malin's close friends including Josh Homme, Jakob Dylan, Ryan Adams, and Bruce Springsteen. Just before the release of his new album, **foam** got the chance to sit down with the charismatic Malin, where he opened up about his music, his inspiration, and the city he holds so dear in his heart.



NC: What does *Glitter in the Gutter* refer to exactly?

JM: It's kind of a forward, positive, uphill record, I guess. There's an Oscar Wilde quote: *Everybody's lying in the gutter. Some of us are looking at the stars*, which kind of inspired it. It's also a lyric from a song called "Indian Summer" that was on *The Heat*. There's a lot of yearning and fighting out there and this whole record's about hope and survival and just getting through all the crap that you're dealt, finding a way to keep laughing, keep smiling, and singing.

There are a lot of guest performances on this record. Did you just place a call to all your friends?

We took out an ad in *Variety* and said, "Looking for cool, famous people that Jesse Malin knows..." No, it just happened. I've known Josh [Homme] and the Queens Of The Stone Age kids for a long time from hanging out in New York and at Coney Island High. Then a friend of mine, Joe Sib who has SideOneDummy records, introduced me to Jakob [Dylan]. We had a lot of similar tastes, things in common, records that we liked and grew up with. Bruce was just really cool. When I saw him play on The Seeger Sessions tour up in Boston, he wanted to do something on the record and this spot came about. Originally it was going to be a guitar thing, but then when I wrote "Broken Radio," I just felt there was a spot for him vocally and it would be something cool that we'd have him sing and be a part of.

Tell me more about having Bruce on the record.

It's not something I will ever forget. It's nice to have a person get the record who's so real and passionate. He is just a regular guy like everyone says. He is very humble and ready to give that element to that song. When you hear it, you're like, "Wow, that guy sang 'Born To Run.'"

Right before the recording process, you lost your apartment. Was it fate?

I felt like New York wasn't really speaking to me. Things were changing so much and then I lost the apartment, so I was like, "I'll just go out to LA and see what happens." But after seven weeks, I realized that I was a New Yorker, heart and soul. It's my inspiration, and I needed to put my feet back down on the streets...and I missed the good pizza. Then I came home and I was couch-surfing while we were mixing the record. It was just one of those things where you think, "Well, you're in this for love and it's your life, well, how much will you make it your life?" You know how much. The struggle, the dedication, and the focus of it, and living and breathing the record every day.

You're obviously very proud of your New York upbringing. How do you feel it's affected your music?

Well, besides living in New York, touring affects the music, too. On the last couple of records, we got to go to a lot of parts of Europe and live in people's towns for a day or two, seeing things very differently. It makes you feel sort of proud to be from America, but sometimes you feel ashamed. I like touring; I like going everywhere. I like taking these songs that you write in your little four-wall apartment and then bringing them to some sunny California climate or some weird town in Sweden and seeing how they affect people. To me, it's a big part of it to be able to go sing a song in their community and see if they'll let you stay for a while—to maybe make a difference or change a few minds.

Did you go to the beach a lot growing up?

I used to swim a lot. I like going to Coney Island, and I used to go to Jones Beach. I've been to Malibu in California and I've been to Venice, sat in a drum circle on the beach and tripped out listening to Jane's Addiction while Jerry Garcia wove some beads into my beard. I have friends that surf. I've never surfed, but I do like swimming in the ocean and I do own a Speedo. I like the beach. I'm one of those guys that puts on a lot of sunblock, though, because I have that Robert Smith/Sid Vicious pale skin, trying to emulate Joey Ramone for many years.

This is your third studio album—what do you hope to accomplish with it?

I hope to reach lots of people outside of my fanbase and take the fans I have with me. I want to travel all over the world and hopefully affect people in some way and make some connection through the music. The record gives me the opportunity to be able to stay out of a day job and out of jail. I want to make that connection and inspire people to do their own things in this life and maybe cheer up a couple of miserable fucks out there. ●

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