

Snot

**BLOW IT OUT...
THEY'RE BACK!**

By: Josh Pierson

What were you doing in the mid-late 90's? If I had to guess you were watching the beginning of TRL on MTV with bands like Limp Bizkit and Korn becoming more popular by the day. The sad part was that the internet still wasn't the premier spot to download music quite yet, and underground hard rock and metal bands still were only getting around through word of mouth.

The truth to it is that there were a slew of bands coming out in the mid-late 90's that were musically better, and all around more talented in some people's eyes, and didn't 'do it all for the "nookie." While the Bizkit was busy having Fred Durst come out of a giant toilet on main stage at Ozzfest, Snot was on second stage causing all kinds of trouble, getting arrested and causing viewers to witness a much more ferocious blend of hard rock, punk, and white-boy funk for the non-trendy kids who didn't feel like sitting at main stage.

On December 11th, 1998 when singer Lynn Straight died in a horrible car accident, some including myself thought it was the end of Snot, a band that most definitely ended far before their time. But after talking with the band before their triumphant return to the scene with new singer Tommy Vext, I realized that maybe that was their time, that maybe Snot is supposed to be remembered the way they were and be the huge influence they were on a ton of bands. Now, re-organized and ready to bring on a new life and new, younger fans I was able to sit down with Mikey Doling (Guitar) and Sonny Mayo (guitar) before their San Francisco show opening for Mudvayne.



How's the tour going so far with Mudvayne?

Mikey: The tours been great, the guys in Mudvayne have been treating us great, and this is our first national tour as Snot in over 10 years.

Has the crowd been pretty receptive?

Mikey: Yes, I can honestly say they love it.

Was this tour set up through you guys or through the agency?

Mikey: It was a phone call between me and Chad (Mudvayne), he's a buddy of mine. I toured with Hell Yeah when I was in my other band Invitro. When Snot decided to get back together, I just made a phone call to Chad. One or two days later we had the tour locked in.

Is Invitro going to continue?

Mikey: Invitro is kind of a side thing; I mean we wear tin foil on our heads! It's strictly for fun, just a good time.

Since Snot stopped back in '98, you've been with Amen and Sevendust, how does it feel to be back with Snot?

Sonny: Feels great man, I didn't suspect we were going to get back together after ten years, I didn't really consider it. When I departed from Sevendust, and Mikey departed from Invitro, we had already been jammin'. When we were both free, we were like we should probably work on some music. Started to put some music down, didn't really know what we wanted to do at first, we had some great singers come down. Then Chad and Dez (Devildriver) said they wanted to take us out, it was great man. I'm thankful for every moment I get to play music, and I get to jam with my boys.

Now how did you find Tommy?

Mikey: We found him in a dark alley gutter! Tommy was a fan of Snot at like 15 years old, and used to come out to our shows in NYC and bring us food and gifts, and we used to take pictures with him and autographs. Lynn took a real fondness to him, he even brought a picture to the tryout of him and Lynn, and he ended up moving to LA to start a band with another dude who I really don't care to mention. That didn't work out, and we were trying out singers, and it just didn't feel right yet and Tommy was available, so I called Tommy and three days later he came down and from the first second, Sonny and I were instantly like, yeah. He completely kicked ass!

With the new singer, is there a new album?

Mikey: I think it's going to be soon. We want to write a bunch of music, and labels have been calling, and



yeah we'd love to put a new record out next year. We'll see, it's likely.

Sonny: It would be ideal, do the record and tour the world, cause Snot never left the United States. We didn't even make it to Canada. We've all been all over the freaking world, but in other bands.

On the Myspace page, and all the shirts, there's a lot of Lynn everywhere, would you consider this a tribute tour?

Sonny: In a way, we're paying homage to Lynn by playing songs. Those are his lyrics, all of them.

Mikey: It's out of respect, he is a member of Snot, he's just not here to perform. We miss him tremendously, we gotta give that respect, and his spirit has still got to be kept alive.

Sonny: Before we ever did our first show back, his mom and both of his sisters came to rehearsal and hung out with us and Tommy had the picture of him and Lynn. We got their blessing, we had to get the blessing first. We kind of just wanted to do it as right as we could.

When Lynn called you back in the 90's to join the band, how was that conversation?

Sonny: That's classic right there. It was Easter Sunday, I had been gone all day, I got back to my house playing Sega Genesis or something, and my girl comes in and she goes hey there's someone on the phone for you. I'm like Hello? He's like "This Sonny? Man I've been trying to get a hold of you all day? This is Lynn." I was like, well what do you want? And he said, "I want Metal!" I replied, "You called the right place." He called me back in '95. I had a town house, I had a job, I was ready to go like that. I had no expectations I was just ready, and when I got off the phone with Lynn that day I talked to each guy in the band, and I told him to send me the demo. After I got off the phone my girlfriend sits down and she's like, "you're going huh?"

In the recording of Straight Up how was the experience on that?

Mikey: There were a lot of vocalists on that, and all the music was written by Toomer, Shannon Larkin, myself, and Sonny had a part in it as well. The hard part was getting the singers in from the tours into Los Angeles. It was a hard process, at first it was all good intentions, it was for my friend who died, but at the end of it I was pulling my hair out. It was definitely hard, I'm glad I did it now but it definitely didn't come out quite like I wanted it to. But it was a tribute for Lynn.

When Snot first came out, the scene was all over the place, it's kind of getting that way now again, you guys had a lot of different influences. Do you see any similarities between now and then?

Mikey: I can almost say I've said that recently, it seems like it's ok for Snot to play again right now. Maybe four or five years ago I don't know if it would have been as cool, there was all this metal core and emo scene. Everything was very very serious and people forgot how to have a good time. It seems like it's a good time for Snot to come back, music is starting to loosen up again, and people want bands to sound different again. A lot of these emo kids out there, God bless 'em and their little hair cuts. But they all have the same formula.

Sonny: People always ask me what kind of band we are, metal? sure, we're all those elements, but we're a rock band!

Any new bands you guys are diggin'?

Mikey: Airbourne, killer band, they're like AC/DC went "damnit! we need to have some babies!"

Tommy: I like Gojira, a French band. I got a chance to hear the new record, it's really good French heavy metal, and it's different.

Mikey: The new Bleeding Through is ferocious stuff.

Years from now when you look back, what do you want people to remember, and what do YOU want to remember?

Mikey: It was a good time. We're not here to change the world man, we're a rock band. I hope people have a good time for that hour or so they jam to us. It'd be cool if some kids were in a band that got big and Snot was one of their influences.



