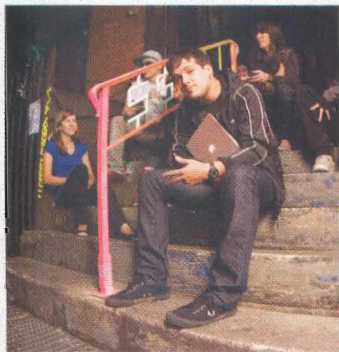


DEATH+TAXES

MORE TO MUSIC JAN/FEB 2008

NEW YOUTH **The Secret Handshake** By Brandon Weiss



In the world of The Secret Handshake, not much exists besides music. At 22, the former metal drummer, Luis Dubuc, spends his time on the road touring behind his electronica project. When not on the road, he's probably at his apartment programming beats and soft-synths. After only about a year, The Secret Handshake has been the source of more buzz than an angry swarm of bees. However, as he cites influences as everyone from modern emo bands to Daft Punk and Kanye West, his latest

album, *One Full Year*, is an extremely unique mix of emo and electronica, I got a chance to catch up with Dubuc about a week after the release of his brand new album, *One Full Year*.

Is this your first real job?

No, I was a debt collector for a while. I wore a suit and tie to work and I called people. I told them if they didn't pay their bills that I was going to kill them. The debt collector job was just to pay the bills. It was a miserable, miserable job. That's what I did.

How did you get into electronic music?

I don't know. I think I was always kind of into it. I grew up in Canada. I think electronic music is just a lot more prevalent there. Daft Punk was actually on the radio. I just started getting into like IDM and a lot of Aphex Twin. Then I got a laptop, and that's how it started.

Is it weird being on stage by yourself?

It is. It's kind of funny, too. I have a drummer now all the time. I do like it. I think it's fun just because you know they're going to listen to whatever you're going to say. Like, you can just say some really hilarious stuff. They're going to listen to it because you're the only person with the mic you know what I mean?

What was your "Summer of '98" actually like?

I don't know, the year I graduated middle school. It seemed like a good idea to write a song about it. I don't know.

So there was nothing truly significant about the Summer of '98?

No. It's not like the year I tried crack or something. It was just a regular year. It seemed like a good year. It's a dope song, though.