

Rise Against make their 'Appeal'



Left to right; Joe Principe, Tim McIlrath, Zach Blair, and Brandon Barnes combine to form, possibly, the most politically active band in rock.

By **TYLER RENDLEMAN**
The Tempo Staff Writer

From being a once small band from the underground punk scene in Chicago, to one of the most popular melodic hardcore based bands in the country.

Influencing the lives of millions with their cause based lyrics, driving guitar, and tempo changes that are yet to be topped, they are Rise Against.

The four-piece band is made up of vocalist Tim McIlrath, guitarist Zach Blair, bassist Joe Principe, and drummer Brandon Barnes.

Rise Against recently released a new album, "Appeal to Reason", and are hard on the road touring with Thrice, Alkaline Trio, and Gas Light Anthem.

The band however recently changed guitarist after their previous album, "The Suffer and the Witness" (2006).

After former guitarist Chris Chasse left the band, Zach Blair was recruited to fill the void in the band.

Blair was nice enough to share his thoughts, and opinions on recording the new album, touring, and a little bit about his life in general.

Tyler Rendleman: Tell me a little bit about yourself.

Zach Blair: Well I'm originally from Dallas, Texas and my brother plays bass for the Toadies.

What other bands have you been previously?

I use to play in GWAR as a matter of fact.

How long is the tour?

It started in October in Cleveland and we've been working our way down the North East and it will end November, I think the last show is in Michigan.

Will this strictly be a North American Tour?

Ya, we are just sticking to the U.S right now.

Where was your favorite place to perform so far?

Myrtle Beach in South Carolina at the House of Blues, the crowd was great and I really enjoyed playing there.

What do you love about touring the most?

Playing our music to kids across the nation and getting our message heard. It's just awesome to be up there and seeing thousands of kids singing along with you.

What do you not like about being on tour?

You really start to miss your loved ones after being on the road for so long but you have to sacrifice for something bigger than yourself.

What are some bands you like to tour with?

I really liked touring with the Bronx, and the Cancer Bats are a favorite of mine.

Is being in Rise Against what you expected?

It's exactly what I wanted and more, being in this band is the greatest experience of my life.

As far as the new album goes, when and where was most of it written?

Most of the writing has been taking place over the past two years, and most of the writing takes place on tour, but a lot of ideas come out in the studio too".

What are your favorite songs of the new record?

I would have to say "Whereabouts Unknown" because it was a pretty metal riff. I also really like "Savior."

What fuels most of the lyrics on this album?

Lyrics are really Tim's department, but most of the lyrics are about what's wrong with society, like "Hero of War". It's an acoustic track about a documentary that Tim watched called, Ground Truth. It's the story about an Iraqi vet that covers all the way from boot camp up to what he did in the dessert.

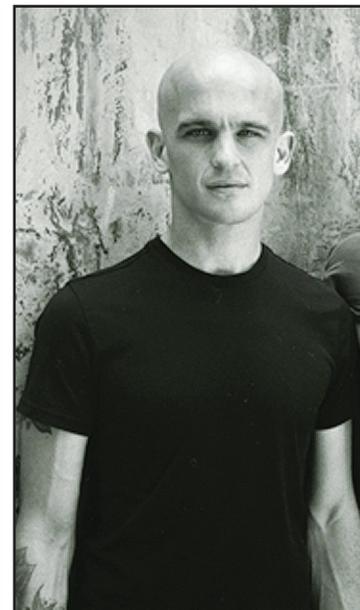
Well I know your busy but I have one last question for you. Do you have any words of wisdom to aspiring musicians?

It gets really tough but you can't give up, you have to keep trying and keep faith that you'll make it.

understrike57@hotmail.com

“You have to sacrifice for something bigger than yourself.”

Zach Blair



Editor's note; The Tempo would like to thank Zach for the interview and suggest heavily that you check out "Appeal to Reason".

Sunday, November 16th
Rise Against w/
Alkaline Trio, Thrice,
Gaslight Anthem

The Pageant
St. Louis, MO