

by Stephanie Keller

Not every band these days is living the high life of luxury after signing on the dotted line of their recording contracts.

"I'm working at HIP Video to promote music videos," said Misha Safonov, frontman of Jersey's own Jet Lag Gemini during the holiday break. "I can't wait to get back on tour. Just like some kids can't wait for finals to be over, I can't wait to get back on tour just so I can have the freedom of playing shows every day."

Soon enough, Safonov and the rest of the members of Jet Lag Gemini, Vlad Gheorghiu, Matt Gheorghiu and Dan DiLiberto, will be able to kiss goodbye their side jobs for good with the release of their high intensity full-length debut record, *Fire The Cannons*.

Teaming up with the Doghouse Records team a few years ago, the band has experienced a "lagging" rise in popularity for some unknown reason. Their previously released EP did not make the splash they had ultimately hoped it would, missing the cookie-cutter pop-rock explosion. Instead of packing up their bags and heading home, the band made the best of their situation and put all of their efforts into molding what would eventually become *Fire The Cannons* into one of the most buzzed about must-listen albums of the New Year.

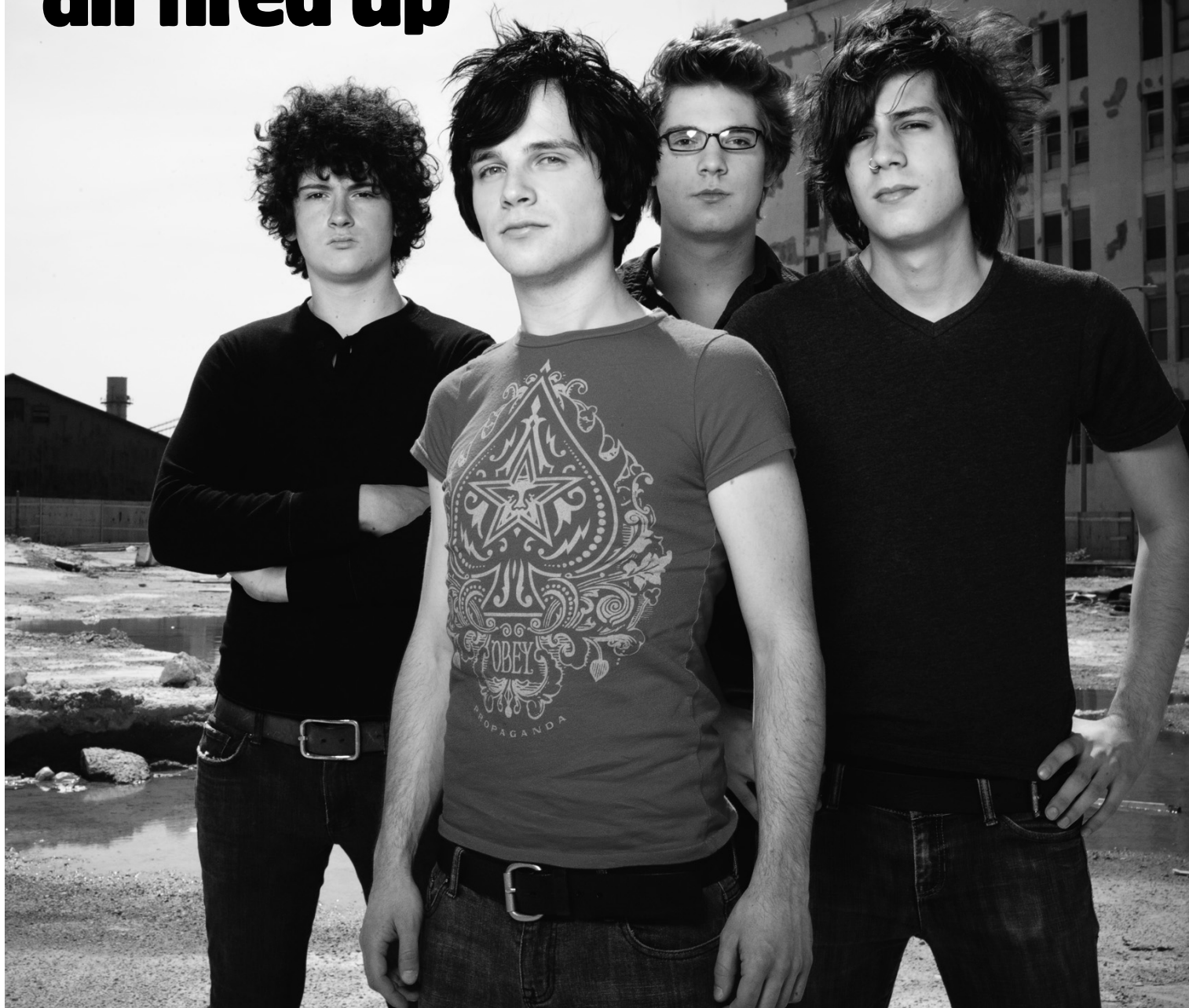
Having been pushed back from an original summer release date due to various label and promotional difficulties, this album was certainly worth the wait. Each upbeat song boasts incredibly intricate and technical rock-n-roll shredding from teenage guitar wonder Vlad Gheorghiu underlying the gritty, yet polished, raw vocals of Safonov. *Fire The Cannons* proves that the caliber of music in the pop-punk world does not have to suffer for the sake of selling of records, but true talent will speak for itself. Besides, who doesn't love a good old-fashioned guitar solo, or two, or three?

"We are super psyched it is finally coming out. I can't even tell you how excited we all are," said Safonov.

Now that January is in full swing, Jet Lag Gemini are well into their snow-filled winter with Red Light Green Light and Lady Radiator on The Pump Your Fists Not Gas Tour '08 (You have to appreciate the Jersey love right there). Always creative and thinking up new ways to engage old and new fans alike, the band

jet lag gemini

all fired up



is always full of surprises on the road. Take for example their previous end of summer run, where the band dragged around a 24/7 video camera which fans could watch online at their Xanga page.

"To tell you the truth, it was a little weird. There is a lot of downtime between shows, so a lot of stuff on the camera was us driving and having normal conversation. It wasn't scripted or anything like that. It's not like watching *The Hills* or something. We were supposed to have it on 24/7, but it was hard because we couldn't really talk about anything so we usually just had it on during shows when we got to the venue so people could see what it was like," said Safonov. "I looked so dumb with that on! I was walking around

with it on my head looking like I was filming some type of pervert voyeur film. I felt so stupid."

The band may not be opening the window into their lives quite that much this time around, but they are always up for meeting people and having fun.

"We brought Guitar Hero on our last tours and had a lot of fun with it. So, we may bring it along again.

If you're up for a Guitar Hero challenge, choose Misha. You're nearly guaranteed to win. The only time he has ever won on the road was when he played a fan's younger sibling at a show. He's still gloating about his triumphant victory.

"First of all, I don't have Guitar Hero at home, so I suck at that game. Matt and Dan are really

good though. Since Matt's a drummer, following the rhythm is just a natural thing for him. He was kicking 12-year-olds' asses the whole time. Me, on the other hand, I challenged this one kid at a show who probably came with an older brother or sister and he had never played the game. That's the only time I ever actually beat somebody at the game. It was ridiculous. I felt like Bono afterwards," said Safonov. "It ruled."

After their winter stint, the guys will be heading out west to sunny California in February with fellow label mates Weatherbox on The Dave Conway Signed Us Tour. If you haven't had the pleasure of meeting Dave Conway, the A&R representative for Doghouse Records, you are missing out

on life. Seriously.

Before they cross they country though, you will certainly hear more from Jet Lag Gemini since their album hit stores on Jan. 22. Their first single, "Run This City," is already receiving steady play on MTV as well as on rock radio stations across the country, especially thanks to their victory on mtvU's The Freshman competition.

"That was awesome. We told everybody to vote all day long and we voted all day long. I took off of work even. We all sat there in front of our laptops voting along with everybody else. If we didn't win that, oh my god! We lost sleep over voting. It was ridiculous," said Safonov.

Don't fight the head bobbing or toe-tapping. The song won't leave your head no matter how

hard you try, even if you want it to, but trust me, you won't. Remember—badass guitar solos. It doesn't get much better than that.



Fire The Cannons is available now. Jet Lag Gemini will be performing at the School Of Rock in S. Hackensack on Sunday, Jan. 27 with Red Light Green Light and Lady Radiator. For more, visit jetlaggemini.com