

I'm rocking it in a man's world



ONE2WATCH
By **CHRIS SWEENEY**

ROCKER Chrissy Costanza knows she's in the minority, but doesn't give a rat's ass.

She fronts American trio Against the Current, from Poughkeepsie in New York.

Their debut album *In Our Bones* was a hit on both sides of the Atlantic - breaking the UK's top 30. But Chrissy is frustrated to be one of the few young females leading a band.

She said: "I think that stuff exists. But for me, I know when the band started, I said 'this is what I want and I'm going to take it'."

"I didn't think, oh I'm a girl in a band, I have to work twice as hard. I said, I'm going to work twice as hard as I want it twice more, than anyone else out there."

"I want to prove that I'm better and I deserve this, not because I'm a female but because I'm good enough for it."

And she also laments the lack of female rockers going around.

Chrissy, 21, added: "There's definitely a lot less of us. It's not common. It's not the norm."

"If you open magazines like *Rock Sound* or *Kerrang*, it's the same females over and over."

"It goes to show, it's almost a novelty which is crazy that it's 2017, and there's not a whole lot of us. People do see it differently in their own subtle ways."

"Someone haven't said to me, I've never seen a girl in a band before - it's never been that blatant. But people do feel different about it when there's a girl involved."

Some critics were surprised ATC's album contained songs detailing life on the road. But they were based on real experiences despite only having a short career.

Chrissy admitted: "It was weird to have songs like that on our first record, people

were saying, do you know about that? "But for us it was 'yeah, we do know about it' - we've been living it even though, we're on our first record. We were in a unique position. We got to do an entire world tour off two EPs."

"Not a lot of people put themselves in that position. We were fortunate people took to them. That way, when we did the album, we knew it would represent the community the fans had built with us during all that touring."

"Some of the songs are directly speaking about those experiences, about the life we were living and touring worldwide." And the band are back out on the road for another European run.

They'll play Edinburgh's Liquid Room on March 12. Chrissy said: "It's not stressful. It's what we do. It's second nature and at this point, it's normal to us."

"The crowds in the UK, the people are super, super passionate. They really get into the show - body, mind and soul type thing. In America, they sometimes need a bit more coaxing to get there. So we love playing over there."

The band's album actually performed better in the Scottish charts, than the UK ones. But its success, wasn't a total shock to them.

Chrissy said: "We were excited about how well it was received. But we worked so hard. It's not that we expected it to be well received. But we thought we really, really worked for it. So it was a relief. We'd have been super-bummed out if it wasn't. And having that validation from the fans was the icing on top for us."

●FOR tour tickets, go to: atcofficial.com

ONE2SEE

DIRTY Hit Records know their onions. They're the label behind The 1975 and rock band Wolf Alice, who feature on the T2 soundtrack.

Now they're taking the rest of their roster on the road. King Nun, Pale Waves and Superfood are all class acts, looking to break through.

They'll be at King Tut's in Glasgow on March 19.

Get all the info at: dirtyhit.co.uk

ONE2HEAR

IF you're looking to set the mood on Valentine's this week, then get wired into Wrenne's new single *Love Love Love*.

She's a maverick, born in Utah, but lives in the Midlands down south. And she's teamed up with respected Scots film composer Craig Armstrong on the track. It's got bags of emotion. Hear it now at: soundcloud.com/wrenne



TIME TO PICK THE RIGHT SIDE

THE SIDE

WHO: Hugh "Winnie" Winton (vocals / guitar), Ryan Golder (bass / vocals), Ruairidh Campbell (keys), John "Muff" Ross (drums)

WHERE: Alness, Ross-shire

FOR FANS OF: The Beatles, Ocean Colour Scene, Ben Folds Five

JIM SAYS: For a band based in a small Highland town, The Side have already achieved a lot. In 2010, they won a competition to support rock superstars Bon Jovi at the massive O2 Arena in London. The following year they shared a stage with Scots favourites Texas at Luxembourg's biggest festival Rock Um Knuedler. In addition to appearances across Europe from Moscow to Cannes, not forgetting local festivals Belladrum and RockNess, they've made their mark. And no wonder.



NEW MUSIC
By **Jim Gellatly**

Their infectious brand of melodic rock is a winning formula. Veterans of the music scene in the North, they've been floating around as The Side since 2005. Singer Winnie told me: "We originally met as students at the North Highland College in Alness and we went through a few name changes before becoming The Side."

"The line-up has changed a lot since then, with Muff and me being the only original members."

"We split back in 2011 and reformed with the new line-up in 2015. I think we hold a record in the Highlands for the

band with the most musicians used!" With a debut album *Nowhere Left To Run* released in 2009, they set about recording a follow-up on reforming. The result is called *Starting Over*, which is exactly what they've done.

Winnie explained: "We actually recorded this album once before in 2011 before we split, but the hard drive packed in and we lost everything!"

"On the upside, there are some newer songs on this one that have made it a stronger album. Our latest tunes are bit more piano led, but on the next album we are looking to get a bit more guitar driven again."

The new album was recorded with producer Gordon McNeil, who also runs Toy Town Records. The guys first met Gordon at Summer In The City in Inverness in 2011 when they played alongside Simple Minds and Big

Country. Gordon's band GoGoBot were also on the bill.

Winnie said: "We signed a one album deal with Toy Town early last year and went down to Ayrshire to record it in July. It's the first time we have recorded with a producer."

"We've always done it ourselves before. It was great to just focus on the music and get Gordon's opinion and input." The Side now plan to take the album out on the road to promote it. Winnie said "We are currently booking the tour and have just been announced for the EDF Festival over in Benbecula on July 28."

MORE: www.facebook.com/thesidescotland

● Jim presents a weekly show-case of New Music on Amazing Radio Sundays 2-4pm. www.amazingradio.com www.jimgellatly.com



Watch a clip of the band:
thescottishsun.co.uk