

# "OVERNIGHT SUCCESSES HAVE BUSES. WE RIDE IN A VAN WITH A TRAILER..."



"I don't think anybody should be allowed to say that to us—yet," Silveira insists. "We're still struggling musicians. All people have is this [sense of] 'You weren't here, now you're here.' They don't have the background, they don't have my checking account balance. We *have* obtained a certain amount of success...but when it comes to...overnight success, I don't think that's happened to us. We're traveling nine to 10 months out of 12. Overnight successes have buses. We ride in a van with a trailer. And I've been doing this for—God, at least 10 or 15 years. Everybody that's in the band has been doing this for a long, long time. So, yeah, if like 14, 15 years is considered overnight success, I guess I am one."

Despite widespread praise, Silveira has also sparked criticism. *HX* magazine published an unflattering piece accusing him of identifying as transgender simply for the publicity.

"To say I got a double mastectomy for publicity is insane," Silveira says, dismissing the speculation. "If you're anything but a white male [in the music industry] it's automatically a novelty. Everybody needs a story to get people to listen.

If I were Amy Winehouse, it would be that I'm troubled and in rehab."

Fortunately, most of the focus on the Silveira's gender seems to have faded in light of the band's musical appeal.

"The Cult tour really, really helped us reach an audience that we normally probably would not have access to," he raves. "It was such an honor to travel and go around the United States with these musicians. [They] completely respected us as musicians, which is not always the case when you introduce big rock bands who are filled with bio dudes," he says, referring to men biologically born as males. "I think the fact that they asked us back on is a sure-fire sign that we're doing something right!"

Silveira has been thrilled to find proof of The Clinks' popularity on YouTube, where a toddler belts the chorus to "Oh Yeah" and a 15-year-old does an acoustic version of "Nobody Else Will."

"It's such an honor to know that there are people out there playing our music and loving it. Also, we found out this couple—a trans man and his girlfriend—got married, and they used 'Nobody Else Will' for their wedding song. How

can I not love that?"

Between touring and growing its audience, The Clinks recently squeezed in a trip to the studio to record a few songs. "We have one digital track that's going to come out that's called 'My Heroes.' It's sort of to appease the fans, because it seems like if you wait more than three months to release your next album, you're just not keeping on top of things. That's what it takes these days; it takes 24/7 work. We work our asses off."

Acknowledging those industry difficulties doesn't prevent Silveira from recognizing his good fortune. "At this point I'm pretty happy with where we are. We've come a long way...from what we did last year to now. We went from playing small clubs—headlining or opening for local acts and getting 10 to 20 people—to all of a sudden going someplace like Cambridge and selling out the entire venue or doing a tour where every single venue we've had was sold out. Now we're...going to the next level, where we'll be opening [for] The Cult, and then...a different slot with the True Colors Tour. There's [even] been talk about us going in a bus!"

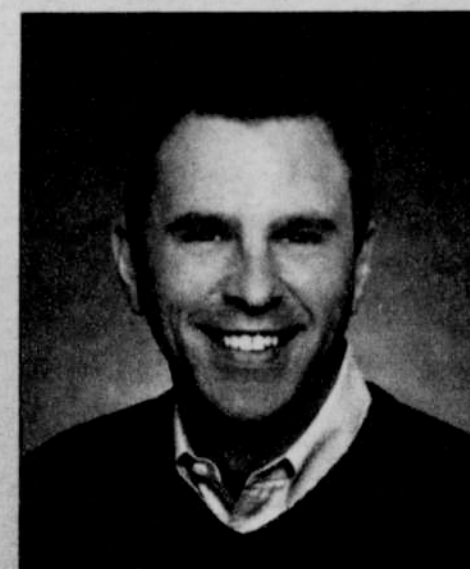
*Continued on Page 24*

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I GUESS I AM ONE."  
—LUCAS SILVEIRA



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