

Local band continues Ohio's music legacy

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Many music critics have historically mocked the state of Ohio for trailing New York, California and the rest of the country in developing trend-inducing rock bands. Toledo's We Are The Fury plans to change that. Once a garage band in Sylvania, this glam rock group's resume includes nationwide shows on the popular Vans Warped Tour, appearances on MTV's "You Hear it First" and features/reviews in rock megapublications such as *Spin*, *Rolling Stone* said the band is "making a bid

to kick certain high-charting emo bands out of the limelight."

"Usually the people who like us won't knock Ohio," said lead singer Jeremy Lublin. "But for those who don't like us, it's the first thing out of their mouth: 'What can you expect from Ohio?' But what they neglect to mention is that some of their favorite obscure bands, like Devo and Brainiac, came from Ohio. I think it's just a cop out. There's good music everywhere."

We Are The Fury's first full-length album, "Venus," hits stores May 22. In town during the week of the release, the band will play an in-store acoustic performance at the Culture Clash record store. With the

purchase of the album, customers will receive a complimentary ticket for the official CD release party at Headliner's on May 26.

When the band started playing in 1999, Jeremy Lublin, guitarist Chris Hatfield, bassist Alan Hoffer and keyboardist Todd Wehrle were all attending Southview High School. The lone exception was Lublin's brother Stephan, who, at 13 years old, picked up the drums for the group. But as the members grew older, their aspirations changed.

"We wanted to start fresh," Lublin said. "We wanted to do something that really connects with us, and something that nobody else is doing. People are always ready for something a little bit different and a little bit new. Maybe glam's the next thing, I don't know. We're just

doing it because it's what we like."

The result is a rebellious and catchy mixture of glam rock and emo punk. Often compared to the Ziggy Stardust-era David Bowie, the group's heavy onstage makeup and theatricality have knocked concertgoers into an androgynous mind-warping 1970s flashback.

"We're trying to be outlandish," said Lublin. "We're trying to make people have fun. In music right now, people are sort of stale. Half the shows we go to, people are just sitting there with their arms crossed. That's not what rock n' roll is about. That's not what music is about. We're trying to change that."

The band is featured in an exhibit about the Vans Warped Tour, "Warped: 12 Years of Music, Mayhem and More," at the Rock and

Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland.

The Warped Tour is a music and extreme sports festival that travels during the summer. As many as 100 bands, most of them punk or ska influenced, play brief sets on multiple stages during its daylong tour stops.

We Are The Fury played the festival during the summer of 2006. "Warped: 12 Years of Music, Mayhem and More" documents the story of the Warped Tour from its inception in 1995 through the present and showcases memorabilia from bands that have played the festival.

Lublin said he was surprised when he first learned We Are The Fury has memorabilia in the Warped exhibit.

"We had no idea any of our stuff would go in there," he said.

PHOTO COURTESY SEAN MURPHY



■ WE ARE THE FURY HAS TRAVELED FROM SYLVANIA TO MTV AND BEYOND.