



**Drummer Kevin Miller talks about recording the new CD, *Something Like Human***

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Fuel's platinum-selling debut *Sunburn* brought three hits to the charts in 1998 giving audiences a taste of the heat with "Bittersweet," "Sunburn" and "Jesus or a Gun." The album brought in one of the most played radio songs, opening spots for Creed and Aerosmith, two soundtrack projects for "Scream 2" and "Godzilla", three videos airing regularly on MTV and a two-year world tour with over 300 shows.

This year their follow-up, *Something Like Human*, reached gold status in six weeks while its first single "Hemorrhage" hit the number one spot on Billboard's singles charts.

"We knew that we wanted to be a little dangerous on some of the guitar and drum sounds for this album," said Kevin Miller, drummer. "We wanted to rely on who we are — just a rock band. We didn't want to rely on a lot gadgets and gimmicks — we wanted the music and melody to take it."

"I think we knew what we wanted to do as a band. So we went in there with our chins up pretty high and pretty self-confident going, 'Ok, we know what we want and we know how we want to do it, so lets go do it.'"

For *Something Like Human* the band looked to producer Ben Gross (Filter, Vertical Horizon) to make that sound come to life.

"Ben gets along with everybody in the band really well," Miller said. "There were no ego problems, no arm wrestling for anything. If we felt strongly about the part he'd be like, 'Look man, I'm just here to guide you. If you feel that strongly about the part, lets do it.'"

But the band didn't go into the studio empty handed: "We did a lot of pre-production," Miller said. "We did a month on our own and we did about a month with Ben in a house in the Pocono's (mountains in Pennsylvania). We just rented a house, kicked the family out, took the house over and finished everything up there. But we didn't have much time off at all — its

actually been weeks between touring and recording. We had a three-week Christmas vacation — finally after a two and a half year tour. That's actually when Carl wrote "Hemorrhage." While some of us were just trying to recoup from the road, he wrote a number one song."

Guitarist Carl Bell writes most of the songs for this power pop quartet. Growing up without a television and an older brother with a substantial record collection he won from a radio station, Carl spent most of his time locked in a room listening to rock icons of the 70s.

"Carl has a little set up in the back of the bus and he'll just track the basic ideas for everything," Miller said. "Then he'll pass a tape over to me and say, 'Alright Miller, do your thing. Here's what I'm thinking, take it where you want and we'll go from there.' That's what's cool about the whole writing process with Carl — he hears a song a certain way, but he's also very open to suggestion a lot of times."

Lead singer Brett Scallions takes the material from Bell and adds his own touch vocally. Although he does write a bit on each album, Scallions hasn't really reached his potential as a songwriter.

"Actually Brett had a bunch of ideas, but we never really followed through on them," Miller said. "We just had so much material from Carl at that point and Brett's songs were in a much rougher form. We were already behind the eight ball, much less trying to get into the studio, but I'm sure a lot of Brett's stuff will be on the next record. What ever is best for the song is pretty much what we try to do and put all egos aside — make the best record we can make as a band and write everything from the heart."

*If I've told you once I've told you a thousand times: Dan Marek interviews rock stars for Student.Com.*