

# From Ashes Fall

## Band overcomes adversity with diversity

By Craig Hartrampf  
The Clackamas Print

Avenged Sevenfold, Skillet, folk, and Marvin Gaye; not your typical list of inspirations, but drummer Beau Clark from local band From Ashes Fall says that's what they as a group, bring to the table.

Rewind four years, the band Almond Buds were playing in the Seattle area doing gigs here and there. Now fast track to last December, the Almond Buds disband and since then posted an ad on craigslist. Through that ad, the found percussionist drummer Clark. Clark, along with guitarist Richard Staats and bass player John Randall, formed From Ashes Fall, and started playing rock music. From Ashes Fall is a Christian band that doesn't want to be confused with a praise and worship band that is "preachy" and that shoves religion down your throat, but plays and conveys a positive message that most rock bands don't.

Clackamas Community College's audio engineering courses were useful in getting Clark into the band. "I told them when I started this that I was in the audio engineering program, and they were excited that someone could help them with the recording process because that's what they were really focusing on at the time I got in," Clark said.

Taking the audio engineering classes has many benefits. "You get to practice and learn how to record in a studio, which in the real world, saves you time and money," said Kim DeLacy, audio engineering student. "You get to make mistakes and not pay for them."

In the real world where bands have to spend money and

have limited time to make their music, it really helps bands out to know ahead of time what they're doing when they step into the recording studio.

"There are no real world consequences [while recording at CCC]. You get to make mistakes," said music tech student Phil Bursch.

One thing that sets this group apart is their ages. "I'm 18 years old, our guitar player is 25 years old; our bass player is 48," Clark said.

Not only does the band's unique age difference set them apart, but their individual styles does as well. For example, Clark explained that his style is more folk and soul rather than the classic rock beat.

"From me, my influences have always been more folky and soul. So lots of Marvin Gaye, and that's where I get my playing style from. More like a '60s Motown sound that you don't find in hard music."

The band has a varying style. "I really feel like any person can find something about the band that they can like. And you don't necessarily have to like metal to listen to us, because we have a lot of alterative influences," said Clark. "If you like jazz, we have some jazzy songs, we have a country song that's kind of like Limp Bizkit meets country guy Kid Rock. We cover all the bases."

Guitarist Staats claimed that the band has a more Skillet and Red kind of sound, but that his band has a more progressive sound with rock/metal influences. "First and foremost I want a listener to be able to connect to the music on a deeper more spiritual level. Music is the soundtrack of our lives; we all remember wedding songs, breakup songs, songs we used to blast with the windows down,

etc. The message I hope that our listeners take from our music is a message of finding the strength to persevere in the face of adversity and to rise up and overcome struggles and addictions. Our music has always been about overcoming and healing."

From Ashes Fall's members don't live very close to each other, with one in Gladstone and the others living in Aloha and Cascade, but that doesn't stop them from creating and playing music with each other. While the band does get together to practice, they use Facebook and file sharing website DropBox to connect and share their pieces of music to create tracks.

"What happens is our guitar player comes up with a riff, records it, sends it along to the bass player who writes something that works along with it; the bass player would email it to me and I will write out a drum part and when we used to have a vocalist, [we] would send that to him and he'd write the lyrics," Clark said.

The band recently signed on new vocalist Jesse Keller, who will join the band just before they play at MetalFest Friday May 11. This will be the band's first time coming together on stage with Clark and Keller and should be interesting to see what kind of music this band can tap into. Though MetalFest is sold out, you can catch From Ashes Fall at the Tiger Bar downtown on May 5. Tickets are \$7 at the door, first come first serve. They will be creating an EP that's to be released sometime in June or July. You can also check out the band on their Facebook page at facebook.com/FromAshesFall.

"Come out to a show, you can't experience a band through a paper, you've got to see us in person," said Clark.



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From Ashes Fall's Drummer Beau Clark looks stoic behind his drum set. Beau is currently enrolled and engaged in the audio engineering program. See From Ashes Fall live Saturday at Tiger Bar.

## Unlike typical romantic comedies, 'Five Year Engagement' brings laughs



By Steven Weldon  
The Clackamas Print

Too many romantic comedies have the same style. Guy meets girl, crazy circumstances stand between them and love finds a way in the end. Hey, I'm not mad at that. It's what drew me to that genre of movies and made me root for that guy who gets the girl in the end. "The Five-Year Engagement" is not like other romantic comedies. Writer, producer and director Nicholas Stoller puts the real-life strains on relationships on display with bits of comedy along the way and shows that true love can stand the test of time.

Jason Segel stars as Tom, a chef in a high-end San Francisco restaurant with his friend Alex, played by Chris Pratt. Tom is introduced to his girlfriend, Violet, played by London-born actress Emily Blunt. The misadventures begin from the opening of the movie as Tom attempts to propose to Violet, but in real-life fashion messes up when he can't keep a straight face. As the two plan their wedding, Violet awaits a letter from University of California-Berkley to join their social psychology department as a postdoctoral assistant.

Instead, she receives an acceptance letter from a different university and must put off the wedding in order to chase her dream. Tom accepts the fact he will have to move, but sadly finds out he would have become head chef at a new restaurant opening up.

Swallowing his pride and following his love for Violet, they set off on a journey to a city very different from eclectic San Francisco where the two live very different lives. Year after year, the wedding is put off due to travel, location and other concerns. While Violet thrives in her program, Tom is forced to take a job at the best sandwich shop in town, but still broods over the chef job in his former home, which was taken by Alex, who has since married Violet's sister, Suzie, played by Alison Brie.

The movie shows the ups and downs of true relationships, and the true nature of what an adventure love can take people on. I was laughing through the whole movie, as it struck my quite immature funny bone at the inane moments by Alex, but also had me rolling at impressions of lovable characters by Violet and Suzie for the amusement of Suzie's children.

Segel adds another quality, good time romantic comedy to his acting and writing resume and even adds his dorky, large man charm in the picture. Judd Apatow had a hand in production, continuing his streak of comedies. All in all, the movie is a good time with the summer blockbusters coming up. It left me laughing hard and saying 'awww' even harder. If you want a great date movie, this might be the one, as long as you're both in for the long haul. You never know what ideas the movie may give you.

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