

POPULAR MUSIC

Canada's Nickelback goes gold

BY STEPHANIE ANGELINI CASOLA
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Though Nickelback formed more than five years ago, the Canadian-based rock quartet was introduced stateside through radio hits like "Leader of Men" and "Old Enough." A pleading, pounding roar from today's rock psyche, the band released "The State" on Roadrunner Records in 1999. With an unrelenting tour schedule, lead vocalist and guitarist Chad Kroeger, his brother and bassist Mike Kroeger, guitarist Ryan Peake and drummer Ryan Vekedal seem to be in constant motion, their music blaring at every turn of the modern rock radio dial. On Friday, Jan. 19, Mike Kroeger took some time out despite the constant ring of his cell phone, and just before hitting the stage in Vancouver to talk about the rising state of success for a band whose name was oddly inspired by his stint as a Starbucks cashier.

O&E: Congratulations Mike, I heard "The State" just went gold in Canada. How do you feel?
Mike Kroeger: "It's like a birthday. It's a good thing. Where are you calling from?"

O&E: Livonia, it's in the Detroit area. You've never heard of it.

M.K.: "I know Livonia. The Detroit area has the best NFL team, the best NHL team and used to have the best major

league baseball team. Detroit has the Red Wings. I'm a Detroit fan."

O&E: So you're in Vancouver on tour. It seems you've been on the road nonstop for over a year now. How are you coping with that?

M.K.: "Before we started to tour, I'd never been west of Saskatchewan. (On tour) you have more time on your hands. If you didn't read before... You get more books and more games for your laptop."

O&E: What are you reading?
M.K.: "I've read all the works of William Shakespeare. I read War and Peace. All the classics. Now I'm reading David Lee Roth's autobiography. It's a page-turner for sure. I had a total classics meltdown. I started Don Quixote and said 'God, I can't do this right now.'"

O&E: (Laughs) Tell me how you got started out in music.

M.K.: "My brother and I both started around the same time. We were playing around here and there. I can't, I just wouldn't know what it was like without it. My grandfather and grandmother were both musicians. My grandma played drums and my grandpa played bass, which is what I play. Our mother was a tap dance instructor as well. That I'm sure had contributed to it. That sort of outside nudging."

O&E: How did coming from a small town like Hanna influence your music?

M.K.: "We probably were not easily influenced. We were sort of doing our thing. We were not really on the cutting edge of things, 200 miles from anything. We were not exactly on the cusp of the next trend."

O&E: What is it like being a band with your brother, Chad?
M.K.: "Working with my brother, it's pretty easy. When you're working with people you don't have a connection with...things in this business can get really tough. Some people would just walk away. You just don't walk away from your family."

O&E: It was just announced that next month Nickelback will be heading out as openers for Everclear. How do you feel about that? How is it different to open for a band like Everclear than to headline a tour yourself?

M.K.: "On your own tour, you feel like you're in the driver's seat. Maybe you don't hustle as much. When you're opening for someone, you've got something to prove. You're hungry, right. That's what we prefer, to open. We work so much harder. It's probably a concerted effort to be hungry."

O&E: You're returning to Detroit. Any thoughts on performing here?
M.K.: "There are we playing? St. Andrews Hall?"
O&E: Yes, I think so.

M.K.: "I can pretty much pace that stage off in my sleep. It's

awesome. We've played three or four times at St. Andrews Hall. It gets really off the hood."

O&E: Describe what fans can expect to see this time.
M.K.: "Hardcore aggressive. A lot of emotion."

O&E: Are you working on new material?
M.K.: "New songs. The new songs are really good. We need to go into record. We go into the studio right after Everclear."

O&E: Nickelback has sort of been lumped into this new wave of rock artists who are finding a lot of commercial success - like Three Doors Down and Creed. What do you think about that?

M.K.: "I think it's just what people are liking right now. I know a lot of the perception is based on the market, what's hot now. If you're being told to like us, than hell ya, I'm going with that."

O&E: Who are you listening to right now?
M.K.: "Sevendust. The Dofftones - all their records. Papa Roach. Limp Bizkit is totally awesome."

O&E: Is there anything you'd like to add?
M.K.: "Lookout Detroit, here we come. Detroit's always been good to us. It's one of the best cities. We love coming there."

Nickelback performs 8 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 20, St. Andrews Hall, 421 E. Congress, Detroit. Tickets \$10 for this all ages show. Call (313) 961-8961.



Here's your Nickelback: (Left to right) Ryan Peake, Chad Kroeger, his brother Mike Kroeger and Ryan Vekedal are 'Old Enough' to rock Detroit, Jan. 30.

COMING ATTRACTIONS

Scheduled to open Friday, Jan. 26

SHADOW OF THE VAMPIRE
Fictionalized look at the making of Murnau's horror classic Nosferatu where Murnau (John Malkovich) hires a real vampire (William Dafoe) to star in the movie. Also stars Cary Elwes, Cabot McCormack, Udo Kier, Eddie Izzard and John Aden Gillet.

THE CLAIM
Dillon: A man who in a moment of drunken impulse, sells his wife and daughter to the devil for the claim to a gold mine

finds that 20 years later he is rich beyond his wildest dreams. The sudden arrival of his wife and daughter forces him to re-evaluate his wealth.

SUGAR AND SPICE
The bond between five high school cheerleaders grows stronger when one of them becomes pregnant with the star quarterback's child. The squad finds itself turning to a life of crime to ensure the baby's financial future. Stars Mena Suvari, Maris Sokoloff and James Marsden.

Scheduled to open Friday, Feb. 2

ESCANABA IN DA MOONLIGHT
Twisted comedy about five Toopers - residents of Michigan's Upper Peninsula - and their escapades at a ramshackle deer camp on the eve of the opening day of the 1989 hunting season. Stars Jeff Daniels and Dave Prowse.

Scheduled to open Friday, Feb. 2

VALENTINE
A thriller about four women who find themselves being stalked by a killer over Valentine's Day weekend. Stars David Beronson and Denise Richards.

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SHOWCASE 4111	STAR FAIRLANE	STAR GRAY LAKES CROSSING
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