

Helen Marketti's Music Corner

Neon Black

Port Clinton band, Neon Black has established themselves within the last few short years by being the opening act for big names, traveling the road and increasing their fan base. As their name suggests a shroud of mystery and protecting the not so innocent, band members have an alias they go by except for Tyler. "Well, I guess I can be pretty annoying on my own," he jokes. Band members that rock the house each week with steady gigs are Mike Lial (guitar), Dee Sexy (bass), Mike D. Vyne (drums) and Ty Stevens (singer).

"Thankfully, we've been blessed and talented enough to be able to do what we love doing. Neon Black has been together since 2005," said Tyler. "I first met Mike D. (drummer) when we were house musicians at a place in Port Clinton. We would watch one another's gigs and sometimes join each



other on stage. Then we just started playing together. After that, we met Mike Lial who was in another band at the time. We knew we had to have him in our band! I already knew Dee from high school and the rest is history."

"The name, Neon Black describes us perfectly. It's what we are and what we do," explains Tyler. "Our first gig together was a benefit concert that had about ten different bands participating. We still didn't really have a band name yet. Mike Lial heard a band sing a song about dreaming of neon black and so that's how we got our name. It was a last minute thing before we went on stage and now we love it."

Neon Black rocks their performances by mainly playing cover songs that music fans know and love. They cover just about everything from Poison, Ratt, Bon Jovi, Guns N Roses, Motley Crue and many more.

Neon Black has been fortunate to be the opening act for Ratt, Whitesnake and The Great White for events in Toledo. Those are impressive experiences to add to an already filled rock resume. "We were also able to be part of the VH 1 Rock of Love Tour with Bret Michaels," said Tyler. "We were able to do some of our own material then. When we are given an opportunity to open for a big name band then we are able to incorporate our own originals along with covers. Events like that give our band great publicity, being

able to play for thousands of fans and have a great time."

Songwriting is a group process for Neon Black. "It could be one of us who is the driving force behind a song because of who first created it," said Tyler. "A lot of the time it's Mike Lial who has the ideas but we each have our own input. Our creative influences are very different. This sometimes even carries over to where we go to eat. It's rare that all four of us agree on anything right away. That seems to work for us though. We are close, best friends and I think that shows through our chemistry on stage."

Neon Black has already toured LA and played at the infamous Whiskey A Go Go where many rock bands first took their music steps. They have traveled across the United States and while they enjoyed their experiences, they have evolved because of that. "I think our aspirations have changed a bit from when we first started playing together," said Tyler. "At first, it was all about creating original music, going on tour and making it big. We've done those things. We've been on tour and our music has reached many people. Now we are more localized. It really didn't work out when we were on tour. I think we expected too much to happen instantly as opposed to putting in the time, hard work and dedication. When things didn't happen right away, we thought it might have been because our creative differences were the reason so now we just go out there and have fun. We no longer force things to happen but just let them happen however that is supposed to be. We are much tighter as a band now and better musicians."

"Our shows have a lot of energy and are a lot of fun," said Tyler. "I hope that our fans always have a great time listening to their favorite songs that they can sing along with. I'm a fan too of the other guys in the band. Our goal is to get better every day in all ways with writing songs, playing the material well,

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interacting with fans and encouraging people to come out and see one of our shows!"

For more information about Neon Black including their show schedule, please visit their band page on Facebook.

For a listening sample of their original music, please visit: www.myspace.com/neonblackmetal

Helen Marketti loves everything about The Beatles, enjoys attending concerts and interviewing people who like to share their musical and life journey. For more rockin' news, please visit: www.helenrosemarketki.com

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