



THE DEAR HUNTER

By Brandon Weiss / Photo By Jayme Thornton

Before the initial birth of his own band musical prodigy, Casey Crescenzo found himself a talented musician with no one to help him flesh out his musical concepts. In hopes of finding a new musical path, Casey joined the successful screamo outfit The Receiving End of Sirens. However, instead of finding musical freedom in The Receiving End of Sirens, the freedom he sought was hindered by an already established band with its own itinerary. Crescenzo says, "I came in and they had already known each other for a long time. It was kind of like breaking into that group and learning the dynamics of that group and finding my own voice in that group. There was never really anybody in charge in that group, it was much more of a group effort than with this." So after two years with The Receiving End of Sirens, Crescenzo decided to leave and pursue his own project called The Dear Hunter.

Fleshing out his Dear Hunter ideas would give Crescenzo "the ability to do a lot more... with out any kind of fear...without having to check in with anyone else." This was his own project and he could do with it what as he wished. So he did, not just by himself, but with the backing of his already established record contract with Triple Crown/East West Records. According to Crescenzo, his contract with Triple Crown/East West Records regarding The Receiving End of Sirens included a Key Man Clause, which insured that if he left the band, the label would not lose him, and he would not lose the label, as long as the label so desired. The talented young musician found himself in a thankful position upon leaving The Receiving End of Sirens, where his record label encouraged his creation of The Dear Hunter. Crescenzo found this "really inspiring," and saw it as a prime opportunity to finally develop his story of The Dear Hunter.

Deep inside the musical mind of Crescenzo

was a story about a boy who was slowly becoming an adult. A story that was partially connected to the writer himself. Although Crescenzo insists that the story itself is "romanticized," he also says that while building his musical concept, "I would use whatever experience I had to try to tell the story a little bit more honestly and put some experiences I have into it." Crescenzo says that *Act II: The Meaning of, and All Things Regarding Ms. Leading*, the first full length album from The Dear Hunter, is about a boy who is attached to his mother as a child, then he ends up leaving home. The sheltered boy was never enlightened about taboos such as prostitution. When he meets Ms. Leading, a beautiful woman, he falls in love at first sight. Little does he know that Ms. Leading is a deceiving prostitute. The rest of the story is about the push and pull between the two of them. He slowly realizes that this is not what he wants for himself, and he ends his relationship.

As Crescenzo first began fleshing out his story, he found himself alone, searching for musicians to help him create Ms. Leading. "Originally, a few years ago, when I was first writing, it was kind of a loose story," says the charismatic singer. "I was just dabbling and figuring out where I wanted to go with it. By the time I actually got to record it I had written the entire story that spans all of the albums, then divided them into what I wanted to tell in each one. There were a few songs that had been written a few years ago that ended up being on the record (Act II), that fit in perfectly. The rest of the songs were, at least lyrically, and a lot musically, written for this album [with the band]."

Upon the creation of *Act II*, Crescenzo had put together a full band that helped him to organize his musical and lyrical ideas and thoughts. "We started writing for Act II in late September, early October 2006," says Crescenzo. "That's when [the new members] really started getting comfortable and stretching themselves as we were writing." However, the frontman says, "As people came in they understood that I had a pretty good idea of where I wanted to go with it." So, with the new band established, and Casey at the helm, the band got together at a house in Boston and began to write the 79-minute epic album that is *Act II*, produced and engineered by Crescenzo himself.

Crescenzo says that the new album is "definitely for myself and for the band." He says, "We're all really in it just because everybody feels comfortable and confident expressing themselves and doing something that's real and... of, and *All Things Regarding Ms. Leading*, Crescenzo and Co may find themselves thankful for more than just their tour with Saves the Day. The concept album is proof of one of the most promising musical acts to work its way into the scene. Enthusiasts should expect a wholehearted reaction from fans. ♪