

the Sunday MUSIC



by COLAN LAMONT

ROCKER Andrew WK has been so busy enjoying himself that it's taken nearly TEN years to make his new album.

The singer-songwriter – who had a hit in 2001 with *Party Hard* – released fifth album *You're Not Alone* last week.

Andrew, whose last album was 2009's *55 Cadillac*, said: "There was definitely a big gap in between album releases.

"At the same time I've not been in Scotland touring since 2012 so it's been a few years for that too.

"I've been working on it the whole time and wasn't aware that much time had gone by.

"When you're partying hard in a chaotic environment, time slips into a vortex and ten years can go by without you even realising.

"I've been doing everything I normally do which is partying hard and spreading the message of party power."

The singer, whose bloodied face appeared on his debut album cover *I Get Wet*, says his ultimate aim was to get the new record finished – no matter how long it took.

Andrew, who was born in California and grew up in Michigan, said: "I wish I knew why certain songs come together quickly and others don't reveal themselves until later.

"It was such a disorganised and informal process and was never a cohesive concept or plan of action.

"The concept was just to finish the album and make the songs as exciting as they could be."

The 38-year-old musician says he's still as wild now as he was when he hit the big-time with *Party Hard* and can't wait to showcase his new album on tour.

Andrew – coming to Glasgow's *The Garage* next month – said: "Those shows in Scotland are always extra memorable. I've mostly played the same venue, *The Garage*, and each time I feel like I've never left.

"There's this unbroken chain of feeling there and I'm very thankful for the experiences.

"The fans have this incredible enthusiasm and dedication. I've always been able to count on



I partied so Hard my new album took ten years!

that party passion but I don't take it for granted.

"It's been a genuine privilege to experience the lands in the way I do.

"I'd love to know more about Scotland and it's certainly not through lack of interest that I don't know more, it's just using the time I have.

"You may not even venture outside the venue but you're still there and feel it so it counts for something. Not every worthwhile thing is in a museum or book."

Despite being around for a long time, Andrew knows his song *Party Hard* is the one that put him on the music map.

But he doesn't mind being considered a one-hit wonder and still loves performing the song.

The singer, who has been mar-

ried to fellow vocalist and music producer Cherie Lily since 2008, added: "It gave me the greatest things in life beyond my wildest dreams, a meaning and purpose I never thought possible.

"*Party Hard* is the rocket fuel that launched this venture and somehow it's still burning – I worship that song.

"It's the rocket fuel that launched this venture"

"I didn't make that song, that song made me."

The wild musician – who once performed on stage on a giant replica of his own head – will play the hit song in Glasgow next month, along with some of his fresh material.

Andrew said: "I'll play some

songs from the new album and all my albums, which is very important to me.

"As a concert-goer and performer I like to give people the best shot at familiarity.

"I respect performers that play songs nobody has heard and that can be thrilling, but for me the concert experience is about reveling in closeness and familiarity together.

"Whether it was 2001 or you just found us now, we want to be a consistent aspect of people's interest.

"I was blown away by people at the very first show and they are still coming."

● Andrew WK plays *The Garage* in Glasgow on April 21. For tickets, log on to andrewwk.com/tour



ACRYLIC

WHO: Andreas Christodoulidis (vocals), Ross Patrizio (guitar/vocals), Jack Lyall (guitar), Lewis Doig (bass/vocals/synth), Ruairidh Smith (drums)

WHERE: Glasgow

FOR FANS OF: The National, Interpol, The Killers
JIM SAYS: Still in their early 20s, Glasgow-based alt. rockers Acrylic have been on my radar for a while now thanks to a series of well-received singles.

They are all from Edinburgh except Lewis, who is from Perth, but are now based in Glasgow.

School pals Andreas, Ross and Ruairidh started making music together as 16-year-olds. Frontman Andreas said: "The three of us started playing in Edinburgh with a series of different bass players, mostly doing uninspiring Arctic Monkeys and Oasis covers. When we moved to Glasgow for university we met Jack and Lewis who were both keen to start a band."

Listening to the past singles, you can hear the band's development. Each release is stronger than the last, bringing us right up to date with their spectacular new EP *All I Am*, due out on Friday. Andreas said: "It's not that the songs weren't any good, but they now seem quite immature and



NEW MUSIC
By Jim Gellatly

unconsidered. The issue with only releasing singles is that there's always the temptation to release something catchy and upbeat, whereas with an EP or album you can allow for different stages within the body of work."

The EP clearly gives the five-piece more scope to experiment. EP closer and title track *All I Am*, clocking in at over seven minutes, wouldn't really have worked as a single. In the context of the EP it's a perfect fit – a soaring atmospheric epic that oozes class. They've created a compelling collection of songs, bringing to mind classic Scottish acts like The Blue Nile and Simple Minds. But *Overrun* really shows how they have

progressed. The song first appeared a couple of years ago. Great though it was, the newly arranged version shows more depth.

Current single *In Here/Tonight* is another gem, while opening track *Where I Lie* hits all the right spots. *Where I Lie* first emerged last year as a split single with Edinburgh's Mt. Doubt, when they hooked up with Scottish Fiction for the first time, the label that is releasing *All I Am*.

Jack explained: "We had always been big fans of Scottish Fiction. One day, out of the blue, we received a message asking if we'd be interested in releasing a split single. We're good friends and big fans of Mt. Doubt and were just about to record *Where I Lie*. The timing was perfect."

Fresh from an EP launch last night at The Islington in London, Acrylic play Sneaky Pete's in Edinburgh on Thursday. On Friday they play King Tut's, their first headline show at the legendary Glasgow venue. Jack said: "It's always been a dream to headline Tut's. We've played a few times but only as a support band."

MORE: facebook.com/acrylicmusic
● 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