



Street Scene
Stephan Cosola

'Everything's been happening pretty quickly. You have to keep progressing. For a band, this is a rite of passage.'

Sam Fogarino
bandmember, Interpol

Tuesday, Jan. 21 on NBC's *Last Call with Carson Daly*.

"It's kind of only logical," said Fogarino. "Everything's been happening pretty quickly. You have to keep progressing. For a band, this is a rite of passage."

As a longtime fan, he looked forward to appearing on Letterman's show. "It's a little extra-special for a New York band to do a New York show. David Letterman is such a New York institution," he said.

Television seems to be the next level for Interpol, who have been in high demand since the release of *Turn on the Bright Lights* on Matador Records.

Interpol formed in 1998, but Fogarino didn't join in until 2000. He struck up a friendship with Kessler upon first moving to the city. Fogarino remembered his first impressions of the band's early demos.

"I thought 'This is good. This is promising,' but I wasn't super-compelled by it," he said. "At the time it didn't move me enough to make me want to join the band."

By the time Interpol released its "gray E.P." on the Chemical Underground label, he said, "the band just went leaps and bounds."

When Interpol finally found itself in need of a new drummer, Fogarino showed up - uncharacteristically late - for a first rehearsal. The rest was unspoken history, or as the drummer described "instanta-

neous, perfect timing."

"A year later I was flying over to London to do a (John) Peel Session," he said.

Interpol's music – lush soundscapes with hints of Brit pop and electroclash – has been plagued by comparisons to bands like Joy Division or Echo and the Bunnymen – which Fogarino can't understand. But he does admit to one thing all of these bands share – a passion for atmosphere.

"I'm the drummer in the band," said Fogarino. "I keep the punk alive. Daniel and Paul infect all the atmosphere."

Toss out labels like post-punk and new wave if you must, just picture them dressed in nothing less than a vintage suits, pinstripes and ties. As good as Interpol looks under the bright lights, they sound even better.

"I had a fear going into this thing they were going to have me put on an Addidas track suit," said Fogarino. He need not worry anymore.

Ask him about his shoe collection or his penchant for rock 'n' roll when Interpol performs 9 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 11 at St. Andrews Hall, 431 E. Congress in Detroit. Tickets \$12. Call (248) 645-6666 or visit cc.com.

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