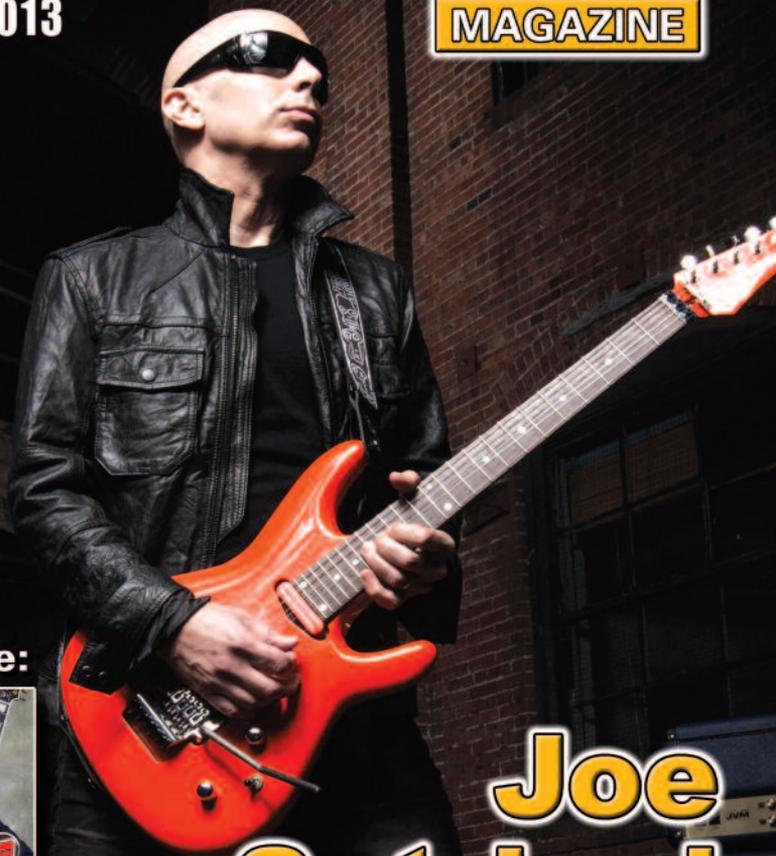


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OCTOBER 2013

MAGAZINE



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Joe Satriani



SICK PUPPIES



KELLIE PICKLER



TOWER OF POWER

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Sick Puppies is an Australian rock band, which consists of Shim Moore (vocalist and guitarist), Emma Anzai (bassist), and Mark Goodwin (drummer). The band was formed in 1997, but their most successful year was in 2006 when their song “All the Same” debuted on YouTube, and received over 70 million views. They are now touring the US to promote their most recent album “Connect.” I caught up with Shim to talk about their album, tour, and their success.

In 2000, the band had entered “The Triple J Unearthed” band competition against 3,000 other bands in Australia with their song “Nothing Really Matters.” This is the song Shim enjoys to play the most. “As far as performing, I think my favorite song is probably a really old song called ‘Nothing really matters’ which has eight different musical styles in it. It was a song we used for a competition many, many years ago before we were signed. That’s not actually on a record.” Their talent and hard work on this song ultimately paid off and led to them winning the competition and being rewarded with a management deal. They were then able to release their first official album. After this release, the band had moved to Los Angeles where they recruited their current drummer. On their success in the United States, Shim credits “A lot of hard work; just relentless hard work. That’s about it.”

The band is also well known for their infamous “Free Hugs” video. The campaign was started in Australia to encourage acts of kindness to strangers. It was started in 2004, but launched in 2006 when Sick Puppies used the campaign in their music video “All the Same,” the same video that now has over 70 million views. The song and video led them to great notoriety as they were acknowledged by Oprah Winfrey while appearing on her show, being scouted by record labels and winning the “Inspirational” YouTube Video of the Year in 2006.

With so many rock bands constantly forming in the United States, they are still able to be successful and their success can be seen in their record reaching No. 17 on the Billboard 200. Shim feels that his band sets itself apart from other bands due to the fact they are more musically motivated. “I think we can get a little more influence from old fashioned bands and a little musically minded. We are very diverse, and use the broadest powers. I’ve been getting a lot of comments on this record that it is a very diverse record. I think that’s definitely necessary when it comes to music at the moment, because we want to make the most musical sound we can.”

Capitol Records had released the band’s third album “Connect” on July 16, 2013. The album features an array of topics and

inspirations. Shim described the writing process for this album as follows; “We would sit around and talk about what was going on in the news, and movies, and we would sort of figure out what we would want to say. The inspiration for ‘Gun-Fight’ was political. ‘Run’ was what we deal with going, and going, day by day.” Moore described, “We would figure out something we believed in and wrote a song about it.”



The exciting part about this album compared to the bands previous three studio albums according to Moore, “It’s more musical, it’s more evolved, more musical. We spent more time on the songs mostly. And when we recorded, we didn’t layer it. We used more bass guitars, and then when it was done, we turned each song up louder because we had more space electronically.”

The first single off the album “There’s No Going Back” was released back in May. It has reached Top 10 on the Billboard for Hot Rock songs, and reached No. 9 on the Billboard’s Active Rock Charts. Shim believes this song was the right choice for their first single off of the album because, “It was a good theme for the record, it wasn’t music by numbers, it was more of a musical record than a demolition.” They also have a music video for the single, which is featured on their YouTube channel.

Out of the twelve songs on the album, the song which was Moore’s favorite to write was probably ‘Run’. “It was just a really beautiful process, we found something we all believed in and the song came up really quickly and then it took a long time to carve up the lyrics and we’re really proud of what we finished of it.” This song features inspirational lyrics such as “You better run as fast as you can / cause this world tries to stop you, stop you, stop

you / whenever it can.” Many people can relate to an inspirational song like this when they find themselves in times of wanting to do something in life, but just haven’t been able to accomplish it yet.

Although Moore is very pleased with the album and the end result, he wishes, “It didn’t take as long to finish the record. But everything good takes time and this was like that.”

The band kicked off their current tour on July 16th in Nebraska, and is continuing their tour through the month of October. The tour will span across the country and the shows will be in a variety of venues and towns, something the band really enjoys. The place Shim looks forward to performing at the most is in St. Louis. “It’s a great town, it’s a great venue. The crowd is always fantastic and we do really well in St. Louis so we always have a good time, a lot of people always come out.”

On Moore’s future plans for the band: “Tour until we fall over.” You can check out more about Sick Puppies on their website www.SickPuppies.com or their Facebook page. Also, be sure to check out their music video on YouTube for “There’s No Going Back.”

Sick Puppies will be performing in Orlando at the House of Blues on October 1st and in Tampa on October 2nd at The Ritz Ybor.

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