

PVMNTS

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FREDDY RAMIREZ, TYLER POSEY and Nick Guzman want you to know that better days are coming. As pop-punk band PVMNTS, the trio tackles serious issues while remaining lighthearted. “Our songs really reflect who we are,” says Tyler (guitar/vocals). “We have songs that are really funny, songs about getting laid, and then we also have songs that are heavier about addiction and depression and losing loved ones.”

As a kid, Freddy (guitar/vocals) remembers making beats with pots and pans. “I used to make these songs in my head while I was playing with hot wheels,” he recalls. At age 7, he took his first three drum lessons and taught himself the rest. “I picked up guitar in high school as a freshman, and then everything just kind of followed, like bass. I was in choir senior year, which started my singing,” he adds. Once he started writing, Freddy never stopped, joining his first “real” band at 16, where he met Tyler.

Tyler’s story starts with Blink-182. A child actor known for *Maid in Manhattan* and *Teen Wolf*, Tyler found the band at age 8, filming *Doc* in Toronto, Canada. “I was the only kid,” he remembers, and spent free moments browsing through Blink-182 CDs and merchandise. After watching their documentary *The Urethra Chronicles*, Tyler “fell in love with the whole entire image: the scene, their camaraderie, their laughs, their jokes, how deep they would get,” he explains. “Even though I was so young, I still didn’t really feel like I fit in in the acting world,” but the punk scene felt more inclusive. Tyler started his first band at 12 and played his first live show at

17 in Freddy's band. They left that band after a few months to start Lost in Kostko, which disbanded 4 years before PVMNTS was formed.

Nick (drums) also found music at 8-years-old. Growing up in Hawaii, he ran in the scene and punk circles. In middle school, Nick was diagnosed with depression and anxiety. "Not exclusively because I was diagnosed with those things," he clarifies, "but I found a way to connect with the music I was listening to." Because bands like My Chemical Romance meant so much to him, Nick wanted to "play music and try and pay that forward." After stints in a few Hawaiian punk bands, he moved to California and met Freddy, who introduced him to Tyler. "To get to PVMNTS took a little over 10 years," Freddy notes.

Their first show as a band was at the Viper Room. "The support was amazing even though people didn't really know our songs," which really validated their career decisions, Freddy says. PVMNTS released their debut single, "Jumping Stairsets," in March and their first EP, *Better Days*, in August.

The name, pronounced "Pavements," came naturally. "We've always been a fan of bands getting band names from song lyrics," Tyler explains, and they all felt connected to "Four Years" by The Story So Far "even though we never really went to college, [which is] what the song is about." The lyric "time was short on courts and pavements, we knew we had to leave," stood out, and they liked how "pavements" sounded. The vowels were removed to avoid copyright issues with 90s band

Pavement and the slash through the "V" was added to look like an upside-down "A." "It was our band name and our logo," Tyler notes.

In addition to The Story So Far, each band member pulls from very different musical influences. For Freddy, it ranges from Circa Survive and Citizen to Chicago and The Mamas and the Papas. Nick finds inspiration from Thrice and Underoath. Tyler's biggest influence besides Blink-182 is Sheryl Crow. When writing as a group, their varied influences add layers to the song. "Freddy's influence in one of my songs can make it sound totally different but still like PVMNTS," Tyler notes.

Inspiration always comes from personal experience and is never forced. "The 3 of us have been through a lot of shit separately," Tyler explains, which comes out in their writing. "It's a way of therapy for us," he adds. Tyler can't quite pinpoint the reason music affects him so much, revealing that it's almost a spiritual experience for him. "[Music] is an outlet for anything I want to get off my chest," Freddy explains. "As a band, it just means a lot that we're allowed to be onstage," Tyler adds. "We'd be doing it regardless; if there was no stage, we would still be playing it in our garage somewhere."

Better Days is representative of PVMNTS as people – in just six songs, the EP runs the full range of emotions. "We're funny dudes who know how to have deep conversations and experience real-life shit with no shame, [and] our songs really represent that," Tyler explains. The unexpected standout for Freddy and Tyler was "White Walls (Better Days)," a song that

is sentimental for Nick as the first song he ever recorded and released. Other favorites are "Chemical Trails" for Freddy and "Heavy Moon" for Nick.

This is a band with big dreams, one of which came true when they closed out their stage on the last ever Warped Tour date. "It just felt like fate," says Freddy. "It was meant to be, as cheesy as it sounds." In the future, Tyler hopes to break boundaries with PVMNTS and "collide both worlds — filming and music". He says that so far, the music/acting balance hasn't been too difficult to maintain. "It's going to make me super busy, but that's what I want," he adds.

Nick wants to ride the wave as long as possible, "because I love these dudes and I love playing music with them." Freddy hopes to turn his passion into a steady career "to provide for family in the future." As a band, "we want to take over the world, in a sense, but do it really sweetly," Tyler explains. "The whole concept of punk is [that] if you fall down in the pit, you get picked back up, and we want to just express that."

They also hope to be good role models for young fans and help them feel less alone. Tyler wrote "Heavy Moon" about his personal experience "blaming depression on something else rather than looking inside," he explains, but it also resonates with Nick. Tyler hopes fans will have the same response. "We have a lot of songs that are super relatable, but we do it in an uplifting way," he adds. Even in heavy songs, "there's always a message to keep going — better days." ND

