

THE AQUARIAN

WEEKLY

ALL TIME LOW



ROCK THE PARTY

by Stephanie Keller

When four teens from the suburbs of Baltimore, MD, decided to jam out in their parents' garage to Blink-182 and Green Day cover songs, they would have no idea that only a few years later their band would become one of the fastest rising names in pop-rock today. All Time Low have only recently begun to break out into mainstream music with their full-length debut, *So Wrong, It's Right*. Chock full of butt shaking party rock anthems, each song on the album will make you want to blast the music at full volume every time you listen. Recently coming off their tour with Boys Like Girls, the boys of All Time Low are lazily enjoying their down time back at home and doing what they do best: partying.

Frontman Alex Gaskarth talks about the band's future plans and opens up about the band's close relationship with their fans.

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How does it feel to finally be back home after your tour with Boys Like Girls?

It feels great. I'm actually sitting in my bed right now. It's sweet. It's snowing pretty heavily. I haven't seen snow in a long time. I'm really excited right now.

Now you're gearing up for a headlining tour. Tell me about that.

We are going on the road with Every Avenue and Just Surrender. We've been playing with Just Surrender since our first tour basically. They're really nice guys and we haven't really had a chance to play with them since that tour, so it will be nice to be able to spend a couple weeks with those dudes again. Main support is Mayday Parade. We met them on Warped Tour and they're awesome. They kind of came out of nowhere from what I can tell. Their record is really solid, so I'm stoked that there is another band out there playing upbeat poppy rock.

Since you guys are so young (the band's average age is 20) is it refreshing to be on tour with other band members who are the same age as All Time Low?

To be honest both aspects of touring with older and younger bands is really cool. It's always nice having another band on tour who's around our age because you can relate to one another better and are going through the same stuff. You feel the whole family vibe. You get some more brothers out of it, or sisters, depending on the band. Playing with older bands though is also really cool because they have been around for a longer time; then you learn a lot. Any way you are experienced, they probably

have some advice. Touring with a band like Sugarcult or playing with New Found Glory, who have been around for years, you just get to ask them the questions that you have always wanted to ask which is actually really helpful.

So have All Time Low graduated to the bus yet or are you still rolling in the van?

We just did the Boys Like Girls tour in a bus and Warped Tour in a bus. This upcoming tour we're going back to the van.

Are you pissed about returning to the cramped van?

No, we're not pissed. We actually like the van. It's nice to be able to do what we want to do and go where we want to go. The bus is limiting in that sense. But it's nice not to have to drive

with the bus. To be honest, none of us really care. I'm excited to go back to the van and stay in hotels again. It's cool doing it yourself and being crammed into a sardine can with all of your buddies.

Now that you're full-length, *So Wrong, It's Right*, has finally been released, how has the crowd's reaction been at shows when you play it live?

It's been incredible. I can't wait to play some more of the new songs. For the next couple of shows and the upcoming new tour, we are going to start throwing in a few more of the new songs. Because we're headlining we can pretty much play as long as we want really. I think people can expect to hear a good amount of the new record.

So far the new songs we have played have been received really well. Most of the time we usually get shit for not playing enough of the new record. It's really cool when that happens because most of the time bands get shit for not playing their old stuff. People, for some reason, always want to hear the older stuff. But in this case, I'm pretty excited that people want us to play the new songs, and I am excited to get out there and play for them. **For your full-length debut, is *So Wrong, It's Right* the album you wanted to release?**

Absolutely. It is exactly the album we wanted to put out. It's not overly polished. It's not trying to break any ground. It's not pompous and pretentious. It's not annoying. At the same time,

it's really relatable. We just had fun with it. It's really meant to just be a good time. Anyone should be able to pick it up and really get into it the moment they turn it on. The one condition is that you have to listen to it loud.

The album seems to weave this constant thread of partying and having fun. Is that an accurate reflection of your own personalities?

It's kind of my outlook on life really. All four of us dudes don't take anything too seriously. We live life day to day and take everything in stride. We make fun of everything and have a good time. Everything is a joke to us. I think it makes everything a little bit easier because of that. We try to have an optimistic outlook on life.

In the past year there has been this recent upsurge of young bands like Cartel, The Academy Is... and Paramore, becoming mainstream. How do All Time Low stand out among the pack?

We're just the best. I'm kidding. I think we're unique because our personalities stand out more than some. We all bring ourselves to the stage performance. Not many bands dare to say what we say onstage. We're half band, half comedy act.

Your band is known for always talking to your fans and being easily accessible at shows. Why are you so close with fans?

We're just down to hang out and make friends. When more people realize that we are just normal dudes having a good time doing what we are doing, I think, in turn, people understand us better. Ultimately it creates a stronger level of support for the band. If you feel like you're part of it, you are going to believe it 100 percent. We want to create as big of a fan base as possible and grow up with them sharing the experience. We want to let people into our lives and share it with them, like a reality tv show.

Does it ever become crazy at shows because your band is so easily recognizable? I mean, Alex, you're over six feet tall so you automatically stand out in a crowd.

None of us consider ourselves special. We're all normal people. So it is weird when people are going hysterical over the fact that you just walked past them. I just turn around and am like, 'Why are you freaking out. Why are you crying?' At the same time, it's really flattering. We're trying to come to terms with it.

For the album, the band released a promo shot with all of you in your underwear. Whose idea was that?

That was probably the least uncomfortable photo shoot we have ever done. It was really easy.

How did you feel when you heard about the girl from your high school being suspended for having that picture in her locker?

It was so ridiculous! It sucked because we were on tour when we found out. We thought it would be hilarious to show up at her school in just underwear. I'm sure they all would have loved that.

All Time Low are playing at The Stone Pony in Asbury Park, NJ on Dec. 23. For more visit alltimelow.com