



in their own words

by Kelly Dillon

If you have not heard about The Bamboozle Festival, then you must have been living under a rock these past few weeks. For those of you uneducated on this massive musical celebration, The Bamboozle is a huge three-day music festival bringing together all types of different rock genres. It is going down April 29 through May 1 in the legendary shore city of Asbury Park, NJ. When it comes to The Bamboozle, variety is key, which is fully displayed through its divergent line-up. The bill ranges from popular groups like My Chemical Romance, Alkaline Trio, and The Blood Brothers, all the way to every scenester's favorite local acts. In order to get you into The Bamboozle spirit, we decided to ask some of the performers their thoughts on The Bamboozle itself, as well as obtain their views on the festival scene in general.

1. WHY DID YOU WANT TO PLAY THE BAMBOOZLE FESTIVAL?

Mike McColgan of The Street Dogs—"The answer is simple and that is to play alongside some of our favorite bands; The Explosion, Flogging Molly, Alkaline Trio, and The Bouncing Souls. These are some of our favorite bands and to get the chance to play alongside these bands is an honor. Also crowds in NJ always set it off and we are always pumped about the prospect of playing live in NJ."

Vinnie of Roses Are Red—"We really wanted to play Bamboozle because it's basically the who's who of rock bands right now. We're really excited to share the stage with so many great bands and play for so many kids. It will no doubt be a great experience."

Fear Before The March Of Flames—"When you're a full time touring band you don't get a lot of chances to see bands other than the two or three you tour with at a time. Festivals like The Bamboozle are the best chances you get to see bands you're into, and to hang out with your friends in bands. That's our main reason for being excited about The Bamboozle, the hang out time and such."

Chris Amato of Hidden In Plain View—"Why wouldn't we! Haha! An amazing festival in our home state of NJ. It's probably one of the biggest events we will ever be part of and it's going to be an amazing time. The line-up this year will be hard to match in the future. We are stoked."

Rob Freeman of Hidden In Plain View—"It sounded like it was going to be a really great show. Anytime you can put a bunch of great bands on the same bill, you're bound to have a great show. Also anytime we get to play NJ it's always a great time, so needless to say we are really excited for the show."

PJ Tepe of Lux Courageous—"The Bamboozle Fest seems to be the 'it' show of the year. I know for us that the fest is going to be like a paid vacation where all of our friends come along for the ride and we get to display our music for hundreds or thousands of people. With our debut record coming out a month before the fest, I'm pretty nervous to see what the response is going to be. This whole lifestyle is so new to me and I really have no idea what to expect. We're going to get up there and play our set and do our best to impress, but I'm most looking forward to the hanging out before and after our set. I've met so many people from all over the country this past year and Bamboozle is where I can see all those people at once."

Thomas Scriven of The Chemistry—"In short, the line-up and the fans. It's a great festival that supports great music. What more could we ask for in a festival than to play with all of our favorite bands? We're also looking forward to playing in front of new faces and we're a fan of Max Cruise who assembled The Bamboozle."

Bryan Kienlen of The Bouncing Souls—"It's 'opening day of Barbeque Season' at Kate's house! (As if we ever needed a reason to play a show in the great state of NJ). Our friends Flogging Molly, Alkaline Trio, and The Loved Ones will all be there playing, which just increases the fun factor."

Josh Moskovitz of The Goodwill—"We've wanted to play The Bamboozle since the beginning of its announcement. We've been big fans of Skate and Surf before this and the line-up for Bamboozle this year far surpasses any previous years of Skate and Surf, so we're very excited and thankful to be a part of this."

John Gaviglio of Bear Vs Shark—"Because we wanted to see the home town of Bruce Springsteen one more time. Last year at Skate and Surf was just not enough."

Gabe Saporta of Midtown—"Nothing says New Jersey like the word 'bamboozled.' I mean, is bamboozled even a word in other states? Maybe in Long Island. Just the sound of the word conjures images of feathered hair, acid-washed jeans, gold chains, and an '82 Cadillac. Being proud Jersey-ites, we couldn't pass up the opportunity. Plus, we get free food. And nothing says 'fun' like 'free.'"

Mike Kennerty of The All-American Rejects—"Because Asbury Park is the mecca of the east coast."

Nick Ziemann of Number One Fan—"We have always had a blast at these types of festivals. Especially in NJ—the kids are always amazing there."

2. WHAT BAND ARE YOU MOST EXCITED TO SHARE THE STAGE WITH AT THE BAMBOOZLE? WHY?

Patrick of Fall Out Boy—"I don't remember if we're the same day, but I'm dying to see Alkaline Trio. Their new drummer is an absolute living legend."

Vinnie of Roses Are Red—"I'm really excited to play with Armor For Sleep. Those guys have been one of my favorite bands since I saw them at The Skate And Surf Fest in 2002. Their new record is amazing too."

Chris Amato of Hidden In Plain View—"Further Seems Forever with Chris Carrabba. I've always wondered what that band would be like live with him as frontman. It's going to be very interesting."

PJ Tepe of Lux Courageous—"We're not playing the same stage, but I think basically everyone would tell you that they're most excited to see Carrabba play with Further again. *The Moon Is Down* is one of my top five favorite records of all time, but I have never seen Carrabba play with them when I actually knew the songs. I did have the pleasure of seeing him perform with them a few times before the split, but after the years apart and the success of both, I'm sure this is going to be something real special and real important to a great deal of fans."

Christian McAlhane of Acceptance—"Bleeding Through to see the place go nuts."

Teeter Sperber of Ley Royal Scam—"My Chemical Romance, naturally! Can someone please just help me build a life with Gerard Way already? He's so pretty. And that Helena song and video make me want to beat my pillow with a tennis racket, in the best, most non-violent way possible. Excuse the pun."

Flashlight Arcade—"We're all excited to see a bunch of bands like The Blood Brothers, Brand New, My Chemical Romance, and Alkaline Trio. I'm excited to play with The Bouncing Souls, even though I've seen them a thousand times. They are definitely one of the bands that paved the way for our style of music."

Matt Watts of The Starting Line—"I'm psyched to share the stage with Further Seems Forever with Chris Carrabba. We've toured with Further a few times and they're just an incredible band. Their first record with Chris is easily in my Top 10 records of all time, so to see that magic recreated is going to be great."

Nick Ziemann of Number One Fan—"We're excited to get a chance to play with so many of our friends' bands this year. It'll be like a mini-Warped Tour reunion."

Mike Kennerty of The All-American Rejects—"I'm stoked to see the Loved Ones. Their EP is pretty rad. Also Alkaline Trio and Say Anything, because I thoroughly enjoy their music, I do indeed."

3. HOW DO YOU THINK BIG FESTIVALS LIKE BAMBOOZLE AFFECT A SCENE OR A STYLE OF MUSIC?

Mike McColgan of The Street Dogs—"I think Bamboozle affects the scenes and the various styles of music it offers fans tremendously. You have three days of music with some of the premier bands representing their respective genres and this gives fans a lot for their ticket. Also bands get a big audience to play their music to and this helps the bands get their music and mes-

sage out to people. Plus word of mouth is a powerful medium and people always talk about huge festivals and this certainly qualifies for huge status as the line-up is prolific and solid."

Riley Breckinridge of Thrice—"I think it's a great opportunity for people to see a bunch of different bands over the weekend. Someone might go expecting to watch a few of their favorite bands, and stumble across something that really moves or inspires them, and that's always a good thing. Bamboozle brings people from all over the country, and even brings people from Europe, to the same place for the same purpose, to enjoy music and have fun. It's always cool to see people unified like that."

Patrick of Fall Out Boy—"Big festivals give scenes something to look forward to and something to talk about. They also bring together people from sub-genre scenes that normally wouldn't hang out. It's cool that they can have punk, metal, and emo acts onstage with some acoustic or dance punk band."

Vinnie of Roses Are Red—"I think festivals like this are great. I think it's a really good opportunity for kids to check out new bands. With so many bands touring the country all the time, it's hard for kids to get out to every show that comes near them. So it's awesome that kids can just spend a weekend watching the bands they love and also finding out about new bands that they will grow to love."

Chris Amato of Hidden In Plain View—"I think The Bamboozle allows a lot of different bands and people to come together and enjoy a day of amazing music. I think it just shows you how big our 'scene' has become."

PJ Tepe of Lux Courageous—"Bamboozle allows bands who don't have the resources or connections to get agents, managers, and media, out to their shows to play a great set and get immediate national attention. The hype that I saw around My Chemical Romance after Skate and Surf last year was unreal. They were on every magazine and I think they were even on 'TRL.' Bamboozle is a time where heads are constantly being turned and everyone's asking, 'Who is this band and why haven't I heard of them?'"

Thomas Scriven of The Chemistry—"It helps open kids' minds to a wider spectrum of music."

Bryan Kienlen of The Bouncing Souls—"They are great for the music scene. They've been pulling off great summer festivals for years now in Europe and the UK, and it's about time someone figured that out over here. I support it all the way! Warped Tour is also great in the capacity, but there's definitely room for more, and I'm really glad we have something regular happening in NJ. NJ Okay!"

Josh Moskovitz of The Goodwill—"I think it helps the scene that we are a part of. Big festivals like this show just how talented and strong the independent music scene really is. The bands that are a part of this line-up are all extremely hard working and dedicated to what they do, and it's a great opportunity for mass exposure for bands like us, who are on a smaller scale than the headliners, to play to kids that we may not have ever played for before now."

Nick Brooks of It Dies Today—"I think it makes everything stronger. This fest is bringing so many different kids and types of music that it exposes people to new things and that's pretty key."

Gabe Saporta of Midtown—"A big festival like this shows how far our scene has come, and how far it can go. Big festivals can be rad because they give kids a chance to see a lot of their favorite bands together for a low price. Plus by having multiple stages, the festival gives smaller bands the chance to be heard, and also exposes kids to bands they may have otherwise missed out on. So in a way, this festival broadens the definition of what a scene is by pushing fans and bands forward."

Christian McAlhane of Acceptance—"I think they mostly reflect not affect the scene. But it's a great opportunity for so many bands that usually play small clubs or basement shows to be able to get up on a big stage and play for a large crowd. Plus kids get to see all the hip new hairdos and hair don'ts."

Matt Watts of The Starting Line—"I think big festivals like Bamboozle are great. Ticket prices aren't all that expensive for the amount of bands you get to see. Also, there are so many bands at these festivals that people can be exposed to that they never would've seen before. We played on some local stages at festivals when we were starting out and it was such a great feeling to be on the same bill as some great bands, and it was definitely very inspiring. We also made some great friends as well."