



audio fiction

Audio Fiction drummer Mark O'Toole made his television debut recently on the HBO series premiere of the Emmy award winning show "Taxicab Confessions: New York, New York: America Undercover." On the show, passengers are unknowingly filmed while taking a taxi around Manhattan. One night after a party, Mark and a friend jumped into one of the rigged cabs on Avenue D in Manhattan with a couple girls at about 4.30 a.m.

"The show was totally by accident," says Mark. And while he was able to parlay the experience into some great exposure for the band, he did have to endure some embarrassing comments. "Jesus, yeah! The fact that I was even in the cab is embarrassing," he laughs. "I talked about meeting a stripper on a mad night out with a buddy. I kept referring to her 36 DD breasts during the ride like I had some fetish for large breasts. Which I don't, by the way. I also brought up an ex-girlfriend and waxed lyrically about how I really loved her and would marry her.

And now I don't feel that way about her at all. In fact, I can't stand her. Strange how time warps our view of things. But hey, at least I'm not the first rocker on 'Taxicab.' I heard one of the Goo Goo Dolls was in the show a few years back."

Audio Fiction have been described as a cross between Blondie and No Doubt, with a touch of The Pretenders. Lead vocalist Mimi Ferraro is formally trained as an actor and singer, and has starred in several rock musicals and off-Broadway plays, including the highly praised *Rent*. Guitarist Ferg O'Sullivan played keys and drums in two previous bands in Ireland, while bass player Tom Moon previously performed with The Progress.

You can hear some Audio Fiction music in the television show. "We initially rescinded our release form," explains Mark. "The director called and said we were hilarious and should consider agreeing to be on the show. After a few

months back and forth discussing this with them, they agreed to come down and film the band play. Which they did. We expect that they will mix some of this into their B roll on segments between the rides in other episodes."

The group actually had its genesis in another incarnation. "In full keeping with the best of rock traditions, Audio Fiction was formed, warped and morphed, from its original five-piece band, to its current four-person version over the last two and a half years," relates Ferg. "Starting as a fun experiment among a bunch of talented musicians the original line-up got pulled in other directions. Fortunately, the original creative spark was strong so when the band re-formed and started gigging with its new line-up, the potential was quickly realized and extended."

That chemistry has led to appearances at venues such as Le Bar Bat, The Knitting Factory, Arlene Grocery, and Crash Mansion in Manhattan. "The band will be playing New Jersey venues and beyond this year," adds Mark.

Audio Fiction recently released a new EP, *Songs In The Key Of Orange Alert*. The music is an amalgam of the varied influences the members bring, ranging from U2 and Coldplay to Led Zeppelin and Thin Lizzy. "Our music is alternative rock, with a strong focus on melody and rhythm," Ferg says. "Rather than relying on the soon-to-sound-dated 'gimmicks' employed by some current artists, we spend the time reviewing and rewriting our songs until the melody and rhythm carry the song. A good song is a good song no matter what style it's played in, so we make our songs strong enough to stand alone and then we rock them out!" Mark is quick to add, "We have already been described as a cross between Blondie and No Doubt with a hint of The Pretenders. But Tom thinks we are more like a hot

fudge sundae with a pint of Guinness."

While all the members bring in songs, some stem from a group effort. "We have songs written by individual members and songs written by the band collectively," says Mimi. She also inspires the other members, at least as far as lyrics. "We look in the dictionary and try to come up with words that Mimi, with her Ivy League education, doesn't know," laughs Tom.

Audio Fiction will be hitting many area clubs in the near future, ranging from New Jersey to Boston. As far as long term goals, they hope to continue writing and exposing their music to people. "Of course, we still want to get on VH1's 'Behind The Music,'" laughs Tom. "Even if it means Ferg becomes a drug addict."

You can catch Audio Fiction at Arlene Grocery on April 1. For further information, check out the band website at audiofictionband.com



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