

MAKAYLA DAWN

By Helen Marketti

Youngstown band, Makayla Dawn will be opening for LA GUNS on Saturday, December 17 at The Live Wire Club in Mentor.



As with most bands, there is a story behind how they got their name. "We actually came up with that name in 1999," said Mike. "We just had my daughter at the time and named her Makayla Dawn. I started thinking that it would be a cool name for a band. It stood out as something different and sounded

having a struggle within herself with what is happening in her life. We were going with the concept that the trauma behind her schizophrenia was how everything has changed so much in the music industry and how it has become so commercialized. It's like a revolt against the current trend."

Sound Spectrum Records (Pittsburgh, PA) is releasing Makayla Dawn's self-titled CD. "We followed Makayla Dawn for about a year and then offered them an opportunity for a record deal," said EC. (Owner of Sound Spectrum Records) "I have to give these guys a lot of credit. They have been working hard and are a very different Makayla Dawn than they were a few years ago. Their original music is very unique and different from what is currently out there. Its record label and radio quality stuff."

Once the CD is released, Makayla Dawn hopes to get on the road. "We're looking at getting things together to do a couple of small tours, maybe along the east coast for next year. We would like to break into the west coast too, if possible. We are working out the details now and

we'll see how things go. We've opened for Jackly and Gilby Clarke in the past so it's always good to keep your name out there."

Music fans are in for a rockin' great time when seeing a Makayla Dawn show! "People should expect a high energy rock and roll show. If you like old school, classic rock with a bit of a modern touch then you'll like our shows."

For more information about Makayla Dawn including show schedules, ticket information and video clips, please visit: www.makayladawn.com \$12 advanced tickets are available through Makayla Dawn. \$15 tickets will be available at the door.

You may also get in touch with the band through Facebook. Sound Spectrum Records: www.soundspectrummedia.com

Makayla Dawn band members have been active in live bands since 1996. The current lineup consists of Mike Schneider (lead vocals/bass), John Sawtelle (guitar/vocals) and Tim Boyd (drums).

"It's been a bit of a revolving door with band members over the years," said Mike. "At first it was myself and the guitar player's brother plus a buddy from high school. We did many covers from the hair and metal bands like Poison, Warrant and Quiet Riot. That music was the "in thing" then so most people liked it."

"I've always been a bass player. I've played guitar and keyboard, too but it's the bass guitar that really seems to speak to me," said Mike. "I think it's an instrument where you can get your aggression out. I feel I can express myself. I feel there's more finesse to playing bass."

Music influences for Makayla Dawn come from a variety of music genres. "It's a diverse type of thing. John's (guitar) influence is technical, hard rock and screamin' guitar. Tim's (drums) influences are bands like Motley Crue and more of the sleaze metal type stuff whereas I'm more on the calm side," explains Mike. "I like classic metal like Iron Maiden but I'm mostly a punk rocker at heart though. I really love The Ramones. I like to pound out a good, solid background."

He continues, "We do nostalgic covers. We do material from the 60s, 70s, 80s and early 90s. We'll do our own take on classic songs. For example, we have our own spin on how we do "Brown Eyed Girl" by Van Morrison, which everyone seems to love. We do classic rock and classic metal as well. The crowd really connects to that and then we'll do some of our own original material, too. People can see where our influences are. It's always a give and take with the crowd."



classic like Alice Cooper or Molly Hatchet. The female names sounded cool so we decided that Makayla Dawn would work for us."

The band is currently working on a new CD that is tentative for release by the end of the year or early next year. "I guess I would say that I am the primary songwriter," said Mike. "I've written most of the lyrics but everyone contributes in some way. I may come up with an idea for a song; a melody in my head then I'll show it to the other guys and they put their own stuff to it. John throws different things into the mix from the hard rock genre. He contributes a lot of movement to the songs."

One of the singles from the upcoming CD is "Left Behind" which is also in video format. "Left Behind" is about a girl who is coping with different issues going on in her life. She has schizophrenia, a multiple personality type thing going on," explains Mike. "She is

The Rick Ray Band



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The Rick Ray Band
"Can't Lie Hard Enough"

The Rick Ray Band's latest CD is available at Record Den in Mentor, OH, www.rickray.net, www.cdbaby.com/Artist/TheRickRayBand, Music Emporium on E.185th in Cleveland and other select stores and internet sites



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