

Inderivium, much more than just metal

By MIKE CHAIKEN
EDITIONS EDITOR

"The Empty Injection" by local band Inderivium rocks hard and loud. But these days, the band signed with Southington's 10-Foot Reach Records, doesn't want to be called metal music.

For these four guys from Connecticut (Michael Aiello – vocals, Pete Fratta – drums, Tom Myers – guitar, and Chris Relyea – bass), there's much more, musically, to the entity known as Inderivium.

We caught up with Michael and Chris via MySpace.com to talk about the band and the band's new record, "The Empty Injection."

Q: First of all, how did Inderivium come together, how did you guys meet?

Michael: I knew Tom through my older cousin who had been trying to get us into a band together since high school, but we never really clicked before. It wasn't until we began working together and became friends that I was able to talk him into starting a band. From there, I called Chris who I had remembered had played bass in the band Superkid. Initially, I was the drummer, but after jamming without a singer for a year, Chris mentioned Pete who he was working with at the time. It took some convincing, but I had sung in bands in the past and we got along really well with Pete, so that move completed the puzzle.

Q: Why the name Inderivium?

Chris: Original band, original name. We wanted something different.

Q: What clued you in that this combination of musicians worked?

Michael: In reality, the reason this works has nothing to do with music. For us, it was more about friendship and having fun. We all come from such different musical backgrounds, which puts us at odds with each other when trying to cram all these ideas together. This combination works because we can all laugh and have a good time together and we all share the common goal of making sure each song is

as good as it can be. It's difficult to put four type-A personalities in a room for hours and expect it to work, but I think we share a lot of respect for where each of us has come from and the past bands we've all played in. With that, we are able to compile ideas and compromise on the path that each song needs to take.

Q: You're a metal band. But what kind of musical influences do you channel into your sound?

Michael/Chris: Metal might be somewhat of a misnomer. Chris and Tom are 80s metal/progressive guys. Pete is the anti-establishment-punk, and I'm more into 90s grunge, alt-rock and new metal. It's an interesting mix and while we branded Inderivium a metal band from the beginning, I think we've strayed more into the melodic end of the spectrum. We are a lot more radio friendly than we thought we would be, but it seems to work for us. Once we begin writing a song, it takes on a life of its own and the music tells us where to go from there. We tend to just let go of our personal feelings of what we are supposed sound like and the songs write themselves. Over time, it will set us apart from the pack. Not to say that there's never any in-fighting; we have definitely had our battles. We all have our different tastes, but I feel we influence each other when ideas are brought to the writing table. Ideas are warped, shaped, and sometimes gutted until we all hear what we like. Once we are satisfied with our creation, Mike goes into his secret place for awhile then comes back with a hook and message that changes everything yet again. Sort of like the marinade on an already perfectly grilled steak.

Q: Who are some of the band's musical heroes?

Michael: I'm personally a fan of anything with a strong melody. I came up loving Pearl Jam, Incubus, Killswitch Engage, 36



Inderivium, on Southington's 10 Foot Reach Records. The band's new album is 'The Empty Injection.'

Crazyfists, Radiohead and everything in between.

Chris: I'll listen to anything that gets me moving, but my roots are in the era of early Black Sabbath, through the late 80s/early 90s metal and thrash scene. My heart wears a mullet. Tom is into anything from death metal to the progressive stuff, jazz, new age, and everything in between, which adds to the uniqueness around what we write.

Q: Why did you choose the songs you did for the new EP, "The Empty Injection?"

Michael: At the time, the songs were chosen more out of necessity than anything else. For a new band, there are just certain steps that need to be taken in order to start booking gigs and building a fan base. Putting together a quality CD for the press kit is probably the most important of those steps. We'd written a handful of songs, maybe nine or so, but had a very small recording budget. We would have liked to put out a full length album, but finances dictated that we scale back and pick the songs we felt best repre-

sented the band.

Q: What inspires your songwriting?

Michael: Life. I just write what I see, what I know and what I hope for.

Chris: Some people hear voices that tell them to do things. I hear clips of tunes and riffs that make me do things.

Q: What's the significance of the album title, "The Empty Injection?"

Michael: Empty Injection was originally on the list of name ideas for the band. We all liked it, but it didn't make sense as a band name to us. When it came time to name the EP, we put it back on the table because the feelings it portrays fit the concept of the songs we had recorded. I think that since then, we've

all found our own personal meaning behind it.

Q: How did it feel to hold in your hand and hear in stereo speakers the new album?

Michael /Chris: It was exciting to see and hear. Pete's girlfriend Rachel, who did the artwork and layout, did an amazing job, and seeing it for the first time was a rush. Pete had received the CDs and handed us the discs while we were loading in for a show. It took a moment or two to sink in that what we held wasn't just some other band he wanted me to check out. We now had something tangible and it really felt like a new level was reached. When 106.9 WCCC spins the tracks now and then, I'd have to say I can't stop grinning. This is a

CD we all still listen to on a regular basis.

Q: What are plans beyond the EP... a full length album, any touring plans... etc.

Michael: A full length album is in the future. We will begin work on it over the winter to hopefully release late in 2010. We haven't really talked about that as we are still riding the wave of "The Empty Injection." This summer, we are going to keep plugging away on the Northeast club circuit, maybe a few short tours as opposed to a long one. Basically, we'll just try and keep our name at the forefront of everyone's mind. Additionally, being on the Sling Slang/10 Foot Reach label, has also opened a number of doors for us, and we would like the personally thank George and Dino for all their help.

Inderivium plays Hall of Fame Billiards in Ellington on Saturday, May 9 at 8 p.m. and at the 10 Foot Reach Records Hall Show at the Franco American Club in Bristol on Friday, May 15 at 6 p.m. For more information, go to MySpace.com/Inderivium or SlingSlang.com.

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