

**ONE2WATCH**
by ANNA GAULT

IT takes a lot for a rocker to get star-struck — but Fun Lovin' Criminals' Frank Benbini couldn't SPEAK when he met Prince.

The drummer has been in the New York band for almost 15 years but one of his best memories was when he went backstage at a Prince gig.

He admits he was so star-struck that he just stood and **SMELLED** him.

The musician is a super fan of the Purple Rain legend — who died last year — and admitted: "I think it was in 2010. Prince walked out and stood two feet away from me and I just froze."

"I am the kind of guy who will talk to anyone but for the first time in my life I didn't know what to say so I didn't disturb him."

"But he smelled amazing and had this orange glow about him and then just faded away."

Frank was devastated when the innovator passed away and revealed he had been due to speak with his idol.

He said: "Prince was going to call me before he passed away — he had asked for my details because we had done a rendition of the Purple Rain soundtrack and he wanted to discuss it."

"I make light of it but I will never get that phone call now and when he died I just couldn't face anyone. He was the reason I started playing music so it was devastating."

The Fun Lovin' Criminals — who had hits with Scooby Snacks, King Of New York and Loco — are playing their only Scottish gig this year at the Hamilton Park Racecourse Festival next month.

Frank confessed he's worried the rockers won't be able to keep up with the lively Scots crowd.

He said: "We always have the same outlook when we play Scotland — we have to catch up with the crowd. They are always ahead of us in terms of a party atmosphere."

"I truly feel that as you move up from the south peo-

King of New York in awe of Prince



HAVING FUN . . .
Frank plans band party but is still missing hero Prince

ple, just get more real and genuine.

"Scotland really has the best crowd in the world."

Frank, from Leicester, joined the Fun Lovin' Criminals in 2003 — ten years after the band first formed in New York.

He admits it hasn't always been smooth sailing. He said: "The toughest thing is when the friendships are strained by the business. When you've got three brothers who are sometimes pushed to where you start falling out."

"Every band will have this — especially one that has been going for two decades — you're never

going to avoid something like that. Over the years, we've made bad decisions, had bad decisions made for us, we've had lawsuits, substance abuse — everything you can imagine a rock-and-roll band will go through and that can put a massive strain on your friendship and your health."

But Frank added: "The best thing is we are still doing it, still beating the system and still the f***ing coolest band out there."

Frank will join bandmates Huey Morgan, and Brian 'Fast' Leiser on stage next weekend in Hamilton.

The Music Festival Racenight line-up also

ON SONG . . . Power

includes Cast with John Power, The LaFontaines, The Vegan Leather, tribute act Noel Gallagher's High Flying Carpets, Carly Connor and Stray Cats.

Frank revealed his band's antics might see a few items go missing following the gig.

Frank said: "Whenever we get to gigs whatever we ask for normally gets returned broken or we steal it, like golf buggies but I doubt we'll get away with asking for a horse."

"We are looking forward to it — we might have a wee bet, you never know."

"We are not really gambling men. There are plenty of other vices but that's not one!"

● **GET tickets for the September 2 gig at hamilton-park.co.uk**

**RASCALTON**

WHO: Jack Wyles (vocals/guitar), Steven Long (guitar), Mark Buchanan (bass), Greig 'Peg' Taylor (drums)

WHERE: Glasgow

FOR FANS OF: The Libertines, Slaves, The Clash.

JIM SAYS: Every so often a band comes along that immediately becomes my favourites. I've somehow missed Rascalton live, so I'm all the more excited about finally catching them at the Electric Fields festival next weekend.

Thanks to YouTube and Spotify I'm fully up to date with what is surely one of the most happening bands in the country right now.

Their spikey indie punk rock is just my cup of tea. They recall some of my all-time favourite bands, but with a fresh twist.

The quartet, from Stepps near Glasgow, only got together a couple of years ago, playing their first show last year.

Singer Jack Wyles, 21, said: "I met Steve when I moved to Glasgow and we were in the same art class. Mark's known the boys since they were in primary but I became good friends with him when I was asked to play drums in an old band of his." Last year Rascalton won a competition to open

**NEW MUSIC**
By Jim Gellatly

Tenement TV's Tenement Trail all-dayer in Glasgow, and earlier this year supported The View on the final night of the Dundee band's six-night residency at King Tut's.

They've gone on to sell out Tut's in their own right as well as Sneaky Pete's in Edinburgh.

Recently, they hooked-up with booking agents 13 Artists, whose acts include Arctic Monkeys, Radiohead and Paolo Nutini.

The makings of a great scene is when acts work together and that's been the case in Glasgow recently. DIY gigs have created a brilliant platform for new bands coming through. Rascalton have had some great support from like-minded indie

punks Baby Strange. Their new double A-side single Lust/Alone is released through Public Records, the label set up by Johnny Madden from Baby Strange along with Conor Goldie, who founded the now defunct Dead Beet Records. Jack said: "We're really good friends with the Baby Strange boys. Johnny has done a lot for us that he really didn't need to do and it's cool because they are one of our favourite bands. When Johnny and Conor asked us to release Lust/Alone with them it seemed like the smartest idea because Johnny had produced the recording. It's class to have friends like that getting the best out of all of us."

Rascalton are just one of the many must see acts at Electric Fields next Friday and Saturday. It's been brilliant to see the festival grow.

Jack said: "This will be the first proper festival we've played and we can't wait. The full line-up is amazing so it's gonna be a good weekend."

Electric Fields is at Drumlanrig Castle, Dumfries & Galloway, September 1-2. Ticket info at electricfieldsfestival.com.

MORE: facebook.com/rascalton
● Jim presents a weekly showcase of New Music on Amazing Radio Sundays 2-4pm.

amazingradio.com
jimgellatly.com

▶ Watch a video of the band playing at: www.thescottishsun.co.uk