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The Sexy Accident - Change and Consistency

New EP Shows Band's Summery Sound
Story by Pete Dulin. Photograph by Forester.
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The Sexy Accident

[The Sexy Accident](#) recently released a three-song EP dubbed *Now That She's Gone*. Produced by bandleader Jesse Kates, engineered by Paul Malinowski, and mixed by Steve Fisk, the release is a crisp pop summer sampler with solid production values. The title track stays true to the band's core sound – peppy drumming, chipper guitar notes, and upbeat rhythm with the addition of bright melody.

Kates' songwriting changes and adapts to the band's lineup changes (more details below) and the ability to arrange music in fresh ways. He says, "My songwriting, for better or worse, is also quite autobiographical, at least in an emotional sense. Sometimes the facts are twisted around significantly (or not that much,) but there's always a germ of truth. As a result, I have to wait to see what happens to me before I know what songs will come out."



Now That She's Gone is a seasonally-adjusted musical departure from the band's previous release, the more introspective *Mantoloking*. "The EP was intentionally 'summery,' at least in my mind, whereas *Mantoloking* was a 'fall/winter' record," says Kates. "I wanted to create a stark contrast to our last body of work, but still have it sound like a Sexy Accident record.

"We also intentionally made each song as different from the others as possible. So you have the Motown-influence on the first track. Basically, the EP is meant to be a compact Sexy Accident 'sampler,'" adds Kates. "We tried to do everything that we do at one point or another on these three songs, from out and out guitar squall at the end of 'In Heaven' to light, '70s wah-wah guitar and tambourine in 'Now That She's Gone.'"



[Click to listen to "Now That She's Gone" and "In Heaven."](#)

Indeed, the tamped down percussion, tambourine, sparkling keys, and restrained guitar on the title track produce an instantly catchy tune. "In Heaven" is a more subdued affair with a quiet sound where the lyrics come to the forefront. The frustration of unrequited love is mirrored in the song's abrupt closing, a tangle of emotions and notes. Camry Ivory's voice ably supports Kates' lead vocal, softening the wistful sound ever so gently. Here's a sample of the lyrics:

*you pass the miles by my side
sixty left 'til that lone parking lot
our meeting spot*

*lightning flashes the sky
the dashboard gauges softly light your face
as on we race*

*it's seven years to the month
when summer sun saw you become his bride
I quietly cried*

The final track “Savage Love” is a lust-driven rocker replete with a buzzy guitar and zippy keys.

Since the band’s 2005 inception, The Sexy Accident has undergone a steady cycle of lineup changes. Jesse Kates (guitar, vocals) has held the center, guiding the band’s sound through the energetic pop/rock hooks of *Kinda Like Fireworks* (2008) and the brooding rock of *Mantoloking* (2009).

The evolution in personnel has led to a strong lineup that enables the band to produce tight compositions with progressively better songwriting and varied song arrangements. The recording of this EP featured Kates (guitar/vocals), Daniel Torrence (drums), Chad Toney (guitar/vocals), Jonathon Smith (bass), and Ivory (keys/vocals), who joined the band in December 2009. Her vocal adds depth and variety to the band’s sound. “Her voice will become even more prominent on future recordings,” says Kates. “We’re doing a lot of thinking about duets and even her taking the lead now and then.”

A few days ago, the band announced via its [blog](#) that it is looking for a new drummer. Kates elaborates on the upcoming lineup switch. “We’re going through a major shift right now. The tour we just took to New York City and back was the last hurrah for three of our five members, though for different reasons, individually,” he says. “We’re going back to being a four-piece band. Camry and I remain from the prior lineup, and we are looking for a bassist and a new drummer to replace Daniel, who drummed with me for the past three years and on three records. Daniel in particular will be missed. He was an immense influence on the sound of the band. But this move is right for him; he’s going to focus much more heavily on his session drumming career and make some loot.”

With Kates and Ivory as a talented foundation, the next incarnation of The Sexy Accident remains to be seen. Based on two strong full-length recordings and the recent EP, the band-in-flux has a solid track

record established. The question remains: Where will their sound go next?

Upcoming Performances

7 PM, Thursday, July 22 - [Czar Bar](#), 1531 Grand. Acoustic set.

10 AM, Wednesday, August 11 - KKFI 90.1FM (live radio performance)

9 PM, Saturday, August 14 - [Prospero's Books](#). 1800 West. 39th Street. Acoustic set.

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