

## J. Stixxx Knows the American Dream!

Many will recognize the name J. Stixxx (Jeff Pepitone) as the front man for the band, PWRTrip. The band has had a large fan base and longevity of popularity for several years and was the 2x Ohio Battle of the Bands winner. As with many things in life, nothing stays the same so with new projects in the works and ideas for a rockin' journey, Jeff is on the road to make those dreams a reality.

Jeff's role has been drummer, front man or a combination of the two for most of his life. "My first influence on drums was my father, August Pepitone. The Beatles were a big influence on me also because of my father," said Jeff. "I was interested in MTV and my older brother (August Pepitone III) turned me on to bands before people my age were even listening to them. Since my father was a drummer, I started playing drums and writing songs when I was eight years old. We had a band then, too. We were called The Flaming Daggers with my older brother and my stepsister."



"When I was a teenager is when I really became more serious about music," said Jeff. "Tommy Lee (Motley Crue) is the one who did it for me as a drummer. Tommy's style is pure aggression. He isn't fake and he draws attention. That's what you want. Zultan is also an amazing drummer. There are so many great drummers out there. I love the musician part of the music. I like to harmonize a lot. I like melodies and hooks. I like Billy Joel and Elton John because I also love piano. I love Paul McCartney as a solo artist."

Over the years, Jeff has been in several bands and is determined to keep moving forward with those who have the same ambition as he. "To be in a band is a team effort, a team sport. You're only as strong as your weakest link. I would like everyone to have the same drive as me. It's lonely to become a successful musician because it takes an incredible amount of time. You can't get that good without devoting hours of practice. That's the way it is."

The role of transitioning from drummer to front man was a natural move for Jeff and he is very comfortable in front of the crowds. "Even when I was a drummer, I was still the front man. I wrote songs and talked to the crowd. When I do something, it's 120%. You have to give it your all if you want to be good at what you do. I still practice drums every day. I love the drums and I love being the front man, too."

Opening for acts such as Vince Neil, Great White, Ted Nugent, Slaughter, Buck Cherry, RATT and more have brought great experiences for Jeff but sometimes there is still an element missing. "It's cool to have those experiences but a lot of those guys don't watch you play. It can get frustrating sometimes because you want someone to notice your band, to pay attention. It doesn't always work like that. What you need is for someone to be out there, looking, listening and telling the promoter to give a listen to this band."

When writing songs, Jeff has inspiration that comes from life experiences. "I wrote 'American Dream' from experiences I was dealing with at the time. I was going through a lot on a personal level. Another song, 'A Life In The Day Of' is about relationships and being in love with two people at the same time. My songs reflect what's going on at the moment."

Speaking of writing songs, Jeff is working on a new album that has six to eight tracks so far. He is busy working with bass player, "Nitro" Mike Elliott and their duo team, DoubleShott. Their style of music ranges from covers of Bon Jovi, Steve Miller, Alice In Chains, The Eagles, Pink Floyd and many more plus originals. "What I'm doing now is looking for a pro band to plug into. It's not starting over, it's hooking into the pros who already know what needs to be done. I want a full band again. Glorified Youth, that's my baby. I'd like to have that as a name for a band. I'm a go-getter and work hard at my craft. I'm also looking for management to advance my music career even further."

On Saturday, September 10, DoubleShott will be guests on Wildnite Radio hosted by Wildman Jim. "It's an interactive, live stream show from 8 pm to 10 pm," said Jeff. "There will be a live performance, interviews with Jim, Q and A from listeners who can call or send an email and it will also be accessible with skype." ([www.wildniteradio.com](http://www.wildniteradio.com))

Music fans need to keep a look out because Jeff is going to be securing gigs in the area again soon and would like people to stop out and show their support as they have in the past. Everyone is in for a great time! "Expect a lot of fun, a lot of interaction," said Jeff. "I want people to enjoy it or there's no point in being there."

For more information: Jeff Pepitone is on Facebook. PWRTrip is on Facebook. [www.pwrtripmusic.com](http://www.pwrtripmusic.com)

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