

# TOOL MAKES A MARK IN THE HISTORY OF ROCK

In honor of their recent visit to the City of Roses, I have taken it upon myself to provide some of the less fortunate people who know little of the band with useful information. I have taken this information from both their official Web site ([www.toolband.com](http://www.toolband.com)) and another Tool site, which the band itself recognizes as a credible source of information ([toolshed.down.net](http://toolshed.down.net)).

## The history of Tool

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Tool has continually produced high quality albums since their 1992 debut with *Opiate*. Their following has grown substantially with each subsequent release. Their sophomore release, *Undertow*, has achieved double platinum status, selling 2,000,000 copies as of May 14, 2001. In fact every Tool album has gone gold with the exception of their live album *Salival*.

While remaining a prominent musical figure in the metal and hard rock scene, their music has been largely misinterpreted by the general population. The metaphors and symbolism used by the band have had mostly sexual undertones, and it has been speculated that members of the band have been molested sexually or are perhaps sexual predators. The truth is that while sexually oriented, their music is full of open-ended metaphors whose true meanings are highly debatable, and known only to vocalist and songwriter Maynard Keenan himself, who is on good terms with his father and visits him at least yearly.

Tool's music is not easily defined. It would be easy to hear it on hard rock radio stations and classify it thusly, but to do so would mean the band is in the same boat as Metallica and AC/DC. It would be more appropriate to put them in the same category as Led Zeppelin, whose members, especially guitarist Jimmy Page, have been associated with the occult and black magic.

The music of both Led Zeppelin and Tool has had an outstanding effect on music in general. Both groups appear to hold some fascination with the workings of mysticism and thought. A cover of the Zeppelin classic *No Quarter* can be heard on *Salival*, and some of the drum beats and guitar riffs are reminiscent of Zeppelin.

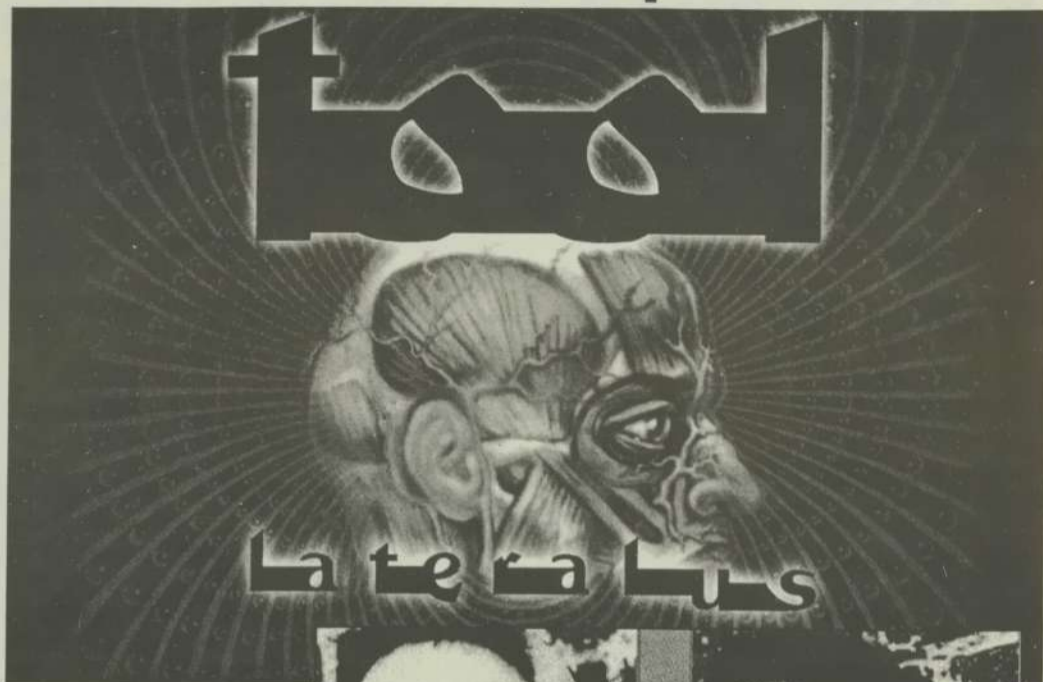
In 1990, Danny Carey (drums) and Paul D'Amour (bass) met Adam Jones (guitar) and Keenan.

"I met Adam through Tom Morello of Rage (Against the Ma-

chine)," explained Carey in an interview appearing on one of the larger Tool related sites on the Net. "And I was living beside Maynard. I never auditioned for them (Keenan and Jones). I felt kinda sorry for them, because they would invite people over to play, and they wouldn't show up, so I'd fill in." Carey had played drums for bands such as Green Jelly, and was letting Keenan and Jones use his practice area.

D'Amour had moved to California to work in the film industry, which was Jones' profession. Jones had already contributed his special effects talents to such films as "Terminator 2," "Jurassic Park" and "Predator 2".

After they formed, they toured with Rollins Band, Rage Against The Machine and Fishbone and eventually took center stage at Lollapalooza in 1993, stealing the show and transforming the music scene in general. In September of 1995, D'Amour left the band due to "creative differences," and has since been in a number of largely unsuccessful side projects. In early November however, the band took on Justin Chancellor, formerly of the band Peach, which had recently broken up. Justin's unique bass style added a new element, which is apparent on their later albums *Ænima* and *Lateralus*.



Above: The *Lateralus* album, the long awaited new release from Tool, features twelve songs.

Clockwise from top left: Maynard James Keenan, Adam Jones, Danny Carey, and Justin Chancellor.

INFORMATION COMPILED BY  
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## Band biographies

### Maynard James Keenan: vocals

Born to a Baptist family in Ravenna, Ohio, James Herbert Keenan was a Kiss fanatic at age 12. He attended Brown Jr. High followed by Ravenna High School through the 10<sup>th</sup> grade. His family relocated to Michigan, where he attended Mason County Central High School in Scottville, MI. By the time he entered the army in 1982, he had lived in Ohio, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Oklahoma, Kansas and Texas. He attended the United States Military Academy ("West Point") prep school class of 1984, and he refers to West Point's honor code "I will not lie, cheat, or steal, or tolerate those who do," in the song "Intolerance" from *Undertow*.

He quit the military to study spatial design art, which led to a job using feng shui to remodel pet stores in L.A. He studied at the prestigious Kendall College of Art & Design in Michigan.

### Adam Jones: guitar

Adam Jones is the mind behind the intense videos and electrifying guitar riffs that make Tool the band it is. Jones, originally from Illinois, played the violin from elementary school through his freshmen year of high school. In addition to playing in an orchestra, he played bass for Tom Morello's high school band Electric Sheep. The two learned from one another, and never had traditional instruction in guitar theory.

Jones received a music scholarship to go to college but attended Hollywood Makeup Academy instead. He learned "straight make-up," thinking it would help him out, and then started sculpting and becoming involved in other special effects, such as the stop-motion effects seen on many of Tool's music videos. After graduating, he went to work at Ric Lazzarini's The Character Shop making creatures for such films as "Ghostbusters 2". After two years of character design, he settled down in a quiet band with his friend Maynard, and the rest is history.

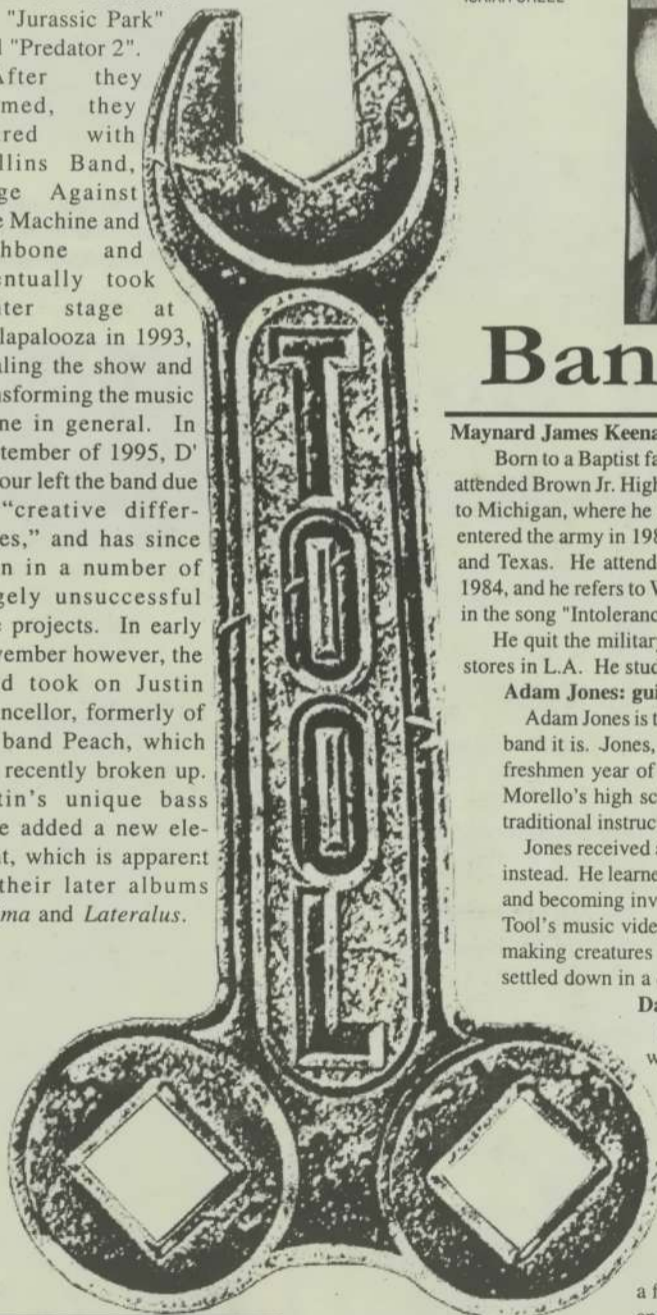
### Danny Carey: drums

Carey, arguably the finest drummer in history, had his first musical experience when his father took him into the music library at the University of Kansas where he heard *The Planets* by Gustav Holst. He started taking snare drum lessons at age 10, and got his first drum kit at 13. He received a scholarship in high school to go to the Conservatory of Music in Kansas City. He had offers to play basketball at smaller colleges, but knew he wasn't good enough to play major college or professional basketball.

In 1986, he moved to L.A. and spent four years there before any major changes took place in his life. He worked in a tape duplication house and as a session player for Green Jelly, Pygmy Love Circus and Carole King. He sat in on a few sessions with Jones and Keenan when their scheduled drummer didn't show and ended up forming the Tool we all know and love.

### Justin Chancellor: bass

Last but certainly not least is Justin Chancellor. Justin, a native of England, met Tool in New York, and kept in touch with its members; his band Peach contributed to their 1994 European tour. When Tool's original bassist quit the band, the remaining members immediately thought of Chancellor, Peach having broken up six months previous. Justin felt very loyal to his Peach guitarist, with whom he had played since age 14, and refused Tool's offer. Eventually, however, he flew to the U.S. and auditioned for the band. He beat out some difficult competition and was accepted. He has played on three of their five records.



Above: The Toolwrench is a older logo used by the band  
Left: The *Ænima* album cover featured four interchangeable holographic covers, the rolling eye, the white flames, California falling into the Pacific Ocean (not pictured) and a man performing a body contortion (not pictured).

