

Time is ripe for new Goo Goo Dolls

By MIKE CHAIKEN
EDITIONS EDITOR

After six years since their last hit album, The Goo Goo Dolls are hitting the road and are getting ready to offer up new material to the world in August.

The band is set to release its ninth studio album, "Something for the Rest of Us" on Aug. 31. The single "Home" has been available since June 8. And the band is coming to Connecticut Wednesday, July 28 when it plays the Mohegan Sun Arena. Switchfoot and The Spill Canvas open.

Calling from Dayton, Ohio, the band's bass player Robby Takac said that when it came time to come out with the follow-up to "Let Love In," they weren't influenced by anything other than where they have been before.

Robby said The Goo Goo Dolls have released so many albums over the years; they don't worry about being influenced by other music. The Goo Goo Dolls are always looking to make a better album than the last time, said Robby, who is joined in the group by singer John Rzeznik and drummer Mike Malinin.

"People appreciate that."

Helping with the process of moving ahead, the band worked with producer Tim Palmer, who has worked with edgier acts such as U2, Pearl Jam, and David Bowie. The band also brought in edgy Butch Vig (Green Day, Nirvana, Foo Fighters) and John Fields (Jimmy Eat World and Paul Westerberg) to help produce.

The roster of producers wasn't intentional, however.

"I believe in the purity of process," said Robby.

Initially, however, Robby said the band was producing the record on its own. They own their own studio in Buffalo, he explained, so they had the luxury of time to do it themselves. But in time, he said, they brought in Tim, and worked with him in Buffalo and Los Angeles.

In LA, Robby said they mixed the album and they thought they were done with it.

But Robby said there was a gap between the time the record was finished and when the record was going to be released. So, he said, "We started fiddling with things."

When they heard the completed efforts, Robby

said, "We were a little bummed out... We loved the songs but we didn't tighten the nuts down as tight as we could."

At that point, he said, "The worm can was opened."

By the point that they wanted to fiddle again, Robby said Tim had moved on.

Robby said Butch Vig heard a song The Goo Goo Dolls had written after the album was supposed to be finished. And at Butch's urging, The Goo Goo Dolls decided to record that track.

Suddenly, Robby said, "We were knee deep in the record."

Fortunately, the band had time, said Robby. But he said, "The purity of process takes a really long time since you don't know where you're going."

Although the album still has not been officially released, the new songs are still getting aired before the fans... thanks to the internet.

Robby said that rather than fighting the internet and the new technology, the band has embraced it to expose The Goo Goo Doll's music to fans.

So, as the band contin-



KURT ISWARIENKO

The Goo Goo Dolls come to the Mohegan Sun next Wednesday.

ues its current tour, Robby said fans are already singing along to new songs that won't be put out by the record company until late next month.

All thanks to the internet.

As for why the album is titled "Something for the Rest of Us," Robby said the title was picked by John. But he said it was inspired by conversations the band had.

"The world is in a weird place. There are wars. There's a lot of problem with employment and finances. Socially, the country is incredibly divided," said Robby.

"There's a small num-

ber of people making the decisions and everyone is fighting to crawl out from underneath," said Robby.

"That's the idea behind the whole record," said Robby, "(It's about providing) a voice for everyone who has been left behind."

Once the new record comes out, Robby said the Goo Goo Dolls will probably stay on the road for a couple of years. The schedule will be really intense for about a year and half non-stop. The band prides itself on hitting the smaller markets such as Des Moines or Dayton or Oregon. "We concentrate there and play every nook and cranny."

After the heavy deluge

of performances, gigs will be more sporadic as they travel overseas with tours planned in Japan, Australia, and the UK.

When the band stops at the Mohegan Sun next Wednesday, Robby said the band will be collecting canned food for USA Harvest, which delivers the donations to soup kitchens, missions, etc. Robby said the fans who bring the most food could win a meet and greet with the band.

For more information, go to GooGooDolls.com or MoheganSun.com

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Tegan and Sara challenge themselves along the Civic Tour

By MIKE CHAIKEN
EDITIONS EDITOR

Canadian indie music duo Tegan and Sara could continue to play to its core of adoring fans, headlining its own tour or playing before friendly crowds at festivals.

Or the twin sisters could challenge themselves and play before audiences that were unfamiliar with who they were. Then they could work to win some new converts to their musical cause.

So when they were given the opportunity to be part of the annual Civic Tour, with this year's headliners Paramore and punk rockers New Found Glory (and opening act Kadawatha), Sara Quin said the musical duo decided to take a chance rather than playing it safe.

Tegan and Sara come to the Oakdale with the Civic Tour on Tuesday, July 27.

Calling from Montreal, where the Alberta native has lived for over a decade, Sara said she is excited to perform in front of the new audience the Civic Tour provides. She has a lot of respect for the other bands on the bill, and finds Paramore a really strong



Tegan and Sara hit the road as part of the Civic Tour with Paramore and New Found Glory. The tour arrives at the Oakdale on July 27.

band in concert.

The tour, said Sara, is an opportunity for Tegan and Sara to expand its base audience. It also will teach it to be more versatile in concert, learning to read the mood of an audience waiting for the headliners.

For this tour, Sara said

she recognizes that both Paramore and New Found Glory are high energy acts. Tegan and Sara have energy, she said, but it also has dynamics. "We don't come out full throttle."

Sara said the duo will adapt their performance for the tour. A crowd like the

one expected at Civic Tour offers a clear case for developing the right set list, said Sara. In most cases, the audience may only be familiar with one or two songs of Tegan and Sara. The key is finding a way to reach that audience with what Tegan and Sara have to offer.

The band's sense of dynamics, however, will mean the band won't get lost in the shuffle and simply blend in with the other acts, said Sara. She said she wants the audience to feel "this band is doing something forcing me to think about it."

Tegan and Sara's most recent studio album is "Sainthood." But the recently released stopgap album, "Alligator," offers an interesting twist.

The LP offers up 17 remixes of Tegan and Sara's single, "Alligator." Artists such as Passion Pit and VHS or Beta (as well as Sara herself) reworked the single "Alligator," every which way. Listening to the album, except for the recurring chorus of the song, you'd be hard pressed to recognize the final results were all the same track as the sparse rendering Tegan and Sara recorded on

"Sainthood."

Sara said "Alligator" was a way to get these different artists to create something in their own style on this one track. "It was a fun process and fun to hear people we admire" approach the song. "It was a cool way to hear the song."

Each artist was encouraged to bring their own personality into the track, said Sara. The duo never intended to offer input or direction. Although, she said, some artists did share what they were doing along the way. To hear what was going to happen and to offer suggestions, Sara said, "That was awesome... I totally love collaboration."

As for her favorite take on "Alligator," Sara said, initially, her favorite remix was Passion Pit's. "They adjusted vocals, sped up the vocals and took it to a different place." But the remix by Four Tet actually turned out to be her favorite. "I was really excited he was up for it..." He's one of my favorite artists to make music with.

Tegan and Sara are definitely residents of the indie rock music scene. But Sara said dance music seems like a natural sidetrack for

the act. Before "Alligator," Tegan and Sara received a lot of recognition for a track they did with Tiesto, "I Feel It in My Bones." The duo, in fact, received more attention for that collaboration than for its own projects, said Sara.

As for Tegan and Sara's next steps after the Civic Tour, Sara said the duo will continue to mine their audiences on the road. They will be heading to Australia and New Zealand, this time opening for Jack Johnson. A tour of India also is a possibility and then they may be off to Europe. "We'll be touring the record into the winter."

By the time the air gets colder and the nights get longer in Canada, Sara said, the pair will have more than enough songs ready to record. And they will be itching to head back into the studio to lay down tracks for "Sainthood's" follow-up.

Tegan and Sara play The Civic Tour on Tuesday, July 27 at The Oakdale in Wallingford at 6:30 p.m.

For more information, go to TeganandSara.com or CivicTour.com

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