

Montgomery 21 Official Biography

-The Formation

Montgomery 21 was a Canadian brit-pop influenced emo band from Mississauga, Ontario, known for featuring (and mostly made up of) members of New Day Rising. Vocalist and guitarist Chris Gray formed the band in the fall of 1995, composing the core music and lyrics; with Jeff Almond on bass and Adam Bryłowski (former drummer of Unheard and guitarist in New Day Rising) on drums. The band name was influenced by a book that Chris was reading about the civil rights movement, which included a location and a chapter. After playing their first three shows in late 1995, Jeff left to dedicate his time fully to his grind-metalcore band Acrid; he was replaced by Jo-Anne Sanders, another member of New Day Rising. The band was still looking for its own sound, but when Mike DeEyre (who was playing in Louis Mistreated with Adam's brother James Brylowksi) joined on keyboards during the Christmas vacation of 1995, they quickly evolved into this incredibly melodic band they became known for. It was in thanks to him that the band managed to distance themselves from being a "New Day Rising side-project".



show, January 19th, 1996 at the Pig & Whistle Inn. With Enter the Dragon, Seer, Grade, New Day Rising and Blake.



Montgomery 21 show at "Knights of Columbia Hall", February 23rd 1996. With Acrid, Ignorance Never Settles, Enter the Dragon, Seer, Hourglass and Ember.





On June 29th 1996,
 Montgomery 21
 played the Up The
 Dumper - Palooza
 show along with a
 ton of bands from
 the Ontario area





Montgomery 21 show at the Oakville YMCA on July 21st 1996. With 7 Years War, Waterdown and Bree



Montgomery 21 show at "The Church" on October 5th 1996. With Ignorance Never Settles, Acrid, Grade and Attack of the Hungarian Icelander.

-The First Demo

In the March Break of 1996, Montgomery 21 went to Signal 2 Noise to record their first five song demo. Over time, nearly

500 copies were made and have been mostly sold at shows. This demo came packaged in a yellow manila envelope with a booklet of some lyrics and song explanations, expressed by Chris Gray. By then Jo-Anne had quit New Day Rising to focus solely on Montgomery 21. During one of their many shows with Seer, in 1996, both bands discussed the possibility of doing a split together, using songs from each of the bands' demo tapes. However, that show ended up being Seer's final concert as they shortly afterwards broke up. The split was then to be shared with New Day Rising and Gorilla Warfare Records offered to release it, but the label bailed out.

One of the song from this first demo was also scheduled to appear on the benefit compilation for the Animal Defense League which Dave Buschemeyer was putting together throughout 1996 and 1997 but this also never got released. In the fall of 1996 New Day Rising broke up (for the first time), which allowed Chris and Adam to focus full time on Montgomery 21.

NEW DAY RISING
two split 7"s on Moo Cow Records
\$3.00 each north america, \$5.00 world • \$5.00 for both n.a., \$8.00 for both world



a split 7" with Atlas Shrugged *a split 7" with Despair*

SOON: New Day Rising / Hourglass split 12"
 a Moo Cow / Gorilla Warfare Records split label release
 other New Day Rising releases:
 2 x 7" on Upheaval • split 7" w/ Montgomery 21 on Gorilla Warfare (out summer 96)

MOO COW RECORDS • POB 616 • MADISON, WI 53701
 money orders to James Burnham • fax (608) 283-0550

New Day Rising Ad 1996

-The Second Demo

The band was getting to be so good that a lot of Chris' close friends wanted to join the band on second guitar, including Dave Buschemeyer and Mike Charette. But Chris was gathering a bit of an ego and wouldn't let a second guitar player come into the band and take anything away from his fame. In the summer of 1997 they would go back to Signal 2 Noise and record five more songs for their second demo. At the studio, they were joined by Kristina Woyzbun and Natalie Woyzbun, twin sisters who recorded the violin parts on "A December's Tale". This demo also featured two samples from movies, one from "Apocalypse Now" (1979) on "A December's Tale" and another from "Midnight Express" (1978) on track 2. By this time the band was incorporating influences from Neurosis and their shows were a hypnotic and progressive experience, often playing in near darkness. "A December's Tale" from this recording session was used on the Goodfellow Records compilation "The Difference Between Us" (1997) and remains the only officially released song by the band. Apparently this second demo was never officially released because it was only half of a full-length album's worth of material that they were working on at the time.



“The Difference Between Us” compilation. Goodfellow Records, 1997.

MONTGOMERY 21

A DECEMBER'S TALE

The snow is so cold, my body touched by a vale of black lace resting softly on my skin...four walls and a projection screen is so faithful, the undying trust of hard plaster and my still beating heart...i harden to love, i harden to need you...oh cold december how you kill me, cold winter how you mesmerize me with your pain...gentle death take me twice i trust the love, the bond is ice hard and cold but it is you, gentle death kill me twice...i love you, your body against mine is so cold, so gentle and pure, it's so cold, your the savage of all that is vengeful, and this i love you for...what a time to try to be someone, what a time to try to be something when they all want to kill you...your pain can not kill only weaken's with melted tears...

Crop of “The Difference Between Us” booklet featuring the lyrics of “A December’s Tale”. The only lyrics provided for the second demo.

PROTECT YOUR BACK - Know how to LIFT THINGS SAFELY. Two shows: One cause

January 11th 1997 6:30pm \$5
 At the Church (corner of Collegeway and Winston Churchill Blvd. Mississauga)

The Far Outs
 Eliot Rosewater
 Montgomery 21
 Shoulder Grade

January 25th 1997 7:30pm \$4
 At the YMCA (410 Rebecca St. West of Dorval, Ontario)

Mad Hatter (aka, Suby, aka!!)
 Karenza
 Blakie
 Despair

Originally, I was supposed to put out a benefit compilation for The Animal Defense League. Financial problems postponed this project and now is the time to get it rolling. The proceeds from these shows will go directly into the pressing of this record. Eventually the profits from this compilation will go directly to the Animal Defense League. Your attendance to these shows are very much appreciated by The Animal Defense League and I. Thank you

Records by the millions
COMMON PROBLEMS that affect the back:

Montgomery 21 playing at the benefit for the Animal Defense League Compilation, January 11th 1997. With Karenza, The Far Outs, Eliot Rosewater, Shoulder and Grade

shows at the church
 (corner of Winston Churchill and Collegeway, Mississauga)

Saturday, May 3, 1997 \$5
 tickets: montgomery 21 jersey
 walls of jericho grade
 a.k.a. New Day Rising starts at 7 sharp!

Saturday, May 24, 1997 \$4
 Sissy Karzoo (aka Montreal)
 karenza (aka nicholas)
 Chisel Drill Hammer (anna's best)
 8 pound test
 braid

support out of town bands fuckers!

Montgomery 21 show at The Church on May 3rd 1997. With New Day Rising, Walls of Jericho, Grade, Jersey, Racer and A.K.A.

Mississauga / Oakville Hardcore

Saturday, June 21, 1997 at the church in Mississauga
(corner of Winston Churchill and Collegeway)

Blake **ELLIOT ROSEWATER** from Toronto
Third World Planet from Toronto \$5
The Little Rock Nine from Toronto
New Day Rising from Toronto

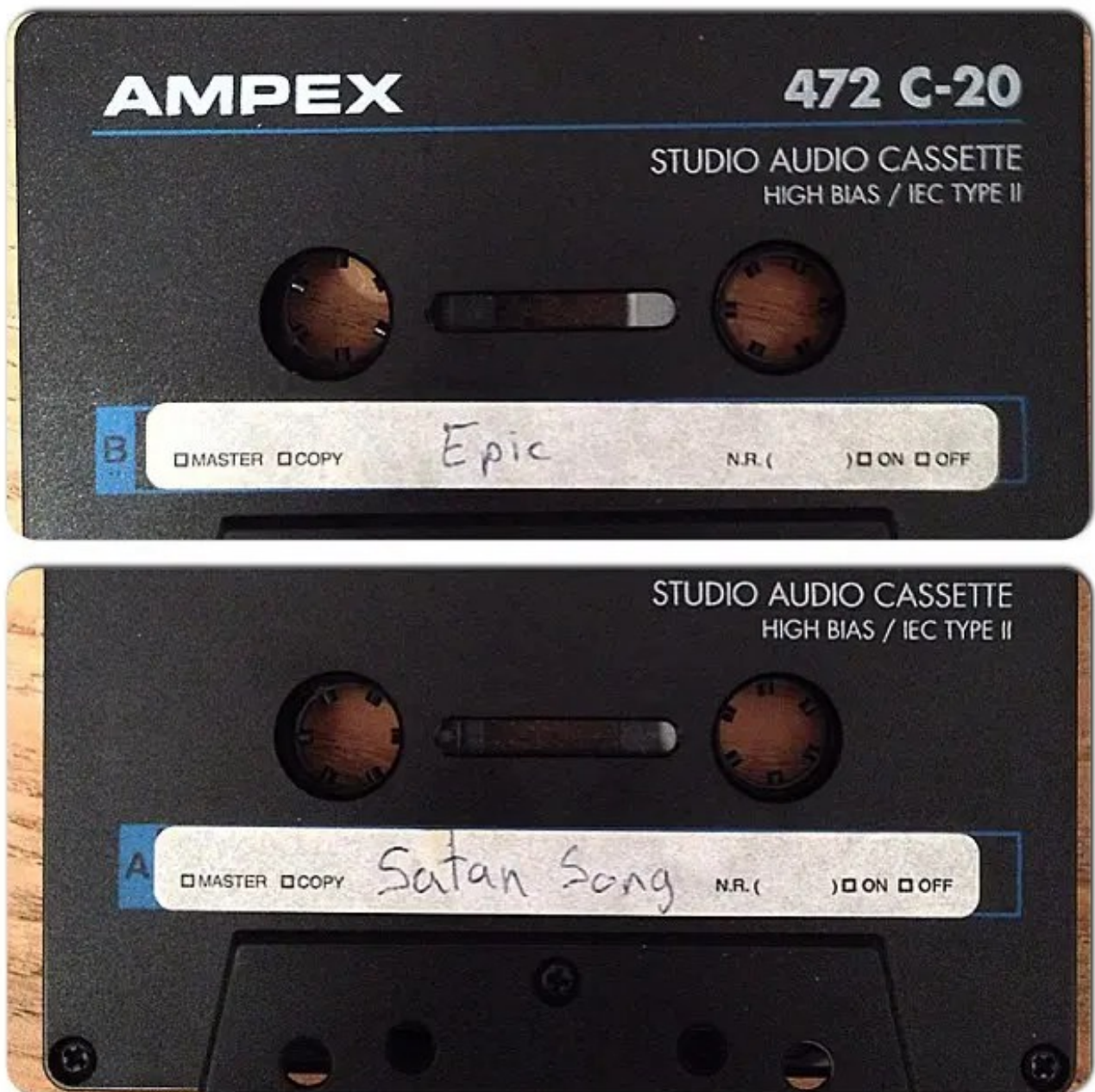
Sunday, June 22, 1997
at the YMCA in Oakville (410 Babcock from
QEW go south on Doreval, turn right on Babcock,
YMCA is on left)

karenza **Sons Of Abraham Harvest**
Morning Again Endeavor
from Toronto from Toronto
Coalesce from Toronto \$6

Punk Rock Weekend!

support touring bands!
upcoming summer shows in Miss/ Oakville:
Monday July 22 at the church (corner of Winston Churchill and Collegeway)
Tuesday July 23 at the YMCA (410 Babcock) aka. Spinnaker House (corner of Doreval, Babcock, and Collegeway)
Wednesday July 24 at the YMCA (410 Babcock) aka. Spinnaker House (corner of Doreval, Babcock, and Collegeway)

-The Third Demo



Montgomery 21's third demo

Shortly after this second demo recording session, a fan of the band offered to record some of their even newer material for a school project. One afternoon Montgomery 21 went to the Harris Institute to record "Epic" and "Satan Song", which ended up being the last two songs ever recorded by the band. By this time they were starting to integrate the style of The Cure in their music. But a combination of many events would ultimately lead the band to dissolve shortly after this recording, making it extremely rare and seldom heard. Chris Gray's persona in "his" band led Jo-Anne to quit and, as New Day Rising had

reformed earlier in the year, Adam and Chris devoted their time to it. Mike continued playing guitar in Louis Mistreated until their breakup in 2002. Chris Gray fizzed out the remainder of Montgomery 21 into what would become his next brit-pop influenced band, The China White, in the early months of 1998.

-The Discography



Montgomery 21 banner from Re-Define Records' website circa 2002. Possibly a crop from the CD artwork.

In 2001 Scott Willemsen and James Hamilton at Re-Define Records decided to attempt a Montgomery 21 discography. It was first advertised to be a 10 song anthology CD but was quickly updated to an 11 and then 12 song discography, which apparently was supposed to feature newly recorded material. Chris Gray was planning on reforming the band, with new members, to record these songs, but thankfully that did not happen. Either way, the compilation would have been missing the two songs from the last recordings sessions because Chris had since lost his tape. Apparently the label started working on the artwork but Chris Gray never sent all the songs as promised. This compilation would have never the less been great to hear, and would have probably been our only hope in hearing the original DAT quality of those recordings. The label subsequently signed Chris Gray's band at the time, Loveless .1., and a few months later Chris Gray was signed as a solo act. Chris and Mike would reunite in November 2002 for the foundation of The Black Maria.

mentioning Montgomery 21 as part of Re-Define Records' roster.

Download the complete Montgomery 21 discography

-List Of Shows (work-in-progress)

1. 1996-01-19 Pig & Whistle Inn (Burlington, ON) Enter The Dragon, Seer, Grade, New Day Rising, Blake, Threshold
2. ~~1996-02-23 Pig & Whistle Inn (Oakville, ON) Enter The Dragon, Seer, Acrid, Ignorance Never Settles, Threshold~~
3. 1996-02-23 Knights of Columbus Hall (Oakville, ON) Enter The Dragon, Seer, Acrid, Ignorance Never Settles, Hourglass, Ember
4. 1996-05-10 The Shrine Club (Woodstock, ON) New Day Rising, Hourglass, Gates Of Dawn, Linton, Drive By
5. 1996-06-21 Oakville YMCA (Oakville, ON) 7 Years War, Watership Down, Bree
6. 1996-06-29 Oakville YMCA (Oakville, ON) Grade, Shoulder, Blake, Gates Of Dawn, Thrown, Seer, Sprucehill, New Day Rising, Hourglass, Acrid, Chauvez, Springseed, My Ass, Dear Departed
7. 1996-10-05 Erin Mills United Church (Mississauga, ON) Grade, Ignorance Never Settles, Attack Of The Hungarian Icelanders, Acrid, Taylor Bryow
8. 1996-12-06 The Korova Cafe (Kitchener, ON) New Day Rising, Shoulder, Swing-Shift
9. 1997-01-11 Erin Mills United Church (Mississauga, ON) The Far Outs, Eliot Rosewater, Shoulder, Grade
10. 1997-05-03 Erin Mills United Church (Mississauga, ON) Racer, Jersey, Walls Of Jericho, Grade, New Day Rising, A.K.A.
11. 1997-07-22 Erin Mills United Church (Mississauga, ON) Blake, Sleepytime Trio, Joan Of Arc, Four Hundred Years