

Commonwealth was also the band's first release in 3 years. Is there ever that fear of irrelevance when you're out of the spotlight for too long or after 10 plus album? Do you think a strong fan base can prevent that?

Murphy: We're currently working on the latter. In terms of actual spotlights, we've been out of that since 1997/'98. We're a working band. Everyone has always asked us 'How do you stay together?' and I don't mind answering that; it's pretty simple. We split everything equally and financially and make it an avenue for everyone to contribute creatively. And to be clear, we released a record in 2011, and I don't expect the public to know this, but our fans know, we also did a triple vinyl re-release of our second album, and then we did a hard core punk single with punk covers that was digital only. Then we did a bootleg of a concert of ours from 2001 and 1999, so we do a lot of stuff in between. We realize we talk directly to fans and we're not part of the big scheme, but you have to give up on that when you're in a band for 20 years. Unless you're Madonna or Prince or something. We're just a small business, but we're music fans so we just wanna do the things we wanna do.

You guys have been playing large venues for quite a while now, but recently set out back on the road playing smaller venues again. What has it been like for you guys to sort of go back to your earlier roots in a sense and play those more intimate shows?

Murphy: We were playing bigger shows, but if we played in say, Calgary, we would play at a small venue or at a university which holds maybe 1000 people. But now if we play there, we play to maybe 300 people in a bar, so it's not like it was stadiums or anything. I remember thinking when we were first stating out, 'Why are we not getting bigger? This is bullshit!'. Now it's like thank god we're not a big band! All of my friends are finished playing or they've broken up. We're just grateful to be playing for anyone. We're not purposely playing small venues, per say. I just want to play the appropriate size venue that fits everyone who cares about us. I don't want to play a giant place and have it half-full. I just want us to all be cozy together to enjoy the music.