

## STREET SCENE

## It's a mad mad season for Florida's Matchbox Twenty



Adam Gaynor just got caught. As I was waiting patiently to be connected to Matchbox Twenty's rhythm guitarist for my interview, I overheard him ask the Atlantic Records publicist, "What's her name?"

I wouldn't expect of course that Gaynor would know or even be able to differentiate me from the countless other voices he encounters on a daily basis. "I like a good briefing," he joked as I caught the inquiry. "I need to know your name, where your from and your favorite color."

I laughed and replied: "Stephanie. Near Detroit. Orange."

Then it was my turn to ask the questions. Recording their first album, the now 11-times platinum *Yourself or Someone Like You* (1996), only three months after forming its line-up, Matchbox Twenty quickly settled into the role of radio darlings with hits like *Push*, *Real World* and *3 a.m.* Defying any idea of a sophomore slump, the band's follow-up *mad*

season by matchbox twenty debuted at a stunning Number 3 on the Billboard 200 last Spring. Its first single, *Bent*, gained relentless radio airplay long before the record found its way to store shelves. And Matchbox Twenty's current single, a somber, pleading pop tune called *If You're Gone* continues to climb up Billboard's Hot 100 Chart. *Mad* season has already reached triple platinum, so Gaynor has just cause for his gleeful, care-free attitude.

Calling from his home in South Florida, the guitarist was still reveling in four weeks of vacation before hitting the road in support of *mad* season.

The album itself uses much more instrumentation and reflects the band's progression after years of touring and performing. "Rob gave us a sneak preview of (the songs)," said Gaynor. "The first week (in the studio) was a little spooky. We thought 'That isn't going to work.' Then it really started to come together."

Rob, of course, is the voice of Matchbox Twenty—the boyishly charming Rob Thomas who rose to the spotlight after lending his pipes for the success of Carlos Santana's Grammy-winning *Supernatural*.

"Rob, that kid can sit and



Changing seasons: Matchbox Twenty is (clockwise from left) Brian Yale, Rob Thomas, Kyle Cook, Adam Gaynor and Paul Douchette.

write a lot of songs pretty fast," said Gaynor. "He sent us a tape of 15 songs on piano or acoustic guitar, beautifully-crafted songs. We listen to it for perspective and think, 'What do I want to add?'"

Gaynor got his first taste of guitar when his sister started taking lessons. About 12 years old, he remembers stealing her acoustic and taking to it with ease. He would take it to school and show the other kids what they were doing wrong. Gaynor remembers the first song he ever figured out on guitar — *Outlaw Man* by the Eagles. That was the very moment he discovered music could be a career.

"I'm very blessed with my job,"

His job involves playing with fellow Matchbox Twenty bandmembers Thomas, Brian Yale, Kyle Cook and Paul Douchette. The musicians were brought together by producer Matt Serletic, who worked on both albums and is often referred to as the sixth member of the Matchbox Twenty.

Despite the success Thomas achieved winning a Grammy for Santana's song *Smooth*, and the media attention given to his wedding to new bride, Marisol Maldonado Thomas, the songs that define *mad* season share a melancholy mood. From the ache of *Bent* to songs like *Last Beautiful Girl*, hardly a glimmer of the songwriter's sunny public

demeanor shines through them. Gaynor said he never really noticed that. "I think the word to use is midtempo," he added. "The first album was more angst-ridden."

Whatever the tone, the album is taking Matchbox Twenty back on tour, this time with openers Everclear and Lifehouse.

If you want to stomp the quick-witted guitarist just inquire about Thomas' success with Carlos Santana. Ask what effect the Grammy and the song have had on Matchbox Twenty. "I don't know what it did for the band. I know what it did for him, for his career. It was monumental. Three Grammys. A huge ordeal. It made him pretty...famous."

Gaynor remembers hearing an early version of *Smooth* and laughing: "What is he, Ricky Martin?" But then it started to grow on him. "This is my boy. We'd be dancing around the house. Seeing all of these things happen to him, I was so excited for him."

The fame didn't seem to hurt Matchbox Twenty. That's for sure.

Catch Matchbox Twenty with Everclear, Lifehouse, 7:30 p.m. Saturday, March 3, The Palace

of Auburn Hills, 1 Championship Drive, Auburn Hills. Tickets cost \$24.60-\$34.60. Call (248) 646-6666.

Stephanie Angelyn Casola writes about popular music for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. She can be reached at (734) 953-2130.

**Gear Up for Vacation!**

**Swim Snorkel & Scuba Outfitters**

You wouldn't rent a toothbrush. Why rent a snorkel? Let our professionals fit you with your own equipment.

Great Selection  
Affordable Prices  
Available in a Rainbow of Colors

**Gift Certificates**  
Swimming Snorkeling Scuba  
Training Equipment Travel

**Rec Diving**

3253 Woodward Ave. (3 blocks south of 14 Mile)  
Phone 248-548-0022 • Email: info@recdiving.com  
Hours: Mon-Fri 10-7 • Saturday 10-5 • Sunday 12-5

## CD REVIEW

## Lyndon

Small Craft Sighting

Small Craft Sighting would like to introduce you to Lyndon. He's not a "he" at all, but rather a shiny-new 4 song E.P. released by the Detroit area trio. For a group of musicians who practically grew up together, Joe Kirkland (vocals/bass), Chris Nagarah (guitar) and Courtney Cahill (drums) have managed to redefine the power chord this time around, coupling relentless drums with crashing guitarwork. All of this is crafted beside lyrics

that read like broken-hearted poetry but sound more like a primal rock scream.

On Lyndon, recorded with producer Tim Pak at Ferndale's Woodshed Studios, SOS reinvents itself, combining elements of punk with melodies that unmistakably pop. Kirkland's wavering vocals on *Punchdrunk* takes you up and down, feeling beaten like the lyrics imply: "Everyone knew everything but me."

The opener *Getting Dark Again* ventures into loneliness and grasps for something, someone out of reach. "I never wrote a

happy song, even when you begged to sing along," sings Kirkland on *Lip-synce King*. But something tells you fans of this band will be singing along anyway soon enough.

Catch the Small Craft Sighting

CD release party for "Lyndon" with openers Mock Heroics, Bedford Drive, 8 p.m. Friday, March 2, at Magic Stick, Detroit. Tickets are \$7 for this all ages show. Call (313) 838-9700. Check out www.smallcraftsighting.com.

**HOUSEHOLD PROBLEMS?**  
Tune-in Bob Allison's

**Ask Your Neighbor**

(WJZK 690 AM • Mon.-Fri. 9 am-11 am)

- How to Cook It
- How to Do It
- Where to Find It

www.askyourneighbor.com

**MUCH HOUSEY'S**

Now Appearing...  
Lisa Cunningham  
and  
7th HEAVEN  
FRI.-SAT.

28500 Schoolcraft  
Livonia  
(734) 425-5320

**NOW EVERY TUESDAY & THURSDAY**

**DAVE THE DJ**  
Formerly at Vickie's Steakhouse

OPEN DAILY MON-SAT AT 11:00 AM

COCKTAIL MON-FRI 4-7 PM DAILY

DINNERS from 4 p.m.

BUSINESSMEN'S LUNCHEONS from \$6.95

DINNERS from \$6.95

AMPLE LIGHTED PARKING • BANQUET FACILITIES AVAILABLE

**KURT RUSSELL KEVIN COSTNER**

**3000 MILES TO GRACELAND**

CRIME IS KING

www.3000m.com AOL Keyword: 3000 Miles to Graceland

**STARTS FRIDAY AT THESE THEATRES!**

AMC FORUM 30	AMC LAUREL PARK	AMC LIVONIA 20
AMC SOUTHWEST	AMC WONDERLAND	BEACON EAST
BIRMINGHAM 8	CANTON 6	MIR SOUTHWEST 20
NOVI TOWN CTR. 8	SHOWCASE ALBANY HILLS	SHOWCASE DEARBORN
SHOWCASE FARMING LEE	SHOWCASE STEVED HENRITS	SHOWCASE WESTLAND
STAR FAIRLAKE 21	STAR GRATIOT	STAR OAK LAKES CHURCH
STAR JOHN R	STAR LINCOLN PARK	STAR SOUTHWEST
STAR TAYLOR	UA COMMERCE STADIUM 14	UA WEST RIVER

For More Information About A.C. Movie

**Meadow Brook Theatre**

**It's a Mystery. But is it Murder?**

**FEB 14 THROUGH MAR 11**

A gravely ill woman wrestles with what it means to live and to die. Based on the controversial career of Michigan's Dr. Jack Kervorkian, this thought-provoking drama tells the story of a family pulled apart by a loved one's desire to end her life. Who's to choose? Meadow Brook Theatre's playwright-in-residence will have you guessing until the very end.

**KILLING TIME** WORLD PREMIERE BY KARIM ALRAWI

ADULT TOPICS MAY NOT BE SUITABLE FOR PRE-TEENS  
Following every performance join in a TALKBACK about the issues.

MBT BOX OFFICE: (248) 377-3300  
GROUP SALES: (248) 370-3316  
www.mbttheatre.com

Made possible by: **SPONSOR** **SPORTS** **Observer & Eccentric**

**2001: AN ART ODYSSEY**

FRIDAY, MARCH 2  
SILENT AUCTION

6:30-8 P.M.  
LIVE AUCTION

8-10 P.M.  
LIVE AUCTION

AUCTIONEER, DAVID P. MCCARRON  
SENIOR AUCTIONEER & APPRAISER,  
FRANK N. BOON GALLERY

Cocktails, dining, and music  
throughout the evening.

R.S.V.P. BY February 25

BIRMINGHAM BLOOMFIELD ART CENTER  
1118 SOUTH CRAWFORD ROAD  
BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN 48008  
(NORTHWEST CORNER OF 14 MILE & CRAWFORD RD.)  
WWW.BBARTCENTER.ORG  
(248) 644-0866

**ArtCenter**

SPONSORED BY THE OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC NEWSPAPERS

**Spring Starts Today!**

**Starts Here!**

Spring has arrived at The Michigan Home & Garden Show at the Silverdome. Let your spring plans for home and garden start here!

**Find home improvement ideas by the 100's.**

- 400 Exhibitors and 600 Booths will display the latest and greatest home, landscape and lifestyle trends
- Concrete Home Pavilion. See firsthand how this new concrete building application makes for a smarter living.
- Federated Garden Clubs of Michigan, Detroit District, will display entrants from its Standard Flower Show — cut flower arrangements based on the theme "Jazz."

**Seminars For Home & Garden**

Celebrity seminar leaders will present seminars from three different stages.

**Garden Stage:**

- Nancy Serling, Detroit's favorite garden writer
- Jeff Ball, Lawn Care Expert
- MSU Master Gardeners
- Tom Haggler, Wildflower Gardening
- Joyce Winfield, Herbalist, author and founder of "The Plant People."

**Builders Stage:**

- Glenn Hooge, America's Master Handyman
- Joe Gagnon, WTR's "The Appliance Doctor"

**Grilling Stage:**

- Mad Dog & Merrill, America's Favorite Grilling Buckle

**FREE Parking With Online Ticket Purchase**  
www.showspans.com

**Michigan Home & Garden Show**  
at the Silverdome  
**FEB 22-25**

Twenty spectacular gardens planted with thousands upon thousands of blooming annuals and perennials, flowering shrubs, mature trees, waterfalls, reflecting pools, and fountains.

**\$1 OFF**  
Regular Adult Admission with this coupon. Valid Thursday & Friday only.

**Home & Garden Show**  
at the Silverdome  
**FEB 22-25**

Regular Adult Admission \$7.00. Child (6-14) \$3.00. 5 & Under FREE

THURSDAY  
Friday  
Saturday (No Coupon)  
Sunday (No Coupon)

3 pm - 10 pm  
2 noon - 10 pm  
10 am - 10 pm  
10 am - 6 pm