

## Crushed w/ Mike

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Crushed are a hard rocking band based out of Phoenix, Arizona. These guys lured legendary producer Mike Clink (Guns n' Roses, Motley Crue) into the studio to produce their debut effort *My Machine*. Recently we caught up with guitarist Mike Halland and talked about their album, his dream tour, their contemporaries and the heat in the desert.

**Read On.**

**How long has the band Crushed been together?**

Crushed has been around for over a decade. The current line up of Crushed has been together for about 4 years.

**To those that haven't ever heard Crushed how would you describe the band's sound?**

Unpretentious rock. Metal, alternative, Goth and pop influence us. We really focus on the songs & not how many notes we can jam into a track.

**Where did the name come from? Who's idea was it to name the band Crushed?**

Mark Lauer is a fan of the Coctau Twins. They have a song called Crushed. He brought it up & the rest of the band liked it. Plus we get free advertising at every ice machine.

**Are there any major bands that you guys have opened up for in your area? How did their audience receive Crushed?**

We have opened for some National touring bands. Most recently we played the Tempe Music Fest with Authority Zero & Lit. The show went well. We have always been able to play with just about anyone. We have so many songs that we can play an entire set of heavy tunes or change it up & play some of our mellower songs.

<http://www.pivotalalliance.com/webzine/>

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**You often have bands that write songs and play them for years before getting signed and then they hit big, because the material has been refined and tested live.**

**How long was the writing process for *My Machine*? And how much tweaking did you guys do on the songs overtime?**

Interesting question. With our band, once we write a song we don't really mess with it. If it's not up to par either to us or live we just drop it. The songs from *My Machine* span over quite a few years. We are constantly writing new material. We have enough songs to do another record right now.

**How does an indie band land a huge name in the rock arena like Mike Clink to produce you? There has to be a great story behind this, right?**

It's not like we caught a break over night. Clink really took a leap of faith with us and we are very lucky. He is known for being very picky on who he chooses to work with. We handed him a demo that caught his attention. Then we just kept piling them on him. I think we gave him about 40 songs. It was funny, people were saying stop giving him material you already have his interest. He said he had a hard time choosing which songs to record. Even after we did the record we had to cut two songs. The band really liked one of them but we put our trust in him to make the decision.

**What track is your favorite on *My Machine*? And why?**

It changes but right now I am partial to "Crash Coping" and "Everything's Gone." Just because of the vibe & mood these songs create with the music & lyrics. I also really like "A Game of You." It has kind of a surf beat & the busts into a super heavy groove. I think we were pissed off when we wrote that one!

**What are some of your influences as a musician and as a songwriter?**

I grew up in Hawaii on the Island of Oahu. There was a band named "Hawaii" when I was a kid. Marty Friedman was their guitar player. I had a friend that knew him. We went to his apartment and he was sitting on his couch ripping on his guitar. Most people know of him because he ended up in Megadeth. There was also a great guitar player named Jeff Thorpe there. He ended up moving to CA and started a band. These guys were big influences on me early on. I have always liked The Cure, early Metallica, Bob Marly, Prong, Rush, and White Zombie La Sexorcisto era. Also Korn, especially the first record, I thought it was pure genius. On the pop side I like Radio Head, Snow Patrol, and Cold Play. I would have to site Mark Lauer as a songwriting influence because we collaborate together. Also Harry McCaleb, he is a good songwriter.

**Hawaii man, I remember them too. What was the first album that you ever bought?**

I think it was AC/DC *Powerage*.

**What's the music scene like in Phoenix? Alice Cooper is king, but what kind of music is big there?**

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Yes I think Alice will always be king here. The scene is pretty diverse. You have punk bands, metal bands, blues guys, and we have a big Hispanic community so there is that whole scene as well.

**What are the plans for promoting the *My Machine*? Are there any plans for a package tour?**

Right now we are working with Chipster to help promote the record. He is a friend from back in the day and a really cool hard working guy. We would love to get on a package tour. Hopefully we will get an invite. In the mean time we are planning on touring regionally.

**What would be your dream tour? Who would just absolutely die to tour with and why?**

Probably Ozzy, he is a rock icon and the tours he does are a major event. It would be cool to part of such a big production.

**Who do you see as your contemporaries?**

Because of the genre we get put in, probably bands like Chevelle, Tool, and Korn. These bands are huge so it's hard to call them contemporaries right now. We have a lot of respect for them.

**Is it really a dry heat in Arizona? You always hear people say that. Personally the heat there doesn't bother me as much as it does, let's say in Southern California.**

Oh yeah, it's dry but it gets brutal. One summer it was 122 degrees. I don't care how dry it is, that's F'N hot!

**In closing is there anything you'd like to say to the readers of the site? Is there anything you'd like to plug?**

We hope that people give us a chance.  
**<http://cdbaby.com/cd/crushed>**

Thanks to you and all of the people that have been supporting the band and the record. We appreciate it very much!

**Thanks so much for taking the time to answer some questions. I wish you and the rest of the guys in Crushed all the best promoting the album *My Machine*.**

You're welcome, thanks for the interview.

**Thanks to Mike Halland and Chip @ Chipster for helping us set this up. Also their official website is: [www.crushed.net](http://www.crushed.net) check them out if you're so inclined.**