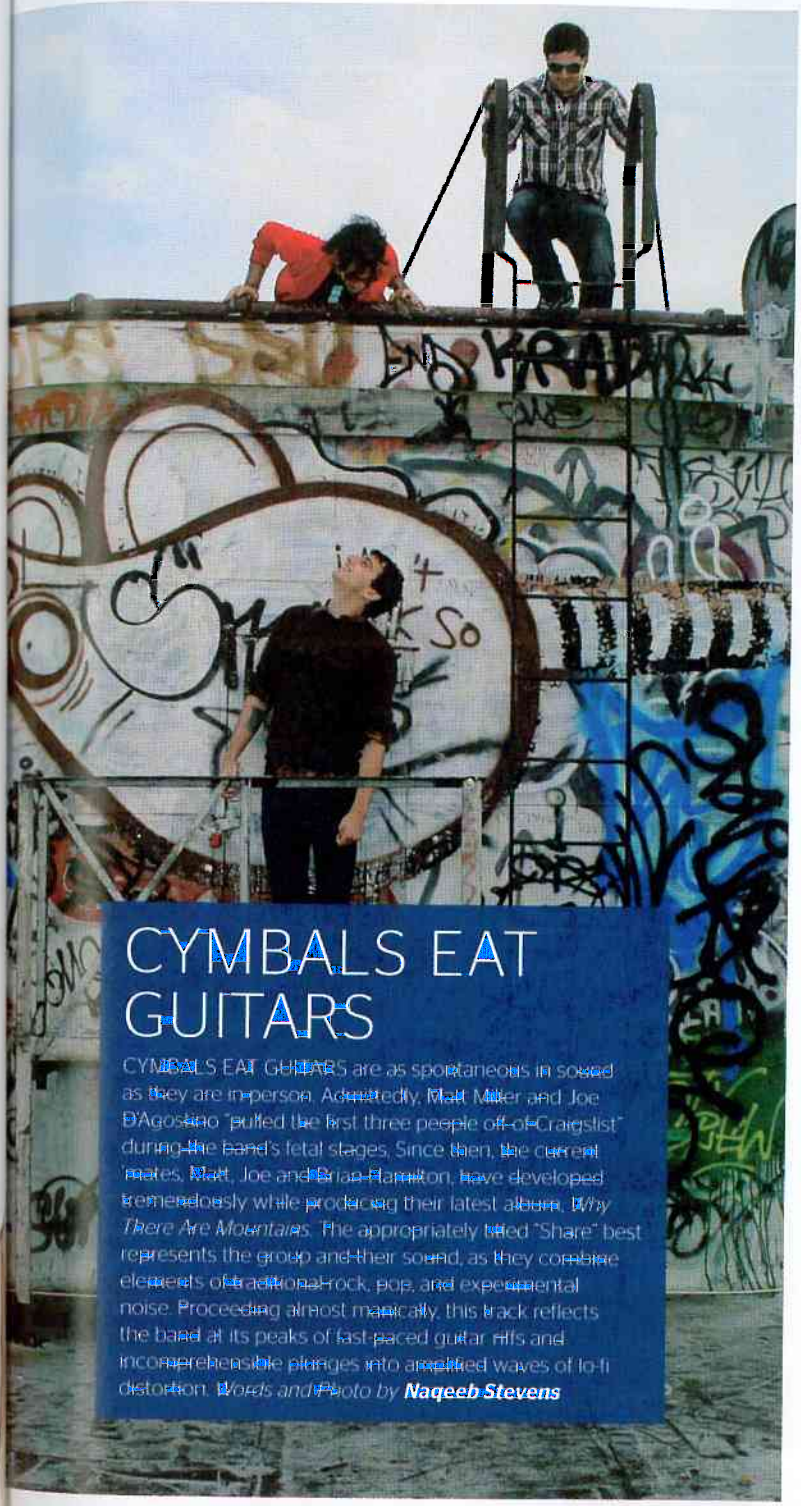


CYMBALS EAT GUITARS

CYMBALS EAT GUITARS are as spontaneous in sound as they are in person. Admittedly, Matt Miller and Joe D'Agostino "pulled the first three people off of Craigslist" during the band's fetal stages. Since then, the current mates, Matt, Joe and Brian Hamilton, have developed tremendously while producing their latest album, *Why There Are Mountains*. The appropriately titled "Share" best represents the group and their sound, as they combine elements of traditional rock, pop, and experimental noise. Proceeding almost manically, this track reflects the band at its peaks of fast-paced guitar riffs and incomprehensible plunges into amplified waves of lo-fi distortion. *Words and Photo by* ***Naqeeb Stevens***

Warpaint

WARPAINT MAY seem like another overnight blog sensation, but the all-girl trio has been a band for five years. "We were really, really patient and we took things really, really slow," bassist/singer Jenny Lee Lindberg says.

Now, the ladies are recording their debut LP, touring with Akron/Family and trying to find a permanent drummer. "We created the band with four girls and there was a certain sound... that we were really in love with." But as Lindberg explains, "It's not about 'Oh, we want to be an all-girl band.' It's about finding the right person." Slow and steady really does win the race. *Words by* ***Shannon Carlin****; Photo by* ***Angel Ceballos***

Donny Goines

DON'T LET the doo rag, fitted cap, or penchant for black threads fool you—a handshake won't cut it. Donny Goines is the type of person who gives you a hug when you first meet him. "I'm a man first and an artist second," says the well-mannered New York rapper. Still, Goines hasn't let the artistry fall far behind, as he's been knee-deep in self-promotion since the release of his free digital album, *The Breakfast Club*. Goines drew from the classic '80s film as a basis for the effort. "Instead of characters in a detention hall, there were different artists in a studio." *Words by* ***April Aguirre****; Photo by* ***Robert Adam Mayer***

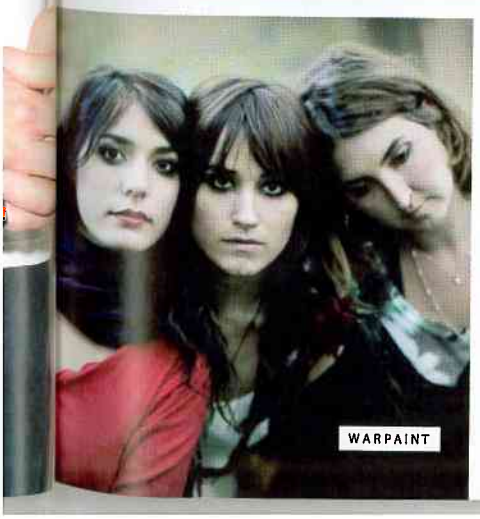
Maya Azucena

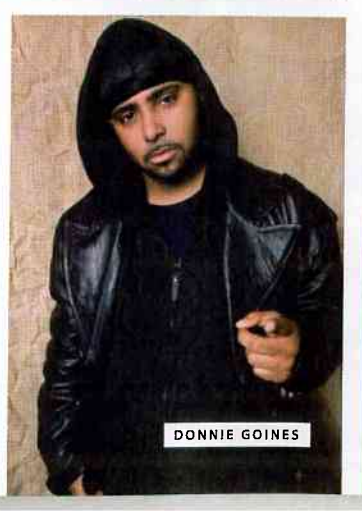
MAYA AZUCENA is a soulful artist with the ability—and furthermore, the heart—to unify crowds all over the world. The singer/songwriter recently returned from a two-week tour in Central America where she was invited by the U.S. Embassy to perform as a cultural ambassador. Her work as a musician includes everything from commercial tracks to humanitarian performances, and she is currently working on her next album, *Cry Love*, which she hopes to release by spring of 2010. But no matter what her focus is, Azucena remains passionate about "improving her skills" and connecting with her audiences wherever she performs. "I want them to have a sense of being uplifted and having hope." *Words by* ***Lauren Hafley****; Photo by* ***Kyle Timlin***

Jon Irabagon

EQUAL PARTS bebopper and avant-garde troublemaker, the alto and tenor saxophonist Jon Irabagon places no stylistic boundaries on himself. He swings madly (on his album, The *Observer*), soars freely (on *I Don't Hear Nothin' But The Blues*), and sometimes marries these approaches in his playing.

"It's really all just music to me," remarks Irabagon. "I truly enjoy playing in the craziest sound experiment settings, just like I love playing with a hard-swinging rhythm section. The important thing for me is to be performing with people who are totally into the music they are playing, where the main purpose is to make good music as a team." *Words by* ***Brad Farberman****; Photo by* ***Kyle Timlin***


WARPAINT


DONNIE GOINES

MAYA AZUCENA

JON IRABAGON