

# HIGHLIGHT MAGAZINE

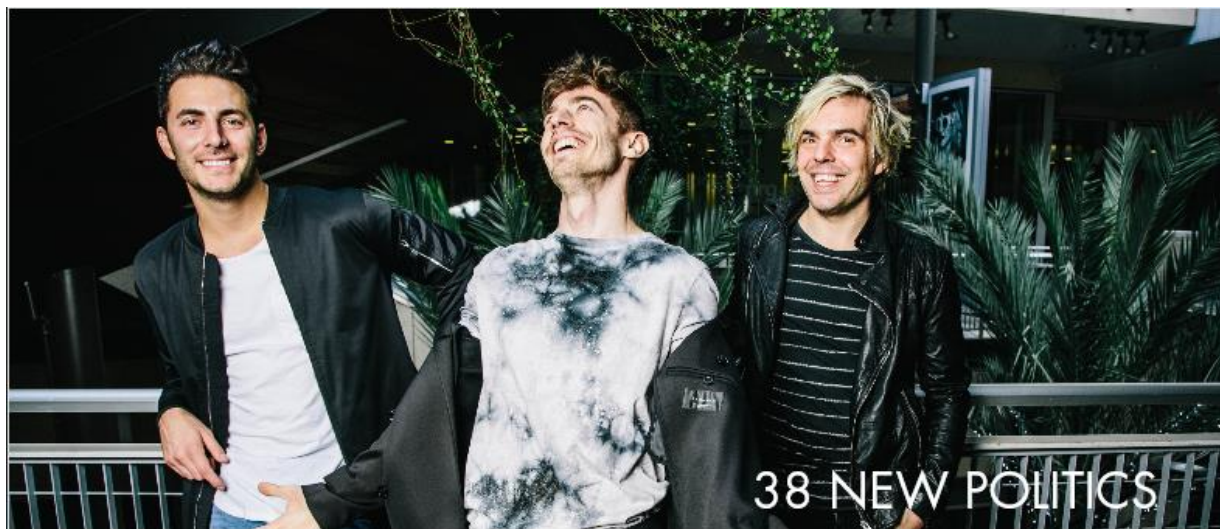
December 2015





# HIGHLIGHT MAGAZINE

December 2015



38 NEW POLITICS



42 THE MOWGLIS



28 FOREST FIRE GOSPEL CHOIR



# HIGHLIGHT MAGAZINE

December 2015





# HIGHLIGHT MAGAZINE

December 2015





# HIGHLIGHT MAGAZINE

December 2015

HOME: Copenhagen, Denmark/Brooklyn, New York NOW JAMMING: Vikings  
CURRENTLY: Just finished touring with Andrew McMahon in the Wilderness



## WHEN WE LAST SPOKE TO THE

guys of New Politics during the summer of 2013, they were riding the high of their newly released and widely successful sophomore album, *A Bad Girl in Harlem*. The trio were engaged in a jam-packed summer schedule—wrapping up the Monumentour with Fall Out Boy and Paramore, playing summer music festivals, and preparing to embark on a world tour with Thirty Seconds to Mars. The non-stop touring and promotion of their album showcased the band's attempt at trying to make their mark in the back-breaking American music scene with their unique pop-punk, dance-rock sound. Now, catching up with New Politics two years later, the Danish/American trio have returned in full force with a brand new album as well as a thriving tour de force.

"It's been crazy since the last time we spoke," drummer Louis Vecchio says. "We haven't stopped. Between touring, we've been on the road for 300 days now, and writing the new album, it's been non-stop. But we're so thankful and lucky to do what we're doing now. The biggest thing is having a new album out and finally getting able to put a face to it."

After the huge success of *A Bad Girl in Harlem*, New Politics were able to pick up a steady momentum filled with triumphs such as several alternative chart toppers with hits, "Harlem," "West End Kids," and "Tonight You're Perfect," as well as a continuously growing fanbase.

With a few laughs and a tone laced with sincerity, Vecchio remarks, "You never really expect anything to happen. We didn't expect to be as busy as we are but we're very happy to be busy. It's been an amazing ride; it's like a dream come true. We went from a van, to a bigger van, to a van that sleeps people, to now three bus tours traveling the country."

However, the success of *A Bad Girl in Harlem* did not just give New Politics a tour bus and fans, it also brought peace of mind. During the months the band was writing and producing their sophomore album, they were faced with extreme financial struggles, leaving them in an exhausted and distressed state of mind—a theme that frequents the record's lyrics. But the guys were spared as karma had good intentions for their trials and tribulations, and they were rewarded with a vastly acclaimed alternative album, which relief assisted in the creation of the third and most recent album, *Vikings*.

"When we were writing *Harlem*, it was real," Vecchio remarks. "We were eating ramen and white bread, scared of being dropped. *Harlem's* lyrics and content came from David and Søren moving from Denmark to New York, not having any friends or any money. The biggest difference between writing *Vikings* and *Harlem* was that our mental area was in a different zone. We had the success from *Harlem*. We weren't worried about financial problems

or about being dropped. We were just being artists, just having fun."

For *Vikings*, the creation of the album stemmed from the trio experiencing their ultimate rise to success together, as well as embracing the world around them; most notably New York, and in particular, their home of Brooklyn. Known as the city that never sleeps, the concrete jungle is laden with inspiration as well as ambition, and the guys in New Politics have enfolded themselves within it and embraced what it has to offer.

"Everything [is inspiring about New York]," Vecchio muses. "The people, how not easy it is to get by; there's nothing that is not inspiring in, or about, New York. I'm originally from Long Island, so I'm a firm believer in that, if you can make it in New York, you can make it anywhere. The highs are high and the lows are low. It's very humbling and it keeps you grounded. Us, as people, we've never had our ego's involved ever. A lot of that comes from where we're from and where we're located. That's the best thing to take from living in New York, you learn from it."

Living in Brooklyn, as well as having a band connection that is ego free, has paved the way for the band to establish their myriad sound of pop-punk and dance-rock, which has taken the music scene by storm as well as brought along with it highly energetic live performances and an always-engaging audience.

"Being a different artist is very, very circumstantial. We don't really box ourselves into a world or try to," says Vecchio of their sound, specifically on the new album. "The guys could have an idea and they'll all be different. One could be hip-hop, rock or rap. We had the time with *Vikings* to really hone in on different things [musically]."

These characteristics are what have paved the way for the widely successful and ultimately deserving career they have today.

While New Politics have gone through an abundance of obstacles and complications such as moving from Denmark to Brooklyn to jumpstart a musical career, profound homesickness, excessive financial struggles, and the taxing and weighted effect of relentless touring, Vecchio says that the outcomes of the copious calamities are the greatest reward, and ones he'll never forget.

"I'll never forget doing Jimmy Fallon and seeing Questlove watching me play drums or sharing stages with unbelievable artists such as Elton John and Van Halen," he says. "Just sharing stages with all these amazing artists, some of [who] are now our close friends. Those experiences, you'll never forget."

PHOTOS: Heather Phillips | INTERVIEW & STORY: Ally Fisher