

Introducing *Sea of Lions*

Just two years ago, **SEA OF LIONS** were basically unheard of outside their garage. Today, they can't walk down the street without being recognized. Frontman **JACK SMITH** tells **COLLISION** what the climb to success really feels like...

When **SEA OF LIONS** started out they had some second hand instruments, a garage and their biggest fans were their mums, but with sheer determination and a pretty good sound they've managed to headline Leeds and Reading festivals, gig all over the world plus their mums are still huge fans. Fronted by **JACK SMITH**, these Sheffield boys are heading for the top and are planning to stay there. We thought they'd have a few stories to tell from along the way and Jack certainly didn't disappoint...

DO NOT DISTURB

"Our first ever gig was in our local pub, even though the only people there to see us were our mums and a few mates, we were geared up. I remember being stood in the backroom which always stank of piss, waiting to go on and feeling as excited as I did when we headlined Leeds and Reading. We played two songs then the police came saying we were too noisy and disturbing the local old folk's home. I thought we were so rock'n'roll...until my Gran rang up the next day to have a go at me. Not as cool as I hoped."

PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT. (HONEST!)

"It won't happen overnight. I didn't pick up a guitar and play perfectly. I started learning when I was 10; my first guitar was a starter kit. God, it was shit but I absolutely loved it. I'd play it all the time and drove my mum crazy...I'm pretty sure she regretted saying practice makes perfect to me but it was probably the best piece of advice anyone's ever given me. Oh! And don't stop if someone says you're not good enough, just work harder!"

BROMANCE GETS YOU FAR.

"Get into every competition you can and every slot at a venue possible. The more you

get yourselves out there and heard, the more likely it is the right person will hear you and want to sign you. We would play everything from a mate's party to the local venues and even drive across the country to play in other venues. It was a lot of hard work and sometimes we didn't love each other at 3am arguing over who would drive home after a gig in Newcastle. We always came through in the end though, we knew it was worth it and a bust-up wasn't. I was like the mum of the group, and would bring sandwiches and energy drinks for long journeys. That's bromance right there!"

JUST ENJOY YOURSELF.

"When we did our first tour, we had to drive to London. Right, I'll set the scene for you. It's a million degrees, we're in a van older than the first dinosaur and the windows were stuck shut. Imagine being on fire...that's how hot we were. Despite this we drove down and played an awesome gig. It's rare you'll get first class treatment, especially on the road but don't let it put you off, you meet amazing people and to be honest I'm having an amazing time doing what I want to do. Don't be one of those dickhead bands who expect everything handed to them on a silver platter, work for it and enjoy it."

FIVE PINTS ARE ALWAYS A CURE

"When we got our first bad review we were all pretty down. Obviously we went straight to the pub and got smashed. You quickly realise in this business not everyone is going to love you, and this particular review was for a local newspaper and was done by a man in a suit with a shit hairstyle. He properly slated us but the audience had a good time which is really what matters. I just thought 'fuck it, you don't like my band, I don't like your comb over.' **WHISKEY RESULTS IN TATTOO'S.** "We've always been influenced by bands like Lower Than Atlantis so it was pretty

cool when we got to gig with them. They're really down to earth guys so the tour was a right laugh, I definitely won't forget that tour since we drank loads of whiskey and I let Ben [Sansom, LTA] tattoo a one armed naked woman on my leg. Mike [Duce, LTA] and I are still in touch and he's even giving a hand on writing lyrics on the new album. He might be doing some guest vocals so watch this space."

I CAN'T FLY

"When you really get into a gig you feel invincible. It's well good, except when I learnt I can't fly the hard way. I climbed on top of this huge amp and jumped... then gravity got the better of me. You think people will catch you or maybe you'll sprout wings but instead I fell and busted my nose. There was literally blood everywhere; I was like a water fountain but with blood. I bet I looked like a right dick. It's all part of the act though...sort of."

DON'T BE A WANKER

"Be nice. Honestly, it gets you places. You want the people who are putting the gigs on and playing with you to know you're alright people, otherwise they won't want to see you again. They've got a hundred other bands wanting to fill your spot, so just don't mess them about. Be on time and play good and they're more like to want you back. And as I've said before, the more you play, the more you get noticed."

ARGUMENTS TEND TO BE POINTLESS.

"Being in **SEA OF LIONS** is genuinely the best thing to happen to me. I met Ryan at school and Matt's my cousin so we've been mates for years. Matt and Jord came along later, I just kinda met them through people and we all became mates. We liked the idea of being in a band for ages and one day we just made it happen. It's hard at first, there are always arguments and problems, but if you can stick through it then you can make it happen. Sometimes you've just got to sit

back and think 'is this argument pointless?' I've come to realise the answer tends to be yes! We've all worked together for so long, there's so much more to co-

SEA OF LIONS
ALBUM 'THIS SIDE OF OUR LIVES' IS OUT NOW. THE BAND ARE NOW ON THEIR TOUR AT THE FOLLOWING PLACES

APRIL

- 10 Sheffield Corporation
- 11 Leeds The Cockpit
- 12 Wakefield The Hub
- 13 Nottingham Rock
- 14 Lincoln Engine S
- 15 Newcastle Cluny
- 16 Carlisle Brickyard
- 17 Inverness Ironwo
- 20 Aberdeen Drum
- 21 Glasgow Oran M
- 22 Preston 53 Degre
- 23 Stoke Sugarmill
- 26 Leicester Univer
- 28 Sheffield Leadmi

YOUR QUESTIONS

Q: Where's your favourite place to play? - Rosie
A: Sheffield. It's my hometown so all my friends are out to see me.
Q: What's the best gig you've ever been to? - Adam
A: Probably Blink 182's year at Leeds fest. 'It was amazing, I met them. They're really nice.'
Q: If you could have one superpower what would it be?
A: Invisibility. Then I could spy on girls...shit doesn't that my mum might find this. Sorry mum, I was joking... Sort of.

Sea of Lions



ide
imb

ument
lise the
e've
g and
me!"

NS
AVED
OUT
D ARE
2011
E
ACES:

ation
it
op
k City
Shed
y
rd
orks
monds
or
ees

sity
ill

TIONS.

avourite
ie, 17.
y home-
nds come

gig you've
m, 16.
82 last
They were
m after.
guys!
e any sur-
uld it be?
h I could
on't put
t read
was just