

Good Times

Step Saver
THE OBSERVER

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Our Night on the Town

Connecticut, are you ready for Warped Tour?

Britain's TAT back for a 2nd dose

By MIKE CHAIKEN
EDITIONS EDITOR

British band TAT returns to Warped Tour this year, three years after its first effort. This time, the punk trio finds itself on the gig from the beginning to the end.

We caught up with the band's lead singer Tatiana DeMaria (who is joined by Jake Reed and Nick Kent in TAT) via email from Britain to talk about Warped and TAT itself.

The Warped Tour comes to Hartford's Comcast Center on Sunday, July 12.

Q: You're heading out on the Warped Tour this summer and you've been tapped to be part of it from beginning to end for the second year in a row? How does that feel?

A: Feels great... We'll also be on a 'real' Warped Tour staple stage for the first time as opposed to a side stage, which arms us with a much larger PA. The louder the better!

Q: What did you like and what do you remem-

ber about your first Warped Tour experience in 2006? And what about it made you want to be part of it again?

A: 2006 was amazing. Being Brits, we're used to weekend festivals... not two-month circus tours in 100-110 degree heat daily. We had no idea what we were doing out there... We learned fast and loved every minute of it. The lineup was great. NOFX, Bouncing Souls, Joan Jett and many more. We got to hang and rock with some of our idols growing up whilst getting free shows daily, all whilst introducing our music to the U.S. for the first time.

Q: The album, "Soho Lights" draws from the British punk tradition. Who are your punk rock heroes and why them?

A: The Clash, Stiff Little Fingers, The Police, The Ramones, The Ruts, The Pistols, NOFX, Rancid, Green Day, the list is long. What really got me was the balls, freedom, lyrics, melodies, substance of it all. It was an education

waiting to be had by any kid willing to listen...

Q: Female singers (if they're allowed to sing rock at all), typically, get cast by record companies as vulnerable creatures. But you definitely don't take that approach. Are there any female rock singers past or present you admire for what they were able to do to break the typical commercial mold, and why?

A: I think it depends on the woman more than the record company to be honest. Truthfully, I was never really into front women, not for any reason other than there were just few of them... For the few exceptions that caught my attention, the last thing I noticed was that they were women. I just loved the music and lyrics.

More often than not, we have witnessed women be successful all whilst being dependent.... There is a much higher percentile of female performers out there than female "artists"...



JERED SCOTT

TAT is, from the left, Nick Kent, Tatiana DeMaria, and Jake Reed.

The pretty face and decent voice is not enough - there are a million out there, but a lot of women still try and use it and pull it off as their only attribute...

Joni Mitchell - you know you are listening to an artist... Regina Spektor. Great lyricist, writer, not vulnerable... I love Amy Winehouse's honesty in her lyrics, Lady Gaga's balls and

character that bled out of every pore.

Q: TAT has been in the U.S. several times over the years, what do you like about American audiences?

A: We love the U.S., we love the crowds... American crowds get us, and that always makes it all the more worthwhile.

Q: Rather than writing about how life sucks and how you're going to wallow in it, your songs seem to be a celebration to persevere even in the face of BS. Why is it important for you to take that philosophy in your music?

A: I'm... stubborn... and I don't let go. Sometimes to my own

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VersaEmerge goes from watching Warped to playing Warped

By MIKE CHAIKEN
EDITIONS EDITOR

Last time, Devin Ingelido of VersaEmerge attended the annual Warped Tour, he was just another fan checking out his favorite bands.

This time around, Devin and VersaEmerge will be one of those favorite bands of fans at the Warped Tour when it winds its way to Hartford's Comcast Center on July 12..

Devin, who was calling from the road near El Paso as the band worked its tour bus from Tennessee to California for the first stop of Warped, said he has seen Warped five times now. Devin said he loved the way he could walk around the tour grounds and just meet the bands hanging out. "It was so cool."

And whenever Devin went to the festival, he was hopeful that someday his own band would be on the tour.

This year, his band VersaEmerge, which includes drummer and



GAGE YOUNG

VersaEmerge will be playing its first stint on The Warped Tour, which comes to Hartford's Comcast Center on Sunday, July 12.

founder Anthony Martone, guitarist/ vocalist and founder Blake Harnage, guitarist Jerry Pierce, and vocalist Sierra Kusterbeck—not only are on tour with Warped, they're signed up from beginning to end.

"We're super stoked,"

said Devin. "This is the real deal."

Asked how VersaEmerge snagged the deal, Devin explained the band's record label, Fueled by Ramen, was eager to get the band booked this year, said Devin. So, the label

pulled some strings and was able to get the band on the Ernie Ball stage.

Even though VersaEmerge is performing on Warped, Devin is still a fan of music. So that means when his band isn't on its own stage, Devin will be

wandering the grounds to check out bands like Underoath, Thrice, and The Devil Wears Prada.

VersaEmerge's musical sound will be a unique touch to the Warped Tour bill in 2009. The sound is sort of Fall Out Boy meets Electric Light Orchestra, with its use of ornate string sounds serving as a backdrop to alt rock. The band's unique sound is further bolstered by their female singer Sierra.

"We're a little different," said Devin of the band's sound. "But it's fresh.... People are digging it."

Right now, VersaEmerge is touring behind a self-titled EP of its songs. But Devin said a full length album is in the works. The band is writing new music and hopes to get into the studio by the end of the year.

As for the sound of the new material, Devin said it builds upon what the band has mined on its EP. But he said, it will be "really fresh and new with new ideas."

VersaEmerge has not been afraid to mix it up when it signs up for tours. For instance, the band has toured with pop punkers, The Maine, as well as indie band Chiodos. "It's really been great playing to different audiences... It's great to get different opinions."

Beyond VersaEmerge's stint on the Warped Tour, Devin said the band's touring options are still open. They are thinking of heading up to Canada for a tour. The band also is up for an award as Best International Band in Kerrang magazine. And that award may bring VersaEmerge to Europe to play some of the musical festivals over there.

But no matter what is happening post-Warped, said Devin, VersaEmerge is intent on hitting the road for a couple of more months.

For more information, go to LiveNation.com, WarpedTour.com or www.myspace.com/versaemerge