

# Cancer Bats have fellow Canuck friends help *Hail Destroyer*

This Toronto-dwelling four-piece may not drink like you'd expect, but they've got the best of Canada's hardcore scene behind them

## musicpreview

### Cancer Bats

With guests

Friday, 29 February at 7pm

Avenue Skate Park (9030 118 avenue)

CANDACE MCGOY

Arts & Entertainment Writer

Liam Cormier of Cancer Bats is brimming with enthusiasm on the first day of their cross-Canada tour.

"The sun is shining. I'm hoping the snow is going to melt while we drive out across the country," he says. "The fact that we are playing a skate park is going to be rad, too. I'll get to skate in the afternoon, so it is like the perfect day."

The band will be in town previewing their latest album, *Hail Destroyer*, which is set to be released on 22 March. Judging by the title track recently released on the band's MySpace, fans of explosive hardcore rock are sure to be pleased by the band's growing intensity—something Cormier attributes to their improving technical skills.

"We definitely wanted to step up when it came time to write the second record," he says. "I guess we wanted to out-do ourselves. Since the first record came out, all of us have become better players, [...] and we wanted to really push that."

"And there's just me yelling a lot more," he adds. "My voice has gotten a lot stronger and more intense, so when it came time to writing new stuff, it ended up being a lot screamier."



*Hail Destroyer* is a result of newly-seasoned musicians pushing themselves and exerting complete autonomy over their career path. More confident than ever, when it came time to record, they felt like they could go it alone without the outside influence of a producer.

"I don't think we need a producer at this point; we are pretty much all producing it ourselves," he explained. "It was awesome [...] because everyone was getting their own input on what we wanted and what we wanted

to improve on from the last record and where we saw this album going. It was like a big open forum."

The forum that was created involved guest spots from the likes of Billy Talent and Alexisonfire, whom Liam speaks of like family. He's clearly appreciative of his Canadian brethren and their collaborative effort on *Hail Destroyer*. Although much lesser known than their Canadian counterparts, Cancer Bats have carved out a comfortable niche for themselves outside of

mainstream commercial success.

"People who listen to us are dedicated to listening to Pantera since they were little kids," Cormier says. "They don't really give a shit what's on the radio."

It's natural to assume that a band of the hardcore persuasion would carry that intensity to their personal lives, but Liam lives the hard-rocking life of a straight-edge.

"It does take a lot of people by surprise because I think that people who are listening to our music are totally

wasted, and it sounds like I drink a lot of whiskey and all that stuff," he admits. "I think that's kind of intriguing, but to us, [guitarist] Scott Middleton and I have been straight edge for so long that it's not really a big deal. [Drinking]'s just something we don't do."

Playing hardcore, though, is something they do just for the sheer joy of the music.

"This is the kind of music we love playing. And what makes us want to move around and, like, get crazy."

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