

**PG:** We are so excited that Psykynne is having a CD release party at SoHo.

**Misty:** We've been sweating to get that CD back. I started recording August '08, so it has been almost a year since I recorded my stuff. We will have it about a week before the SoHo show. We are really excited that we can do a release there because we've got a lot of fans there and we're just stoked, we can't wait.

**PG:** Why did it take so long to finish the CD?

**Misty:** We took our time to make sure it was exactly what we wanted. If we were unhappy with something, we redid it. Our last CD is only two years old, so we felt like there was no pressure to release a full-length album. We took our time, wrote the right songs, and spent the time to do it correctly.

**PG:** Where did you record it?

**Misty:** We recorded it at Goatfinger Studios in Decatur, Georgia with Lance Hoskins.

**PG:** I can't believe Psykynne was only six months old the first time you played here. You blew us away right from the beginning.

**Misty:** When we first got together, we decided to record a demo. We put our demo out two months before our first official show. When we played our first show as Psykynne, I put my drum kit up, William was tuning his amp, and Scott was of course running his mouth, because that's what Scott does. Once I got my drums set up, I turned around and there were a hundred people standing in front of us. I was like, oh my gosh. It was really cool because a lot of people in the crowd were singing along to some of our first songs.

**PG:** How did you get the demo out to the people?

**Misty:** Word of mouth. Hawkinsville is a small town. Everybody knows you, everybody knows what you are doing. We recorded our little demo at Mike from Hybrid-L's house. We burned as many copies as we possibly could burn, we put good labels on them and gave most of them away. We got rid of five hundred of them just handing them out. I handed them out at my work and gave them two or three and said "hey give one to your friend." Scott of course was in a motorcycle club and he knows a lot of people from that, so that caught on. The motorcycle community has really supported us from the get-go.

**PG:** Tell me about the new CD, *Heartaches and Hangovers*—I like the name.

**Misty:** Scott came up with that. It sums it up because it is so emotional. One of the songs is about dealing with infidelity. There's a lot of underlying things there that weren't in the other albums. One selection deals with evangelism, like people wanting you to give them your money and God will save you type thing. There's the fun party songs. There's one called Saints and Sinners talking about being a hellbent mother f\*\*\*\* and I'll deal with stuff later, I'm just going to do what I want to do now. We redid Hell with Ben playing on this one and

we took the cussword out of it. Hell was one of the top videos in the country on one of the independent artists sites and it was moving up, but they had to take it down because of the f-word in the song.

**PG:** Did Lance produce it?

**Misty:** We did a great part of the producing it ourselves. Everybody was listening and putting in ideas. We all produced it. We give credit to Lance also for his great ideas. It was fifty-fifty on the producing end of it. Lance did all the mixing, he did all the recording. It was mastered by Rodney Mills at Masterhouse in Atlanta. He has mastered Journey, 38 Special, and a couple of other famous bands.

**PG:** How did you establish a relationship with him?

**Misty:** He and Lance are friends and business partners. Everything Lance records he refers in that direction. It's expensive but extremely worth it.

**PG:** I'm sure he wouldn't take on a project he didn't believe in.

**Misty:** Absolutely not. I know Lance wouldn't record something that he wasn't at least remotely interested in, which is a compliment to us because he is a death metal guy. This is the third album he has recorded for us.

**PG:** How is this album different from the previous two?

**Misty:** It is a much more mature album. I've only been playing drums for five and a half years and Psykynne is five years old. From listening to the first album, when I had only been playing a year into it, to listen to me at five and a half years, the growth is amazing and the thought process is amazing. Also, it's more emotion driven. You've got anger in this album, you've got betrayal, you've got heartache, you've got just good old straight up let's get drunk and ride our motorcycle type songs. There's something for everybody. To me, on this CD, every time you change the song, it's almost like a different part of the band.

**PG:** That's how you are live. You never know what Psykynne is going to do next, but you know it's going to be fun, like you coming out front and singing and everybody switching instruments.

**Misty:** I'm a music fan. I love to go out and watch live music, I don't care if it's some guy playing a kick drum and a steel guitar on the street in Macon, I love to hear music, but I feel like a lot of bands these days are wanting you to just "look at me, look at me, look at me." We are more like, "Hey come party with us." We'd rather it feel like people are more included. When we play covers we try to meticulously choose covers that people will sing back to us. It's all about how you treat the people. That's what keeps them coming back.

**PG:** Jimmy claims that he taught you how to play drums. Is that true?

**Misty:** That is true. Jimmy and I have always been friends. My parents and Jimmy's parents were great friends when we were little kids. I remember Jimmy when he was three years old and I'm three years older than him. We were at the beach together one day and he said, "You should play an instrument," and I was like, "which one?" He said, "you can't play drums because girls just can't play drums." I said, "Yes they can." He said, "Prove it to me.



Misty Vaughn, drums; Jimmy Elvis Knowles, bass; Scott Selph, singer; Ben Parker, guitar

I'll bring my old kit over, drop it off at your house and show you the basics." He showed me how to hold my hands, where everything was supposed to go, and some basic beats and said, "I'll be back in a month." He is the reason why I play drums and he did show me technique, but it was my stubbornness that actually taught me how to do it. In high school I played saxophone so I could read music. Jimmy was taking drum lessons at the time to improve himself so he would take his drum lesson and then come over and try to teach it to me. The problem was he couldn't read the tablature and I could, so we kind of helped each other out.

**PG:** How did Jimmy get in Psykynne? When we first met him he was the drummer for Downpour.

**Misty:** Phil, our original bass player, had gotten married. He wasn't loving playing like he originally did, so he stepped down. Jimmy and I were at a party one night and I said, "We'll be looking for a bass player soon," and he said, "I really don't feel like Downpour is the place, there's something missing, my heart's not there like it used to be." I said, "We're looking for a bass player, not a drummer." He said how about I learn some of the songs on your CD and I'll come try out. So he learned thirteen or fourteen of our original songs and came to practice for his tryout a month later and did amazingly well. He had never played the bass really, other than just messing around and he learned it all by ear. We basically chose him because of who he is and his drive and his personality more than his skills, but he turned out to be a very, very good bass player.

**PG:** And then Ben replaced Willie?

**Misty:** Yes. Willie has three kids now. When you play music, you are gone all the time, whether you're at practice or you're the weekend warrior. His children are young and he needed to be there.

**PG:** At your last show you had added an additional guitarist, Jason Scott, guitarist for Down From Zero.

**Misty:** Ben had to take two or three shows off and one of them was supposed to be the SoHo show. It turned out he didn't have to take that show off but we didn't want to cancel anything. We were always looking forward to trying to get a second guitar player but it had to be a really good one

and Jason is excellent. We tried him out for a while and it was working pretty well, but then his band, Down From Zero, dropped their CD and got picked up to a distribution deal. Jason owns a music store in Dublin so he was working six days a week and trying to play in two full time rock bands. We decided that it would be better for him, for his sanity, to go back to a four piece.

**PG:** How long has Psykynne been a Jaeger band? What do they do for you?

**Misty:** We've been on Jaeger for about three years now. They send you free swag to give out. You're on their website. When Jaegermeister tours come through, if it's within your genre you get added onto them. We were fortunate enough in 2007, the Jaeger tour came through Daytona. We were close, and everybody knows us as the biker band, so we got to play on the Jaegermeister mobile stage with The Throwdown.

**PG:** What is the biggest audience you've ever played for?

**Misty:** We played Sturgis, South Dakota at The Full Throttle, and that of course is a huge deal, but I think the biggest crowd we have ever played in front of was in Moneagle, Tennessee for the Thunder on the Rocks bike rally. We got to open for 38 Special and The Kentucky Headhunters two nights in a row. I'd say there were about four thousand people. When we first started there were about three hundred people there, but you could see them coming across the field because they could hear the music all over. They were walking up fifty to a hundred people at a time. It was amazing. By the end of our set we had a great crowd. We got done playing and of course we had to snatch our stuff off the stage because the big band was coming up. We were drying off behind the stage and Jimmy's girlfriend came up and said, "Y'all have got to come see this." We walked around the corner and there were about a hundred and fifty people standing in line waiting to get our autograph and our CD and I was just dumbfounded.

**PG:** What are the challenges and or benefits of being the only girl in the band?

**Misty:** There are no benefits. I feel like I'm the team mother most of the time. You know how guys are, they're not very organized, they're never on time, they spend more time in the mirror than I do. They

don't treat me like a girl, they treat me like I'm one of the boys. They cuss and burp and every other thing. They spare me nothing and that's good because I'd never want to be treated differently.

**PG:** Everybody always asks me about the name Psyknyne. Does it have any special meaning or did you just like the way it sounds?

**Misty:** Our first little show that we played was in somebody's barn. They needed our band name because they were going to send out invitations. We had until the next day to come up with a name. One of the names that was thrown out was Bent 22, that was one of the top five. I said, "Let's do something different," I wanted it to be Sick and they said no, no, no, no, no. I threw my girly weight around and said, "yeah, we're going to be that, if y'all want to be more than that you better pick out a word to go with it" and then I said "Don't let it be a number," and then it ended up being Sick Nine. I said, okay I'm down with that but we've got to spell it in a way that draws attention. It looked so common spelled out normally but it had such a ring to it because it sounded like stricknine, it sounded like sixty nine, so we ended up trying to make it cooler. Now everybody thinks we're sike nine or sick ninny, but it's good because it catches people's memory. We don't care how they say it as long as they say it.

**PG:** I think it's great because you have totally invented that whole brand.

**Misty:** It did kind of turn into a brand. There are Psykos, there's PsykChicks. Everybody on Myspace turned into Psyk somebody. We had Psyk Peaches and Psyk Dawn and Psyk Josh so it did kind of turn into a family, kind of like Insane Clown Posse has. It started out with someone saying y'all should get some merchandise and get girl merchandise, they can be Psyk Chicks. We were like wow, that is really clever, let's go with it.

**PG:** Is anyone who wears Psyknyne girl merch a Psyk Chick? Are there special requirements to be a Psyk Chick?

**Misty:** If you buy a t-shirt, you're a Psyk Chick to me. If you come to a show, I feel like you are. If you actually make an effort, spend your hard earned money, drive your car to come see Psyknyne, then I believe you're a Psyk Chick. To me you're a friend of mine if you are going to spend your time and money to come see me because I know how hard I work for mine.

**PG:** What have fans done to show how much they love Psyknyne?

**Misty:** We've had several people get tattoos. Our first Psyk Chick logo was a little skull with a bow on top and as soon as we put it out one of our friends went and got it and we were like holy cow that is the most awesome thing. Scott had our first male logo which is the skull with a mohawk tattooed on his calf.

**PG:** Besides the music what does each member bring to the band?

**Misty:** Scott is the face of Psyknyne. He's the guy you see in a picture and think he would probably beat me to death, eat my children, and steal my birthday, but he's the person that draws them in at first because he's so approachable and he's such a people person. Jimmy is the technical guy. If we

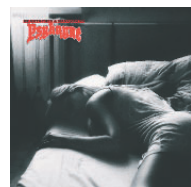
have to play and use our PA, he's going to put up the PA system. We all have our little roles and our dynamics. Ben is like Shaggy in Scooby Doo. He's kind of like the crazy little sidekick. He and Jimmy kind of got the little Scooby Doo-Shaggy situation going. And Ben, I always kid with him he's the beautiful one. I said I used to be the prettiest one in the band until he came along, so we always call him Beautiful Ben, and he answers to it so it works. He always smiles, he's always in a good mood. He tends to be more quiet than the rest of us. He's the quiet one, Jimmy's the technical one, Scott's the friendly one, and I feel like I'm the drive. If there's going to be a show booked, I'm going to book it. If there's going to be studio time booked, I'm going to book it and tell them when to get there. If shirts need to be done, I get them ordered. I make sure everybody gets paid. I'm everything on the business side of it.

**PG:** What are the long term goals for Psyknyne?

**Misty:** You know everybody wants to be a rock star, and I would be a liar if I said I didn't want to be a millionaire rock star. We set short term goals and hope for long term goals. Our goal was to put out the best album we could possibly put out so we could push it to the limit. If that leads to somebody wants to put us in a stadium to open up for Aerosmith or Motley Crue, so be it, but in the meantime, our short term goal is to push our album and play the next show and play it better than we played the last one and keep moving on.

**PG:** You are big supporters of the military. A couple of shows ago at SoHo, a soldier presented the band with the flag of his fallen comrade. I've heard other soldiers say that the music meant so much to them while they were overseas.

**Misty:** Being from the south, patriotism is so great around here that you can't help but get caught up in it. I live in Warner Robbins and we have an Air Force base, and Columbus has Fort Benning so we have had the pleasure of meeting a lot of troops and through Myspace they contact us and say, "Hey I'm going overseas, or my buddy is going overseas." We respect them so much and if we see somebody come in SoHo with a crew cut and they talk to you, we take the time to say, "Hey man I want to say thank you for protecting our country and keeping us safe and letting me be able to play my music." We have sent CDs to people we have made friends with, we send them a bundle of CDs and tell them to give them out to their buddies. Everybody likes mail from home and sending stuff over there is like giving them a taste of home. When that guy gave us that flag, I just cried, and I had chills all over my body. I could not believe that he would give us something so special. It was completely unexpected to me. It touched my heart in a way you cannot believe.



**PsykNyne CD Release Party  
Friday,  
August 7  
SoHo  
Milgen Rd,  
Columbus**

## Cherokee Farms Fiddler's Convention

Few things in life are more fun than a pickin' circle – a group of musicians sitting around a campfire or on a porch somewhere with guitars, banjos, fiddles. It's always an informal affair, this practice of getting together in an open jam. Not being a musician myself, I can only imagine that actually playing is more fun than sitting on the outside listening, but the listening part suits me just fine.

One of those few things in life more fun than a pickin' circle is an old-fashioned camp-out bluegrass festival like the Cherokee Farms Fiddler's Convention that was held in the foothills of the Appalachian mountains near Lafayette, Georgia July 10th-11th. And this makes perfect sense as an old-fashioned bluegrass festival is essentially the mother of all pickin' circles. The lineup featured no small amount of serious bluegrass and roots-Americana talent. Friday night Columbus' own **Bibb City Ramblers** played the big stage followed by **The Virginia Dare Devils** from Asheville, NC. Those acts were followed up by festive veterans and national touring act, **The Snake Oil Medicine Show**.

Saturday afternoon started off with an open jam session at the smaller stage hosted by Bibb City Ramblers (amazingly fresh considering the marathon pickin' session the night before) followed by several groups that were new to me such as **Pea Ridge Ramblers** and **Smokey's Farmland Band** with special guest **Joe McGuinness**. After dinnertime the main action shifted back to the big stage where audience members were treated to more big names in the bluegrass community like **Larry Keel** and **Chojo Jaques**.

While the weekend was in no way lacking in professional-caliber talent performing all formal-like up on the big stage, the real focus was fiddlers (and banjo pickers, guitar strummers, bass thumpers, and the occasional bongo drummer, washboard player, and spoon clicker) informally convening. From the time I arrived and pitched my tent to the time I packed up the tent and headed out, someone, somewhere was playing music. Friday night, long after the festivities on the main stage ended, I was lulled to sleep by the distant sounds of a pickin' circle around the campfire across the meadow. Waking up Saturday morning, my pancake-making was serenaded by songsters playing in groups scattered all over the festival grounds. On my way to the port-a-potties I passed no less than four gatherings of musicians at various campsites.

After breakfast I wandered around the festival grounds, watching little girls hula hooping, little boys playing on the floating dock in the pond, and old hippies dancing. I wound my way in and out of vendor tents selling stickers and tie-dyed t-shirts and handmade crafts of all sorts, soaking in all the sights and sounds and smells that comprise a music festival. Finally, I parked my behind on a grassy hillside to sit and listen to the music. I've heard many of these bands before playing in more traditional venues – bars and the like – playing the same music and often with many of these same folks in the audience. However, the feeling of being there in that space in that moment felt so inexplicably different from the experience of seeing music on an indoor stage.

After much thought (and a few beers), I think I finally put my finger on the difference. When a band plays in a bar, while no doubt some of the audience have that date marked on their calendars as a must-not-miss, many others are folks who have wandered in off the street either in search of a drink or having heard the music from the sidewalk. At Cherokee Farms, as with any camping festival, the vast majority of the attendees travelled quite a distance to be there, and they cleared out an entire weekend of their lives in order to attend. All my fellow festival-goers were there quite deliberately, and went through quite a bit of effort to be there. Audience members, camp-mates, fellow travelers – not only do we all make the pilgrimage for the music, we gather to enjoy each other's company. The feeling is much like a family reunion (though lacking in the drama and dysfunction so common to reunions of biological families).

This summer's convention was the first year of what is to become an annual event. No doubt next year will be bigger, better. My family and I are already making plans to be there, to hook up with old friends, to make new friends, to dance, to sing, to be with our musical family.

**Katy Clyde**

