

UNCOVERED
THE NAME GAME

As parents everywhere lovingly gaze at their wriggling, newborn bundle of joy and finalize their choice of names, perhaps they would reconsider if they had crystal balls telling them their kids would grow up to be famous entertainers. According to *What Were Their Names Before* (Contemporary Books, 1993), below is a list of celebs whose parents obviously lacked balls.

- Boy George (George Alan O'Dowd)
- Alice Cooper (Vincente Furnier)
- Evis Costello (Declan Patrick McManus)
- Bob Dylan (Robert Allen Zimmerman)
- Moe, Curley & Shemp of The 3 Stooges (Moses, Jerome and Samuel Horowitz)
- Billy Idol (William Board)
- Elton John (Reginald Kenneth Dwight)
- Ralph Lauren (Ralph Lifshitz)
- Meat Loaf (Marvin Lee Aday)
- Woody Allen (Allen Stewart Konigsberg)
- Billy Ocean (Leslie Sebastian Charles)
- Jane Seymour (Joyce Frankenberg)
- Tina Turner (Annie Mae Bullock)



ANDREW HENNING

ADAM SOUL

SET TO IGNITE
CANDLEBOX

With a #1 radio single and sold-out shows nationwide, Candlebox lights the way for a return to rock 'n' roll basics. Their self-titled debut album shines as a bright new star in music heaven. Formed just two years ago, vocalist Kevin Martin, guitarist Peter Klett, bassist Bardi Martin and drummer Scott Mercado were signed by Madonna's record label on the strength of their eight-song demo tape and a rousing live performance. *PLAYGIRL* spoke with Kevin and Peter to find out why everyone is getting hip to the Candlebox sound.



L to R: Peter Klett, Kevin Martin, Scott Mercado and Bardi Martin

What do you think about being on Madonna's label?

Peter: We thought it was an advantage because they're small, and in order to make their label happen they need to make the bands on the label strong, so they're going to push us. I like that Madonna does whatever she wants, so if there's something we want to do that might be a little risky, she would back it. **Like having the word 'fuck' on your album?**

Peter: Well, considering all the rap albums, that's pretty tame.

But there's no censor sticker on your album.

Kevin: Yeah. That's pretty surprising. I thought for sure we'd get one. Madonna's never seen us, she knows of us and she likes the tape a lot. I talked to her once on the phone. She's very excited for the band's future. We're her first rock-signing. When she first called me she said that she heard we were kind of upset with our video, we weren't real sure about it. She apologized for not meeting us yet, because she's been real busy and she hoped to see us sometime soon. She said she thought the video

was real good and that it was miles ahead of her first video. She also said that it's better than anything she's seen on MTV for a long time because it's different. She was real supportive, real honest, easy to talk to, real cool.

What do you think of her as an artist?

Kevin: She's incredible. She does anything she wants, and that takes a lot of balls. I respect her integrity. Her type of music is not something that I'm really into, but I like *Erotica* a lot.

Do you think the Madonna connection has helped you?

Kevin: Well, no, actually. A lot of the magazines that have reviewed us totally hate her. And we've gotten trashed because of her.

Peter: That's probably why she's separated herself from us.

What lyrical themes inspired you for this record?

Kevin: I wrote about my experiences growing up. The album is 24 years of my life. Nobody had ever been able to get me to talk about anything, and when we first hooked up, Pete started playing

his guitar, and we got to talking and it just happened.

I noticed there's a lot of lyrics about the loss and gain of love.

Kevin: It's love on every level. Love for yourself, your friends, parents, girlfriend, animals. I really believe that what goes around comes around. People who you encounter throughout your life you'll always learn from.

So, it's not necessarily just love in a Biblical sense.

You also write about inspiration and desperation.

got into anything real heavy, I just was real into psychedelics and not going to school and skateboarding.

Give me your best road story so far.

Kevin: We really don't have any. Except for the van doing a one-eighty on the freeway, going about 75. That's it. We kind of laugh at one another because we don't really do anything now that's wild. We keep saying, 'When are we going to start doing this rock 'n' roll thing?' We really are very boring. People come to the shows and hang out and they're like, "So what are we doing?" And I say, "Well, I've got to go to the hotel and get some

kick a monitor off the stage and he wanted to sign us.

Tell me how your musical influences combine to create the Candlebox sound.

Peter: Well, in one sense we all like the same kind of music, and you know how when you're a kid you only like one thing and everything else sucks? Well, Kevin was a punk rocker, I was into heavy metal, Scott liked jazz and Bardi was an overall music listener. It's just a difference of opinion, yet it flows real well.

Kevin: The influences that Pete and I share is where you get the aggressive side of Candlebox, and from Scott and Bardi is where you get the genuine melodies that we have in our music. The Candlebox sound stems from the four of us rather than one guy writing everything.

Kevin, you have such a wonderful voice. When did you discover you could sing?

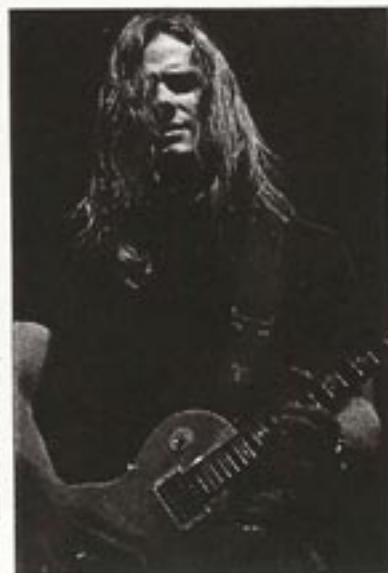
Kevin: I started singing when I was four years old. I stayed in choir until about my senior year in high school. I started doing competitions in the seventh grade—classical, jazz and contemporary stuff. I didn't decide I wanted to sing in a band until I was 18 and I'd seen The Cult play.

You're a natural performer and yet you shy away from that whole 'frontman' persona.

Kevin: Listen, I'm not a showman, a performer. I think these days it's honesty that people are looking for. When we're on-stage that's who we are. I'm really aggressive, and it comes across. *Where do you want to take Candlebox from here?*

Kevin: I think what we first wanted to do was to just put the CD out. Now we'd like to continue writing great songs and grow personally and musically in the world. We want to experience a lot of things. We want to keep motivated. We love jamming. We jam all the time at sound checks and we constantly create. We have 36 new songs for another album. So I think we'd like to continue putting albums out and hopefully build the foundation where we can put eight or nine albums out and then maybe go into producing. I'd like to make Candlebox a very solid influence in the music industry itself.

—Beth R. Nussbaum



Kevin: When I come up

with lyrics, I try to resolve whatever bad has happened to me at the end of the song. My life has obviously turned around quite incredibly and there's a lot of things that I did experience. I try to keep the "light at the end of the tunnel" thing.

Explain the song Far Behind.

Kevin: That's a song about two of my friends who overdosed on heroin, but it also represents the loss of love between friends and having to be left with the feeling of emptiness.

What about Mother's Dream?

Kevin: That song's just talking about a nightmare. It's remembering my childhood of growing up expecting a lot of things to be given to me or to happen to me because these things happened to my friends. When they didn't, my parents had to deal with the "tough love" thing of kicking me out of the house. *Mother's Dream* is about my mother's nightmare of saying to me, 'You can't be here anymore.'

You were a bad kid?

Kevin: Yeah, I was a bad kid. I never

sleep." I guess we just went through all that crazy shit when we were younger.

Well, you're still young. Twenty-four's not old! OK, tell me some little known facts about the band.

Kevin: We all have large...feet! Bardi and I are not brothers—people ask that all the time because we have the same last name.

Describe your live show and how you approach it.

Kevin: We feed a lot off the crowd. We have a really aggressive show. It's funny—we either have amazing shows or shitty shows. And a lot of times it depends on whether we prepare ourselves backstage before we go on. I've noticed that if we warm up previous to going on, we're really amped.

Peter: We've been fortunate that what we thought were the worst gigs, other people thought were good. The gig that got us signed we thought was awful.

Kevin: The guy was on the phone during the second song. He watched me