



by Toni Torres

Comprised of members of Austin pop rock favorites Quatropaw, The Addictions were finally complete when they added guitarist Chris Volloy. Quatropaw caught national attention when they signed to British label Neptune Records and by winning several nationwide contests: Spin Magazine's Best Unsigned Band of the Year, Rolling Stone Magazine's Valentine's Day Song Contest with "Red Roses" and Geocities "Battle of the Unsigned Bands." Finding themselves growing out of their song repertoire they decided a change was due. Writing songs together for the first time, Jason and Beth penned "Racecare," the first song that could truly be called the Addictions. Departing from their more soulful pop sounds, they found themselves having fun writing hard driving rock n'roll songs that brought out an amps-on 11 attitude of their own. I got to speak with Jason & Beth and ask them a few questions on how The Addictions are doing.

The Addictions are:
Beth Richard (vocals/guitar)
Jason Richard (vocals/guitar)
Christopher Volloy (lead guitar)
David Warren (bass)
Derek Hatley (drums)

With a winning streak of awards, competitions and a record deal with Neptune Records under Quatropaw's belt, what led your decision to change directions and form The ADDICTIONS?

We did have success with Quatropaw but not to the level that we desired. It had nothing to do with the music itself, we were just done playing that genre. Quatropaw started out a little more like The Addictions but evolved over time. We found that we missed our original identity. We began to write songs that rocked hard. It was like a lightening bolt of excitement that charged through the band. We redefined ourselves musically so why go under the same name when it sounds like a completely different band.

What would you say is the most appealing feature about The ADDICTIONS?

We think it's all-appealing. The songs not only

rock but are hook oriented. We want you to be singing along while you are driving. The guitars are rock and roll- piercing, tough, classic with a modern edge. You could wake up Derek(drums) in his sleep and he'd still be solid as hell. The thing that separates us from the pack is the dual vocals. Who else is doing a killer rock band with male and female lead vocals?

What drives your creativeness to write?

The question is what doesn't drive us to write. Everything drives us. We are constantly looking for song material. Sex, drugs and rock and roll are the main themes of this record. Writing a song is like a creative orgasm.

"Our Live show is a great, in your face rock show. We aren't scared to jump off an amp or two. Even if you've never heard our music, it is hooky enough to grab even the purist Addictions virgin."

Let's talk about this new album, How is it different from your past music endeavors?

The material on this record is whittled down to the best, most cohesive songs. We probably trashed twice as many songs than made the cut. This is a rock record from beginning to end. There are no down moments. Everything was thought through, from each drum fill to the most fitting bass line. We didn't let anything slide. This record makes you pay attention. It wouldn't be out of place in a strip club, driving down the highway or having crazy sex.

I personally enjoyed "Toys", off the new self titled album, The ADDICTIONS. I think that this song will have many female followers don't you think?

I do think that most women fantasize about boy toys. This song is all about lusty fun. Yes, I am all about girl power. I love having women at our shows. I don't care if your straight, gay, 13 or 43. I think women relate to me.

The song "Wait" was also a song that jumped out at me, what was the inspiration behind this song?

I (Jason) was recording Chris Volloy's band 27

or Dead when I first heard "Wait." I knew it was perfect for The Addictions. So we worked the song up and stole Chris as our second lead player. We've never covered anyone else's material on any other record, so maybe Chris was destined to be in our band. To me "Wait" is a song about not letting anything hold me back.

Which song on this album is the bands' favorite to play?

They are all a blast. We don't play songs that don't rock. We'd rather cut the set than play songs we're not all into. There is no mistaking The Addictions is a band not a backing band to two front people. Everyone has a fair say. Our favorites live are- Race Car, Candy and Downtown, but this could completely change on any given night.

What is about The ADDICTIONS music that you want listeners to hear?

Great songs that stand out. There are so many boring bands out there. We refuse to be lumped in that shit pile. We want to move you and take you away from your grind. We want you to hear the music and say "yeah, I feel that way too."

Where was it recorded? Who produced it? Engineered it?

We recorded at Bismieux Studio with the amazing Cris Burns engineering. They have this Api console and 2 inch tape machine-all the classic gear a rock band could want. I (Jason) produced the album with classic tones with a slick yet raw modern production. I flew out to Maryland where I mixed it with Frank Marchand and mastered it at Airshow Mastering.

Was this the first time you have used this studio?

Yes this is the first time we outsourced our

recording. We normally record all of our music ourselves in our own studio. We couldn't achieve this at our studio due to the sheer volume and ballsyness of The Addictions. The cool thing is we were able to do pre-production so when we finally hit play and record we were smoking. Our favorite part of recording is when the band lays it down together and there is no need to cut and paste.

What does a live performance from The ADDICTIONS have in store for new fans? Why should they come see your show?

A great, in your face rock show. We aren't scared to jump off an amp or two. Even if you've never heard our music, it is hooky enough to grab even the purist Addictions virgin.

If you are a music lover you could say you heard us first.

So what happened with Neptune Records? Is there still a relationship with the British Label?

There are no burned bridges, we just moved on. It basically just ran it's course. We started something new so we wanted to start with a new label.

Who is Electric Factory Records? And what affiliation do you currently have with them?

Electric Factory Records is super badass. The president of the label has been a huge driving force for The Addictions. He is constantly pushing us to be our best and not settle for anything less. Electric Factory has compiled some of the best major label industry professionals who were sick of the labels not caring about the music. Electric Factory Records is putting muscle behind this record in hopes of breaking our band.

All the members of the band have had fond memories of early musical influences, do you contribute this early exposure to the reason you are all musicians today?

Definitely. You can't help being your influences. But The Addictions are more of a pioneer band. We hope that bands will sound like us one day.

I've read that you say it has taken you years to realize you're a musician. Haven't you always been a musician? What did you mean by that?

I (Beth) am always shooting to be a better player. I am surrounded by such talent that I never gave myself credit. Then there was a moment when I realized this IS who I am and I am going to take it.

What was it about Austin that drew you to stick around as long as you have?

Austin is like a musician's playground. It is a boot camp that forces you to be your best. We have room to develop in Austin as a band before trying to break out nationally.

Having been in the music scene for many years, what in your opinion has been the most frustrating?

It's frustrating to know you have what it takes to make it but there are no guarantees at the end of day. The list of frustrations as artists is endless but we are trying to focus on the positive.

You all have been through many stages of what most bands could only wish to achieve. At what point would you consider yourselves a major success?

It's funny but it's hard to see that in yourself. We just saw the Ramones documentary and even they never thought they truly made it because they didn't have commercial radio success. When you can't get a ticket to our show and we're thanking all the little people at the Grammy's we'll know we won the brass ring.

Who are you guys listening to right now?

Velvet Revolver, The Donnas and always ACDC

Are you all planning to do any shows outside of Texas?

Yes. We have a radio campaign happening. We are getting booked in the cities where radio is picking us up.

Any plans for new material yet?

Yeah, but we want you to know this record first.

For more information about the group:
www.theaddictionsmusic.com