

# Brothers on the road in a Carnival of Madness

By MIKE CHAIKEN  
EDITIONS EDITOR

It's called the Carnival of Madness, but it would probably be more appropriate to call it the Bands of Brothers.

Each of the bands on the bill—Sevendust, Puddle of Mud, Chevelle, Shinedown, and 10 Years—go back a long time, explained Sevendust lead singer Lijon Witherspoon.

"We all grew up together," said Lijon. All of the bands have hit the road with each other at various times since they first launched their careers. And they all entered the business at the same time. "All the guys are real cool friends," said Lijon.

"It's a lot of brotherly love," said Lijon of the Carnival of Madness. "It's like summer camp" with bonfires and barbecues.

To top it off, the bands dig each other artistically.

"I like all the music," said Lijon of his tour-mates on the Carnival of Madness Tour.

Sevendust and the Carnival come to the Mohegan Sun Arena on Wednesday, Aug. 4.

Sevendust joins the Carnival with a new album, "Cold Day Memory," to air before fans. The album marks the first time since 2003 that the band's original line-up has returned to record. The reunion was made possible when guitarist Clint Lowery returned to the fold after a stint away from Sevendust.

Lijon said it was great to have Clint back on board the Sevendust bus. When Clint left the band, Lijon said a piece of Sevendust went with him.

For "Cold Day Memory," the band—which also includes Morgan Rose on drums,



Vince Hornsby on bass men... We're together so thing to have these little brothers and family... We For the band's set on Sevendust is on tour with the Carnival of Madness, which comes to the Mohegan Sun on Aug. 4.

and John Connolly on guitar—did something unusual for themselves and for bands, in general. The members all contributed lyrics to the album.

Lijon said the band was never interested in recording songs that come from only just one point of view. They liked the idea of sharing the lyrical narrative.

"We're all grown

much... it's easy to write like this," said Lijon.

Since Sevendust was first formed, many of the band members have become fathers. Lijon said this has had an impact when it comes to songwriting.

"I think honestly I appreciate life more (as a father)," said Lijon. "They (children) make the day better."

"It's also a beautiful

people learn from you," said Lijon who is a father to a two-year-old. "It's so fun. I love it. It's definitely changed me."

Heading into recording the album, Lijon was asked what the band hoped to accomplish.

"We're not afraid to write the music we want to now," said Lijon. "We wanted to take our time and get back together, not as a band, but as

focused on not trying to make the album too complicated."

For "Cold Day Memory," the band brought in producer Johnny K (The Disturbed, Staind, and 3 Doors Down) to man the boards. Although the band has produced itself in the past, Lijon said it was good to have an objective ear come in and hear the songs.

Carnival of Madness, Lijon said, "We get up and bring it." And after their set, Lijon said Sevendust holds a meet and greet for the fans.

"Get out (to the Carnival of Madness)," said Lijon, "and have a real good time."

For more information, go to Sevendust.com, CarnivalofMadness.com, or MoheganSun.com.

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