

With a little help from their friend

My Friend Andy's new album was produced by the lead singer's buddy – Paul Langlois of The Tragically Hip

By Greg Burliuk
Whig-Standard Staff Writer

Jeff Montgomery got the birthday gift of a lifetime a few years ago: studio time at The Tragically Hip's Bathhouse Studios. And the gift's donor was none other than the hip's own Paul Langlois.

That was the start of a musical journey that resulted in the debut CD of Montgomery and his band My Friend Andy. The CD will be released on Saturday, Nov. 29, at the Merchant Tap House.

It wasn't like Montgomery had won a contest either. He knew Lan-

glois because the wives of the two men had worked together and become good friends. Montgomery's spouse Heather Haynes and Joanne Langlois wrote and illustrated two children's books in 2002 and 2003. "I got to meet Paul once in a while and now we've become great friends," Montgomery says. "He's been super supportive and is a great person on all levels."

And so Montgomery was pretty excited when Langlois handed him an envelope on his birthday in 2006 and said there was studio time booked for the two of them to work

on a few songs.

At the time, Montgomery's band was in flux, so only drummer Craig Duff accompanied him into the studio. Now the band also includes guitarists Paul Cotman and Joe Carscallen and bassist Brian White.

As for Langlois he admits, "I'm not overly ambitious in the production department," although he had produced the Hugh Dillon Redemption Choir CD *The High Cost of Low Living* in 2005.

"Sometimes when the four of us would get together, Jeff would pull out his guitar and start playing some songs and they were pretty good songs.

"We have a studio in Bath so I thought why not try to record a few of the songs. And then after a while, it was 'Maybe we should start thinking about an actual record.'"

Langlois asked to see all of Montgomery's demos and the latter hauled 30 of them for the Hip rhythm guitarist to peruse.

"I tried to choose the ones that were strongest," Langlois says. "I wanted songs that would stand the test of time. That's the way we've always done it with The Hip. We've always chosen songs that would sound good a few years down the road rather than just now."

Montgomery asked Langlois if he wanted to play on the CD, but other than singing backup on one song, Langlois declined.

"I tried playing when I was working with Hugh," he said, "But I found I was losing my objective perspective. It was becoming more about me than Hugh."

"When I wasn't playing, just listening, I found it was easy to get him to do what I wanted. Mainly I just tried to get Jeff to get to a place where I, as a listener, would like him to be."

The CD was recorded in three sessions, the last one coming last



Mark Bergin/The Whig-Standard

My Friend Andy's (from left) Joe Carscallen, Jeff Montgomery and Paul Cotman host a CD release party next Saturday at the Merchant Tap House.

MY FRIEND ANDY

WHAT: A CD release party for *Songs From The Middle* by the band My Friend Andy – featuring lead singer Jeff Montgomery of Gananoque. The CD is produced by The Tragically Hip's Paul Langlois.

WHEN: There will be a CD release party Saturday, Nov. 29, at 10 p.m.

WHERE: At the Merchant Tap House, 6A Princess St. The CD is also on sale at the band's website. Go to www.myfriendandy.com for details.

Christmastime. And it is being released on Langlois' Ching Music label. The first single, *Snakebite*, is being played on K-Rock in Kingston.

Montgomery is proud of all the songs but especially likes *Ten Long Days*. "It ended up a lot different from the demo," he says. "We had to work on a lot of different things to get it right, but it's become one of my favourites."

Another song called *You Belong To Me* is based on his observations of the music business as well as the

modelling business. At the age of 39, Montgomery is enjoying a renaissance of sorts: he's just releasing his first CD and he's been getting work as a model and commercial actor. He took a course at the Mode Elle Model and Talent Agency in Belleville, whose owner, Audra Anderson, sponsors the annual Canadian Model and Talent Convention in Toronto.

Montgomery attended that convention and scored his first modelling job which involved travelling to St. Maarten in the Caribbean. He has since done a few other commercials as well as appearing as an actor on the Discovery Channel series *Forensic Factor*.

"My point in the song *You Belong To Me* was that modelling and music may make you feel so good, but in the end, they're run like businesses," Montgomery says.

As for Langlois, he'll get on stage with Montgomery for a few songs at the CD launch and hopes to work with him again, just as he is currently working on a second CD with Dillon. **T**

Doodlebops
LIVE!
Together Forever Tour
Rockin' in 2009 with an all new cast!



Wednesday, March 11
The Grand Theatre
On Sale Now!

Call 613-530-2050

or visit www.whatsonkingston.com/thegrand

Media Partners
THE KINGSTON WHIG-STANDARD
98.3 FLY FM Today's Best Music
what's UPkids
koba paquin
www.thecookiejarcompany.com • www.doodlebops.com • www.koba-entertainment.com



Woodchuck Gallery

Presents

Paintings By

B. Martinus F.

Nov. 15 - Dec. 23
9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

CLOSED Sunday

99 King St. E., Gananoque, Ont.

Ph. 613-382-4693 • www.woodchuckgallery.com

