

THE NIGHT STARTS HERE



Doug Estey / The Brunswickan

If Stars' breathtaking performance in a downpour of rain this summer at the SummerSonic '08 festival counts for any indication, their upcoming show at the Student Union Building on October 29 will prove to be a real winner.

DOUG ESTEY
THE BRUNSWICKAN

The Brunswickan: I understand the band started between you and Chris Seligman. How did you meet up?

Torquil Campbell: We've known each other since we were eight and have been friends all our lives.

B: Then you guys moved to New York, then back to Montreal? What necessitated that?

TC: We went to New York for school, and when we got back we started the band, just because NY isn't a realistic place to try and start a band. We needed somewhere cheaper and closer to home.

B: How did Amy Millan fit in to this equation?

TC: Amy was a friend of Emily (Haines), and Emily was a friend of ours that we were living with.

B: So Broken Social Scene is really just a big group of friends?

TC: Oh yeah. That's family,

man. That's no press kit, it's the realshit. That's twenty-five people all of whom are obsessed with each other to varying degrees, all who share many complex, deep, long-term relationships. We all grew up in the same town in the same place in the same time. It was inevitable that we would all be together.

Broken Social Scene is a huge influence on Stars for sure. They and Metric, and The Dears. They're literal influences on our music because we play it for them first, and as a result we care most about what they think of it.

B: What other bands had a major influence on Stars' sound early on?

TC: I think band like New Order exemplified the sonic template of what we were going for. That's how you start out with anything though, you start with something you like and then build on it and carve out your own identity.

I think we're always trying, and striving to find a new path that is still somewhat acceptable but new while maintaining our identity.

B: Stars' music is very emotional

and seemingly heart-felt. Is there some kind of message you're trying to broadcast?

TC: I think it's the message that people send to us. We reflect back what we see in the crowd. Music is a beautiful way to connect with people. I think that's exactly what is wrong with us today; people are lacking the ability to connect. We go through so much of our lives not connecting with one another, and I think there is a world-changing ability in arts and in music when it comes to making that connection. When we share ideas, melodies, and rhythms together, we create something bigger than all of us. We're just giving what we're getting.

I think if we have a message, it's that you should embrace your weakness. Set yourself on fire before someone else does. Say "Yes, I'm weak, and I'm perverted, and I'm lonely, fucked, and sad, but I am alive, and you can't take that away from me."

I think that we're always told to work from our strengths and that's something that's very difficult for people who are struggling. Bands have always

been a great way for people to step outside of things, form a band, say, "Fuck you, I can live this way, and I don't have to live the way you tell me to." It's a cliché, but that's what bands are for. So start a band!

B: Great point. So what was Stars' big break?

TC: Arts and Crafts came around and there was finally some people that knew what they were doing and a bunch of us were all prepared to release albums at the same time. Before that, Stars' music had been mastered and produced by guys in their bedrooms who hadn't the first idea of how to promote it. So I think a lot of it can be attributed to Arts and Crafts, with Metric's Old World Underground and Broken Social Scene's You Forgot It In People coming out at the same time. It was a thrust forward in music, you look at bands like The Arcade Fire, there was a lot of things happening.

What people don't realize about putting out a record is that it's on everyone's shoulders. When there's good people producing a record, good things will happen.

B: It seems that you guys follow

some kind of theme in your live performances.

TC: Stars works with different themes of their shows on tour. We get grand visions of what we want to do, and then I think we just take a step back and realize that the most important aspect is just... playing. But I think that after you play a certain set so many times, there is an invisible barrier that you have to get through where it starts to feel stale and repetitive, and so something new needs to be injected.

B: Do you have any other musical endeavours in the go? I know you play the trumpet as well.

TC: Well I play trumpet in Stars... that's really the only band that will let me play trumpet; I'm not a very good trumpet player. My band Memphis is writing another record and I'm doing my own thing under the name Dead Child Star, so I don't know what the fuck is going to happen with that, but it's my first time trying out something like that by myself.

B: You're a busy guy. Didn't you also follow an acting career?

TC: Yeah, actually I spent most

of my life as an actor, right up until I was 27. I was a child actor and worked a lot in stage theatre. It's a theatre family really, both of my parents are theatre actors and my wife is as well. It's a big part of my life.

B: Does Stars have any off-beat talents or special powers?

TC: There are so many. Evan (Cranley) can tell you what wine tastes like. Better than anyone, ever. He'll taste wine and he'll be like "Hm. Tastes like red shoes and corkscrews." You'll be like "What the fuck are you talking about?" and then you'll taste it and be like wow, yeah, it does taste like that.

Chris is excellent at baseball. Very good. Incredible baseball player.

Amy Millan can do absolutely anything she puts her mind in to.

As for me, well.. I'm great at racket sports. And I can smoke more weed than anyone I've ever met in one sitting. I'll stand up against anyone in New Brunswick, and I know there are some weed-smokers in New Brunswick. I'll take anyone on. Seriously.

Thank you for the ride



Christian Hapgood / The Brunswickan

Solo artists Diana Catherine and Andrea Ramolo played Doodles Café in Fredericton and Sessions Café in Rothesay during their tour of Atlantic Canada called "Thank you for the ride" last week. Both Toronto natives played their hearts out and won over the crowds with their incredible voices and catchy guitar riffs. You can check them out at www.myspace.com/andreamolomusic and www.myspace.com/dianassound.

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