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Movielife vocalist keeps it ‘real’
By Lauren Liciardelli

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Pop-punk. Hardcore. Emo. No matter what brand is being labeled, you’ll find disinterested fans claiming ownership in it. Most bands don’t have to be leyeballed, and their followers despise it even more. When, these restless millennials moan, it seems there is ever going to be a real band with an original sound on the scene?

Well, have no fear. Enter The Movielife, hailing from Long Island, New York; an original band with an original sound. They’re the first ones to talk about their hardcore roots, but possess the raw talent to swiftly blend it with melodic riffs and punk rock drama.

“It’s kind of a nice mix of all the different stuff that’s going on. There’s no way it’s like one specific thing,” said vocalist Vinnie Caruana. But he does not want anyone to label The Movielife as ‘Emo,’ which seems to be the new trend washing over music critics.

“Most critics just call stuff ‘Emo,’ because it just makes their jobs easier,” he said. “But I don’t even know what that word means anymore.”

Despite having an almost alarming amount of sincere fans who claim his band is the reason they why they themselves play music, and eat up the band’s merchandise like Halloween candy, Caruana remains grounded.

“I’m just hoping you get the feeling that I’m just a normal person,” he said. “It’s important to me that people are inspired to do what we do, and I totally understand it.

It means a lot to me that all our hard work goes to things like that.”

According to Caruana, The Movielife has gained more success in the music industry than they ever could have imagined. In 1997, they started off as just a bunch of guys who knew each other from attending punk and hardcore shows regularly in Long Island, and eventually decided to experiment with music playing music. After a few member changes, they soon blossomed into what would later be called The Movielife.

“(The name) came out referring to the time in life when you kinda feel like you’re in a movie, and it happens to me a lot,” Caruana explains.

The Movielife’s third full-length album, Forty Four Year Tour Back To Pen, will hit stores on Feb. 25. According to Caruana, the unconventional title refers to the train ride they had to take from North Dakota to Pennsylvania Station in New York City after an unfortunate van crash on tour.

The album, he said, consists of intensely personal lyrics penned by Caruana about the past three years of his life and much more aggressive material than their previous EP in 2002, The Movielife Has A Gambling Problem.

“The new stuff gets me more riled up than the old stuff. It’s all real, it’s all true stories. It’s kind of painting the picture for everyone and hopefully people can relate to what I’m saying,” said the singer.

With such devotion to his fans, Caruana claims that he has no regrets about throwing his emotions and such personal experiences out there for everyone to hear and critique.

“It’s like I feel like I have an obligation to the people that support us to be real, you know, be honest; otherwise I’m shortchanging them. And this is all I do, so I better do it right. I’m not going to try to really write about fake people. I’ll write real songs about fake people,” he declared.

Right now, The Movielife is taking the States by storm on a whirlwind club tour with hard rockers The Used, Drive Thru Records’ biggest punk-metal band Finch, and another band on the rise, My Chemical Romance.

“Basically, Finch and The Used wanted to do like a co-headlining tour, and they each got to choose a band. Luckily, The Used chose My Chemical Romance, and Finch was nice enough to choose us. So we’ve actually toured with them before. It’s cool that they want to help out a band like us who’s still kind of struggling. They believe in us, and that’s awesome,” he said.

Regardless of all the band’s success, Caruana said that he is extremely appreciative of his band’s loyal following and only wants to repay them with the most sincere and utmost quality music.

“As far as kids go,” Caruana said, “they need to know that we’re going to be real and that we’re going to stay real.”

The Movielife is currently on tour and will be hitting Birch Hill in Old Bridge, NJ on March 13.