

GAYDAR NATION

Tell us about 37 Notebooks.

37 Notebooks is a collection of songs I've written over the past few years, performed with a little help from some of my Broadway friends.

Are there any particular tracks on the album that hold a special significance for you?

Well, every song holds a little something, obviously. But, songs like "Storyteller", "37 Notebooks", and "Sarah-Jane" are very personal. Others like "A Simple Plan", "House of Love", and "Falling Apart" are tunes I'm very proud of from a writers perspective because they continue to hold up through time.

How would you describe your music?

I would say that I am a true storyteller who works in all genres. I write what I like, and I find value in many styles of rhythms. Certainly my material carries my signature, but it is also diverse and true to the style I have chosen for each piece.

So how did it all begin for you? Had you always wanted to be a singer?

Yeah, I'm one of those people who always knew what I was going to do. I mean, there was that one fantasy of playing first base for the Cardinals...I began writing very early, and I used to perform every chance I could get. On Friday nights I would hide behind the curtains in our dining room waiting for my parents to introduce me as 'Jeremy, the magnificent!' Yep, the ego trip started early!

Are there any particular artists that you would name as musical influences?

Of course the Beatles and Sir George Martin were key. Billy Joel was a major influence from the storytelling perspective. I am also a big Allison Krauss and Union Station fan. I grew up on classic rock though. Boston, Bad Company, the Police, Led Zeppelin, Supertramp, E.L.O. etc. Love the huge, lush sounds fronted by great lead singers. Queen was amazing. So many...

When did you start writing songs?

My Mother says it was immediately after my grandparents bought us the Kawaii Baby grand still sitting in my parents' living room today. Lyrics came later, maybe middle school.

How do you enjoy performing?

Performing is great if the gig is right. I've done my fair share of bad gigs, so I can appreciate the solid shows where people listen and I don't lose money.

What's the most memorable gig you've played?

Good gig? Birdland is fun. Had a great show at Fez once, where I did my album DRIFT front-to-back. Lincoln Center. Bad gig? Middle of summer, 100 degrees, no air-conditioning, no one shows up and the ceiling caves in because of a water leak on the floor above. I played "Raindrops Keep Falling On My Head" and left.

What's next for you?

Going down to Atlanta beginning of June to guest star and lead the band for the Broadway Bootcamp with the Broadway Dreams folk. should be great. Got a couple of shows I am being commissioned to write - details to come. In the Fall we will be putting up DRIFT as a major, two-night concert event. Other than that, we will be performing selections from the new album in concerts in major cities over the next several months.

What else would you like to say?

To all the writers out there: Be specific, work your ass off, and say yes to everything. You never know where the next great song will come from.