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# ***THE KINETICS***

## **NEWSLETTER**

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Vol. 1

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Welcome to the very first newsletter of **The Kinetics!** We hope to keep you informed of the scheduled dates that we play, as well as information about the band and what we're doing. If you have any friends interested in **The Kinetics**, please tell them to give us their address so we can put them on the mailing list!

Also, if you are interested in obtaining back issues, or have any questions about **The Kinetics**, call (607)-272-4535 and ask for Jim.

### **BAND PERSONNEL**

Jim Lawrence : bass, vocals

Lee Heffron : keyboards, lead and rhythm guitar

Dana Alling : drums

Alan Ploth : lead vocals, rhythm guitar, harp

John Yates : lead guitar, vocals

### **HISTORY**

Let's see now ... where to start. Sherman, set the "way-back machine" for early 1985, Dryden, NY. The scene: a dark, moist, re-upholstered dungeon that had been converted into a modest recording studio by Lee. It was here that it all began. Early one fateful afternoon in March of that year **Jim Lawrence** was called in by former **Choice** co-member **Mark Joyce** to do a few bass lines for some of Mark's songs. As the session progressed, an idea began germinating for further musical activity among the three; specifically, forming a band. Not unlike the humble genesis of all great organizations, a strong nucleus was in place. The search was now on for further compatible musicians to complete the line-up. Soon thereafter Mark brought in a vocalist friend, **Allan Ploth**, who, coincidentally, had also recently performed for Mark's recording session in Lee's basement. Meanwhile, Lee contacted his childhood friend **Steve Edgar** to handle lead guitar duties. With the line-up completed, our young, ambitious, sonic adventure proceeded with a vigor and determination, with a host of four songwriters aboard, to pen two sets (a scientific term for approx. 24 songs) of material into existence before receiving their first paying gig (emphasis on the word paying!). A master brainstorming session was then called to determine a suitable name. After what seemed hours, **Masters Of The Obvious** was agreed upon. This organization lasted exactly one gig before disbanding (literally) to pursue individual musical interests. Mark and Allan went on to form **The Shambles**, an all-original format. Jim, Lee

and Steve stuck together, under a mix of cover and original tunes, and **The Kinetics** was born. (Steve came up with the name)

The first couple of months were spent seeking replacement parts (i.e. lead vocalist and drummer), but after endless disappointing and nerve-racking auditions it was decided, in a desperate attempt to get the band out of the basement and onto the stage, that Jim and Steve would share the lead vocal duties while Lee was responsible for programming his Yamaha RX-11 drum computer (fondly dubbed "Rex") to handle the percussion. Finally, a couple months later, although it seemed like years, **The Kinetics** burst out onto the Central NY music scene in early 1986. To their own surprise, the normally reserved local crowds were very enthusiastic towards the concept of a drum machine in a live situation. Everything was coming up roses until ....

Our heroes had no insight into the cruel trick fate had in store for them. Steve, juggling the band, a demanding full-time job, and a hyperactive cycling schedule (a sponsored team racer), found his hectic and often sleepless lifestyle was in need of drastic stress-reduction and announced his departure in late 1986.

SCENE 2: Enter stage right - **Stephanie Pitsas** on guitar, only to leave 4 months later to join up with **The Shambles**. The hunt was on yet again for a guitarist with lead vocal capabilities - a rare beast found only in remote regions of southern Peru, during the dry season.

SCENE 3: However, a sudden referral from Stephanie landed the much sought-after creature in the name of **Chris Koch**. A shy, timid native Ithacan with incomparable natural ability. Soon thereafter Chris persuaded his 2 co-members that a suitable Rex replacement was available for a limited time only (operators standing by). Which bring us to ....

SCENE 4: Please give a warm round of applause for **Dana (Turbo) Alling** on drums. (Farewell Rex. We miss ye.) Another native Ithacan with previous band experience with Chris. The newly evolved, improved and highly erotic **Kinetics** played from Aug. 1987 to Dec. 1988, including opening (and freezing) for **The Del Fuegos** in an April outdoor concert, and a sold out solo Kinetics concert at Cornell University. Sadly, Chris left the band in, you guessed it, Dec. of 1988 to pursue other musical interests in NYC. Which brings us to the latest rung in **The Kinetics** evolutionary ladder ....

SCENE 5: Softly lit white smoke billows from beneath the floor as she removes her ...Ooops! Wrong story. Anyway, as fate would have it, with the recent disbanding of **The Shambles**, it was another stroke of luck (or possibly lack thereof) and sheer violent persuasion that procured the talents of **Allan Ploth** on lead vocals and rhythm guitar. And the ever-feared auditions for lead guitarist actually produced an exceptional player in the persona of **John Yates**, from Cincinnati. A final sigh of relief is heard from the founding members as **The Kinetics** have once again survived certain disaster on the rocks of despair to rally into an even more frightening musical form.

And there you have it, trivia buffs. Hope we haven't needlessly bored anyone out of existence. Now you know the players - come see them in action. Where ?? I'm glad you asked!

