

2008 Winners of MTVU's Breaking Woodie Award for Breakout Artists of the Year, There For Tomorrow, played Highline Ballroom this past week.

Young Orlando rockers There For Tomorrow have already been gaining industry recognition, winning MTVU's Breaking Woodie Award for Breakout Artists of the Year in 2008, and earning a spot on Alternative Press's "100 Bands You Need To Know in 2009" list. They just finished touring on Warped Tour, and are currently out on the road with Hit The Lights to promote their latest CD, "A Little Faster." I sat down with lead singer Maika Maile after their recent gig at Highline Ballroom to discuss life on the road, getting an early start in the music business, and iPhone codependency.

1. You guys started out really young, around 13. At what point did you decide this is for real, and not just a hobby?

I started playing guitar when I was 6. So I think my parents knew when they had to tell me to put my guitar down and go to bed, I think they knew there was something there. It was just something that came naturally, nothing forced. I just fell in love with guitar and music. Just went from there and kept going.

2. Did you have an early music memory? Was there something that made you want to pick up the guitar? Did someone in your family play?

Yeah, my Dad was an entertainer, he was a singer and guitarist. He played at luaus. He's from Tonga, a Polynesian island in the South Pacific. There was so much music happening within my family. It's part of my culture, which is so heavily involved with music and dancing. Early on I learned how to gain appreciation for that kind of music. People in the states don't understand Polynesian music, so I got a different perspective early on. It's very feel oriented, very passionate. They just hang out and play music, so it's not like they're trying to be anything.

3. According to your tour schedule, you only have about 5 days off for the next month. How do you keep your sanity, especially on the occasional day when you might not feel up to playing?

We're all here to do it because we wanna do it, no one's making us do anything. We're the machine that's making it go. We realized that a lot after Warped Tour. We've started to become very self reliant and we're making that transition now from being dreamers to doers and really putting plans into action. It's fun for all of us, even delving into the business and all the aspects of media (photography, video, film) We take appreciation in all of it.

4. Any CDs or books to help you deal with life on the road?

Oh we have hundreds of CDs! I'm always listening to music all the time whether I'm driving, or laying down. The iPhone is a Godsend! It's probably why I'm staying on tour! It's tough to get wifi/wireless anywhere to post internet stuff. But this, you can do it anywhere. It passes time easily; I can Google and research things when I'm chillin'...thanks Apple! How do you outdo this thing? You can't!

5. Is there a band whose live show you look up to? Like say a Motley Crue or a U2 or someone?

(laughs) Uh, no. We can do without the big hair and makeup. That kind of rock star is done. I think the new breed of rock star is a lot more humble. It's cool to see. Everything's so easily accessible now with Twitter, the iPhone, Facebook, etc. You're dumb to see past that, because it's such a huge part of music and why music happens nowadays- it's because of the internet. I mean, we're always on it because we like to be on it to talk to friends, talk to people who come out to shows and fans. Follow me: @maikatft.

6. Do you have a dream tour? Anyone you would want to open for?

A dream would be opening for Foo Fighters. They're just quintessential modern rock, they really set the tone. Jimmy Eat World, Third Eye Blind... 30 Seconds to Mars. Based off the two songs I've heard from 30STM, their new album is going to be really good. We all really like what they do, and how smart Jared Leto is. That one's kinda realistic though. Hopefully we could lock something down with them for a tour.

7. Who are your musical influences?

Chris and Jay are big Blink-182 fans, Chris mostly. I bought Metallica's Black album when I was 6 with my own money. That was my first CD ever. I grew up on metal. I never liked the glitz and glam metal. Not trying to downgrade them, that's their thing or whatever. The fake stuff with the big hair and the kissing the air while they played guitar... I liked Metallica banging their heads off, because they had a little bit more heart. Them, Megadeth, Pantera. But at the same time I was still listening to Hanson and Backstreet Boys (laughs). Reggae, Peter Tosh, Marley, Steel Pulse... I loved Bone Thugs n' Harmony. All that's rubbed off on all of us. I don't think anyone could predict what we love and listen to. Open mindedness is good. People jump on assumptions and narrowmindedly choose an opinion and don't like this band or that artist just based on hearsay. I used to be very opinionated,

and am still. But in a different way.

8. What is the best piece of career advice you've ever heard?

We were in L.A., maybe the second time we were ever there. Things were starting to happen, John Feldman (singer of Goldfinger/producer) came and checked us out. He gave his honest opinion, which was that we seemed a bit safe and too calculated, maybe a bit forced. He told me to just go home, get heartbroken and write songs. A couple months later, mid-tour, me and my High School girlfriend broke up. We were the epitome of super puppy love. So I got heartbroken and ever since then I've been great (laughs). So much material happens from that because of the soul searching happens in that depth and sorrow. The empty feelings...everyone can relate to it.