



New Found Glory

By Randy J. Klodz

Photography by James Minchin III



New Found Glory adds a shot of maturity to the bulging pop-punk pants party with their recent hit album *Catalyst*, creating a story dripping with fun facts that SOAK Magazine just had to tackle.

Coral Springs, Fla. natives New Found Glory—which features singer Jordan Pundik, guitarists Chad Gilbert and Steve Klein, bassist Ian Grushka, and drummer Cyrus Bolooki—gets the crowd grooving to hits “My Friends Over You,” “Head on Collision,” and a handful of others.

New Found Glory guitarist Steve Klein called in from a tour stop in San Francisco to get SOAK Magazine grooving while chatting about everything, including participating in the pop-punk popularity party, rocking the *MTV Cribs* cradle, and killing each other...in video games.

SOAK: Now that New Found Glory's success really isn't that “new” and you guys have been playing to sell-out crowds for quite some time now, how have things changed for each member of the band?

Steve Klein: We're pretty much like regular, everyday kids. I feel like we're the same band we were when we were playing in people's basements and garages. None of us have really changed since we got, I guess you can say, popular. We just get weirder because more people know who we are and

know our names, and we don't know their names. Seeing yourself on TV is really surreal. If anything, we never thought we would get out of Coral Springs, never mind being able to pay our bills with just the music we sit around and write together. We try to get our music out to as many people as possible, so there's some kinds of things we have to do that we kind of feel weird about, like be on the radio and be on TV, but it's all surreal.

SOAK: Speaking of appearing on TV, critics kind of look down on the whole pop-punk genre with *New Found Glory*, *Good Charlotte*, and *Simple Plan*, and they look down on bands that are on "TRL" and things of that nature.

SK: *New Found Glory* has really had our own deal going on. I guess we get lumped in with

only moved into our house for like a week and we got back from our Australian tour, and they gave us three days notice. Our house was empty, you know, since we had just moved in before leaving for Australia, so we had to go to Walmart and buy furniture and they ended up filming it. It was just one of those things to just say we did it. You watch "Cribs" and there are basketball players, huge stars, and huge mansions and whatever, and they go to our house and it's like a regular house. It's not even comparable to anything that has been on that show—well, except for *Redman's* house. [laughs] To me, those are the coolest ones because those are more real. You see all the houses of the basketball stars and you know they had an interior decorator do everything for them, and they have no idea

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Good Charlotte and *Simple Plan* and all those bands like that, and I don't think we sound like those bands at all. Those bands, to me, are simplified versions of what we do. They have songs that are really easy. Our band's only pop to a certain extent. Our band's pop because you listen to it and it's catchy. We don't go out and try to write a hit song or try to do anything like that. We got lumped into that category just because the radio wants us in that category. But if you listen to our record, every song is different. It's not just three chords over and over. When we first started, we got compared to *Get Up Kids* and *Weezer* and now it's like we're on the radio and what's popular now is *Good Charlotte* and *Simple Plan*, so now it's like "Oh, they sound like this band," so we're lumped into that category.

SOAK: Speaking of TV, I remember seeing your house on "MTV's *Cribs*"...

SK: That whole thing is like a novelty thing to us. [laughs] It's just funny because we were

what any of the paintings mean or what the statues they're buying are. The houses that you see that are normal just seem more real.

SOAK: Do executives just call you guys and ask you to be on a show like "Cribs"?

SK: They just call our label and say "Hey, we want to have *New Found Glory* on our show" and it happens. We've been asked to do a couple of weird kind of shows like *Tale Daters* or shit like that. We're like "No way, we're not going to be on that show, those shows are stupid." But if it's something where it would just be cool to do it, we might do it.

SOAK: Now that people know what your house looks like, do you have a lot of people trying to peek out where you live?

SK: We had a couple of kids in our neighborhood that would just come over and ask us to sign stuff for them. We lived in a small town (Temecula, Calif.), so it really wasn't that big of a deal there.

SOAK: *New Found Glory's* first EP is titled "It's All About the Girls." Have things as far as women and other walks of life changed now that you're successful and famous?

SK: When we wrote that record, I was in high school. I think every record we have put out is definitely taking whatever is going on in our lives and writing it down. Every record is kind of a time period captured as our band has progressed, you know what I mean? From *It's All About the Girls* being high school, to *Nothing Gold Can Stay* kind of being high school, the self-titled album being college, and then touring and touring and touring. And all of the rest of the songs are whatever's going on now.

SOAK: As far as the female following, there must be handfuls of females that follow *New Found Glory* from tour stop to tour stop.

SK: Uh huh, yeah, [laughs] I guess a lot of girls think that Jordan's [Pundik, singer] cute, I don't know. But we do have a lot of guy fans, too. It's not like just a one-sided thing. When we toured with *Good Charlotte* on the *Honda Civic Tour* two years ago, like, seriously, it was all girls, because they're on the cover of teen bop magazines, and all the 13 and 14-year-old girls go nuts. I think we're a little bit harder [than *Good Charlotte*] for girls that age to like us. There are a lot of girls that come to our shows, but they're the ones that know all the words and sing along and are proud of it. The guys are the ones that can't be seen singing, and they're singing the words under their breath. It's funny.

SOAK: What kind of things do you do to entertain yourselves while on the road?

SK: We don't really play cards or anything. We sometimes play *Halo 2*, which is fun. We have two Xbox's, one in the front, and one in the back of the bus, and we play *Halo 2* and kill each other. That's always fun.

For more information on *New Found Glory* log on to newfoundglory.com.

