

Sevendust finds inspiration in adversity

By JOSHUA S. FLESHER

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It's been 10 years since the release of their self-titled debut album.

The crushing and aggressive sound of that album propelled Sevendust into the main stream. Over the past decade, the band has solidified its place in music and established one of the most loyal fan bases in the industry.

According to drummer Morgan Rose, "It's more of a homecoming when we do shows than a rock show. We can see people in the crowd and I recognize them."

Sevendust will be play The Wedge in Austintown on Friday with special guests Die Cast and Point One, and Rose is looking forward to it. "We've not played there before. It's always nice to play at a place you haven't played a million times."

The band consists of vocalist Lajon Witherspoon, guitarist John Connolly, Rose, bassist Vince Hornsby, and guitarist Sonny Mayo (formerly of Snot). The sound of Sevendust is primal. A loud and explosive musical assault that flows around the complex drumming of Rose and the crushing guitar work, and it is rounded by Witherspoon's powerfully melodic voice. Their ability to keep the chaos of the music melodic is what sets them apart from other metal acts of today.

The band, known for its constant touring, is on the road supporting its latest release, "Alpha." For fans, this album has the feel and intensity of earlier albums such as "Home" and its self-titled debut.

"Alpha" was born following a very

When you go

WHO: Sevendust, Die Cast and Point One

WHEN: 8:30 p.m. Friday. Doors open at 7:30 p.m.

WHERE: The Wedge, Wedgewood Plaza, 1743 S. Raccoon Road, Austintown

HOW MUCH: \$23 in advance. Tickets are available at The Wedge, The Cellar in Struthers and online at www.thecellarrocks.com.

tough couple of years for the band and its members. In the past two years the band split from its record label, TVT, lost loved ones, fought through legal battles and endured a number of personal trials. To make things even harder was the loss of guitar player, Clint Lowery.

"It was really tough at first," Rose said. "Some of what he did was the sound of this band. The move needed to happen, and it seems to have worked out for everyone."

Sevendust moved on and welcomed Mayo as their new guitar player.

The band began to write and record their latest album during this turmoil. Lyrically, it is Sevendust's darkest disc yet, exposing the pain, angst and madness that was growing inside the band. The completed record hit stores in March, and debuted at No. 14 on the Billboard 200, a best for the band.

In explaining the album Rose said, "Everyone has their Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde. In this case it being so disillusioned and out of whack, it was seeing which side of the mind was going to win out, which one was going to be the alpha."



SEVENDUST

However intense the album, live is time around, though. the only way to truly experience this road-tested band. Don't expect pyrotechnics and a huge production this "This tour is stripped down, to really be able to move around," Rose said. "It's much more intimate."