

What made you decide to start a band?

Nick: Well in rowdy p's case Chance started this band and went through lineup changes. I've been in bands all my life as a guitarist or bassist. I always thought it'd be fun to be a drummer of a punk band. I went to high school with chance and William and they asked me to jam. Once we jammed I felt this powerful energy and I felt like Dave Grohl jamming with nirvana the first time we played our song "Stain" haha. So I knew after that first jam it was meant to be. I've been in this band for like 4-5 years now which is crazy to think about.

Chance: I love listening to music and seeing bands live, so I wanted to make music that other people can enjoy as much as I do.

William: I started jamming with Nick and Chance in high school pretty soon after we met each other, and we all hit it off right away. I barely even remember being friends with them before we started playing together... Rowdy P actually existed before Nick and I joined, and Chance is the only surviving original member, but most of the songs we play now didn't exist back then, so we didn't technically *start* the band together but it kinda feels that way. Blake started playing with us a little over a year ago and I think our live sound has improved a lot by adding a bass player. Before that we just played as a three piece without bass.

Blake: Music has always been a part of my life, whether it's listening, going to a concert, or playing in a band, and has been my passion for as long as I can remember. I joined Rowdy P at a rough time in my life, where music was my escape from reality. The band truly helped me get to the place I am at today. Rowdy P had no bass player at the time, and I was invited to jam with them about a year ago, and have been rockin out with these boys since.

What inspires you most when coming up with lyrics?

Nick: Chance is in charge of that department and has written all the lyrics for our songs thus far. Although for me personally it can be an array of things that inspire me. I can write lyrics about everyday life and certain things that have happen whether it be good or bad. It also depends on my emotional state when I'm writing lyrics and I feel I've written from almost every type of emotion. Lyrics just like writing a riff or something like that are cool because sometimes I feel like I'm getting something of my chest and it's therapeutic. Its hard to draw from one source for inspiration because it's always changing.

Chance: Writing lyrics is like a way to get out all the thoughts flying around my head all day, so any topic I have something to say about inspires me.

William: I haven't written any Rowdy P lyrics, but when it comes to writing songs and lyrics in general, they tend to come from a pretty vulnerable emotional state. In a lot of ways, I write songs to cope with the things happening around me. Most of the time my writing stems from depression, or the rage I have for this current administration. In Rowdy P I think the anger really helps me maintain the high energy level. If I just pretend that the strings I'm hitting are actually faces of authoritarian leaders, it's pretty easy to keep it up.

Blake: Chance is in charge of the lyrics

Who are your biggest musical influences?

Nick: That's a hard question to answer because it honestly feels like it changes by the day. To name a few though: Red Hot Chili Peppers, John Frusciante, Flea, Jimi Hendrix, Led Zeppelin, Radiohead, Kid Cudi, Brockhampton, Nirvana, Rage Against the Machine and Tom Morello. I've gone through so many musical phases I used to solely listen to heavy metal then it was all rap then electronic music. It's very sporadic. Also It might not show in our music but I love funk. Not to toot my own horn but it seems to come natural to me in terms of playing it and I don't even listen to a ton of funk bands all the time but I absolutely love to play it.

Chance: We all listen to a lot of different types of music so there's a lot, but for me I'd say The Dead Kennedys, The Germs, Damon Albarn, Black Sabbath, and Nirvana all rank pretty high.

William: Mine are kind of all over the place. When I was a kid I listened to a lot of Beatles, Sex Pistols and early Arctic Monkeys. Middle school I hit the emo shit really hard, so my guitar style is probably way more influenced by Rise Against and Linkin Park than a lot of the music I actively still listen to. It was Led Zeppelin and Metallica for most of high school, but eventually my friend forced me to get into Death Grips, which really opened my mind to other genres. Once I started college I got super into experimental rap. When it comes to songwriting and energetic influences, I'm currently drawing a lot from 80s hardcore bands (like Fear and Bad Brains) and modern rappers (like like Milo, Jpegmafia, Open Mike Eagle and clipping. to name a few).

Blake: Personally my biggest influences are Led Zeppelin, RHCP, Nirvana. I'm also super into the blues.

Explain the name "Rowdy P." What's the meaning/story behind it?

Nick: Rowdy P is the energy of the earth, universe and people around us.

Chance: 7 years ago when I awoke at the peak of a Belukha Mountain with no memory of who I was or how I got there. The only item I had in my possession was a scrap of paper stuffed in my left pocket that had the word “Rowdy P” scrawled on it. To this day I still believe it to be the key to discovering my past.

William: Honestly over the years the word “Rowdy” has kind of taken on a new meaning for me. It’s kind of a lifestyle. When we play a show we put literally all of our energy into the performance, but we also tend to stick around and mosh for all the bands after us. To me, Rowdy P isn’t necessarily about partying so much as it is about living life to the fullest. If you’re at a show you should dance and sing and mosh until you physically can’t anymore because you’re never going to be in that exact moment ever again, so take advantage of it. Also, the P is a secret.

Blake: Rowdy P is everything and nothing at all. It is neither here nor there, yet is everywhere...

What has been your favorite part of being in Rowdy P?

Nick: Well I think my favorite part of music in general is playing shows. So playing shows with rowdy p has been so fun and everyone brings so much energy to the table and we feed off of each others energy. Also if the crowd is vibing it gets me going. It’s such a cathartic experience and very few things compare to the feelings I get when I’m performing. Also first and foremost I was friends with Chance and William before I joined the band. Also Blakes my cousin so basically I’m in a band with my good friends and outside of music we still love hanging out. It’s nice being in a band where you don’t get tired of someone, you actually enjoy being around them, you can trust them and you know they have your back.

Chance: Performing live and spending time with my friends, it’s pretty much my favorite way to spend my time.

William: Definitely performing live. It took us a while to start playing for audiences but as soon as we did for the first time, I knew that we could do it together for a long time. Even at shows where I know I fucked up a lot with my own playing, I’ve always been extremely satisfied with how we performed as a whole. I’ve never felt anything less than proud of my band mates after our shows. The audiences themselves get better with every single show too, and seeing people dancing to the music you’re playing is the best feeling in the world.

Blake: My favorite part has been being able to release that primal energy inside us all when we perform. To just let the music take over me and forget about everything else even it’s just for a minute or 2.

What has been your biggest challenge and how have you overcome that challenge?

Nick: In my personal opinion in the beginning it was a challenge getting gigs and getting our name out there. We just kept pushing though and made more connections and now we have momentum. We've been playing so many shows in August alone. It's awesome that people have presented us with gig opportunities and we don't have to reach out all the time now.

Chance: One time we were playing a gig when we were abducted by aliens from the planet Zorgon. They experimented on us for months; it was incredibly painful stuff. They even replaced William with a clone. Eventually we used the powers of rock n roll to defeat the Zorgonians, hijack the ship, and fly back to earth.

William: This is kind of a goofy one, but it's honestly been my most consistent problem at shows. Nearly every show we've played, I've either broken a string, or cut my fingers on the strings, or both. I still have blood on the red Les Paul I usually play because I'm terrible at cleaning it off. The challenge has been finding a way to play with the same energy and aggression without literally bleeding on my guitar, or breaking a string (because the cost of replacing them so often adds up). I'm still working on it, but until our most recent show (where I broke two AND cut myself), I went like... two shows in a row without breaking a string so that's improvement, I think.

Blake: My biggest challenge in Rowdy P was probably when I first joined and had to learn the entire album and set list on bass in a week because we were performing that weekend.

What are your favorite and least favorite venues to play?

Nick: There's a saying I stick by: A shows a show. Rowdy p will play anywhere! Let us play your wedding! Bat mitzvah! And anything else you want to offer us! House shows are always fun though. Anyway what I'm trying to say is whether it's a prestigious venue or a small house show... It's all great in my book.

Chance: Our favorite place to play is anywhere that has a good crowd willing to go crazy with us, our least favorite place to play is in front of a bunch of drunks who don't care about music.

William: I love house shows. Playing in a legit venue makes you feel more professional and all that, but house shows are great for the opposite reason. Everyone's on the same level, and generally I find that the energy is just so much more generous and sincere. Playing in bars for us is the worst because we're way too loud for anyone to talk over us, so we tend to piss off people

who don't dig punk or metal kinda stuff. That being said, we've met a few really cool people at Tr!p in Santa Monica, but I think it's less common to find people who like our style in bars.

Blake: We love every venue and will play anywhere that will have us.

What is some advice you can give to those trying to start their own band?

Nick: 1. Play with people that will be there for you and that you can trust so you can have longevity and they don't screw you over.

2. Stay organized and work towards the band everyday and set goals for your band so you can get better and go places with it.

3. Don't be afraid or doubt yourself just do it if you fail just keep going. Learn from your mistakes and how you can approach something differently. So to reiterate just go for it! You don't know if something will work until you try.

4. This sort of goes along with number 3 but have patience if you don't get what you want right away don't give up sometimes things take time. I've been in rowdy p for a long time now and we're continuing to grow as a band and more and more doors are opening for us.

Chance: Just start. You don't need to have everything perfect at the start, just figure it out as you go along and you'll be alright.

William: Make sure you're doing it with people who you get along with musically and energetically, and once you have that just run with it. It's cool to write, rewrite and practice your songs until they're perfect, but performing live is kind of a shortcut I think. You're not gonna know what really works for you until you see how other people are affected by it. It's important to see which parts people vibed with, find out which songs you're actually not that great at playing at a moment's notice, and what kind of emotion you actually want to elicit in people. Just start performing even if you don't have your full band yet, I find that it improves my music much more than sitting alone in a room and overthinking the details.

Blake: My advice would be to just do it. Find a group of people you want to play with, and just start jamming and making music. There's always an excuse not to do something, but if you want it bad enough, you can make it work. Play with people you get along with, and remember it's never too late or early to start

Do you have any new music coming out any time soon?

Nick: We have stuff in the works! Stay tuned!

Chance: We're working on some hot new stuff in the rowdy labs.

William: We're planning to hopefully release a single pretty soon, but we're also basically ready to record a full album once we figure out exactly which songs to put on it.

Blake: We definitely have some new music in the works!

Where can people listen to your music?

Nick: Band camp! Also to stay up to date with us on shows, music, etc. follow our Instagram @rowdypband

Chance: We have an EP named Dirge which you can find on Band Camp at rowdyp.bandcamp.com

You can also catch us at any of our live shows, we promise you a good time if you do.

William: Look for Rowdy P on Bandcamp. Whenever our next round of recordings come, those will be on Spotify, but for now it's just the Dirge EP on Bandcamp.

Blake: People can listen to our music on Band Camp, we have an ep out called Dirge. You can also come to any of our shows, we would love to see you there!