

arts

Regrets, he's had a few. Punching that guy in the face. And giving money to Al Franken.

How do you solve a problem like rhyming with Julie Andrews?

MOTION CITY SOUNDTRACK

Sat., Sept. 27, 6 p.m., doors 5 p.m.

Lupo's Heartbreak Hotel, 79 Washington St., Providence

\$21 Advance, \$23 day of, \$25 reserved seating

(401) 331-LUPO

www.lupos.com

BY MATT KEEFER

The following phone interview took place with Justin Pierre, guitarist/singer for high pop-tane quintet Motion City Soundtrack on Tuesday, Sept. 2, at 2:20 p.m. EST from Minneapolis during the Republican National Convention.

Who are your musical influences?

"Me? I've got a lot. Superchunk, maybe Jawbox, the Rentals. This last record ('Even if it Kills Me'), we've been listening to a lot of things from the '90s, early Pavement records, Jesus and Mary Chain."

You guys listen to the Flaming Lips?

"Hell yeah."

What are your shows like?

"There's a lot of fake blood. We go through gallons and gallons of it every night. We import it from Italy, actually. They have the best blood ... I'm sorry, I'm walking outside. Apparently, they didn't take into consideration the time-zone issue. I'm currently being chased by a bunch of Republicans."

Are they asking you to nominate McCain?

"They're just hungry for blood. I'm kind of not kidding.

... It's pretty crazy, there's the National Guard. I guess there's like 10,000 protestors, peaceful protestors, of course, and it was going really well until some of the crazies started vandalizing. I think over 200 people were arrested for doing stupid shit.

"A while back, I donated a bunch of money to Al Franken's campaign, and I shouldn't have done that because now I'm, you know, kind of broke, and he actually called me and wanted to see if I could come to something that he was doing. I think he calls people who contribute to his campaign; it was pretty surreal and awesome. I think he's an amazing writer, and he's got some amazing ideas; he's not the most eloquent speaker, though. If the political climate changes, he's going to evoke some positive change."

On Amazon.com, you can buy "The Truth (with Jokes)," marked down from \$26 to less than seven bucks, new. Less than two, used.

"Yeah, you should do that."

"Lies and the Lying Liars who Tell Them"; you can buy that for 1 cent.

"What!"

"Rush Limbaugh is a Big Fat Idiot," you can also buy that for 1 cent, used.

"Augh! That's awesome. He has something positive to say, but then he's not afraid to like, you know, punch people in the face. Not like, literally."

Have you ever had to punch someone in the face?

"That's kind of funny, because I'm totally over it, but a long time ago ... we had been doing this tour with Reggie and

the Full Effect. There's this singer, for some reason I just didn't like him. In my mind, he was always mean to me, doing douchebaggery things. ... I ended up punching him in the face. ... I feel bad that I did that; I'm not a huge fan of him as a person, but, whatever."

You guys had played in a ballet studio?

"The acoustics were great, it bounced around in a good way — have you ever seen 'Bareillya'? With Jane Fonda? It's an amazing movie; that's where Duran Duran got their name from. There's a great line where she says, 'Release the angel or I'll melt your face.' Something like that."

What other old venues have you played in?

"We played outside of taco stands, sororities and ballet studios. And we kinda moved up from there, into liquor stores."

What was your smallest audience?

"Maybe it was that ballet studio. Brett (Gurewitz) from Epitaph (their label) came out and watched us. The only other people there were (keyboardist) Jesse (Johnson)'s dad, Brett, and his now-wife."

Where'd the band's name come from?

"(Guitarist) Josh (Cain)'s older brother came up with it for something he was going to do, and like any younger, angry brother, who's repeatedly beaten about the head, face, and neck his whole life, he stole the name from his older brother and we used it before he could copyright it. That's how we came up with it. We just stole it."



The usual suspects. They've moved on up from playing outside taco stands and in liquor stores. From left are Tony Thaxton, Jesse Johnson, Matt Taylor, Justin Pierre and Josh Cain. PHOTO BY DAN MONICK

If his brother had mailed the name to himself, he would have the copyright to it.

"Exactly. I do that all the time. Every single idea I have, I write on a postcard and mail it to myself."

Do you do that with the songs?

"No, I don't really care about the songs."

But you guys care about movies.

"I ingest a lot of films, both literally and figuratively. I think 'Mary Poppins' and 'Sound of Music' are the only two musicals I'm a real big fan of. Julie Andrews, she almost made it into a song, but got axed at the last minute. I couldn't find a good rhyme for 'Andrews.'"

How'd it go?

"Do you spend all your time watching Julie Andrews,' but instead it was, 'Do you spend a fortune on... uhh...' I can never remember my own lyrics."

Bad stage habit.

"Oh God, it happens almost once every show or every two shows. I think fans just know that I'm going to f**k up and that's why they keep coming."

Matt Keefe totally got this interview to cop tix for his little brother. Scope out the band at www.motioncitysoundtrack.com and tell them from where you import your fake blood.