

Jessice Wylde: *This is Jessica Wylde, here on Powerhouse Mix and Power 92 and guess what? You guys must've heard him. He's on the phone, Marty Casey. Hey, Marty!*

Marty Casey: What's goin on?

JW: *How you doin'?*

MC: Doin' all right. Just hard at work and ...just focusing on making some music.

JW: *Yeah, ya know... I've been waiting for your call and you caught me off guard. (laughs). You know you have diehard fans here! Wow! They're like, going off with questions and they want answers... (laughs)*

MC: That's great. I'm glad. I scheduled this interview with you a while back and this gives me a chance to talk with you so if they've got questions or whatever the fans would like to know, then shoot away.

JW: *okay. Well, they want to know what's going on. They hear that you're new front man for LA Guns—the Tracii Guns, LA Guns, right?*

MC: Yes.

JW: *Okay. And they want to know what's going to happen with Lovehammers?*

MC: Okay. What's going on is out of nowhere I had a great opportunity to record a record with LA Guns. I had written a bunch of songs for this record as a songwriter, and then the lead singer was no longer in the picture. So they're sitting there with their producer, a guy named, Steve Thompson, and they said, "Well, basically you wrote a bunch of these songs with us." And they asked me if I would like to sing them. I had to think about it. Also on the table with that was that they were starting a world tour right at the end of this month. So it was an opportunity to go and play a bunch of live shows and get to record some music that I had participated in writing. So I thought about it, and I understood where I was with the Lovehammers. At this point we had two shows booked til the end of August, and I thought, well, this summer I don't know how good it's gonna be for me to just sit around 'cause I wasn't very happy where I was...just sit around all summer and do two shows or actually go out and perform. It felt like kind of where I needed to be. It kind of felt like a godsend. I just wasn't happy in the situation I was in, in Chicago. I hadn't been happy in a while, and I didn't really know what to do. I'd had a discussion with the drummer, Bob from Lovehammers, and he understood that I was not in a very good place. I really didn't feel like I had any place or home in the world, and I'd never quite felt that lost. When this situation came about, it really kind of felt like a godsend to me. It just kind of pulled me out of the tough situation I was in. Basically once I got up there, I decided and I thought about it and when I thought about what I wanted to do...I'd just thrown my entire head and my entire mind and every creative seed of energy I had into it. Just making some great music was really the *only* thing in my life right now besides my family that is kind of holding it all together. So it was a very tough decision, and I didn't plan on *leaving* the Lovehammers, although I think maybe many people took it as that. I just thought maybe I could do a few shows with Lovehammers...if it's a possibility...we had a show booked at a biker rally at the end of this month and we had a *possibility* of a show mid-summer, a *possibility* of a show at the end of summer that weren't confirmed. I thought maybe I could do those if Lovehammers were cool with that. I thought maybe I could do those, but as it turns out...I don't know how the Lovehammers feel at this point. We're kind of very sensitive, and we're all taking our time trying to figure out where it's at. I'm just really diving in; just creating music and it's really holding me together, and I'm feeling passionate about it. It is a time for a change.

***JW:** Yeah ...I hope it's a good change and ...I'm sure it is. I mean, Tracii Guns, Jeremy, the rest... They're all a bunch of great guys, talented...and now they've got you aboard so...that's awesome.*

MC: It just felt like for some reason or another being with this group of guys it really ignited a creativity in me that really hasn't been as open in a very long time and then, what I had witnessed, that's what made it much more of an opportunity for me and believable that I could make this happen. When you step in a room with some people and it just works, there's no (inaud). It just works.

***JW:** Yeah...Okay now that you've joined LA Guns, will any of the songs that you are currently recording with them be released prior to the tour?*

MC: They will not be released prior to the tour because they're releasing it through a record label, so it's not going to be like they're gonna put pieces out on iTunes or something. It will be played live. It will be released as a record in its entirety so people can hear it and get a whole semblance of the whole album. Nothing's going to be released in the short term. It's going to take some time to get it all together, and promote it, and get it out there so folks can hear it. I'm excited for that, too.

***JW:** Okay, and should the fans expect a brand new sound from LA Guns, far different than what we're used to hearing?*

MC: I think there is a lot of semblance of parts of it. You know, it's Tracii Guns, so he has a signature sound that will be, definitely, a big part of this record. You know, it's a new vocalist that always adds a different...dramatic element to what the band is going to sound like...so I don't know if I sound like Phil Lewis. And I don't sound like Paul Black, who had been the former singer here, so, ya know, it's probably going to sound different, but there's much of the semblance of the timeline of what LA Guns is and there's (inaudible) writing with Tracii and the guys, so, ya know, there's kind of a bit of both...and I'm really...I mean we're all kind of very excited with the sound.

***JW:** Well, awesome. Okay this one is from one of your fans, Kirsten, from Cincinnati...she wants to know...at some of the recent solo gigs you've had...fans had the opportunity to ask you where you want to be in your personal life, say ten years from now...and you responded...*

MC: You're asking me where I want to be in my personal life?

***JW:** Yeah, and you had responded that he, that you hope to be married with a few children, I think four...she says she's curious to know how you think this new change in the band is going to bring you closer to that particular personal goal?*

MC: Well...a question like that. Asking ten years, so, I mean, that being quite a bit of time, I think...ya know there're parts of me that haven't ...there're parts of me that need to be out performing and that needs to be creating and needs to be inspired just 'cause that's what makes me content, happy, and you know, feel like a complete person. So, where I need to be right now is performing and creating. It feels like, when I wasn't doing that, even a few months ago, I got very, very, very down and I really didn't know what to do. Getting the opportunity to spend...be like in a creative place, being inspired, and then getting to tour around the entire globe and do what I love to do, what I feel I'm good at, and share that with people and then be affected by the flow of the crowd that's there. I mean that's just a huge opportunity and that is exactly where I need to be right now.

***JW:** Good for you. Okay. What is something that most fans would be surprised to learn about you?*

MC: I think most fans get to know me pretty personally just 'cause I sort of spend a lot of time with them and let them know who I really am. I think they're most surprised that on stage I'm manic and aggressive and I think there's a potency from the stage that I think they

really get attached to, and when I step off the stage there's a completely different side of me that they experience and they kind of wonder how that all fits in to the same person and honestly, I can't tell you how I understand it either. I really don't know what happens when I go on stage that creates that personality that's inside of me...but I don't really...it's not like I brought it out, it's just that when I walk on stage, something happens to me that is the most exciting thing in my life. And I'm just hoping to see that as much as possible because that is truly what I feel like I'm...that's truly the most powerful I ever feel in my life is when I step on stage and just kind of let something other than my (inaudible) brain and my worries...and, ya know...my bills and all that, all that stuff fades away when I step on stage. It truly is about the experience of music and I love it.

JW: *Wow. Let's talk about your fans. You have some diehard fans, let me tell you. Well, you must know. They have bombarded both sites. You know you're on two radio sites right now. I'm broadcasting through two radios...uh...and they have bombarded both sites...and, they just are so happy just to hear your voice and to know about you. And some are very excited about this big change and some have their pros and cons about it. How do you explain the support you get from your fans?*

MC: Well, I understand and I'm rational enough to know that with making a big decision with *my* life with...ya know...with...There are times in your life when you have to do what you feel is right for you no matter how hard that may be for other people...no matter how hard that might be to yourself...and...what I understand from the fans from this is I understand that either way...whether they are in support of the idea, or whether they absolutely hate the idea, I understand that at some point I am grateful that they were affected and are affected by the music to the point where they give a damn enough to get upset or happy with the fact...(inaudible)...because then I know it's been a part of their life. And I hope they continue...and are in support and make it a part of their life (inaudible)...but this isn't done in any effort to hurt anyone. This was done in an effort to bring myself into a place that creates more music, that might, hopefully, make some music that will have an effect on people and emotionally get them to a place where in the future, it means so much to them, that they actually are willing to speak up. They're actually willing to take the time to care about it—good or bad. It makes me happy that people care. I know some people are really, very unhappy with me. I completely understand that. I don't...I don't *not* like them because they're not happy with me. This is a very, very, very hard decision. It's not "leaving Lovehammers". It's taking on a project, trying to make it a huge success because I feel really motivated by it. I feel really excited about it. My fans, the fans of Lovehammers, the fans of L.A. Guns are impressive people. They actually give a damn and let music affect their lives. That means to me they are special people. It makes me feel very good.

JW: *Yeah, well, they are some special people out there because, my God, I have been just watching the boards and this like, wow...Some are really happy about this and some are really upset...but it's your decision and, and if it's for the best, hey...God bless it.*

MC: ...I haven't been able to look back and read the boards. Ya know, everybody's been persuading me, "You should go back and read what they're writing about you." I had to really...in order to do this, I had to let go. And I can't dive into reading about the mud that is being built up along my feet. Things that are being said that maybe they're truthful maybe they're not, and maybe somebody's reading my thoughts and maybe they're accurate and maybe they're not. But what I understand is...this change has been occurring for a long time. That is...I'm going to release something on the website tonight that will really give people a great description of exactly where my mind was over a year ago and let everybody know that point blank about the band...how I was feeling, what I wanted the band to be in my life at that point. I think people will get a better understanding that this wasn't ...a whole

new thing that was made in four days. This has been a long process of trying to find a muse, trying to find some creativity, trying to get out of a hole I felt I was in creatively and in my life. I just was not very happy. The fans could see that. They know that when they'd meet me, over the last few months, I wasn't very happy. It's a different story now. I'm building up. I've found a possible way to dig myself out of...from a really bad place...and it's not a bad place within the band, it's a bad place within myself. So, I'm doing whatever I can within my life to get myself where I need to be. And, unfortunately, that really upset some people, but in terms of my life...it's what I needed to do.

JW: Very well put. When did they ask you to be their lead singer?

MC: I had written with L.A. Guns in Los Angeles, and then we had gotten some songs kind of started and then flown up here to Toronto and we worked on a bunch of songs and it was somewhere in that process that really the songwriter relationship really just blossomed and...I believe I've never been more prolific in my life. We wrote six completed songs in five days. I've never done that in my life.

JW: Wow.

MC: And it was predominantly...the interesting thing was...as we were writing, I really just...I really felt in control and I really felt like a leader and I really felt like really... I was really behind what I was doing. Writing was making me very confident. The songs were making me very confident and then when I saw I was being put on top of them, with the band, and the bass guitar...and the drums...it made me sad that I knew that I wasn't gonna be the one singing these songs...and I left and I understood that, and I continued to play the songs on my acoustic guitar... was kind of bummed that they weren't going to be my songs and...when I came back up here and they were having this issue with the former singer...where he did something really stupid and that as a result, he left the band. So when they asked me, it was a shock, ya know, I didn't know...my loyalty has always been for Lovehammers and for being a full-fledged band member...I'd always thought I'd (inaudible) other opportunities for myself and just ...try to do as much as I can to find success...and when they asked me, I thought about it and I thought about what Bob said. It might be a really healthy, positive thing for me to do...and I was excited about it and eventually decided to pull the trigger on it and take a very, very big leap, a very big chance. There was no other feeling, other than I'm ready to throw my heart into it and take a chance and see.

JW: Can I ask you, how's your writing process?

MC: I tried to work with a lot of co-songwriters over the past few years to learn. Getting to work with some really great songwriters gives you the opportunity for work with them and learn, learn the craft and I spent a lot of time doing that, a lot of money, a lot of travelling, really just digging in and trying to learn how to become a better songwriter and then it became a lot of writing on my own and I went down to Mexico and I wrote and took it upon myself and I wasn't finding in the place that I was with the Lovehammers, that I was just very creative or the bunch of the songs I had given them that I had written with other people or myself, a lot of them just weren't very well received by the band, that was kind of disheartening after a lot of hard work, not being very well received, some songs more than others, but not many of them were learned or discussed or ever thought about maybe being a Lovehammer's song. Then when I got this chance to write with LA Guns, it was just this whole process where somebody would write a riff and somebody would say something over it or write a lyric or have a big yelling yap or something that just started the song and next thing you know, it was like two hours later, it was really the concoction of a group of people writing a song. So it wasn't this sound that Marty usually does because it's just Marty sitting down with an acoustic guitar, no, it's like the guitars rolling full volume and writing the songs and two hours coming up with it and then being so excited about it, we just end up playing it

the rest of the evening playing it over and over and over again, just kind of laughing like, wow, this is fun, this really feels like what it's supposed to be like.

JW: *What inspires you to write?*

MC: Well lately, it's been a lot of personal circumstances that I was going through which has kind of been the anchor of my songs throughout the albums with Lovehammers, which has always been these relationship issues and things and it finally felt like I was in a new place to kind of step out and that every album was written about one girl, believe it or not, and I kind of stepped out and finally for the first time, I was ready for something else besides the one girl that we'd written every album about, and then it got to the point of just writing some fun material that wasn't necessarily so digging into myself, it was like finally venturing out of my own subconscious and just getting into life and actually enjoying the moment. So it's kind of like (inaudible.—so much now has been?), these really, really ultra introspective songs but then they're also tied together with a couple of songs on the record that are absolutely fun and absolutely fun to play.

JW: *Is there anything you want to say to the fans?*

MC: I would like to say that I understand that there are a lot of people unhappy with me right now and I also understand there are so many people supporting me and I appreciate that too. I have given my email address to many people and just getting emails from them and that really has been helping me through this situation and I also want to say to the people that are unhappy, that I understand that they are. I am disappointed that I brought that out in them, and I'm upset that I've ruined their day, and I'm upset that they're maybe getting the feeling that there is never going to be a Lovehammer's show again, which I hope is not the case. I've been in this band *twenty years*, and it's a big part of my life and will always be, and I understand the band is not really happy with me but it isn't something that I pulled the trigger on in one day, and I'm going to show that later today with something that will make everybody's eyes a lot clearer. There was nothing going on at the moment for the band. We had been in the studio with the only 2 songs we had, one written 5 years ago. I really wasn't, ya know, I didn't know if it was so exciting for the band. There was no tour booked. There was no plan of touring next year, there was none of that. I know there had been talk. I heard we were supposed to. There was no tour. There was a possible 2 or 3 days this summer, and one of our guitar players has a fulltime job and hadn't planned on touring. I'm really sorry people are disappointed. But please understand that sometimes in your life, you just have to do something that's going to bring yourself to a state of happiness. I don't feel like I have to live in the state of where I was and not in a very good place for the rest of my life because people are going to be unhappy if I change. I had to change. And this is the step I'm taking right now. It's a band I'm really proud to be in at this moment and I'm still proud to be in the Lovehammers, and I hope that everyone can understand that. That is my truest intent, and if they continue to dislike me and want to continue to bring that stuff up, they are welcomed to it; it's their freedom of speech and their freedom to feel the way they feel. And all the people that are supporting me, I just want to thank them immensely because that is absolutely what's getting me through everyday here.

—JW plays “Casualty”—

JW: *If the Lovehammers have a brand new singer, are you gonna let them sing the songs you've performed with them or written for them?*

MC: The Lovehammers, Bob, Dino, and Billy are ...They're entitled to do whatever they'd like with the music, with the songs. It's the Lovehammers, no matter who wrote the songs. We published them as all equal parts, it's how we opted it as a unit and I hope they do continue to create music. I wasn't in the band with them, you know, I'm in a band with them

for the reason they are great musicians. They have all the power and creativity to do something ultimately new also. I hope they do while I'm out this summer. I hope if they feel they wanna do something and bring out a new singer, yes that would be extremely hard for me to take and witness and watch, you know, because it's a part of me. I understand that it's their game. I'm doing my thing, and they're entitled to do with their lives whatever they choose, and I'm not going to hold them back in anyway. I wouldn't do that.