

# All Else Fails trying to live up to its true punk roots

## All Else Fails

With Smoothride and Small Town Night Life  
Thursday, 22 March at 7:30pm  
The Powerplant

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Punk is more of an attitude than anything else. It's all about do-it-yourself, everybody else be damned, so besides the addition of a few metal riffs in their music itself, the headstrong St Albert-based band All Else Fails is pure punk. Even from the beginning there were a couple of guidelines the guys knew they had to follow and, therefore, all four members made two promises to themselves, and each other.

"Number one: we weren't going to let anybody affect the kinda music that we wrote," explains drummer Brent Francis. "We don't cater to a certain audience. We write the kind of music we want to hear on that specific day. And we will do whatever we want to do. That's all one. The second one? No

teenaged love-angst songs."

With lusty themes banned from the All Else Fails songbook, the lyrics that do make it past the lips of singer/guitarist Barrett Klesko strive for higher meaning in their attempts to address societal ills. Guitarist Mike Chartrand is well aware that it borders on cliché, but the group is convinced of music's power to stir change. And while bassist Nic Ouimet is quick to admit you can't always understand the words, you can be assured there's reasoning behind every song.

"We see things in the world that make us mad, and you have to have some kind of purpose behind what you're doing," says Francis.

"Not necessarily mad," corrects Klesko. "But motivated," finishes Francis.

It's only been a little over a year since All Else Fails got together. However, with the love and support of coffee, their uncompromising nature has led to some ambitious projects, including a bi-monthly podcast, a music video and a forthcoming DVD.

"Most indie bands don't do the stuff that we do," says Klesko. "Most guys don't go out and do a video at this stage of the game, they wait until they get signed, they want someone else to pay for it."

The band's unwilling to take easy outs, even when it comes to winning a prestigious spot on this year's Taste of Chaos Tour. Each spot on the tour, whose headliners include The Used and 30 Seconds to Mars, holds a place open for a local band to fill, chosen via fans in an online Battle of the Bands. While All Else Fails could've signed up for the Calgary show, where competition was sparse, they opted to stay and fight for the Edmonton show instead.

"We know a lot of people in Edmonton. This is our home. If there's one show we want to play it would be Edmonton. And there's no reason for us to pussy out and go for an easier location, because with the amount of legwork we are capable of, we can pull it off," says Francis. "And that's what we said and hopefully it



works out in the end."

In the meantime, the band has a number of gigs lined up in Edmonton over the next couple months, including the show at the Powerplant on 22 March. In an effort to keep up their hectic pace, they're already looking forward to the summer, hoping to be on this year's Warped Tour.

"We will be on Warped Tour. And if not, we'll still be on Warped Tour," assures Klesko.

Just in case all else fails, though, they have a backup plan.

"We will book our own tour, we'll play every single venue that will take us and we'll do it ourselves, just like everything else we do," Francis says.



**The Host is a horror film from South Korea that has all kinds of internet buzz.**

Either you're totally interested in it or you couldn't care less.

If you want to check out *The Host*, come up to 3-04 SUB after 12:30pm today (Tuesday, 20 March) for your chance to **snag a double guest pass**. As for the skill testing question ... um, tell us who the lead character in *Harry Potter* is.

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