

"Boys Like Girls" Love Long Islanders

By Iris Wiener

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Their band name may be the simplest in the music business, but there's nothing simplistic about the energy infused rhythms of Boys Like Girls, who will bring their sounds to Nassau Coliseum on April 11 when they open for Avril Lavigne. With a new light show, new sets, and plenty of new fans, the band is excited to return to Long Island.

"Our Long Island and Huntington fans are pretty out of control!" said lead guitarist Paul DiGiovanni. "There's such insane energy every night!"

Who can blame their avid listeners for being so excited, when it was them that brought Boys Like Girls to stardom?

"We had a few songs, and we were completely on our own," said DiGiovanni of the band's beginning in 2005. "We had no one working for us, no idea what to do, so we went on Myspace.com, and we threw up two demos of songs that we really liked and we were like, 'Hey, let's throw these up, let's see what kind of response we get.'



Boys Like Girls recall fond Long Island memories as they gear up to play Nassau Coliseum on April 11.

Right off the bat we got a lot of people who were really into it, and they were telling their friends."

A few months later, Boys Like Girls hit No.1 on the purevolume.com unsigned band chart. Pretty soon a booking agent, producer, and management had found them, and they were on a roll.

"It's kind of cool because the way things work now,

you don't have to knock on a record label door, and give them a tape of your demos, and then wait to hear it jammed down people's throats on the radio," he explained. "Now the best man wins, which pretty much means you put your stuff online, and you don't need any connections or hookups to do that. The kids will go online, they'll find your music if it's the best music, they'll tell their friends, and it will get big on its own before anyone has any interest in it from record labels or anything. I think that's a really, really cool way that things work now."

Their seemingly odd band name didn't hurt their chances either.

"It works because it's so obvious and catchy, it's not like a weird city name, or one of those more obscure, single-word names that's hard to remember," laughed DiGiovanni. 'Boys Like Girls' is a common theme in life. There are no band names like that really, so it's really catchy when someone hears about it, they think, 'I want to check this out.'"

In 2007 it was difficult to miss the pop/rock group, with

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Boys like girls tunes

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the hits from their self-titled album hitting the airwaves. "The Great Escape" and "Hero/Heroine" were teen favorites, and continue to be anthems for anyone going through the usual tribulations of life.

" 'The Great Escape' was all about moving on, whether it's for graduation or going and getting a real job, or anything like that. For us, it was about going to our old town, going on the road, finally trying to do this for real on our first tour," DiGiovanni said.

As they venture back out to Long Island, Boys Like Girls remembers hitting up smaller venues in the Suffolk area (names of which DiGiovanni cannot recall).

"My favorite memory from there is

kind of funny. We were doing a random headline show and we got to the venue, and the people that work there weren't there to open the doors, so we ended up saying, 'Screw this!' and we made all the bands come around in the back in the parking lot. We all did acoustic sets for the fans in the parking lot! They were all there to hear music, and they couldn't open the doors, it was cool," said DiGiovanni.

Chances are that Nassau Coliseum will remember to open its doors on April 11.

"The shows we've been doing with Avril have been awesome, all of our fans have been coming out and cheering us along and everything, hopefully we'll gain some new ones, it's been really great so far."