

■ **MUSIC:** American hardcore band brings its act to Limestone City

From Kingston to ... well, Kingston

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The Whig Standard

Title Fight is an American hardcore band which has never been to Kingston before, yet calls it home. That's because the band is from Kingston, Pa., and is kicking off an eight-city Canadian tour in the Limestone City, where they'll be opening for Winnipeg band Comeback Kid.

Title Fight guitarist Shane Moran has never been to our town, but likes the sound of it.

"I lived in Philadelphia for a while and hated it," he says. "I like small towns and wide open spaces. We've been to Toronto before and a little bit of French Canada but that's it."

His hometown has a population of 13,000 and is a suburb of Wilkes-Barre, which is in the centre of the Wyoming Valley, and has a populace of some 43,000. Snowbirds driving south know that Wilkes-Barre is just off Hwy. 81.

"The area was once known for coal mining," says Moran. "Wilkes-Barre was once a thriving city, but a flood in 1972 set things back although there has been some progression since then."

Like Kingston, Ont., Kingston, Pa., is admirably situated for bands touring between big cities, which explains why there is even a hardcore scene there.

"It's two hours from both New York in Philadelphia," says Moran. "And in the early '90s, the hardcore bands started stopping here on the way. It created a little nook for bands to play."

Title Fight doesn't exactly fit the stereotype of hardcore bands that are wild ravers and whose lyrics aren't usually the strength of their act. This quartet certainly has all the hardcore energy but their lyrics are thoughtful.

"Hardcore is just what we grew up with," says Moran, who joined the band in 2005, after brothers Ned and Ben Russin had founded it along with guitarist-vocalist Jamie Rhoden in 2003. "It spoke to all of us and

Essentials

Who: Title Fight, a hardcore band from Kingston, Pa., are starting a short Canadian tour opening for Comeback Kid, in Kingston, Ont.

Where: The Time To Laugh Comedy Club, 394 Princess St.

When: Wednesday, March 30 at 6 p.m.

Tickets: \$15 in advance at Brian's Record Option.

we grew older we modified it."

The band has released a couple of EPs and its first full-length album is due out in May. One of the songs on it is called *Flood of 72*. "We used the flood as a metaphor for the theme of abandonment which is what several of the songs on the album are about," says Moran. "The flood chased everyone away from the things they loved."

Another memorable song that could be adapted to our town is called *You Can't Say Kingston Doesn't Love You*.

"It's adapting the words that JFK's wife said to him after he was shot," says Moran, referring to the assassination of American president John Kennedy in 1963. "We've always been interested in that event. The song is about how a young teenager growing up in a small town deals with girls and other things."

Coxton Yard is a train yard not far from where Moran lives and where his grandfather once worked. He used the place as metaphor to describe his feelings.

"Every once in a while I get an empty feeling that a piece of me is missing," he says. "But the sound of the trains reminds me that I've always got a place to go to."

Despite Moran being the oldest member of the group at 21, Title Fight has done a lot of touring.

"We've toured across the (United) States many times and have also performed in Europe and Japan," says Moran. "We toured with Comeback Kid in the States, so we're looking forward to going out with them this time on their own turf."



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When they're here, Title Fight won't have a lot of time to impress, just 30 minutes because they're not the headliners and

there are also two other supporting acts on the bill.

"That's OK," says Moran. "We don't have any frills or useless

banter. We just get on stage and play as fast and hard as we can for 30 minutes. It's very therapeutic. There's nothing like

playing live. That's what it's all about."

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