



Hush-Hush

the secret handshake

by Justine Ruddy

Just when we thought we had all the funky pop punk bands we could handle, **The Secret Handshake** bursts out on the scene, demanding attention. And TSH is getting it, selling out shows nationwide. One such show will be at

NYC's **Annex** on **Sept. 20**.

When you first listen to The Secret Handshake, you picture a studio full of band members playing a variety of instruments. But you'll find it is only one guy, Luis Dubuc, with a laptop. Occasionally, he performs with a drummer, but most of the

time, it's just Dubuc making all the music himself. TSH has an electronic sound with emo lyrics, such as "I wrote songs 'cause I love her," and "This could be the summer of love, and this could be the summer I grow up" from the single "Summer of 98." But there's no whining in the songs, they are upbeat and incredibly catchy.

Dubuc started off as a heavy metal drummer but felt limited. Later, he discovered utilizing music via laptop, and it changed his view on music. He started making demos and toured the country, playing every garage and basement show he could find, and he developed quite a following. TSH experiments with different sounds on its debut full-length, *One Full Year*, ranging from electronic, hip hop and R&B.

The Annex is located at 152 Orchard St. (between Rivington and Stanton St.). To enter you must be 21 or older. Log on to the band's page at myspace.com/thesecrethandshake or theannexnyc.com for more info.