

The Methadones: Biography 2004

Formed: 1993

Hometown:
Chicago, U.S.A.

Personnel:

Dan Schafer –
Vox/Guitars
Pete Mittler – Bass
Mike Byrne – Guitars
Mike Soucy – Drums

Band History:

Vindictives
The Mopes
Screaching Weasel
The Queers
Groovie Ghoulies
Squirtgun
Sludgeworth
The Teen Idols
Rise Against

Tour dates:

None confirmed as yet, but expect a European tour early next year...

The Methadones' history is a twisted tale involving many members and many more sordid affairs. **Dan Schafer** originally formed the Methadones in 1993 as a diversion from his full-time bands. However his commitment to his primary bands, as well as his other side projects **Sludgeworth & The Mopes**, kept the Methadones on the proverbial back-burner of rock and roll history, playing mostly one off shows and with no real recordings to speak of.

Fast forward to 1999. Having just returned from living in our nation's capital, Dan found himself relatively bandless, with a backlog of songs, and the bug to reinvigorate the Methadones. He recruited fellow Mopes **B-Face (The Queers, Groovie Ghoulies)** and **Dan Lumley (Screaching Weasel, Squirtgun)**, headed into the studio and recorded their debut album, *Ill at Ease* which was released on **Anti-Flag's A-F label** in early 2001. After extensive touring in support of the *Ill At Ease* CD, Lumley and B-Face returned to their corners of the country, not able to stay with the band full time because of other band commitments. Dan Schafer (aka **Dan Vapid**) set to the task of staffing the band, turned to a cast of revolving characters that at one point or another included **Pat Buckley** from the **Vindictives**, **Matt Drastic** from **The Teen Idols**, **Joe Principe** from **Rise Against**, **Dan Panic** and **Ben Weasel** of **Screaching Weasel**... the list goes on and on. Until one day, something clicked.

Dan Vapid and long time Methadones bassist **Pete Mittler** found kindred souls in former Vindictives guitarist and fellow Chicagoan **Mike Byrne**, and drummer **Mike Soucy**, a native of the Rhode Island and D.C. punk scenes. With the line-up now complete, almost immediately the Methadones found themselves with a bunch of new songs. By the winter of 2002 they were back in the studio recording the follow-up to *Ill at Ease*. Having recorded eleven new songs at the beginning of 2002, the Methadones set out on the road to test their wares, sharing the stage with such notable acts as The Teen Idols, The Unseen, The Queers, Boris the Sprinkler, The New Bomb Turks, The Eycliners, Groovie Ghoulies, Kill Your Idols and the Misfits. By late 2002, the Methadones' new album was mixed and mastered and ready to be introduced, first in Europe by upstart **Stardumb Records** (Groovie Ghoulies, the Manges, the Apers) and then on Chicago's venerable punk label **Thick Records** in the United States. A year of touring (J Church, Dillinger 4, The Arrivals, Squirtgun) and the Methadones were ready to head back into the studio to record what was to become *Not Economically Viable*.

Based loosely on the movie *Falling Down*, where the protagonist unravels under the weight of the nerve-wracking oppression of the Establishment, *Not Economically Viable* is rife with angst and rebellion; a twelve song pop punk ode to life's little inadequacies. This album is the Methadones doing what they do best - rocking through twelve searing tracks that play fast and fierce without ever forgetting the power of hot licks and hooks. This is the Methadones third full length CD and second for Chicago's Thick Records. Recorded at **Sonic Iguana** studios with long time producer and good friend **Mass Giorgini** (Screaching Weasel, Anti Flag, Rise Against), this is easily their best and most mature record to date.

Select Discography:

2004: *Not Economically Viable*
Thick Records

2003: *Career Objective*
Thick Records/Stardumb

2001: *Ill At Ease*
A-F



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