

# ARTS & CULTURE

## Hayden's story revealed at the Marquee *Makin' couples kiss longer*

BY KATHERINE HEBB  
AND JEN CLEARY

Have you ever experienced a musical orgasm? Has the sound of someone's voice ever put you in a trance? When Hayden mesmerised the audience last Saturday night at the Marquee Club in front of a sold out show, this is exactly what happened.

After a powerful performance by opener Juliana Hatfield, Hayden took to the stage, introducing the audience to another chapter of his life — the story of an average guy with a tweak of something special. His droning, raspy voice has the power to make couples kiss deeper, people feel sexier and life seem simpler.

The 27 year old Toronto native jump-started his career by entering a song into a radio station contest and winning. In his first interview with a major American magazine, following the album's

release, he was rated in *SPIN* magazine as among the *Top 40 Most Vital Artists in Music Today*.

The release of his first indie album, entitled *Everything I Long For*, taps into his childhood agony and teenage trauma in a way everyone can relate to. His music reads like a book, retelling his life story.

"There are certain songs I don't enjoy playing anymore," Hayden explained. "It's like writing something in your diary when you are seventeen and having to read it over again every night."

Continuing the story of his life, Hayden's second and most

recent release, *The Closer I Get*, is signed on the Los Angeles-based record label Outpost. On the album Hayden has grown up, revealing a different and more mature sound. Varied in texture, his music embodies a more layered sound incorporating pianos, harmonicas and cellos, opposed to his previous guitar-and-vocal combination.

The band he is presently touring with is comprised of his buddies from high school, three of whom were in his first band, Entangled. In concert, the band adds a new dynamic to his sound.

"[I] was getting bored of

***"The rock and roll fantasy of hotel rooms with girls naked everywhere and blow jobs in elevators... well, I mean, that only happens once a week."***

touring alone all the time," Hayden said, adding that he's "having a great time" with the new members.

When asked what he and his friends do after a show, Hayden responded, "We don't party in the sense of what you think a rock band would do. The rock and roll fantasy of hotel rooms with girls naked everywhere and blow jobs in elevators... well, I mean, that only happens once a week."

The concert itself was amazing. Considering the limited amount of material Hayden calls his own, he did a good job of mixing up the songs, making the order unpredictable. Throughout the



Hayden demonstrates his other, less well known, talent for auto detailing.

concert, band members were constantly changing instruments. You could hear the Neil Young, Leonard Cohen, Eric's Trip and Pavement influences in his music. When he played his big hit "As Bad As they Seem", he smiled in disbelief as the crowd sang it back to him.

Although Hayden doesn't dream of making it big, he agreed, referring to a show in which he opened for The Tragically Hip, that "it would be amazing if [that]

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amount of people were here to hear us and knew all the words."

The evolution of Hayden as an artist has had one constant — his sincerity. He is not afraid to be

honest, an attribute to which Hayden credits his popularity. Hayden's lyrics are based on "things everyone my age are going through". He believes that, through his loud words, people can hear and identify with what he is saying.

When asked if he sees himself as self-absorbed, Hayden retorted that it could be a pitfall of his job.


"It can happen if your job is 'you'. So many things I do everyday have to do with me and what I do."

After two encores Hayden's show ended, much to the audience's dismay. The last song, a heavy guitar solo mixed with Hayden's soothing voice, blew the audience

away. As Hayden left the stage for good we felt that something was missing, something was left unexplained. Hayden's life story is left to be continued...



Hayden sings about the things everyone is going through. Live at the Marquee on a Saturday night.



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