

Date: Sunday, November 18, 2007
 Location: NEPTUNE, NJ
 Circulation (DMA): 192,581 (1)
 Type (Frequency): Newspaper (S)
 Page: E6
 Keyword: Jesse Malin

The fine art of self-reflection

By MARK VOGER
 CELEBS WRITER

"I LIKE LYRICS to be very cinematic and very descriptive and paint the picture," says singer/songwriter **Jesse Malin**. And with three albums under his belt, he's had plenty of opportunity to put theory into practice.

The Queens-born resident of Manhattan sang a duet with **Bruce Springsteen**, "Broken Radio," which appeared on his most recent release, "Glitter in the Gutter" (Adeline/East West). Malin earlier covered "Hungry Heart" for the benefit album "Light of Day: A Tribute to Bruce Springsteen." And he is scheduled to return to the "House That Bruce Built" — The Stone Pony in Asbury Park — on Wednesday.

To mark the occasion, CELEBS presents Malin's reflections on his body of work so far.

■ On Malin's debut album, "The Fine Art of Self Destruction" (2002):

"On my first record, it was the first time I wasn't in a band. I was

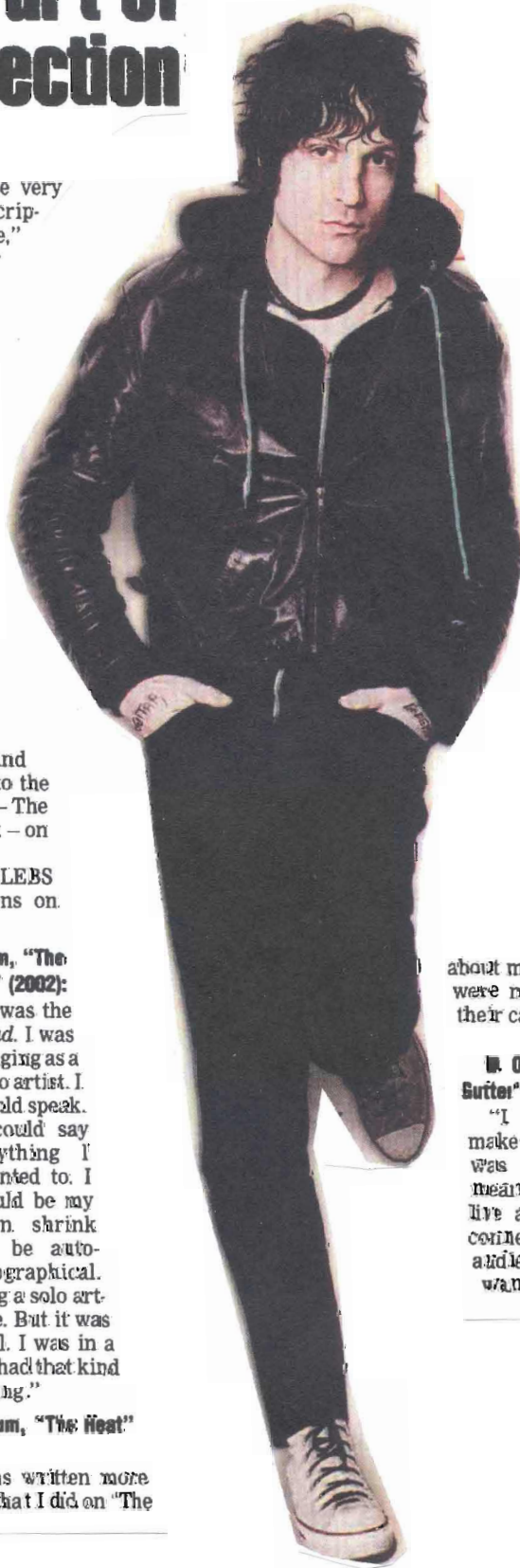


singing as a solo artist. I could speak. I could say anything I wanted to. I could be my own shrink or be autobiographical.

It was the freedom of being a solo artist, and being in that place. But it was a 'breakup' record, as well. I was in a relationship at the time. It had that kind of 'crying in your beer' thing."

■ On Malin's second album, "The Heat" (2004):

"The second record was written more from the touring. I guess, that I did on "The



Fine Art of Self Destruction.' I guess after Sept. 11, and the war going on, and being in a more global situation, being a person that wrote a lot in New York and made most of my records in downtown Manhattan — suddenly, I was just touring all over the place.

"So it was kind of a view of somebody

my age that was living out this rock 'n' roll dream, but then looking back home at people who were getting married and having kids, and wanting some of those grounding things. But then, also wanting to live and be like a dog in a band. And watching the effects, I guess, on my friends who had great jobs who ended up, after Sept. 11, having to sell drugs for a living.

Or the way things felt around the world. So it was written with more of a global consciousness, I think, than just being, like: 'New York is cool. This is what we do. I like **Martin Scorsese** and the **Clash**.' It was like: 'All right, now there's a lot more out there.'

"And knowing that people are listening in other places, too. I started to tour a lot, and people were singing along, and the songs affected them. So I was aware that suddenly, these songs that I wrote about my friends and my girlfriend and stuff were maybe relevant to somebody else in their car or their house."



■ On Malin's third album, "Glitter in the Gutter" (2007):

"I wanted to make a record that was moving, and meant to be played live and loud and connect with an audience. But I also wanted to maybe



reach out beyond just the Lower East Side and not have so many inside jokes. Just a couple." **C**

JESSE MALIN with River City Rebels and Maybe Pete
 ■ 8 p.m. Wednesday ■
 The Stone Pony, 913 Ocean Ave., Asbury Park ■ \$15 advance, \$19 at the door ■
 (732) 502-0600 ■ www.stoneponyonline.com