

GREATER PITTSBURGH'S PREMIER LUXURY LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE

WHIRL

**Congratulations
Pittsburgh Steelers!**

CLICK HERE
TO ORDER YOUR
**WHIRL SUPER BOWL XLIII
COLLECTORS' EDITION**



May 2009

- [Publishers' Page](#)
- [Event Preview](#)
- [WHIRLED Culture](#)
- [Corporate WHIRL](#)

WHIRL Features



Sign of the Times

The Motorpsycho's Coming of Rage CD release exemplifies a radical shift in the way the music industry operates.

By Katie Mavrich | Photo Courtesy Motorpsycho

- [Culinary WHIRLED](#)
 - [Quick Bites](#)
 - [Chef](#)
 - [Recipe](#)
 - [WHIRL After Midnight](#)
- [Features](#)
 - [Force of Nature](#)
 - [Moms on the Move](#)
 - [Shine On!](#)
 - [Sign of the Times](#)
- [Event Coverage](#)
- [House on the Block](#)
- [WHIRL Travel](#)
- [WHIRLED Style](#)
 - [Style News](#)
 - [Style File](#)
 - [Shopping: Over the Rainbow](#)
 - [Shopping: The New Basics](#)
 - [Style Feature](#)
- [WHIRL Weddings](#)
 - [Submit Your Wedding](#)
- [Workout Wisdom](#)
- [One Last WHIRL](#)

All it takes is one listen. To one song. One verse. To one guitar lick, really. One piercing, heavy metal scream, or one deep growl from Amy Bianco. And it becomes evident that the Motorpsychos, a heavy metal/punk rock band from Pittsburgh, is headed for something big. It's difficult to wrap your mind around the fact that these are women who play the guitar with such ferociousness, that on that first listen, you might think they're men. But we all know what happens when you assume. The band is also gaining critical acclaim and success by taking a path that you might not think would offer an independent band a favorable outcome, one that will likely become standard as the music industry evolves.

The band is comprised of Abby Krizner and Pam Simmons, both on guitar and vocals, Amy Bianco on bass and vocals, and on drums, the lone man in the band, Dennis Brown. Their third album, *Coming of Rage*, was released independently in January, and celebrated with a show at the 31st Street Pub in the Strip District.

"Yes, the initial appeal is the band (with the exception of Dennis) is viewed as an 'all-girl' band playing metal music," says Tim Benz, morning show deejay on 105.9 FM WXDX and Krizner's boyfriend. "But about 30 seconds into seeing them play in person, you understand that they are actually a bunch of musicians playing metal music who just so happen to have three female members. Then the gender novelty wears off and you just enjoy the fact that they do what they do better than most."

The original release date got pushed back while the band shopped around for record labels. Surprisingly to them, they ultimately found that remaining independent of a label was the better way, financially and creatively, for them to go.

"We learned that having a record label isn't always the best thing. We might be able to control our image more, control the CD, and save money doing it," Krizner says. "And that was kind of a slap in the face because you always hear such great things about people getting signed."

It's an interesting paradigm, the way that technology has changed the music industry. It's a world where the physical CD is almost becoming obsolete — in December 2008, *Rolling Stone*

reported a 21.7 percent decrease in album sales from December 2007 – live shows and the Internet have become the driving force for musical fame, profit, and success. Thus, the Motorpsychos all have day jobs: Krizner is a producer, music director, and evening deejay for 105.9 FM WXDX, Simmons is a web developer, Bianco is deputy director of an environmental after-school program, and Brown does construction and landscaping.



Funny 'Psychos

“We all have day jobs that we have to fit in, and sometimes we have to miss work for the band even though we’re not a touring act. But we’d like to think of ourselves as contenders someday.” – Dennis Brown

“When you think about Pittsburgh bands that are getting attention, they’re going on MySpace and not even charging for their songs,” Krizner says. “Each band is going to have to figure out a way to survive in this new world. I don’t think record labels are as necessary for local smaller bands as they are for bigger bands who want to have somebody pay for their touring.”

One look at the members of the band tells you that they probably won’t take too kindly to any sort of image control. And while they may be rough on the exterior, their interiors beg to differ.

“We were all reflecting at practice the other night, how we’ve gone through a lot together and that we really care about each other, and we’re all friends. We had an ‘awwwww’ moment,” Krizner says. “And then we had to play a lot of metal to get rid of all that.”

Shows have taken the Motorpsychos up and down the East Coast; they've played dates on the Warped Tour, our own X-Fest in 2005, have shared the stage with Godsmack, El Nino, and Kitty, and have also won a number of rock competitions. "X-Fest was great because we really got to go back stage and talk and hang out and drink with all of the real rock stars," Brown says.

Krizner, who started playing with the band after the first self-titled release, says that the Motorpsychos have really grown with Rage. "We've not only learned to anticipate each others' style and work with it, but I think that this really sounds like a band that's writing together and not like there are three different song writers in the band," she says.

The result is a more cohesive, polished album, available online on iTunes, Napster, Rhapsody, CD Baby, and the band's Web site, motorpsychosrock.com, as opposed to inside record stores, another sign of the times. Inspiration is culled from personal experiences, Krizner says, and, "we write things because we think they're funny. Not only are we metalheads and rough, but we're also pretty funny."

So what's it like for Brown to work so closely with three rough, funny, female metalheads? "I don't really think of them so much as girls, except for the make-up part," he says.

"Sometimes I feel a little out of place, and I can't relate as much as I'd like to. But my whites are always folded and nice."

For more information on the Motorpsychos, visit motorpsychosrock.com.

[Download the PDF.](#)

Give the PDF time to download.

To purchase the rights to reprint this article, please email [Jennifer Diamond](mailto:Jennifer.Diamond@whirlmagazine.com).