

Denver's The Fray know how to weave a life

The Fray

With Kyle Riabko
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Edmonton Events Centre

LACINA DESJARLAIS
Arts & Entertainment Staff

With hit songs like “How to Save a Life” and “Cable Car” being featured on shows like *Grey’s Anatomy*, you might expect Denver quartet The Fray to be a bit full of themselves. However, according to drummer Ben Wysocki, The Fray are just normal guys.

After a Cinderella-esque charge to fame when their fans petitioned a record label to get them signed, Wysocki and his band mates Isaac Slade, Dave Welsh and Joe King found themselves suddenly famous, but Wysocki says he never knew he’d be where he is now.

“I never really thought that my dreams would come true; it’s really been sort of a surprise and it’s just really exceeded my expectations and all the guys’ in the band,” Wysocki says. “We’re sort of just soaking it up.”

Talking to Wysocki, it seems you’d be hard pressed to find another celebrity more humble and down to earth about their accomplishments than he is. Even when it comes to keeping a cool head in the face of obsessive teenage fans and a plethora of media hype, he’s reluctant to take all the credit for himself.

“It helps when we think about how, if we quit making good music, no one would care anymore,” Wysocki explains. “Plus we’re all married and our wives really keep us grounded more than anything else because we’ll



come home from a tour, and they’re just waiting for us to take the trash out and help them do dishes. Home life and our families are really important for us, because that’s what it’s all about, at the heart of things.”

For Wysocki it appears home life and domesticity really are at the centre of his life. He and his wife are looking forward to becoming parents one day, and he admits that some of his current hobbies—aside from playing music—fall under the heading of “geeky” and domestically inclined.

“I really like interior design and

architecture,” says Wysocki a bit shyly. “I subscribe to architecture and home magazines and when I’m on the bus, I like to read about the designs of living rooms and things. I haven’t bought a house yet but I can’t wait until I do. I’d love to have my own home and put my own cabinets in my kitchen.”

However, domestic bliss isn’t the only thing the guys of The Fray seem to crave—they also have a hankering for a party. While it might be assumed that in the habit of rock stars a hotel-room-trashing good time might be in order, Wysocki assures that they just

don’t roll that way. Their idea of going buck wild, he says, is going out to eat at five-star restaurants.

“We’ve kind of learned that we’re a little boring and some people are disappointed because they want to hear party stories or crashing hotel room stories but we don’t really do that,” Wysocki laughs. “The craziest that we get is when we go to nice restaurants because guitarist Dave [Welch] really likes food a lot. He reads about food and he reads about wine and so if somebody else—like a record label—is paying to take us out to dinner,

then Dave picks and it ends up being a really nice place because record labels will pay for a lot for really nice food.”

But besides lavish dinner parties, the members of The Fray have other future plans.

“Right now it’s learning how to stay where we’re at instead of taking steps back,” Wysocki says. “It’s just maintaining the fans we’ve acquired and figuring out how to do that and how to keep people interested in what we’re doing. The goal in five years is to still have people listening and buying our music—that would be pretty sweet.”

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