

By Dylan Kallay

Out of all the upcoming local acts, Rescue Dawn is the most promising. The band consists of guitarist/lead vocalist RJ DeMarco, guitarist Jonah Wrest, bassist/vocalist Tom Balbierz and drummer Tanner DeMarco. Their sound is reminiscent of the pop-punk bands of the early 2000s which is shown in their album *Transitions*, released in 2014.

“It was kind of a coming together thing, it took so long to write and we were all coming from different bands” said bassist Tom Balbierz. By the time Balbierz and Wrest joined the band, the writing was all but done.

“RJ wrote the entire first album by himself” said Balbierz, “Some of the songs came from RJ’s very old ideas but we all sort of morphed it.” Balbierz was originally from Pop-Punk band What Is This and Wrest came from Between the Glass. Both their past musical experiences influenced the album.



Courtesy of Rescue Dawn

“We all joined after the fact, we just made things sound different because we all came from different styles and different bands” said Wrest. The writing for the extended play the band is working on is different since they were able to settle in together.

“Where writing a lot more together for this EP” said RJ DeMarco “a lot of the times when we write songs, one of us will have some sort of idea on our instrument and we’ll just jam out with it for a little bit.” Branching off of riffs and chord progressions that turn into all out jam session is basis of their songwriting, which isn’t uncommon among bands. Drummer Tanner DeMarco plays a pivotal part for their songwriting as well.

“I’m helpful when it comes to organization and pattern writing, that’s what I feel strongest on” said Tanner DeMarco. He jokingly added, “I kind of just play.” Jokes aside, Tanner DeMarco might be the most important piece to the whole band, organization of composition makes each song possible. His brother RJ DeMarco agrees.

“Believe it or not I really like writing with the drums because it really helps me out with arrangements” said RJ. Tanner DeMarco sets the staple of the energetic sound that the band does very well. However, the tone seems to be changing for this upcoming release.

“*Transitions* was really about finding ourselves” said RJ. “What we’re doing now is that we’ve established what we do and now we’re re-introducing ourselves a bit differently.” The change in tone is a testament not only to changing style of the writing, but also maturing as people.

“I feel like the songwriting has matured, just us getting older as people and experiencing more reflects that” said RJ. With any band and with any writing process, there come problems. In this case they are good ones.

“I’m a perfectionist almost too much to a degree and I know to an extent we all are” said RJ. “We don’t settle, there is no such thing as good enough. Its can we be better than we



were a year ago.” Other problems involve scrapping some ideas that the band doesn’t fully agree on, this is a democratic process after all.

“The music that you hear is what we’re all agreeing on” said RJ. Wrest would add “Yeah we have ten good ideas that are just ideas that we might use or might not use.” It’s not because the band doesn’t like a certain idea or riff that’s brought to the table, but it’s really if it fits the style and sound the new material is focused on. With the troubles of figuring out what will and what won’t be on the EP, there is one thing that keeps it all in check.

“It’s not even about writing its bout being with each other and hanging out with each other” said Balbeirz. RJ would add “It’s more of a family bond.” As a result the band is confident in the direction they’re going with this upcoming EP.

“These are the best songs I’ve experienced writing and I thought the same thing with *Transitions*” said Balbeirz. That shows the growth of not only each member of that band, but the band as a whole. There are other aspects that developed the band into the right direction, like touring.

“We’ve gone toward Chicago and back and down the coast, which were pretty much planned to do again in July” said Wrest. The band has toured in Pittsburgh PA, Cleveland Ohio, Rock Island IL, Florida, North and South Carolina, Virginia and New Jersey. So the band has seen its fair share of land which has helped in their performing and writing.



“The Hype Machine” Courtesy of Rescue Dawn

If you want to see this band live, their upcoming show is May 18th at the Studio at The Waiting Room on the corner of Delaware and Tupper. They will be playing with Hit the Lights, Seaway, Can’t Swim, and Casey Bolles.

Their next tour will start in July 9th. The first week they will be traveling to Chicago and back. Their hometown show on July 16th at Buffalo’s Mohawk Place, located at 47 E Mohawk St. After that the tour will go down to Florida and end on the 29th

If you want to hear their music, their debut album *Transitions* is on Spotify. If you want to buy and merchandise like t-shirts, a link will be down below. Along with that will be their Facebook page so you can keep in touch with the band for future shows and updates. After the tour the band will focus on finishing their EP if it isn’t done by then.

“We need new music out, it’s been two years and this is definitely better than *Transitions*, not that it was bad this is just more gel’d overall” said Wrest. Being in a band this active can get chaotic. These guys are balancing school, work and their dream of creating music and performing it.

While visiting in Hamburg, these guys were always working on something. RJ DeMarco was tracking an intro for one of their new songs with Jonah Wrest assisting. Tanner DeMarco was writing an essay for one of his classes; Tom Balbierz was soldering wires to a speaker to get it to work. It’s busy work but they’re dedicated to the craft.

“The thing about us is that we’ve been so dedicated so far and I think that’s carried us” said Balbierz. “The reason why we all discontinued our old bands because we wanted to be in something more dedicated and be in something we wanted to do for the rest of our lives.” Looking at the bond within the band and how they’ve really refined and tightened their sound, they have a good chance succeeding in that goal.

Link to Merch: <https://rescuedawn.bandcamp.com/>

Link to Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/rescuedawn>

